

JENIFER WEBSTER (Switzerland)

To whom this may concern

I completed a PDC in Strawberry fields, Ethiopia, in December 2012 with Alex McCausland. I had previously done a PDC in Portugal, in October 2012.

I found the PDC with Alex complete and thorough; after this PDC I feel much more confident that I have the tools necessary to implement permaculture designs anywhere in the world as we covered different climate zones. All explanations had a strong scientific basis and explanations; however, understandable (I do not have a scientific brain!). There was a good mix of practice and theory work, Alex was aware of the group's energy, this made it possible for the group to stay focused.

We also had the opportunity to visit several local schools with whom Alex works and to see the use of Permaculture with the local community and its implementation by the student body. With this we were able to use the tools of survey, as well as have the opportunity to create and propose a new design for the Secondary school.

I felt the PDC was of International standard and would recommend the PRI for accreditation.

You can contact me at the following email address: [jenjenwebster \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:jenjenwebster@hotmail.com).

Sabrina Faubert (USA)

To whom it may concern:

My name is Sabrina Faubert, and I completed my second PDC with Alex McCausland in Konso, Ethiopia in December 2012. My first PDC was completed in Oaxaca, Mexico in May 2010.

Compared to my previous PDC, the PDC with Alex was a perfect compliment to the broad-base theory foundation I gained in Mexico. The PDC at Strawberry Fields was rich with detail and scientific concepts, and it gave us multiple opportunities to practice doing Permaculture designs, an opportunity that was lacking in my previous PDC. After having completed this PDC (along with the practical experience I gained interning at Strawberry Fields), I feel much better prepared to design and implement on my own than I did after the first PDC.

The class structure was organized yet fluid and I greatly enjoyed having an international student group with the course material taught in two languages. I felt that the course was up to an International standard and would recommend it for PRI accreditation whole-heartedly.

If further information is required, please contact me at this email address:

sabrinafaubert (at) gmail.com

Respectfully,
Sabrina Faubert

Edward Joy (UK)

Reference for Mr Alex Abdurahmen McCausland

To whom it may concern:

I worked at Strawberry Fields Ecolodge (SFEL) in Konso, Southern Ethiopia, between January and June 2011. Alex took me on as an Intern, and over the months gave me a huge amount of training and opportunities to learn about Permaculture through practice. Konso is a remote place, and it has clearly taken great skill and persistence to build and maintain SFEL. Many local people commented to me how impressed they are at the regeneration of the land, and the rapid establishment of trees.

Alex has further dedicated much time and resources towards spreading Permaculture in the local community, particularly through the Permaculture in Konso Schools Programme. A proud teacher at Debona Primary School told me how their Permaculture project had doubled the school's income, as well as providing healthy food for the community.

The PDC I took at SFEL covered all the Permaculture fundamentals. There was a practical component to each session, making the lessons more memorable and engaging. There was also good use of group work and participatory learning. As billed, this was a PDC that focussed on dry land systems and Konso, with its unforgiving climate, is surely one of the most remote and poor regions in the world where a PDC is taught. This makes it a very hard place to run a PDC considering the needs of international participants. But equally, it shows how much effort has been made to spread Permaculture to this location, and how important it is that SFEL continues its good work. Alex and SFEL deserve accreditation and recognition for the work they do.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Joy

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