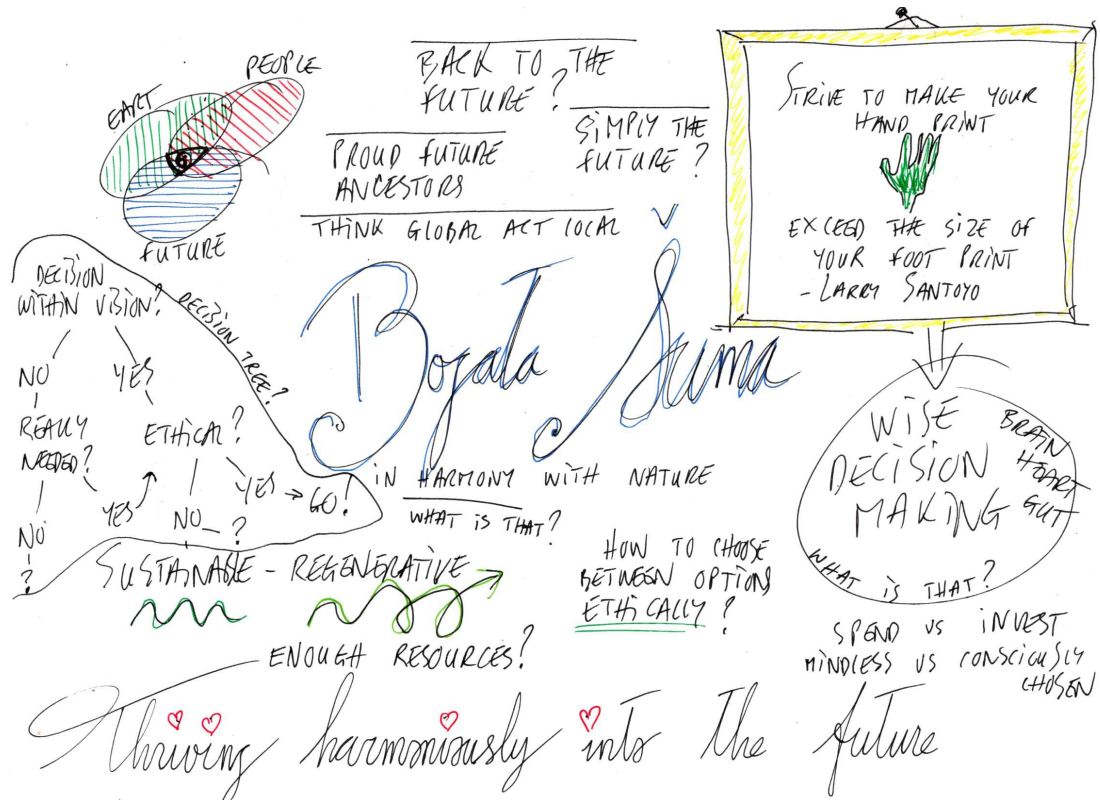


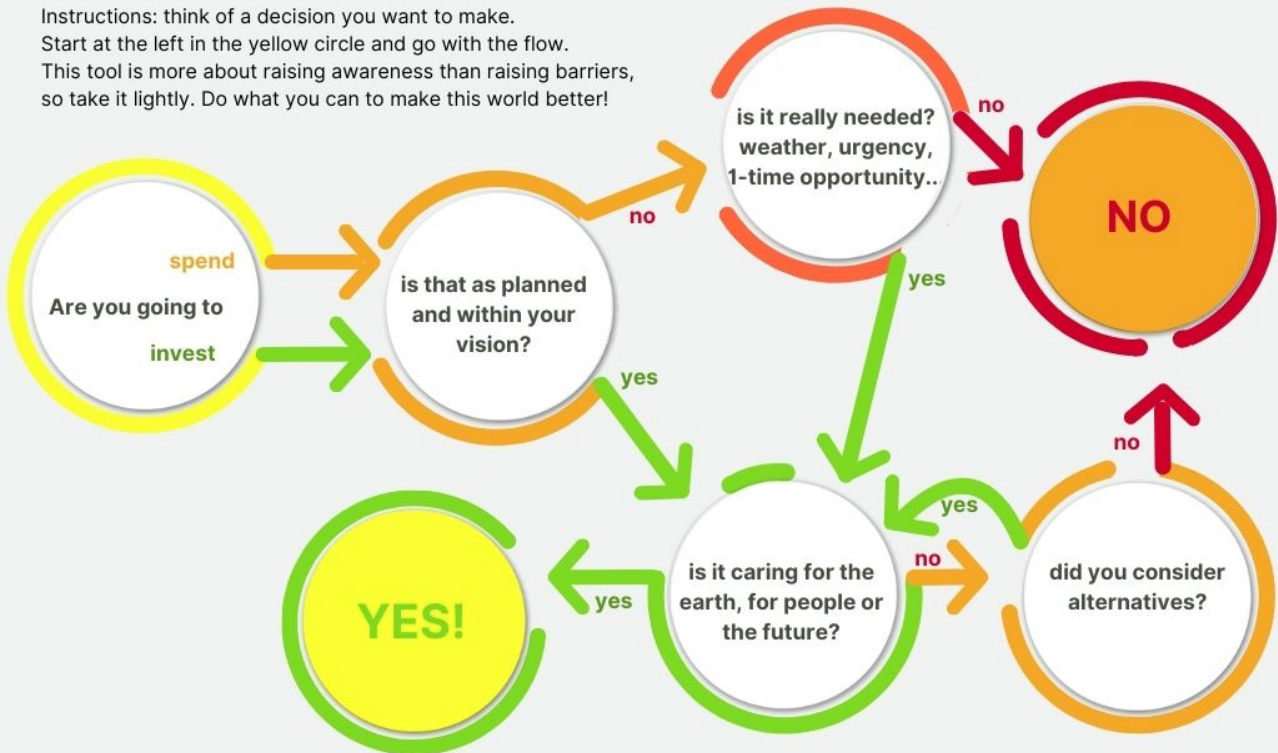
Thriving harmoniously into the future

How to make clear and sustainable decisions and be good ancestors



Permaculture ethical Time / money decision making

Instructions: think of a decision you want to make.
Start at the left in the yellow circle and go with the flow.
This tool is more about raising awareness than raising barriers,
so take it lightly. Do what you can to make this world better!



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INTRODUCTORY REFLECTIONS

We are a family of 4 living more and more self-sufficient on our 9 hectares of land called "Bogata Šuma" (Rich Forest) in the heart of Croatia. Over the 15 years that we have been living here, we have been growing and developing our vision, projects and activities, our structures and businesses according to permaculture ethics.

Now that our land is not a completely blank canvas any more, we need a guide for well-founded decision making in our future. What do our values and vision mean in real life? What are our principles in decision making?

Chopping down and selling all our trees so that we have enough money to realize all our dream projects (people care) would be a quick and short term solution and not an earth care or future care solution.

But not chopping down any of our trees is also not caring for the earth because a strong forest is built on diversity and multi generations (fair share, future care).

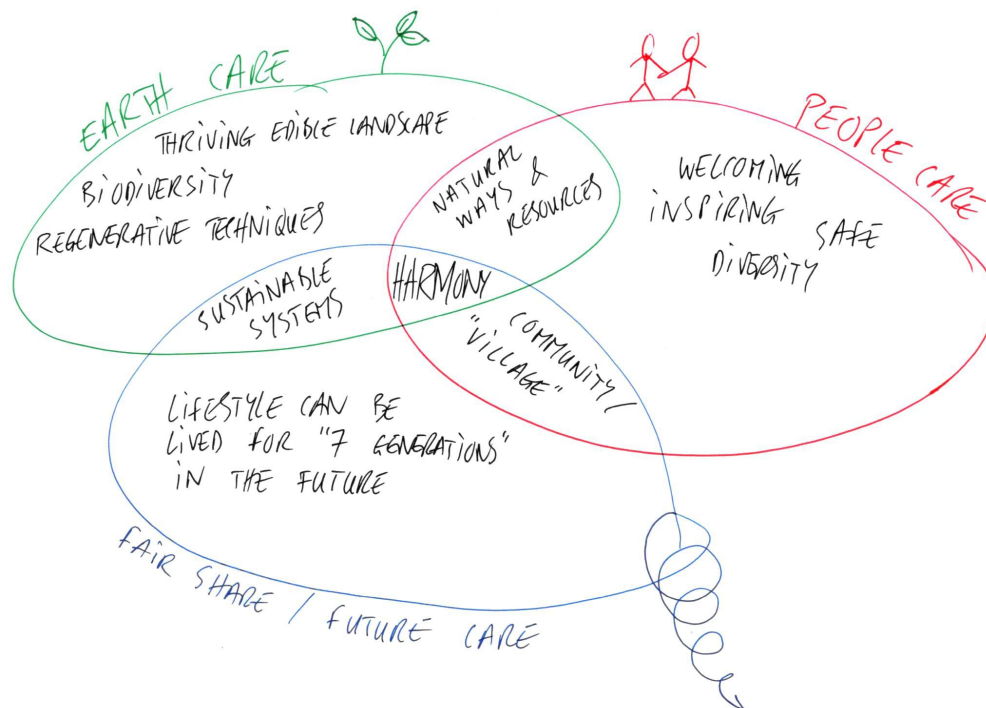
We need informed, balanced choices.

Unrealistic but effective would be to live like how people have been rural living in the past hundreds of years. From earth and future care perspective that works well, but we would have trouble with people care. Our life would limit the kids in their development (not having any modern technology, no online friends), our family would not fit in the local community (having "weird" home made clothes, going places by foot) and we wouldn't be able to promote our campsite digitally.

Such a choice seems out of balance as well.

We mean well with our planet (earth care) and our best solution for many world problems is to live a simple, [hand made life](#) with a [community](#) of people (people care, fair share), at least sustainable (earth care) or even regenerative (earth & future care).

The function of this document is to be our guide and reminder to keep the bigger vision in mind and keep working towards it. It connects all projects and makes clear how to make choices.

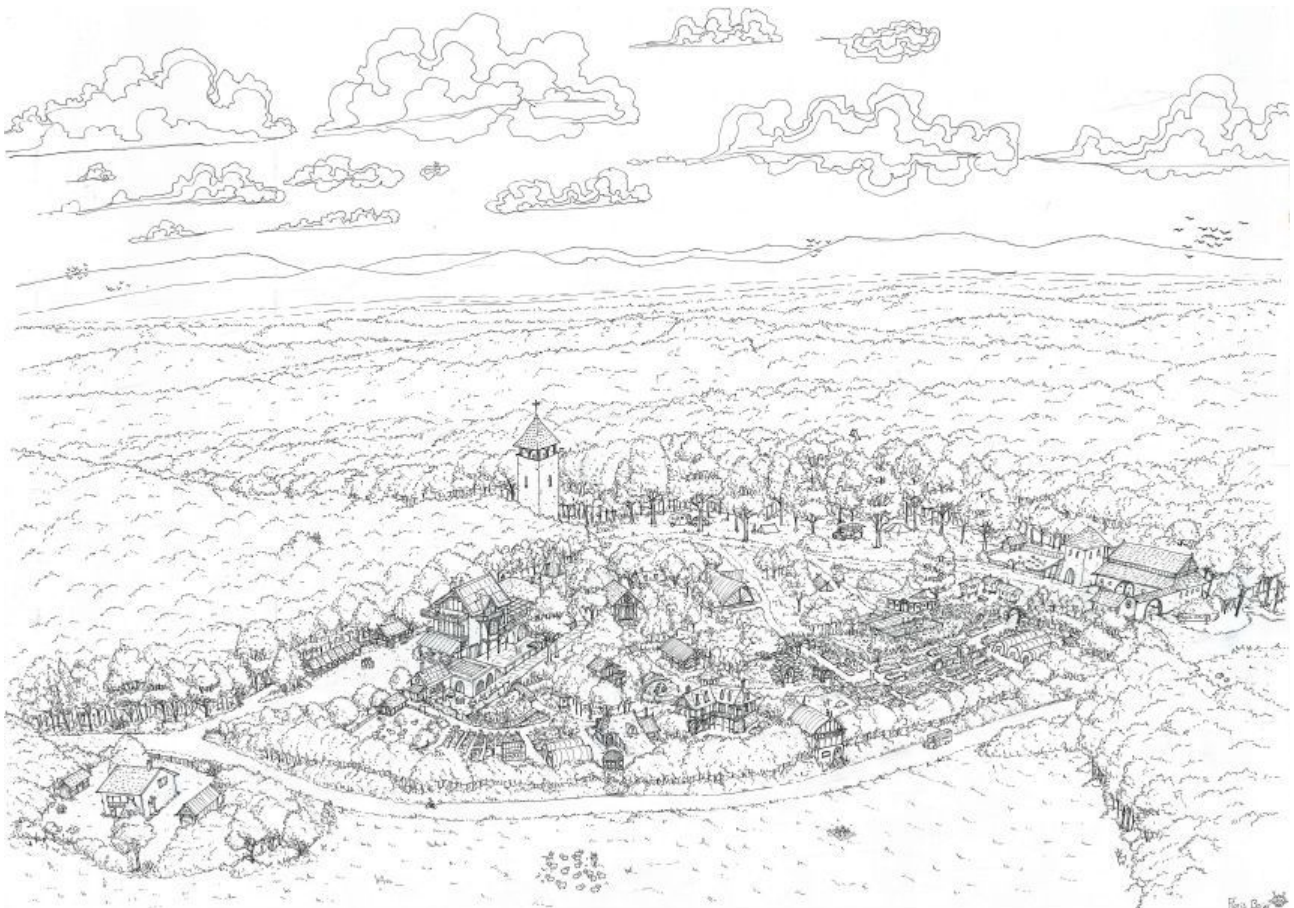


PERMACULTURE ETHICS WE LIVE WITH

What is Bogata Šuma?

Bogata Šuma (Croatian for “Rich Forest”) is the name of our company (Bogata Šuma d.o.o., a kind of Limited or GmbH or Corporation) and it is how we name our land, our eco campsite and smallholding.

It is a 9 hectare property, of which 8 connected hectares are the main area on the top of the hill. More details about the land in Appendix II – the land of Bogata Šuma on page 28.



THIS IS A FANTASY DRAWING, MADE BY FLORIS BEIJER AFTER TALKING WITH PETER AND ME ABOUT OUR DREAM VILLAGE WITH NATURAL, FAIRYTALE-LIKE BUILDINGS IN AN EDIBLE LANDSCAPE.

Vision of a sustainable life in nature

Bogata Šuma is a beautiful, self sufficient, village-like community in a thriving, rich and diverse edible landscape. People feel welcome, inspired and safe because they can live a natural life in harmony with Nature.

We care for the earth by preferring natural ways and resources, regenerative techniques and setting up sustainable systems. The community is based on people care and our lifestyle is one that can still be lived for “7 generations in the future” (see Appendix I – 7 Generations on page 27).

Think global, act local and lean back into global

This document is for us, the family/owners of the land/decision makers. We can share it with others that want to live here, when our village is growing.

We can also use it as a teaching tool for our "Country Life Academy" (the educational part of our company), for people from all over the world that are truly interested in setting up a natural life for themselves.

Another group we can use this document with, is the world wide group of volunteers in our NGO "Udruga Anno 3033". They keep coming up with new ideas and projects for our land, without overseeing the whole and the priorities.

Design brief

How to live in harmony with nature on the lands of Bogata Šuma for the coming 7 generations?

Tools used in this design

Framework: Graham Burnett's GoSADIM: GOal, Survey, Analysis, Design, Implementation, Maintenance.

Visioning, imagination

SWOC: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges

KT Shepherd's S.H.M.A.R.T.E.R. goal setting

Pie charts, flow charts

GOAL

It is clear how we can approach all aspects of living to be in harmony with nature, and so sustainable that our lifestyle can last for 7 generations in the future.

We have a clear decision making model, based on our values, vision and principles, for how and where we can develop new projects, sustainable and in harmony with nature and the future.

We have clarity about the boundaries on our terrain and parcels, land types, official zoning, the soil, the climate, infrastructure, governmental and personal boundaries.

SURVEY OF OUR LIFE IN NATURE

Where it all happens

[Our land](#) is situated in a hilly landscape (130-250 metres above sea level) in a corridor between the mountains of Slovenia and Bosnia. The wet landscape of the Plitvice lakes and waterfalls, Krka national park and the Una river is 1-2 hours drive South-East.

It is 9 hectares of agricultural land, forest, orchard, garden, food forest, house + surrounding, a building zone and a touristic zone.

More details about and maps of our land in Appendix II – the land of Bogata Šuma on page 28.

Who uses our land

Peter Scheltus (1959) is the initiator of the project and the designer of the structures and buildings. On paper he is the owner and director of:

- Bogata Šuma d.o.o. (the company that owns the house and the land),
- Robinzonski kamp Bogata Šuma (the small camp site on the terrain),
- Udruga Anno 3033 (the NGO through which we can legally host volunteers).

Barbara (1973) is replacement director and permaculture designer & educator. She arranges the work and education of volunteers and interns, and she gives (permaculture) workshops and courses. She designs and takes care of the land and the animals and she does the finances and administrative work.

Nol (2004) does the cooking for the family, volunteers and sometimes camping guests when they choose to eat with us. A few times a year (5, 6) we host a chef as a volunteer, to deepen Nol's cooking skills.

Fleur (2010) goes to school.

The family lives on the top floor of the main house.

For 8-10 months per year we host international **volunteers** that sleep in the house or in our caravans. They come to experience a sustainable lifestyle in nature, and usually want to learn about permaculture.

All year round but mainly in the summer months June – September we host (between 1 and 30) camping **guests**.

Recently we sold a piece of our land to Tom & Aline: friends who love this lifestyle but are still bound to city life in Brussels for now.

We wish for more like-hearted people to come and live here in the near future. We meet many people who are interested in this kind of life!

Lifestyle and ethics

We live a relatively simple and self-sufficient (or at least a home made) life in nature. Our focus is more inward and doesn't get much distracted by the outside and material world. We are growing our self-sufficiency, we're growing a village-like community and we share our life with volunteers from all over the world.

We care for the earth and all beings on it. We are careful with resources and conserve them where we can.

We cultivate a diversity of trees and plants so that we also attract a diversity of birds and insects. We have several insect hotels, bird houses, bat boxes and we deliberately leave some wild edges for wildlife.

We care for the future by aligning our personal and professional goals with principles of sustainability. We build with natural materials, we prefer buying ethically, we reduce and repurpose waste where we can.

What's happening

When we came to live here in 2009 all (old) neighbours lived how they had been living for hundreds of years: self-sufficient and trading cheese for a smoked sausage, a rabbit for a litre of šljivovica. For details see my [design about our self-sufficiency](#).

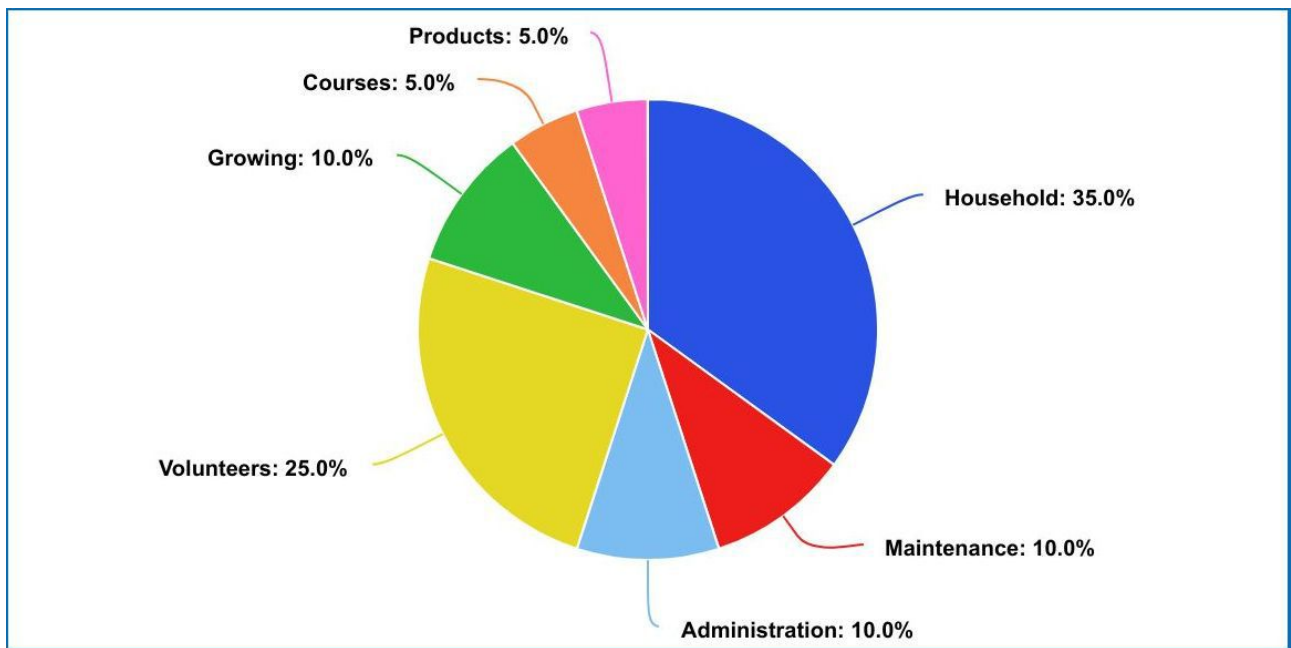
Nature's rhythm has a big influence on what we can and what we need to do. Sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting and maintenance need to happen when they need to happen.

In a warm and wet spring we need to mow the grass on the campsite every week.

In winter, when there are hardly any camping guests and usually also no volunteers, we have much more time for administration, marketing, planning and preparing for courses.

Our daily activities:

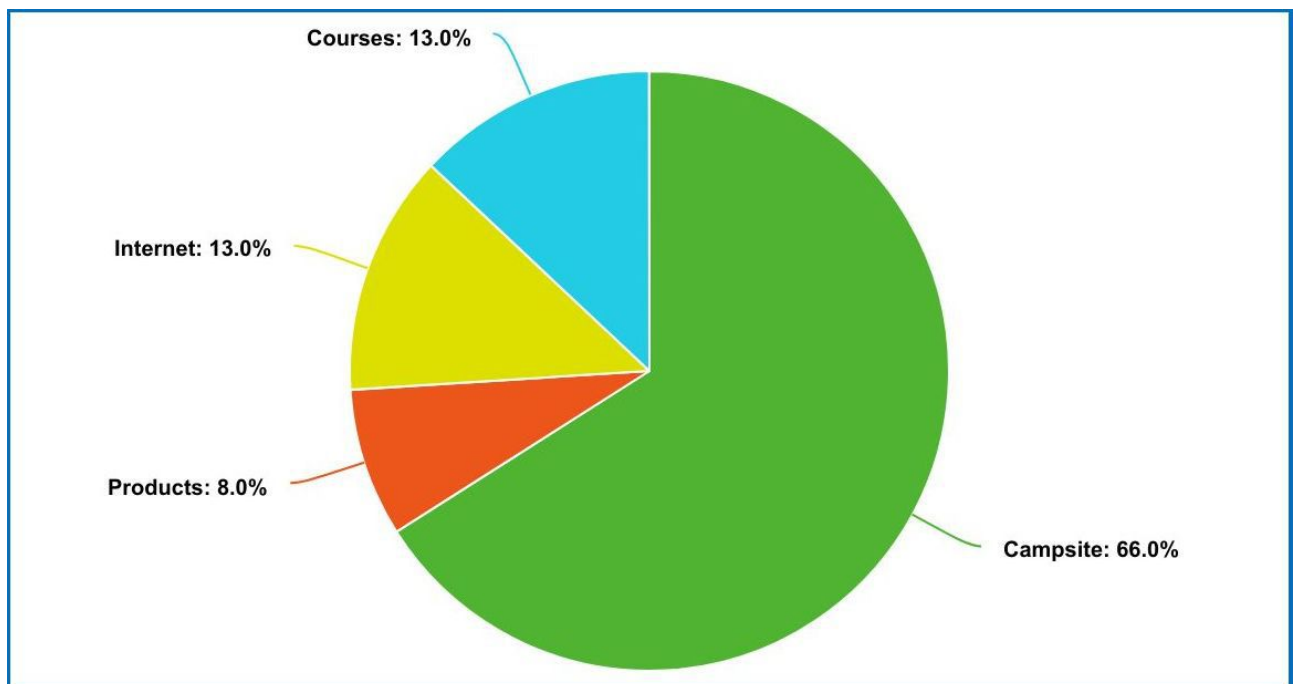
- **Household** tasks like cleaning house and facilities campsite, cooking for 4-24 people daily,
- We **grow** and harvest vegetables, fruits, meat, medicine, trees, firewood, timber,
- We create natural **products** for ourselves and for guests to buy (mosquito spray, tinctures, kombucha, kefir, yogurt, herbal tea, seed packages, cleaning products, deodorant, hand cream, facialcream...) and we cook meals,
- **Maintenance** of garden, terrain, structures, infrastructure and tools + vehicles,
- **Administration** and marketing activities,
- Learning and work exchange with **volunteers**, instructing, management,
- Facilitating **courses** and workshops,
- Nothing; in some areas we don't do anything. This wilderness we share fairly with wildlife.



WHERE DOES OUR TIME GO?

Income streams / results

- Campsite and renting out a shepherd's hut,
- Courses and workshops,
- Products of the land and meals made with these products,
- Barbara's small and slowly shrinking internet business.



WHERE DOES OUR MONEY COME FROM?

ANALYSIS OF THE EDGES

Patterns

+ We live a quite minimalistic lifestyle; we don't need much stuff. We prefer 1 good quality item of what we really need. See my [Unfashionable minimalistic capsule wardrobe design](#) as an example. This pattern is helpful for living sustainable so that our lifestyle can last for 7 generations in the future, but we don't always have enough money to buy good quality.

- We sometimes experience a pattern of overwhelm with the amount of daily tasks and the list of longer term projects. There is a pattern of doing what is needed, instead of consciously choosing. This affects priorities and it is not sustainable. With more money we can hire local workers and feed back into the local economy: people care and fair share.

+ There are "always" volunteers around and usually they are willing workers. This helps with setting up and maintaining sustainable projects.

- We live with a pattern of not having enough money to do everything we want. Projects are not started or unfinished, also because of lack of money.

We need a pattern of creating enough resources to make things happen and to be able to make sustainable choices that are in harmony with nature.

- Peter and I both have a pattern of giving. We give a lot of attention (love, care), help, knowledge and goods. We spend many hours instructing volunteers, we serve a bit too much and too good food, we always drive our carless neighbours when they ask, we sell our things too cheap.

Although Life seems to be on our side, there is a pattern of imbalance in giving and receiving; maybe the sharing is not fair for the cultural standards we live in.

We need to feel balance in giving and receiving.

Time and income

How we spend our time is not 1:1 relatable to our income streams. There is also hardly any time to setup new income streams (like online courses or subsidised volunteers, creating products).

A part (half?) of the administrative tasks, maintenance and household is related to the campsite, so let's say 25% of our time goes to 66% of our income. That's a "good deal".

Since son Nol grows as a cook, we successfully serve meals to camping guests which resulted in almost all of the 8% income from products.

My internet work also works well: 13% of our income from a fraction of the administrative work.

Working with volunteers is related to growing stuff and giving courses, so let's say it is 35% of our time. It feeds to only half of the income from courses and hardly to products. So 35% of our time is spent for less than 10% of our income. This feels like an imbalance.

Volunteers are not cheap workers; on average they need daily guidance for at least the first 2 or 3 weeks and they cost us at least € 40,- (all inclusive) per week.

Subsidies never fell through. We unsuccessfully applied for subsidies (with the help of experienced organisations in Zagreb) for a community food forest in Vojnić, for educating teenagers in permaculture and for hiking trails through the forest. This was with 5 different subsidy institutes (3 European and 2 local) and just a waste of time. We even sponsored a friend to do a training for writing subsidies and he gave up.

We have spent many hours on trying to find out how to get EU subsidized volunteers (EVS / ESC) without a yield.

We could apply for subsidy for planting orchards but they can only have 1 species, grass as ground cover and no companion plants or tree guilds.

We could also apply for subsidy for a swimming pool but it doesn't fit with earth care or fair share to pay an expensive architect to plan a concrete insect killing chlorine pool. Our conclusion for now is that subsidies are time consuming, difficult, limiting and not in line with our ethics/values.

This subsidy distraction is actually a great example of the WHY of this design. The idea of creating something with subsidy seems nice and it is easy to get blinded by the possible financial benefit. But does it align with our values? Will the result be truly within our vision?

Lifestyle and ethics

We call ourselves "practical realists" as an answer to people pointing at our car, the part of the food we buy and other less sustainable aspects of our life. We accept the use of unsustainable means (up to a certain point) if we don't have the resources to do it the sustainable way.

We're in transition so we compassionately judge ourselves on living with our ethics on our journey.

We don't take full responsibility for our habit of eating meat. We grow rabbits, lambs and chickens but no pigs (yet). We also could never grow enough bacon for Nol's cooking.

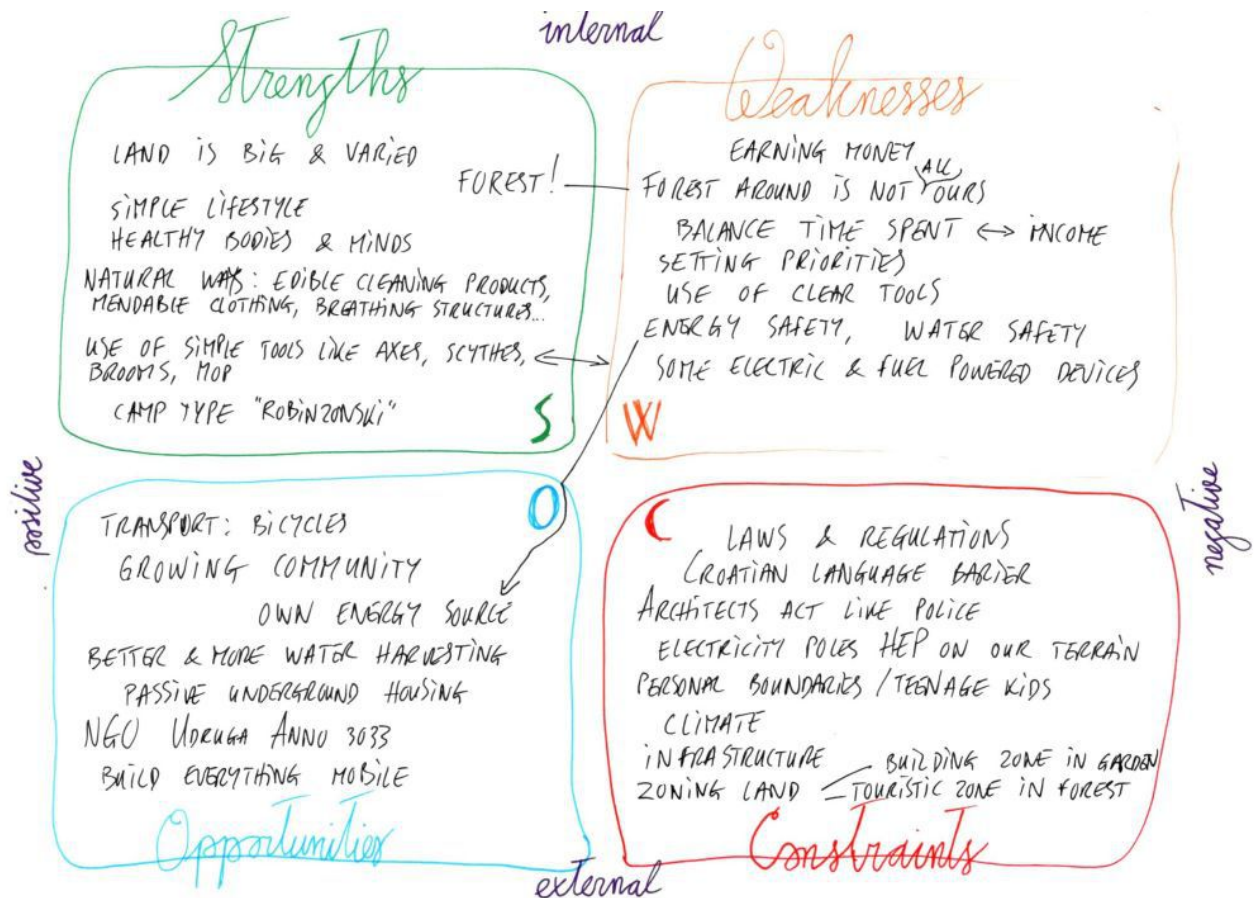
We do believe that a healthy body needs a diversity of food and meat is part of that.

Some questions that we live with: how can we earn more money with our land? How do we decide where to build new houses for a village? Where to put a grey water cleaning pond, a swim pond and a wildlife pond? Is it wise to and where can we expand the campsite? How can we create a successful restaurant for our son? How to help our daughter and others to setup a balanced livelihood here too? What do we need for a thriving educational centre?



SWOC analysis – what aspects are sustainable already and which not yet?

I will analyse aspects of our life with SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges) to see in what aspects we are doing well and where we can improve.



Our decision making

We make decisions mainly with our heart and gut. I almost never use ratio, Peter only sometimes. I fully trust my instincts and wisdom. It happened more than once that I decided to hit the breaks on our forest road, and within seconds a car would race around the corner from the other side.

Peter and I speak about our list of projects regularly and we choose priorities by feeling. When it gets really annoying with the chickens in the garden, we improve the fence.

When, after years of looking at the unfinished playhouse, a volunteer wants to put his energy in there to make it look good, we agree and provide him with all he needs to do so.

We choose volunteers by reading between their lines and trusting our experience.

Reflections on permaculture design principles at the basis of our decision making

Harmonize with nature – we believe that a life in harmony with nature is a healthy one, for mind, body and planet.

Nature is a teacher – thinking like nature gives us directions for solutions. Nature is simple in its complexity. She shows us systems and interconnectivity that have been there for millions of years

and can last for longer.

Reconnecting to and reclaiming ancestral wisdom – also the human nature has survived for long. What wisdom can we use in the now to thrive into the future?

Creatively use and respond to change – we live in *this* time. Thoughts and technologies evolve and we like to be included in society. So we integrate current techniques when they aren't too harmful but we have to look at it with some creativity. Obviously a car is harmful and a phone (or at least the batteries) are too. But also wearing shoes is probably much more harmful than mainstream society thinks. So when we go out we wear shoes and we have our phones in our pocket, so we anonymously blend in and no one would expect us to be socialist-anarchist permaculture hippies!

Small and slow solutions – as a basis of decision making we truly believe that small and slow solutions are the strongest. Building systems and relationships creates more strength. Low tech is independent and can usually be fixed when broken.

Use and value renewable resources – obviously this is the only way to make it into the future, when our resources are in harmony with Life. Waste not want not; and make choices for what is available.

Integrate rather than segregate – related to **stacking functions** – use resources like time and money wisely.

Invest wisely – we like to see spending money as a vote. We vote for small and local businesses, like-minded people and initiatives.

Work wisely – we also like to investing our time and energy wisely so it can lead to regenerative systems and long-term abundance.

Summary: our needs

1. We need to turn aspects of our life into thriving and harmonious projects/situations, that are so sustainable that our future ancestors can be proud.
2. We need a clear system for decision making, based on our values, vision and principles.
3. We need a pattern of creating enough resources to make things happen. This needs its own design.
4. We need to raise our awareness of balance in giving and receiving.
5. We need to design a volunteer management strategy that integrates volunteers in all our tasks so that we can benefit more from them. This needs its own design.

DESIGN

Our goal (to have clarity about how we can approach all aspects of living to be in harmony with nature, and so sustainable that our lifestyle can last for 7 generations in the future) can be related to S.H.M.A.R.T.E.R. goal setting:

Specific: we need decision making models for a clear approach of all aspects of living to be sustainable and in harmony with nature and the future.

Healthy: balanced decisions that keep the health of us, our planet and the future in mind.

Measurable: the models are based on our values, vision and principles and keep track of governmental and personal boundaries, official zoning and the land.

Achievable: decisions are made in the current time, with current resources and circumstances so that the decision maker still fits in society

Relevant: yes we need clear guidance.

Time bound: making decisions for the now with 7 generations in the future in mind.

Ethical: our actions align with our deeper values around earth care, people care and future care.

Rewarding: feelings of gratitude for the rich Life we live!

The solutions for our 5 needs (page 12)

1. Taking full responsibility as a solution

Need 1: We need to turn aspects of our life into thriving and harmonious projects/situations, that are so sustainable that our future ancestors can be proud.

We can turn aspects of our life into thriving and harmonious projects/situations (that are so sustainable that our future ancestors can be proud) by taking full responsibility. We take responsibility for our food and health with growing good and a diversity of food and herbs, we take responsibility for growing our kids into responsible humans and we raise awareness for earth care, people care and future care with all people that stay on our terrain.

Taking full responsibility for our financial resources would complete this.

With taking responsibility for clear and more communication we can create conditions for our dreams to happen. With storytelling we can attract people to our village. With clear communication about being part of the household and sharing daily tasks, volunteers can fair share in daily routines. With communicating our bird list for instance, we can attract bird watchers on our campsite.

2. Decision making for thriving and harmonious sustainable projects/situations

Need 2: We need a clear system for decision making, based on our values, vision and principles.

I made some simple flow charts for ethical decision making and a form for weighing the options. All charts consider permaculture ethics earth care, people care, fair share and future care.

Flowchart for spending money wisely

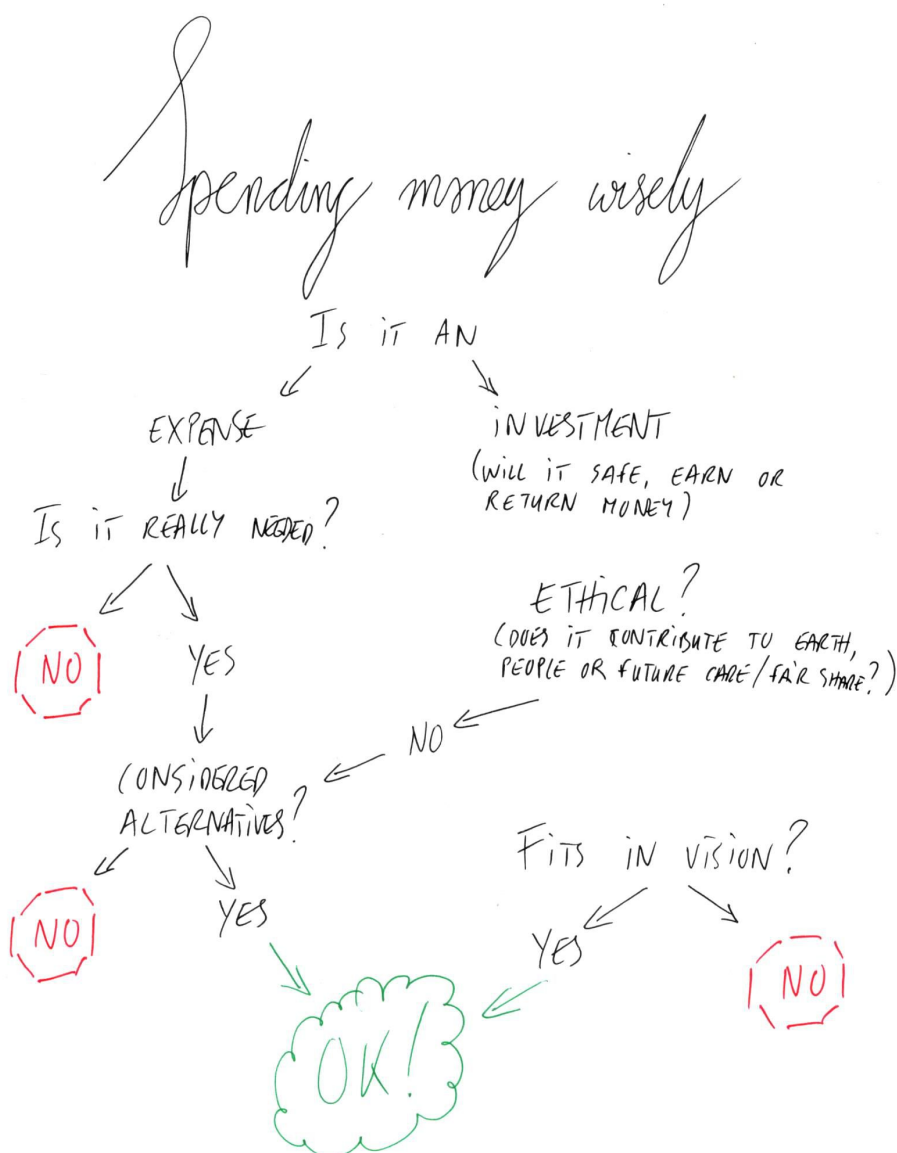
Decisions about spending money consider expenses versus investments, and what are alternatives. Is it ethical spending: does it help with earth care? Is it people care? Is it fair share or caring for the future? All is meant to create regenerative systems and long term abundance.

A second check comes with the next question: does it fit with our vision? A reminder of our vision in the box.

I developed a flow chart for decision making around spending money:

Bogata Šuma is a beautiful, self sufficient, village-like community in a thriving, rich and diverse edible landscape. People feel welcome, inspired and safe because they can live a natural life in harmony with Nature.

We care for the earth by preferring natural ways and resources, regenerative techniques and setting up sustainable systems. The community is based on people care and our lifestyle is one that can still be lived for "7 generations in the future"

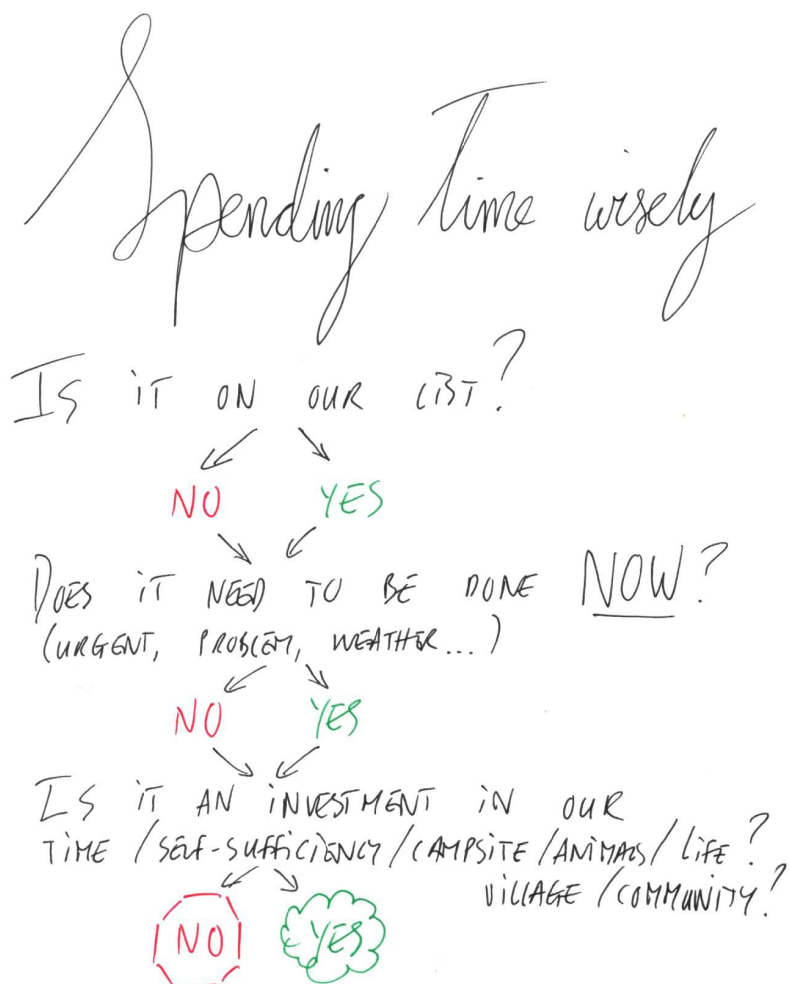


If this seems abstract: throw in your own money-question and experience the ease! There are examples of the use of this flow chart under Implementation on page 18.

Flowchart for spending time wisely

Decisions for spending time wisely are made on a basis of "is it on our list", urgency because of weather for instance, or if it is an investment in our life, our time, self-sufficiency, the animals or the campsite. "On the list" are only projects that contribute to our income streams, food or animals, our village or community.

But not all decisions have to be only effective; spreading joy or happiness is also time spent well.



Try it out! Throw in a time-decision for yourself and see how it works!

There are examples of the use of this flow chart under Implementation on page 19.

Form for weighing alternative options

With all these decisions we can still have more options to choose from. In these occasions we can use a chart for weighing the alternatives on a basis of costs and the permaculture ethics earth, people and future care and fair share.

In our life "costs" and "earth care" weigh more heavy so they get double points. Or the 6 points from 3 options (or 8 points from 4 options) are divided over the options.

The weighed options chart

OPTIONS	COSTS	EARTH CARE	PEOPLE C.	FAIR SHARE	FUTURE C.	POINTS

POINTS X 2 EACH YES = 1 POINT

There are examples of the use of this options chart under Implementation on page 20.

Decisions about placement / where on the terrain

When making decisions about placement we consider:

- mobile options; wheels can go anywhere
- needs for the touristic zone: camping spots in T3-1 zone, facilities in T3-2 zone
- needs for the building zone: more permanent structures like houses for the village.

Does the option serve ethics and more purposes?

Is there already something on the spot that can be moved? Or can we work around it?

3. Creating enough resources to make things happen

Need 3: We need a pattern of creating enough resources to make things happen. This needs its own design.

We need to spread our income over the year. We planned to build more structures like the shepherd's hut, in which guests can stay in all seasons.

With the help of the WHAT-flowchart and the form for weighing alternatives, we chose to build a natural swim pond instead of an expensive and complicated swimming pool. No architects or permits needed ("no this pool was suddenly there after some heavy rains!"), just another permaculture design needed. No permanent structures needed but yes to water security. Our future ancestors will be proud.

Camping guests can accidentally fall into this pond on a hot day, and don't have to drive 13km to the river to swim. We are sure that half of the guests will stay a day longer when we have a pond so this investment will earn itself back in time.

4. Perceiving balance in giving and receiving

Need 4: to raise our awareness of balance in giving and receiving.

Adjust my perception of balance in stead of starting book keeping. If Life is about experiences and I fully trust Life, all is well.

Meditate on how my family is meant to find richness in other forms than money (and we do!).

Maybe we are meant to be an example of a West-European family enjoying a simple life in Eastern Europe. Or maybe there is a balance but in ways that we don't see yet.

Adjust my perception of balance by accepting and fully embracing *what is*.

5. Volunteer management strategy

Need 5: We need to design a volunteer management strategy that integrates volunteers in all our tasks so that we can benefit more from them. This needs its own design.

We should integrates volunteers in *all* our tasks; not only garden and terrain maintenance. How can volunteers learn more about all aspects of this lifestyle and how can we benefit more from volunteers? This needs its own design but think along the lines of having them do more household tasks, clean, mark and maintain hiking trails and work on the natural playground so that camping guests can use them. Or let them help (film, record, ask questions) with setting up an online course. In this way volunteers work with us on projects that earn us money.

After the 1st course week we usually have 3 weeks with volunteers. In these 3 weeks we can involve them also in small parts of a project like producing a chapter of an online course (content brainstorming, filming, audio, editing) or let them help with making natural products to sell.



IMPLEMENTATION

I have put our [bird list](#) on the camping website and I have made some social media posts with lots of hashtags to attract more bird watchers to our campsite.

With storytelling we can attract people to our village. We speak with most new people that we meet about a natural lifestyle, responsibility for our own needs and our wish to grow a village with like-hearted people.

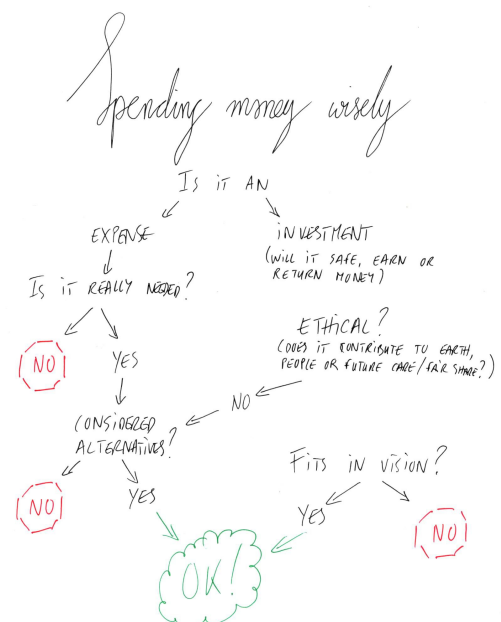
I will grow my storytelling skills by reading (/ trying to read) [Carmine Gallo's](#) book "Talk like TED", doing [Mentor Dida's](#) online course "Storytelling" and practising with people I meet.

With clear communication about being part of the household and sharing daily tasks, volunteers can fair share in daily routines. We try to grow their responsibility and we installed a daily 10 minutes "let's-all-clean-something-session".

Using the flow chart for spending money wisely

(See bigger version of the flow chart on page 14)

Example 1: Our daughter Fleur wants a new bicycle.



That can be seen as an investment in her fitness and mobility and we save fuel when we don't have to drive her so often. It is ethical and fits in our vision because of this fitness, mobility and fuel saving as well. So all yesses for a new bicycle.

Example 2: Our daughter Fleur wants a new laptop. She does not need it for school (yet); she wants it to play certain games. So it is an expense. Not really needed.

Not ethical, doesn't fit in our vision, alternatives are playing outside, cycling and climbing trees or jumping on the trampoline. A clear NO for a laptop.

Example 3: My plan for a road trip to the UK to celebrate my permaculture Diploma and to visit friends and projects on the way can be seen as an investment. I need to grow and tighten my connections in order to thrive with making use of my Diploma. It is not earth care but it is people and future care and it fits in our vision.

Reflections on using this money-flow chart

The flow chart makes sense for us. We have used it in many occasions and it always turns out well.

At the moment we need to not spend but invest money wisely, in order to bring more flow into our projects. And one day the tipping point will come, when this need for more money isn't urgent any more.

What will be important for wise decisions then?

I guess that with enough resources we can then skip the first question and jump to the ethics immediately. Ethical decisions can also be made more easily when there is more money available.

Using the flow chart for spending time wisely

(See bigger version of the flow chart on page 15)

Example 1: Working on my permaculture Diploma is on my list, it's an investment in my life and future and finishing up this design needs to be done now: my mentor and peer group are waiting. So the wilderness in the garden has to wait for my design to be finished.

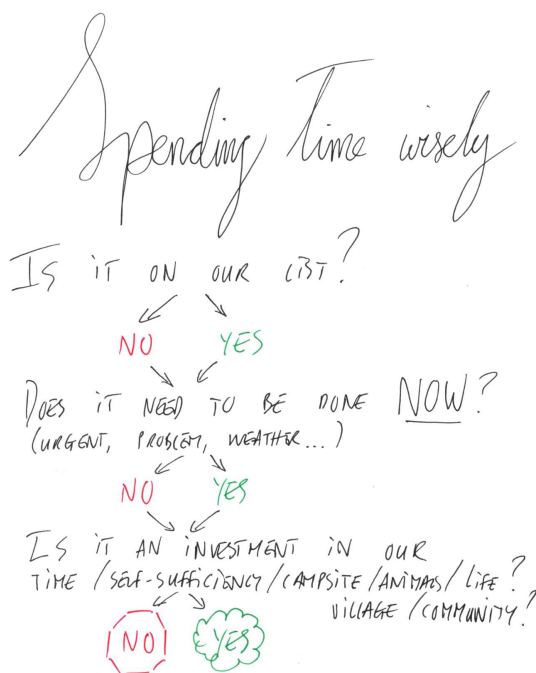
Example 2: Cutting the elderly neighbour's grass is not on the list but for them it is urgent and season-related. It is not an investment in our self-sufficiency, campsite, animals or time and it is only somewhat an investment in our life because we like a good relation with our neighbours.

If our son earns a little bit of money with cutting the neighbour's grass, he is not available for our projects that *are* an investment in us.

It is people care for the community to cut their grass for them and it gives our son a sense of value: spending your time for money.

Example 3: The storage room is dirty and messy but only our family sees it: no one else has access. It is not on the list, it is only somewhat urgent (to prevent mice or flies) and it is only somewhat an investment in our life and people care because now it causes annoyance. It is somewhat an investment in our self-sufficiency because we don't want to waste our produce and it would be nice to have more storage space.

I guess the urgency would come in August, harvest time.



Using the weighed options chart

Costs and earth care are important criteria for us so they give double points for each "yes". Or when there are more yesses

With the criteria people care, fair share and future care (or other) a yes earns a point.

When there is another important criterium, like "safety" or "low maintenance", there can be an extra column drawn for it.

Example: what option to choose as a swim facility on our terrain?

A swimming pool needs an architect, permits, chemicals to keep the water clean and before you know it there are regulations for using the pool with guests (lifeguard required, insurances).

A natural pond can be made in such a way that it is regenerative for the landscape.

A temporary basin will break down within a few years, or faster when dogs jump in. Then we will have a heap of plastic waste. It requires chlorine and will kill insects.

Weighed options swimming

	COSTS	EARTH CARE	PEOPLE CARE	FAIR SHARE	FUTURE CARE	POINTS
SWIMMING POOL	€ 10.000 0	0	1	0	0	1
NATURAL POND	€ 5.000 1	2	1	1	1	6
INFLATABLE OR PLASTIC BASIN	€ 100,- 2	0	1	0	0	3

EXAMPLE OF WEIGHED OPTIONS: WHAT TYPE OF SWIMMING FACILITY?

Example: what type of fence to choose?

When we need a fence (like around the garden, to keep guests out of the food forest or wild boar from the campsite), a living hedgerow or a wall from pruned branches can be as effective as a "normal fence". A living hedgerow needs some maintenance where a wall of sticks and prunings doesn't need anything and it saves time because prunings don't have to be transported to the edge of the terrain. Both hedgerow and wall are great habitats for small wildlife and they decompose back into soil quickly.

How TO KEEP CAMPING GUESTS OUT OF THE FOOD FOREST

	COSTS	EARTH CARE	PEOPLE CARE	FUTURE CARE	MAINTENANCE	POINTS
FENCE 	HIGH 0	0	1	0	HARDLY 1	(2)
BRANCH WALL	LOW 2	2	1	1	A BIT 1	(7)
HEDGEROW	NO 2	2	0	1	YES 0	(5)

EXAMPLE OF WEIGHED OPTIONS: WHAT TYPE OF FENCE TO CHOOSE?

Example: what kind of second car to choose?

Soon we will be 3 people with a drivers license and when 1 of us is out with the car, the others actually need an option for (emergency) transport.

The majority of our trips is local, transporting between 1 and 3 people and for groceries. There is never earth care possible with high speed, metal, plastic, wheels, breaks and batteries. Electric cars also cannot be bought second hand because that doesn't make sense with replacing a battery for (more than) the price of the car. And batteries might be worse than fossil fuel.

Weighed options for a 2nd car

	COSTS	EARTH CARE	PEOPLE CARE	FUTURE CARE	MULTI FUNCTIONAL	POINTS
SMALL 	LOW/MED 1	NO 0	NO 0	NO 0	NO 0	1
ELECTRIC  OR HYBRID	HIGH 0	NO 0	NO 0	NO 0	NO 0	0
NORMAL 	MEDIUM 1	NO 0	YES 1	NO 0	YES 1	3
OLDTIMER  CAMPER	LOW → HAVE ALREADY (UNREGISTERED) 2	NO 0	YES 1	NO 0	YES 1	4

Examples of making placement decisions

Where can we expand the campsite?

A camping spot can't go on wheels and it has to be in the T3-1 zone, on the parcels 1926, 1928, 1929 and 1930. The current camping spots are mainly on 1929 and 1930, 1928 has a few but is a bit steep. The best option for expansion is 1926 because it is close to the house and facilities, it is quite flat and there is nothing there yet except trees.

More camping spots somewhat serves more purposes than only making more income possible, by making mowing easier on a well kept horizontal area and it adds to earth care (erosion prevention), people care (happiness because it looks nice) and fair share of wilderness with guests and us.

Where can we build a swim facility on our terrain?

A pool can't be moved, a pond is less permanent and an inflatable basin can be moved.

It is (also) beneficial for tourists but shouldn't take up camping space. So one of the parcels in the T3-2 zone (1924, 1922) or parcel 1935/3 (next to the camping expansion on 1926) can work.

Nothing there that needs to be removed first. A swim facility serves more purposes: it is also drinking water for wildlife (earth care), it contributes to water safety and it contributes to active use and maintenance of more parts of the terrain.

These alternatives (pool, pond or basin) were considered in the weighed options chart on page 20.

MAINTENANCE - REFLECTIONS ON THE DESIGN PROCESS

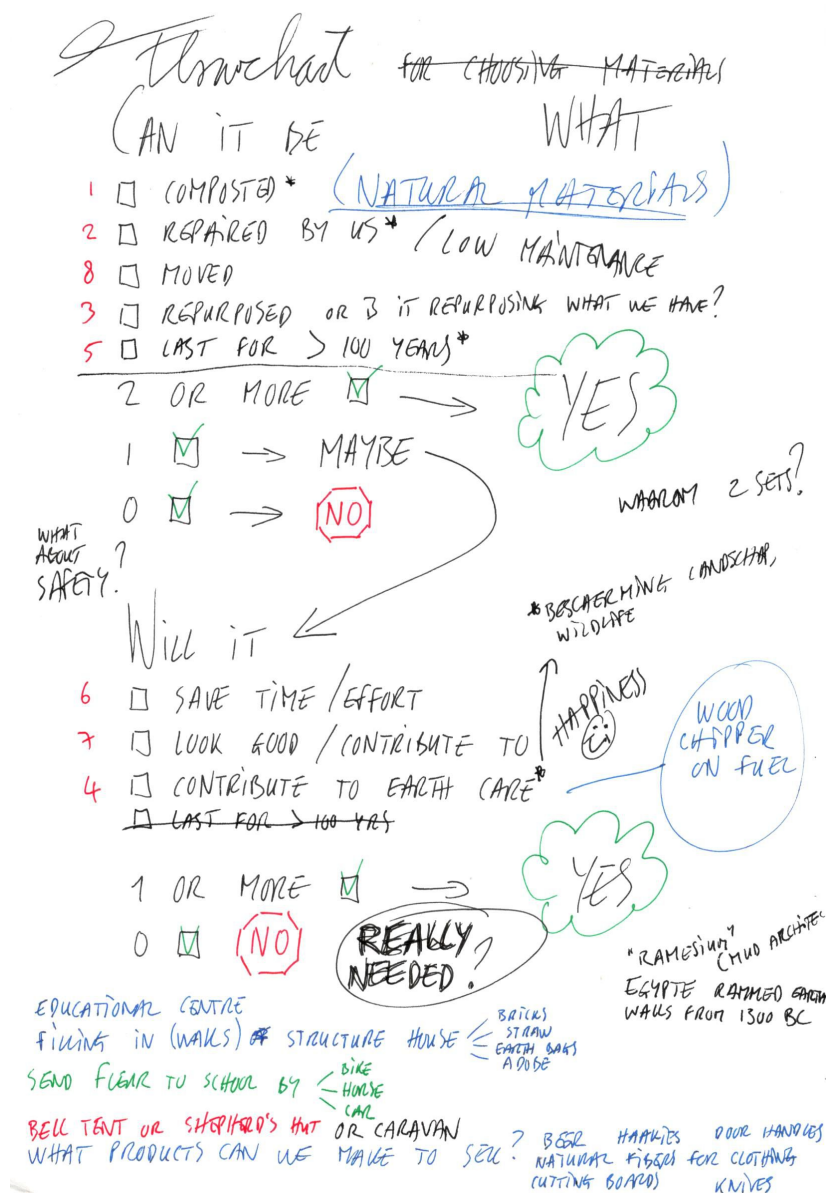
The flow charts had their draft version and were adjusted while implementing them in decision making brainstorm. They work well now, and we can keep adjusting them when needed. Therefore it is nice that it are just simple charts on paper.

It feels like we're getting closer to harmony, the centre of the 3 overlapping permaculture ethics (see the image on page 3) with our decision making. Especially for Peter (who didn't do permaculture courses) permaculture comes to life now.

The charts probably need space for emergence. Some choices involve safety or other unforeseen criteria. The weighed options form has space for that.

Here the first draft of a "what" flow chart, before I found out that "what" is usually about alternatives for materials or means, so the weighed alternative options form was enough.

I spoke about our decision making with my family, volunteers and friends and this is the chart we worked with for a while:



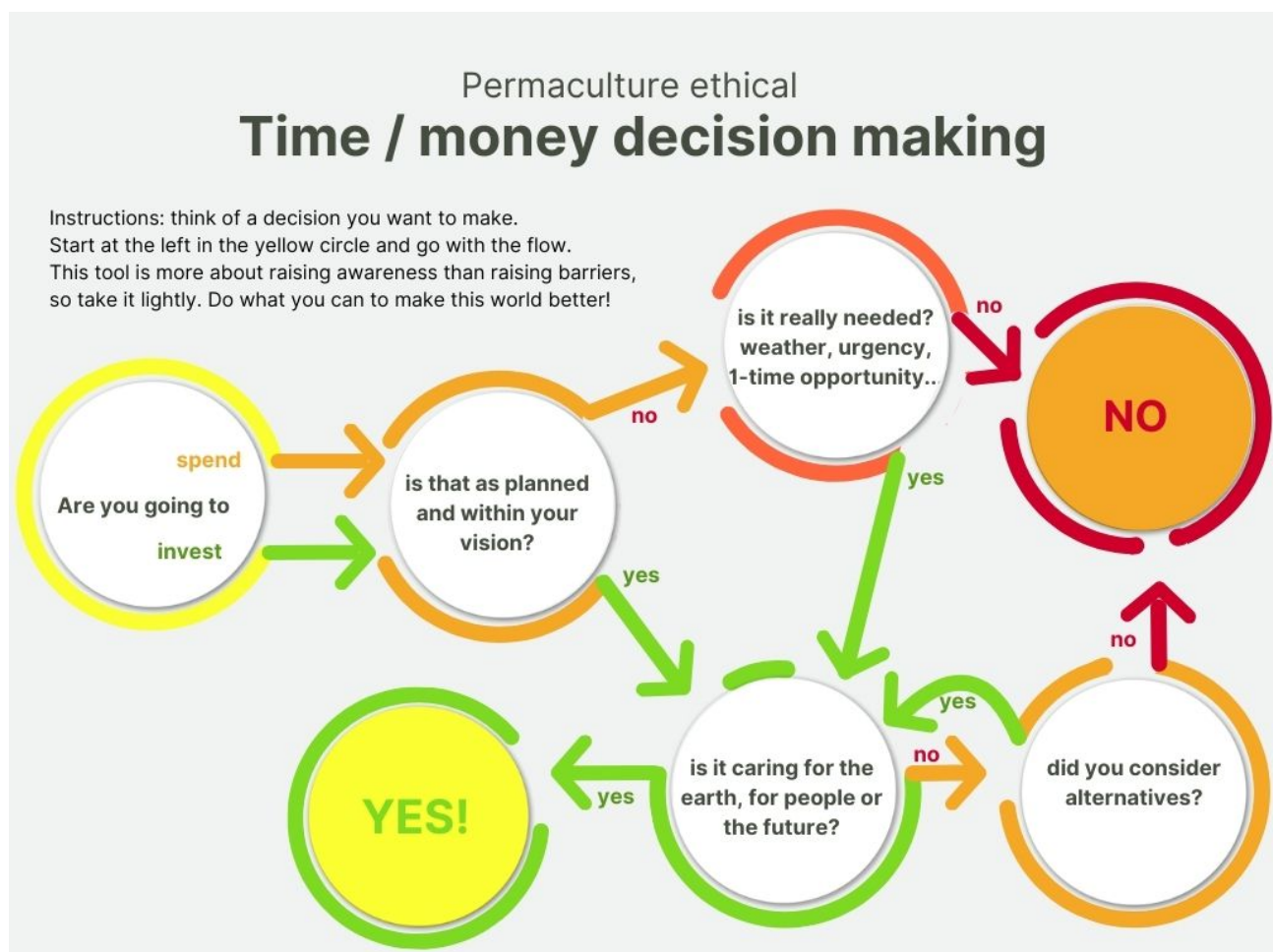
THE ORIGINAL DRAFT FOR THE "WHAT" FLOW CHART

I like charts simple so I can draw it on a piece of paper. That makes it easy to work with with other people, and to adjust to the current needs.

Generalizing the decision making chart

When I told about this design during an online Diploma guild call, Laura Bouwman enthusiastically called for a tool that “all” permaculturists can use in their life. I downplayed my design and said that it was just for “navel gazing purposes” (Dutch expression) but later I decided that she is right. More people can use good permaculture-decision making tools in their life.

So I designed a more generic integration of the money and time flow chart:



This is not meant as a right-wrong-tool! I actually didn't want to give many instructions, so that people would use it with their common sense active. It is more meant as a tool to raise awareness than as a judging tool.

> [Download this permaculture decision making model](#) to try at home

And a not-hand-made version of the choosing between options form:

Permaculture ethical choosing between options

Instructions:

Fill in your options in the 1st column,

Optionally choose your variable for the last column ("safety", "maintenance", "fair share")

Give points for the costs; cheap is more points

Give points for the permaculture ethics: every "yes" is a point

Double the points for the important columns (costs and earth care or choose your own)

The option with the most points wins!

options	costs	earth care	people care	future care		points
1	x2	x2				
2	x2	x2				
3	x2	x2				
4	x2	x2				

> [Download a PDF of this Choosing between options form](#) for home use

There are no detailed instructions on what is earth care, people care or future care. People all make their own choices while weighing differently. There are for instance people that truly believe that it is earth care and people care to eat vegan. There are also people that think it's the opposite. This model is not meant to know-it-all and wrong others. It is more a model to raise awareness for conscious choices and taking responsibility in life.

REFLECTIONS ON DEVELOPING THIS DESIGN

Conversation with myself about the start of this design #9 [in MP3 to listen](#)

Me: "We really need a Bogata Šuma overall design."

Me: "Do we?"

Me: "Yes, I didn't make many land based designs for my Diploma and I don't want to use my unfinished pond design or uninteresting 2 food forests designs."

Me: "That's not an answer. Do we really need a Bogata Šuma overall design?"

Me: "..... eeeehhhh...."

Me: "What we really need is clarity about what can go where and why."

Me: "Yes! Basically: how to make decisions!"

Me: "And probably not only about where, but also about what, how, when, who, where..."

Me: "Yes we have a long list of projects and how to easily decide what has priority.
Or: how to spend our time well."

Me: "And money. I bought a plastic swimming pool on discount last year and it is € 79,- wasted because I didn't think. The dogs only have to jump in once to destroy it. This heap of plastic is now polluting our planet from the attic of the workshop..."

Me: "Yes that's right. We want to live our life in harmony with nature and so sustainable that our lifestyle can last for centuries, but HOW to do that!
Consciously! Not just by feeling.

Me: "Yes that's an interesting subject for a design!"

(I love to have conversations with myself. I listen really well and I always agree!)

It was a bit of a challenge to define a clear system without being hindered by ego, memory or others, and without losing myself in the "7 C's" or "4 R's" of decision making that are stated as fixed rules.

Truly making your own decisions is also hard because yes of course we want to fit in with society, or at least up to a certain level.

We have friends that walk bare feet always, everywhere.

We have friends that eat only raw vegan food and expect others to serve them accordingly.

We have friends in an eco community where the young children squat just anywhere to shit.

We also had a friend that walked around in a loin cloth most of the year.

Paul Wheaton (permies.com) explains it well with his [Eco scale](#): "Most people find folks 1 or 2 levels up look pretty cool. People 3 levels up look a bit nutty. People 4 or 5 levels up look downright crazy. People 6 levels up should probably be institutionalized.

Most people find people 1 level back are ignorant. People 2 levels back are a-holes. Any further back and they should be shot on sight for the betterment of society as a whole."

In this design I defined what is truly important for us and it (conveniently!) all boiled down to the permaculture ethics earth care, people care, fair share and future care. It amazed me again how complete the permaculture ethics are.



APPENDIX I – 7 GENERATIONS

Source: chatgpt.com

The 7 generations criterium is associated with the Iroquois Confederacy (native people of the USA), where it is a principle of governance and environmental stewardship. It is something to think about when making decisions with long-term consequences, considering how these decisions will affect not just the present, but also future generations.

In a hunter gatherer community there are much less factors to consider and 7 generations forward is overseeable. In our society with technology and mining, it is much less applicable in reality. We cannot oversee the consequences of the present day production processes.

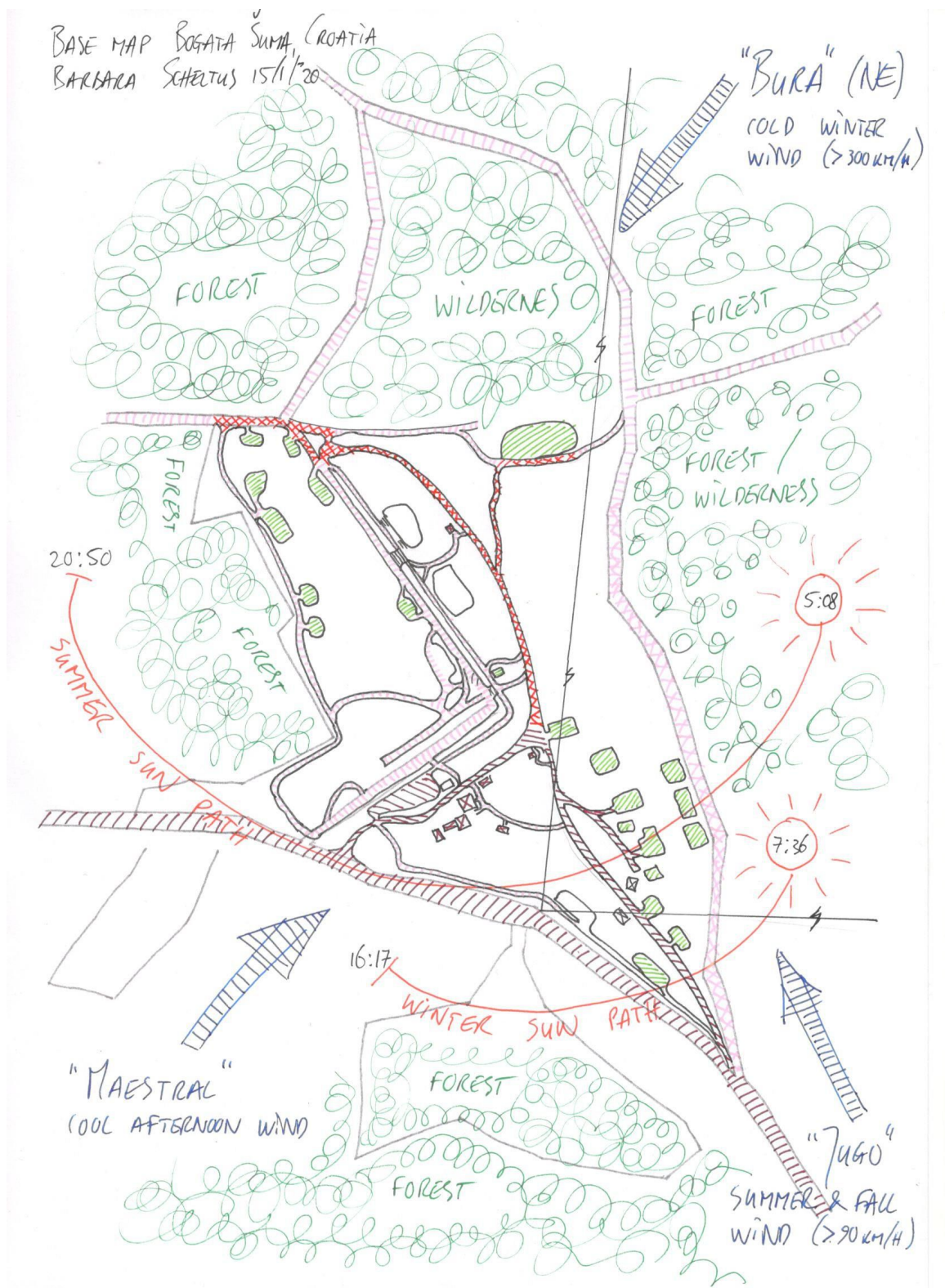
What we can learn from this approach of life is:

1. Long-term vision: look beyond immediate benefits and consider long-term impacts of actions. Think about sustainability and the wellbeing of the whole over an extended period.
2. Sustainability and ethics: this way of thinking promotes sustainability, ethical decision-making, and careful stewardship of resources. Preservation instead of exploitation of resources.
3. Intergenerational Responsibility**: The idea reflects a sense of duty to future generations. It highlights that the actions taken today should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This principle can apply to various domains, including environmental conservation, resource management, and social policies.
4. **Cultural and Historical Context**: The saying is rooted in the traditions of Indigenous cultures, particularly the Iroquois Confederacy, where leaders were advised to consider the impact of their decisions on the seventh generation to come. This reflects a deep connection to the land and a holistic view of community and governance.

In summary, "thinking for seven generations in the future" is about making thoughtful, responsible, and sustainable decisions that ensure the well-being of future generations, embodying a long-term perspective that prioritizes the collective good over immediate gains.

APPENDIX II – THE LAND OF BOGATA ŠUMA

All information that we need for decision making about WHERE things can go.



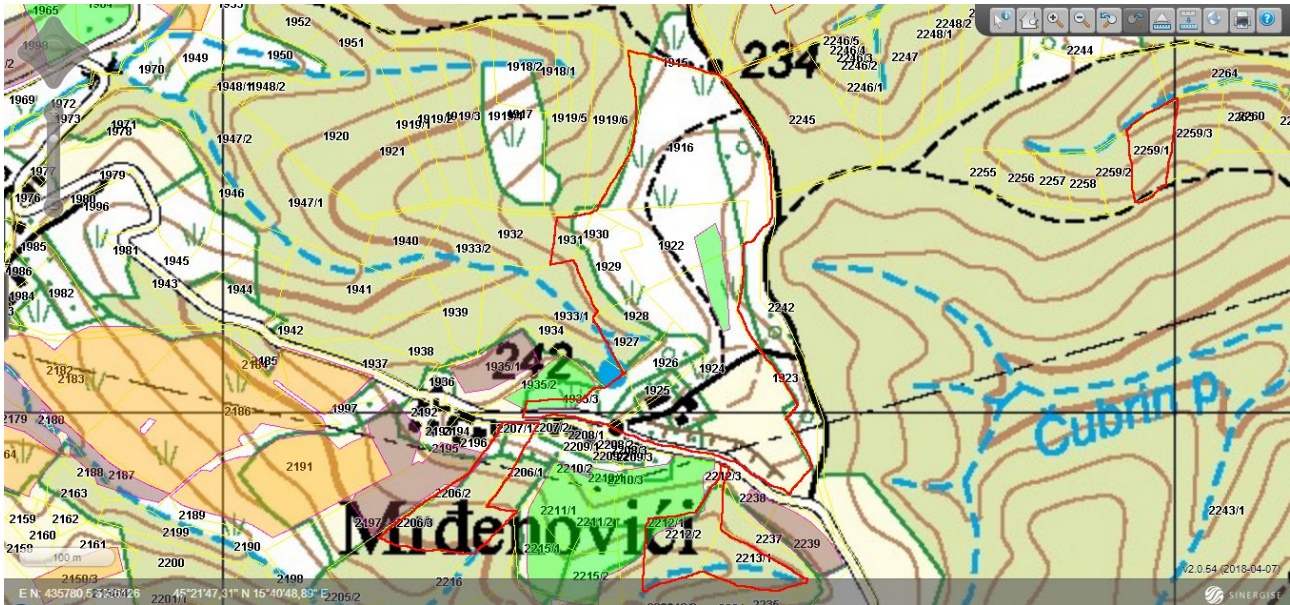
BASE MAP WITH PATHS, STRUCTURES, SUN (LIGHT), WIND PATTERNS, LAND USE

Geographic info

Vojnić (5km from Bogata Šuma) is the the main town and also the name of the municipality in the county Karlovac, in the heart of Croatia.

Živković Kosa is our street name (or actually sort of a village name; it has a sign on the road).

Mrđenovići is our "area name": the last name of all our neighbours is Mrđenović.



CARTOGRAPHIC VIEW OF OUR AREA, WITH OUR TERRAIN PARCELS OUTLINED IN RED

Our area is not densely populated. The municipality of Vojnić has less than 5000 inhabitants on 239 km². (Amsterdam houses almost a million people on a similar surface: officially 918.117 people on 244 km²)

The extremes in temperature are -15° in a winter night and +38° on a hot summer's day. A dry period lasts usually 4 weeks.

There used to be a habit of (on your own land) just building whatever you needed, wherever you needed it. There were no laws or regulations for building.

Not only the *what* and *where* were undefined, also the *how* was not regulated.

In preparation of entrance to the European Union (2013), Croatia organised a complicated and expensive bureaucratic mission to legalize all current buildings. Owners needed to arrange architect drawings and inspection came to check.

From that moment on, building permits were needed.

For the size of our house we can add annexes up to 200 m².

There are more regulations, in Croatian, in the folder on Peter's desk.

Parcel numbers, types and surface

parcel nr. type

1924	House and yard orchard land ploughed land	9100 360 1176 21759	32395 m²
1922	ploughed land House and yard	7913 529	8442 m²
1916	ploughed land		19630 m²
1935/3	ploughed land		3025 m²
1934	forest		4622 m²
1933/1	forest		4942 m²
1933/2	forest		5089 m²
1926	ploughed land		3205 m²
1927	forest		1978 m²
1928	ploughed land		1975 m²
1929	ploughed land		3906 m²
1930	ploughed land		791 m²
1931	ploughed land		1446 m²
2206/1	forest ploughed land	2500 5755	8255 m²
2206/2	ploughed land		3345 m²
2207/1	house and yard		486 m²
2259/1	forest		3615 m²
1493/1	meadow		1723 m²

Zoning on the terrain

According to the land registry we have a big building zone on 1924 that includes the entire garden area. There are several types of touristic zones.

Yellow: building zone.

The yellow zone in the middle is over parcels of 2 neighbours, the one on the left is only partially our land. The yellow zone on the right is on our land 1924.

T means touristic zone

T3-1 means land suitable for a camp

T3-2 means land for facilities for a camp (showers, toilets, cooking, swimming pool)

Yellow is building zone



Permaculture zoning

Our own zoning in use of the land according to permaculture standards.

Zone 1: the most visited areas are the parking with the cars to bring Fleur to school, the summer kitchen or the glasshouse where we have our meals, the stable with the animals, parts of the garden and the greenhouse where we also grow seedlings and the storage with firewood.

Zone 2: parts of the garden where we grow (self seeding) chards, corn, potatoes and other vegetables that just need time to grow. The food savannah and forest gardens where all trees and shrubs are heavily mulched.

Zone 3: the plum orchard and nut orchard, the camp ground

Zone 4: semi managed

Zone 5: wilderness, forest

ZONES MAP
 BOGATA SUMA, CROATIA
 BARBARA SCHULTUS 15/1/20

