

Base Camp

**A COLLECTIVE PROJECT FOCUSED ON
PERMACULTURE AND EDUCATION**

A PROJECT INITIATED BY THE FRENCH NGO 
permaculturist

BASE CAMP

raison d'être

- Form an open, multigenerational, and multicultural collective based on humanist and ecological values
- Establish a Base Camp, a living place and venue designed according to the ethical principles and design principles of permaculture, to provide an appropriate environment for free learnings and the personalized transmission of knowledge, skills and attitudes useful to contribute to the transition of society
- Serve as a study model and a source of inspiration for the creation of other Base Camps

BASE CAMP

what's in a name?



As the base camp of Everest, Base Camp is a place of resources where to prepare before going to explore the heights on our own path of life

BASE CAMP

permaculturist.org

- The project is supported by a French non-profit association, permaculturist.org, founded in September 2012
- The association encourages by all means at its disposal:
 - The promotion, the teaching and the development of the principles and the ethics of permaculture
 - The progressive implementation of a locally adapted and differentiated permaculture according to each bioregion
 - The promotion and dissemination of knowledge, know-how, expertise and skills related to permaculture

BASE CAMP






project originators

- Yuanyuan and Michaël are permaculture designers and teachers (certified in 2010 and 2012)
- They practiced and taught in South-East Asia and China before settling in Ariège (France) in 2016
- Since 2010, they wish to establish a sustainable permaculture demo site
- They are in search for an alternative to school for their son, Dayo, born in 2014
- The solution: combine permaculture and free learnings in a place inhabited by a multigenerational and multicultural collective



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an "Oasis seed"

- Base Camp has joined the Oasis network and the "Oasis Factory"
- The project shares the five "intentions of the oases"
 -  Food sovereignty geared towards agroecology
 -  Ecoconstruction and energy sobriety
 -  Participatory governance to listen to everyone
 -  Pooling of spaces and services
 -  Welcome and openness to the world
- The Oasis "Hameau des Buis", the school "Ferme des Enfants" and the "Université Vivante" are partnering with the Base Camp project



Base Camp

A PROJECT FOCUSED ON
permaculture & education

PERMACULTURE

two definitions

***Permaculture is a global design tool
to create perennial systems
that satisfy human needs
while benefiting the environment***

***The concept of design is central to permaculture
and means both the design, the creation and
the management of a system, that is to say,
it refers both to "the form and the substance"***



1994



1995



2006



2011

PERMACULTURE AT WORK

A STREET IN TUCSON, ARIZONA, USA

THE LOESS PLATEAU, IN NORTHERN CHINA

PERMACULTURE

principles & goals

- Three ethics and twelve design principles
- The means to satisfy our needs for food, energy, society...

... while increasing
the natural capital for
generations to come



PERMACULTURE

use of principles

- Principles are rooted in nature and soils, which are their first area of use
- Principles operate in all fields of human activity
- The use of principles ensures consistency and effectiveness of actions



EDUCATION

sure, but which one?



EDUCATION

a definition

***The individuals who were provided with
a rich and stimulating learning environment
would learn what they are ready to learn,
when they are ready to learn it***

adapted from John Holt, unschooling pioneer

EDUCATION

free learnings

Conventional Method

Learning by obligation imposed subjects

Knowledge is given by
the teacher to the learner

The objectives are set by the teacher

Curriculum and text books
are specific

There are definite
periods of time to learn

Free Learnings

Learning through fun several subjects at once

Knowledge is chosen and acquired by the
learner with the support of the accompanist

The objectives are set by the learner

Resources come from everyday life,
shared experiences, Nature, books,
museums, the Internet

Learning is permanent,
every hour, all year, all life

EDUCATION

at the Base Camp

- Education is:
 - a benevolent accompaniment
 - to show others how we educate ourselves
 - a transmission in relation to the real life, which respects the potential and the rhythm of each individual

EDUCATION

environment

- The success of free learnings depends mainly on the quality of the proposed human and physical environments
- The human environment is constituted by bringing and linking together cultures and generations
- The premises are designed for learners of all ages to participate in activities
- Spaces are dedicated to certain periods of development of life

EDUCATION

accompaniment

- The relationship between learner and accompanist is based on reciprocity and feeds on observation, empathy, interactivity, experimentation ...
- Free learnings are organized in response to the learner's needs
- Learner and accompanist co-create activities
- Each accompanist chooses the number of learners he/she follows based on its capacity and its availability

Base Camp

A PROJECT TO

live, experiment, share

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main objectives

- Conduct a "total design" experiment by applying the ethical principles and design principles of permaculture in all areas of human activity
- Experience an autonomous collective lifestyle, sustainable at the local and regional levels
- Live the mix of cultures and generations
- Share the Base Camp model, its methods and processes to foster the individual acquisition of the tools necessary to contribute to the transition of society



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application of principles

- Appropriate tools to answer the collective's expressed needs
- A collection of knowledge, skills and attitudes to discover, experiment and master
- A selection of tools to evolve over time



Base Camp in Ariège

Experience an autonomous lifestyle,
sustainable at the local and regional levels

Education

Free learnings

Trainings

- permaculture
- nonviolent communication
- shared governance

Permaculture

Food production

Resources management

- water
- energy
- etc.

Mode of governance

- habitat and land
- legal framework
- economic framework

Tools and technologies

Venue

Residents

- permanent
- temporary

Trainees

– training over several days

Volunteers

– wwoofers

Guest rooms

Additional activities

Handicraft

Artists residency

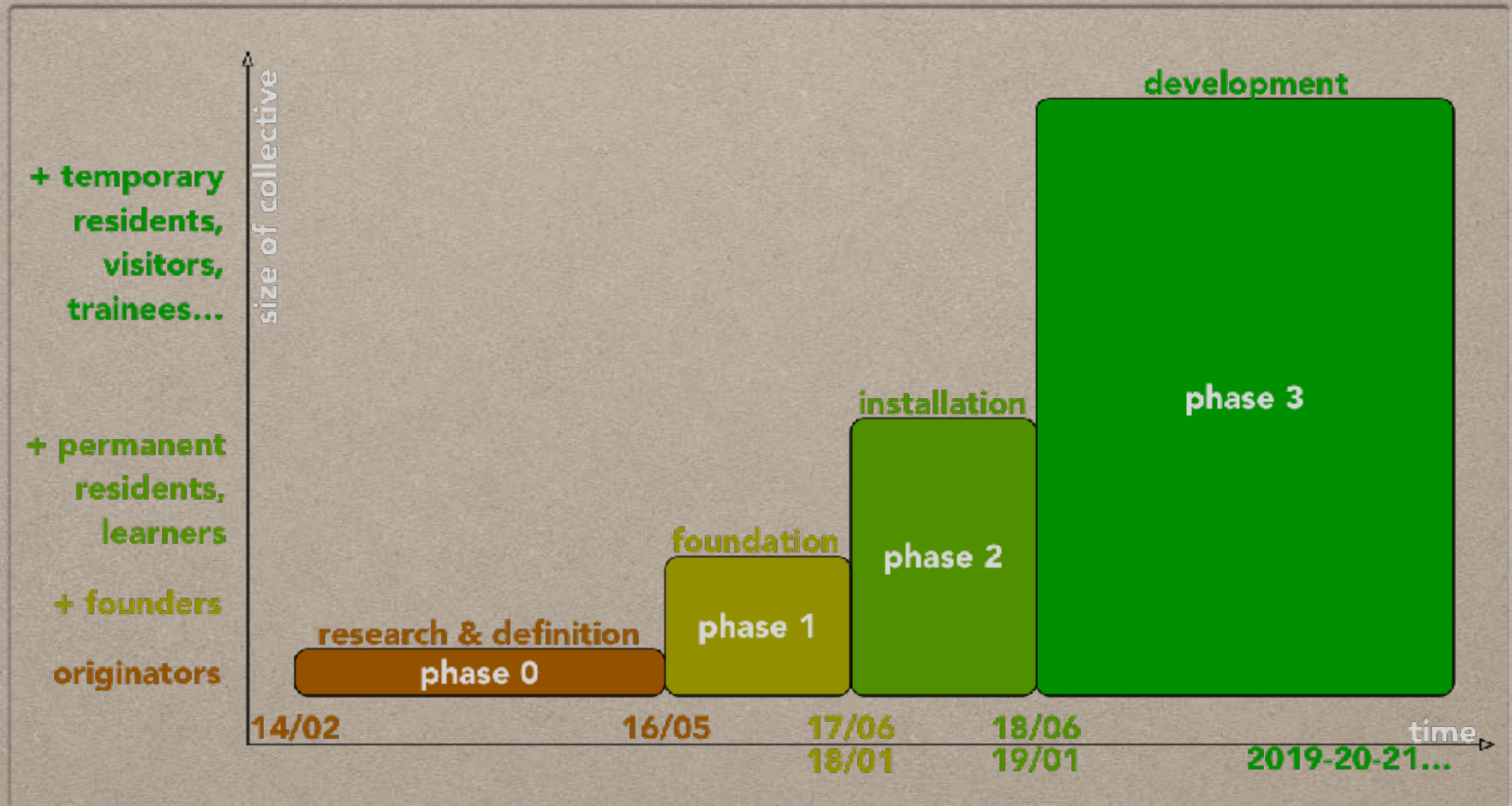
Writing workshops

Yoga, Taiji...

Etc.

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prospective schedule



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phase 1 "foundation"

since June 2016, for 12 to 18 months

- Various presentations in France
- Definition of the inclusion-integration process in the collective, building a network of future residents and partners
- Constitution of the founders' collective
- Search for suitable sites in the Saint-Girons area
- Finalisation of financial and legal arrangements
- Selection of the site, creation of necessary structures, acquisition

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constitution of the collective

- The collective is defined by shared values and converging or common goals
- The inclusion-integration process is made of various steps that correspond to an increasing level of engagement in the collective
- Each remains master of its commitment level: there is no obligation to engage more and more; there is no obligation to remain in the collective

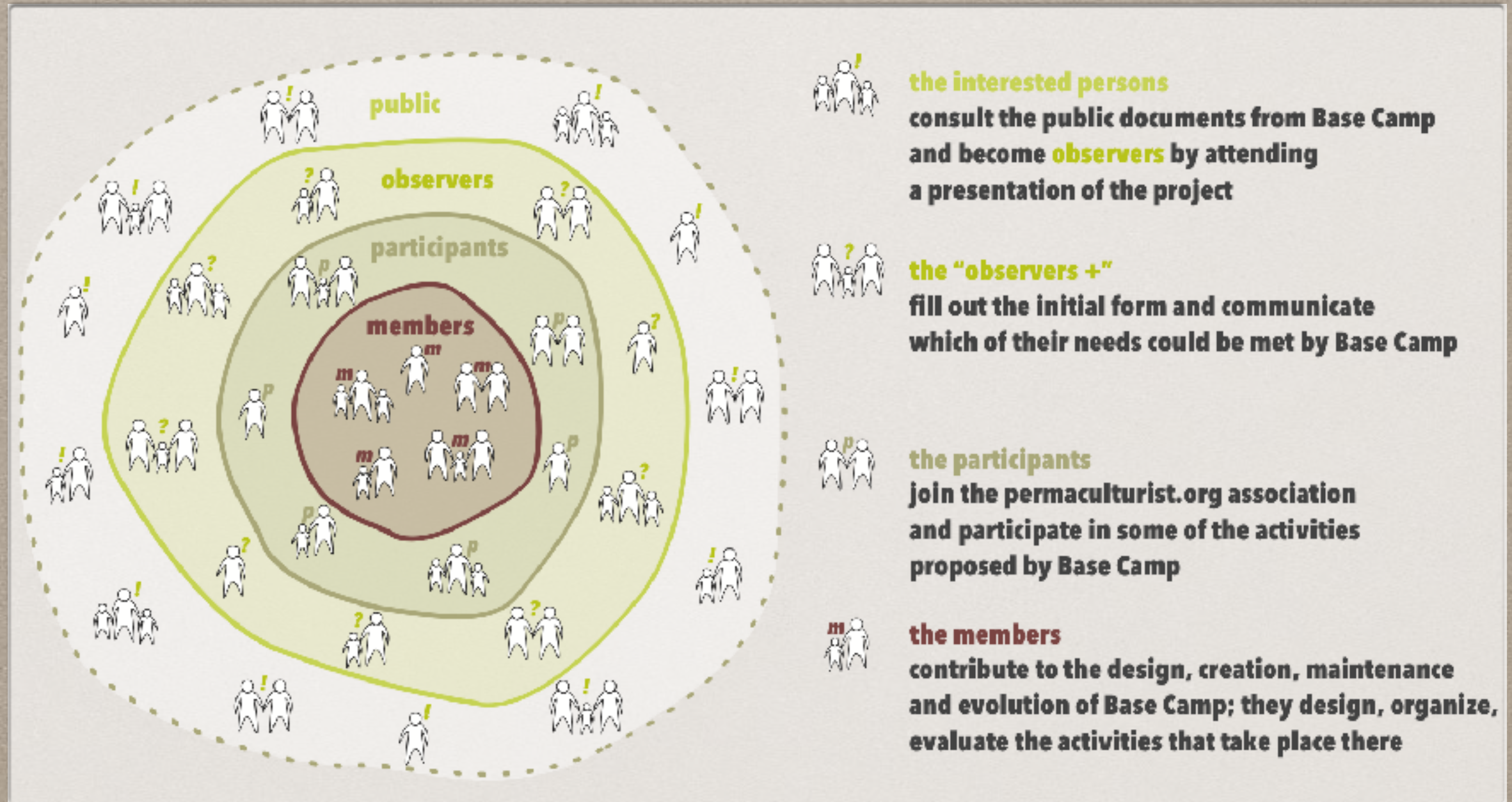
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joining the collective means

- Being opened to alternative ideas
- Having curiosity awake and being ready to acquire new knowledge, skills and attitudes (life long learner)
- Having the ability to reconcile personal interest and collective interest
- Bringing enthusiasm and skills to the collective in a positive, non-competitive spirit
- Practicing the values of responsibility, tolerance, respect

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inclusion-integration



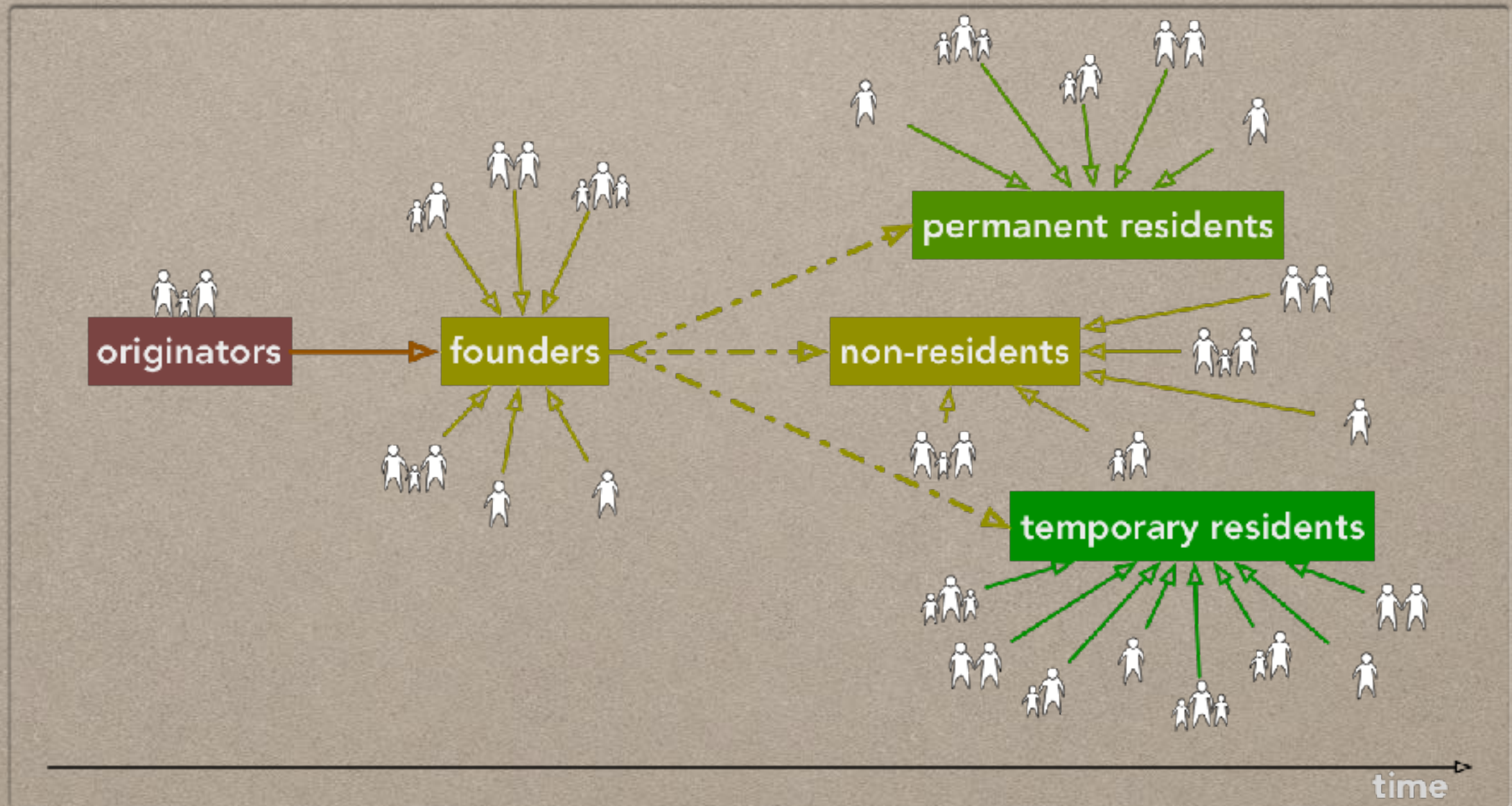
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members profiles

- **Originators:** They complete the initial research and definition work (phase 0); they are founding members of the steering committee (phase 1)
- **Founders:** Coming from the collective, they become members of the steering committee; they study in detail the project and decide when to acquire the Base Camp site; they define how to finance the acquisition (phase 1)
- **Residents:** They are founders or they join the collective once the property is purchased, to live there full-time or part-time (phases 2 & 3)
- **Non-residents :** they contribute to the activities, operation and evolution of Base Camp (phases 1, 2 & 3)

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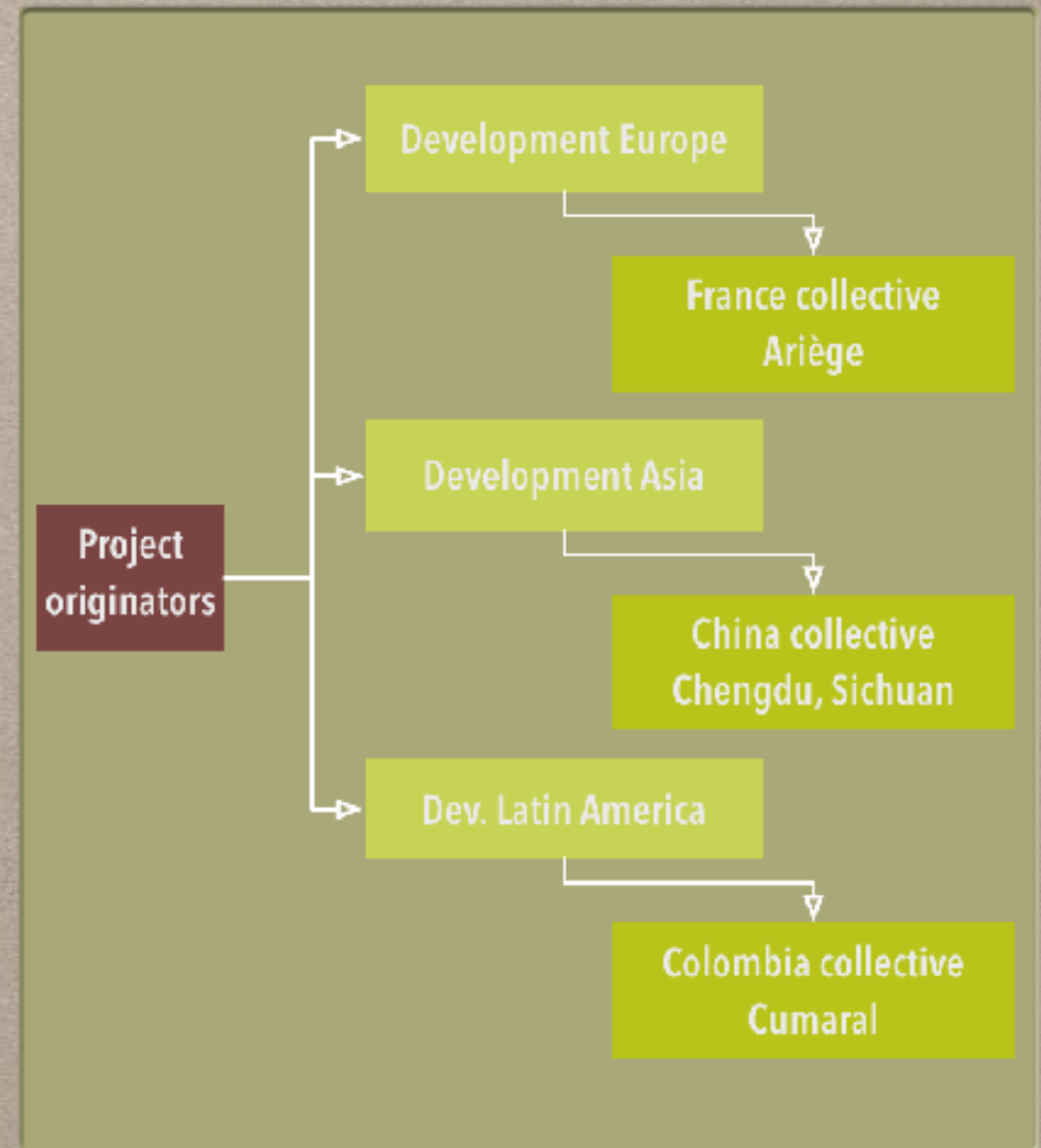
profiles evolution



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an evolving collective

- The composition of the collective evolves over time, like all elements of a dynamic system
- At the beginning of 2017, the collective brings together members from three continents



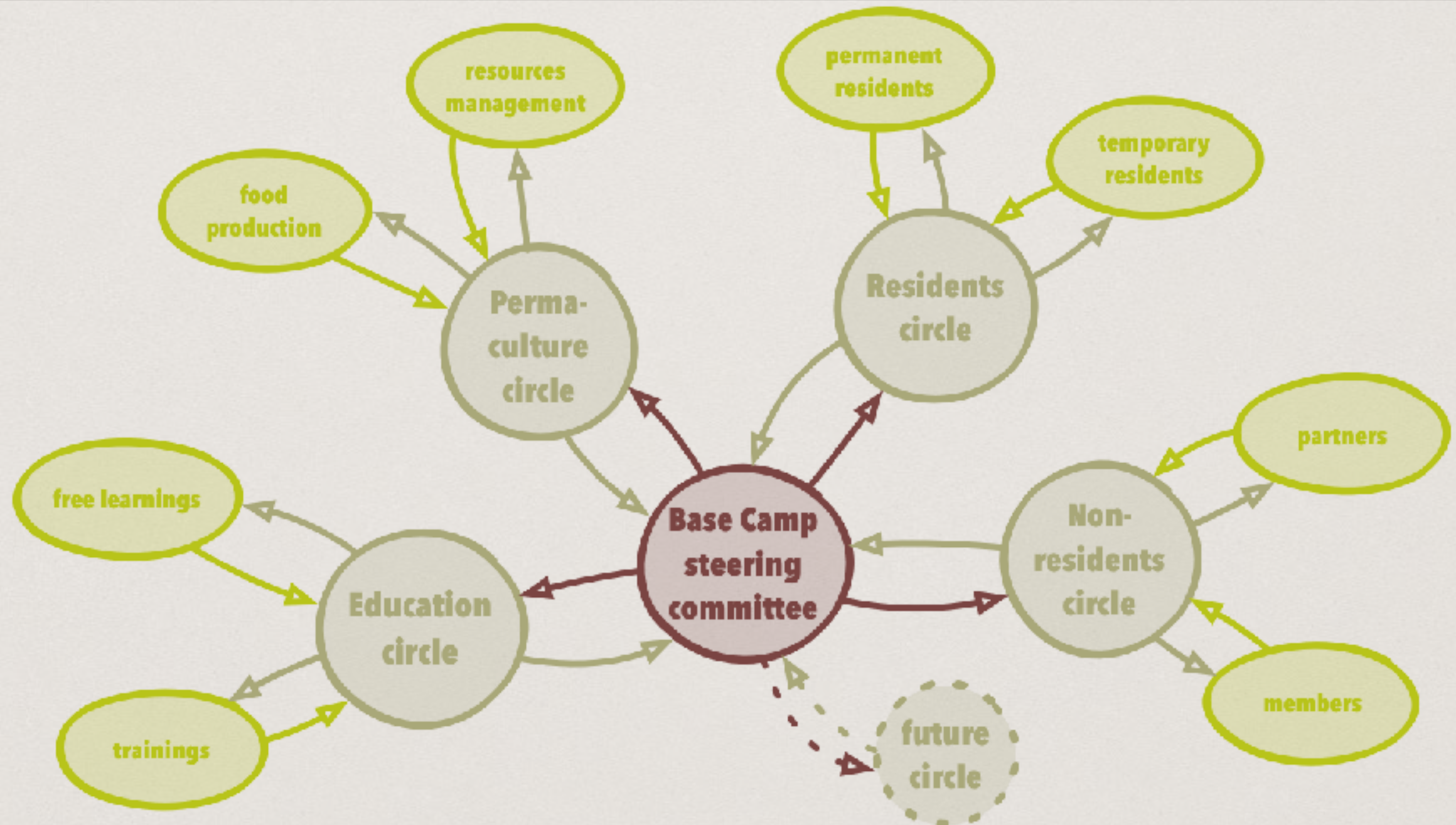
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a diverse collective

- The motivations to join the collective are varied:
 - Some are interested in the project as such; they are, for the most part, declared founders
 - Others are interested in permanent or temporary residency
 - Others are interested in the original educational model of Base Camp, shared governance or permaculture
 - Others wish to contribute to the implementation of the project
- All find, or create, their place in our shared governance

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shared governance



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start of activities

- The collective initiates various activities before acquiring a site where to settle, thus:
 - It satisfies without waiting some of the needs of its members
 - It tests and evaluates its economic model
 - It creates links locally and regionally

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theoretical trainings

- Nonviolent communication basic modules
- Introductions to:
 - permaculture
 - shared governance
 - free learnings



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itinerant trainings

- Stays co-created with the participants to experiment with the concepts and ethics of the project
 - Visit of ecovillages and meeting of their inhabitants
 - Discovery and practice of free learnings
 - Training in permaculture, shared governance, nonviolent communication



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experiential training

- Onsite collaborative design workshops in places likely to interest the collective
- Practice of shared governance, nonviolent communication
- Activities for "free learners" children



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site search

- Identify places that can meet the needs of the collective
- Create links between the collective, the place and its occupants
- Study the opportunities and constraints of the site

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seeds encounter



The encounters between “seeds of oases” are moments of sharing of experience, expression of needs and search for possible synergies

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farm to take over



Each year in the Ariège, agricultural estates change owners and sometimes destination; there are opportunities to be sought there too

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to find out more

- Introduction to permaculture
- Legal & financial framework: getting inspiration from other projects
- Why Ariège: A project located near Saint-Girons
- The Base Camp educational framework (in French)

Contact us by sending an email to oasis@permaculturist.org or visit our website at the address <http://permaculturist.org/camp-de-base>

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THE REASONS OF A CHOICE

A CHOICE OF REASON

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