



# **International Permaculture Research Project**

## **Survey 4 : Mapping the Routes to Discovery**

by Cat Richards

# **International Permaculture Research Project Survey 4: Mapping the Routes to Discovery Executive Summary**

The Permaculture Association UK works towards improving permaculture practice and building the evidence base for permaculture. To further these aims, the Association launched the International Permaculture Research Project which aims to support permaculture researchers and practitioners in sharing their work and developing globally consistent permaculture research programs. The survey reported here is the last in the series of four surveys (the reports from Surveys 1, 2 and 3 are available on the website) and aimed to examine the processes and tool permaculture researchers use to carry out research. In total, 73 participants were included in the analysis, which used narrative analysis and word clouds to identify common themes.

The main findings were:

- Pragmatic concerns are the major driver of permaculture research
- One way online channels and print channels are the main resources used to review existing research
- Soil was the most frequently measured aspect of a permaculture project
- Topics addressed and methods used are stunningly diverse
- The majority of researchers evaluate their research and share their findings using in person channels as well as both interactive and one way online channels

*How could an international research network facilitate the research cycle?*

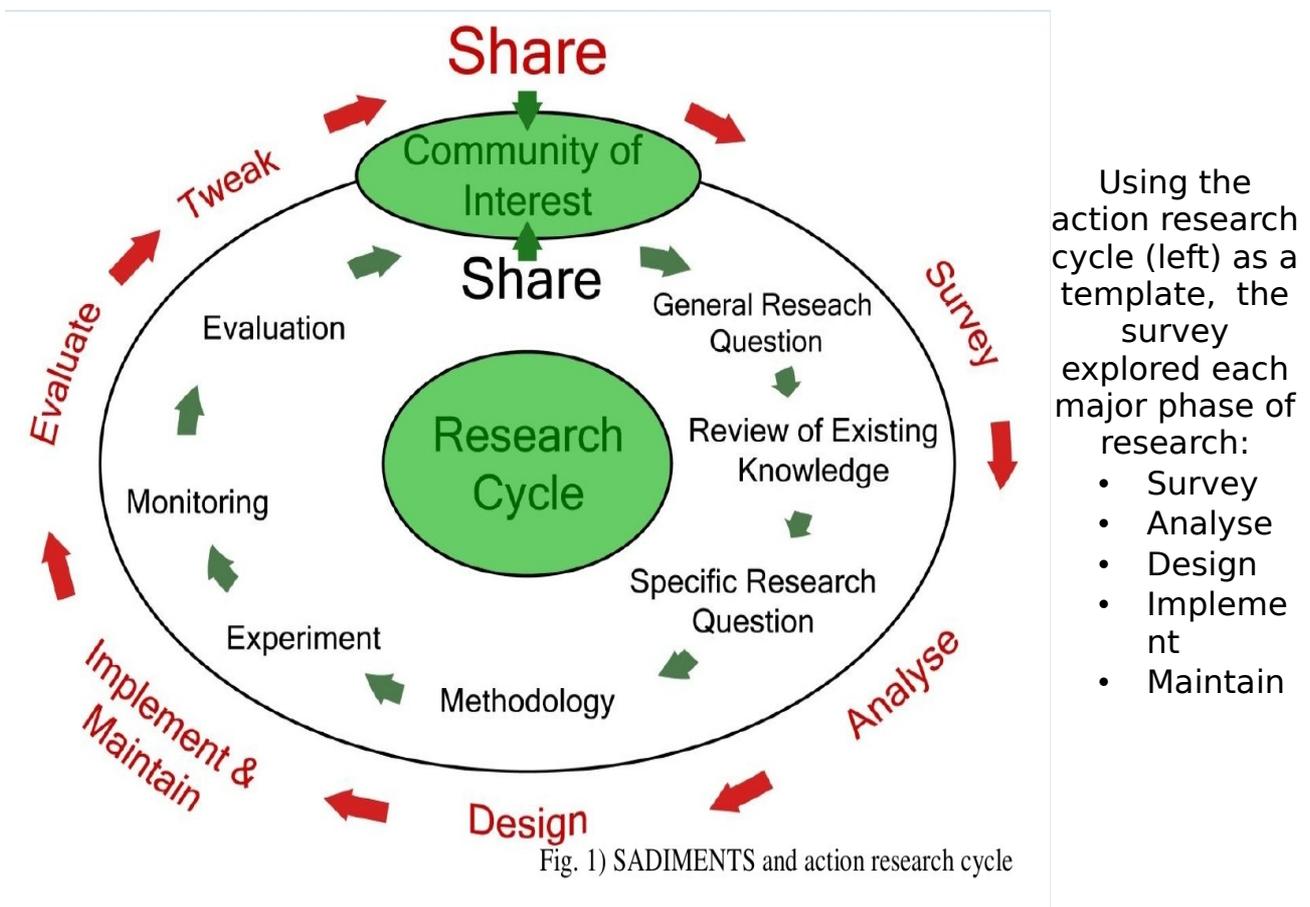
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  - How do researchers decide what to research?
  - What methods do researchers use to carry out their research?
  - What tools do researchers use to collaborate on, evaluate and share their research?
  - How could an international research network facilitate the research?

## Aims

The Permaculture Association UK is working on building the evidence base for permaculture and improving permaculture practice. The international permaculture research project was set up as a response to the recognition that there is a lot of permaculture research going on around the world but the majority is neither published nor disseminated. In order to support people in sharing their findings, and to further the development of consistent research programs around the world, it was decided to carry out four Surveys looking at different aspects of research to inform the building of a research network.

The first Survey investigated the scope and scale of permaculture research (full report available [here](#)) and Survey 2 looked at 'What research is wanted?' (full report available [here](#)). The aim of Survey 3 was to identify how respondents collaborate and share information (full report available [here](#)) and Survey 4, entitled mapping the routes to discovery, aimed to examine the processes and tools permaculture researchers use to carry out research.



From this it is hoped that it will be possible to answer the research questions;

- What practical issues is permaculture research currently being applied to?
- What resources do researchers use to review existing permaculture knowledge?
- How do researchers decide what to research?
- What methods do researchers use to carry out their research?
- What tools do researchers use to collaborate on, evaluate and share their

research?

- How could an international research network facilitate the research cycle?