Building an International Research Network: The Next Steps
Meeting notes 19th March 2014

Present:
Chris, Andy, Cat (via teleconference), Harriet, Tom

Goals:
> 1) 500 members in 50 countries on the database by Christmas 2014
> 2) 100 active members of the network by Christmas 2014
> 3) Secure resources for next stage of the project
> 4) Launch network formally at IPC UK

The steps for the short term:
It was agreed to build the network iteratively, one step at a time:
> 1) set vision and identify the challenge (already done via the International Research Surveys)
> 2) create CiviCRM database from Research Surveys (Harriet and Cat)
> 3) write an introductory newsletter welcoming potential members, asking for simple info on region and interests and promoting IPCUK (Chris, Anna, Alan)
> 4) identify participants in international soil tests and launch the tests (Tom, Cat and Chris)
> 5) investigate Ushahidi (data collection platform) as a delivery tool for the network (Harriet)
> 6) identify staff resources available – meet late April to discuss.

Other key points:
- Need to identify leaders for topics and geographical areas
- people self-identify by region and topics of interest, they can then be automatically grouped
- the Knowledge Base to be part of the network plan: a global resource co-created with network members, not 'owned' by Permaculture Association
- Regular bulletins/newsletters to all on the database, then people choose to be active members
- High degree of self management and organisation
- Strong links to IPC UK; beta stage until then, formal launch party on 7th September 2015
- Will need a paid International Network Coordinator supported by volunteers
- Very strong links to IPCUK, gives us a focus and an opportunity
- *Not* 'The UK Permaculture International Research Network', *rather* 'The Permaculture International Research Network' (PIRN)
- 'A fluid interactive platform where very intelligent people can co-create a network!' (A. Goldring)