

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Creating a private foundation only made sense to us if it meant that we could really get involved in the projects undertaken. When we went to Ladakh with our daughter Nathalie, we were able to meet the project teams on site and discuss with them openly to gauge the significance of the initiatives taken. This visit had been entirely planned and organised by GERES and it gave us an opportunity to appreciate the importance and effectiveness of the projects, particularly with a view to helping women. Many thanks to GERES, and our congratulations on receiving the «National Energy Globe Award» on May 28th, in recognition of their Cambodian programme.

This hands-on project approach means that the Foundation is always ready to listen to its partners. In this edition, Rémi Gouin, a member of our College of Experts, presents his conclusions following an evaluation in Madagascar carried out last March. Like him, I consider these visits to be absolutely essential and the information collected on site is both unique and invaluable.

By creating a new small grants funds in 2008, the Foundation also wanted to assist smaller organisations. Welcome to Natural Medicine, Awely, The shark Trust, Man and the environment and the Federation of beekeepers in Brittany and the Loire region. These are all projects which promote biodiversity conservation, a cause which is particularly dear to me.

If you'd like to find out more, please take a look at our brand new web site! It is packed with useful information gathered from our various project partners over more than three years, as well as all our own experiences alongside them. The web site has been designed to provide a veritable forum for sharing experiences.

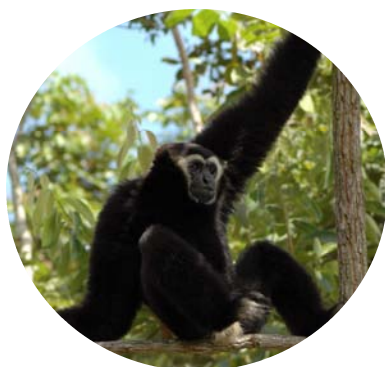
Happy reading!

Jacqueline Délia Brémond
Vice-chairman



Woman from Ladakh
(April/May 2008)

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«I would be delighted if we could take steps to a greater collaboration between Foundations...



M Hoffman (Mava Foundation), following the latest EFC environmental meetings.

...I believe that the benefits clearly outweigh the difficulties of overcoming this issue».



FOUNDATION LIFE

Working towards better collaboration between project associates...

For the most part in France, nearly half of the existing foundations are less than 20 years old. This is a rapid growth sector, which is increasingly keen to create opportunities for collaboration. Through its membership of national and international networks of sponsors, Fondation Ensemble intends to support new initiatives with this in mind and, amongst other things, ensure that the voice of family foundations is heard.

«Of course we have made mistakes in the past and we will make more in the future», a foundation director told us recently, in an aim to put his cards on the table and start the ball rolling towards sharing experiences: transparency.

How many of us are there? How do we operate?

What resources do we have? What are our work methods? There are many key questions that Fondation Ensemble is also keen to answer.

During the last French Foundation Centre (*Centre Français des Fondations*) meeting, organised within the Tour du Valat Foundation, we were left with no illusions as to the limited interest the foundations have regarding environmental themes.

Thanks to Dominique Legrain, this meeting also highlighted «a shortage of good projects». How can this be overcome? Could there be some shared projects between foundations involved in the same area? How can we combine our means and resources in order to create effective synergies?

These are questions that the Foundation has been asked by an informal group of foundations which are also involved in this issue.

On combined projects, for example, would it be possible to spread the workload regarding the evaluation process? Once they become involved in this area, what can the foundations do together in order to be more effective in France?

At the same time, the Foundation has also joined specific skills networks.

In our role as donor, we have been asked to become involved in the Pseau initiative, to help prepare a report in conjunction with the «Year for sanitation» project.

Gaining a better understanding of European and American foundations.

In conjunction with financial backers such as the European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA), the Foundation has had the opportunity to work more closely with certain foundations involved in the «Philanthropy venture».

This was quite a difficult exercise within the realms of French legislation. It gave us a chance to question the different forms of finance available: donations, grants, loans, contributions...

The Foundation was invited by the European Foundation Centre (EFC) to the environmental working group organised last January.

We were able to give our thoughts and comments regarding the creation of an operational network.

We were also asked to think about the different methods used to measure project impact. Would it be better to invest in site projects or in lobbying? What are the work methods?

We all need to carefully consider these questions in a bid to “improve effectiveness”, progressively combining our resources.

«We always talk about results, but rarely do we share our mistakes», as pointed by Mr Bernard Collignon, (Hydroconseil), member of the Foundation’s College of Experts. It is key that we share the entirety of our experience... with insight and understanding.

**Irène Serot Almeras
Director**

THE FOUNDATION ADHERES

Programme Solidarité Eau
www.pseau.org

Partenariat Français pour l’Eau
www.eau-international-france.fr

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
www.wsscc.org

Global Village Energy Partnership
www.gvepinternational.org

Environmental Grantmakers Association
www.ega.org

Centre Français des Fondations
www.centre-francais-fondations.org

European Foundation Center
www.efc.be



FOCUS

Madagascar :

«To save the primary forest, the villagers need to benefit from its protection...»

Interview with Rémi Gouin

Fondation Ensemble: Following the latest College of Experts luncheon, you reminded us of «the importance of making field visits, in order to fully comprehend every aspect of the project...»

Rémi Gouin: On site we can really appreciate the project's working conditions and the real interests of the local populations. Here, within the programmes that I visited, everything is done on foot. There is no track, even for motor bikes... The WWF, for example, covers a vast area of 63 villages, spread across some 100 000 hectares. A project agent can walk up to 150 kilometres each month, which does nothing to help simplify the work of the teams in place there.

You've also insisted on the need to give projects more time...

Although the villages seem in agreement to stop the primary forest deforestation, they will only do it if it is profitable for them. Here, this means developing their agricultural production on their existing farmland, and we are fully aware that such agricultural improvements necessitate technical training, irrigation and plantation investments, as well as access to markets. All of this will take longer than a couple of years.



An aspect of land division. (WWF photo)

It also takes time for the NGO to assess the social and economic impact. Realistically, it takes two years for teams to become fully operational in a new region.

600 technical training courses were completed in 2007. 150 000 trees were grown in nurseries.

It's a start. For one of the projects, the villages have already agreed to stop the primary forest deforestation. This is an excellent result for which all credit must go to the WWF. They are now awaiting compensation; alternative income solutions to be offered to families. This is all good progress.

WWF and CI work closely together here.

The two projects are running side by side in their own designated area of forest, some 250 kilometres long. Each project will test the approach that they feel is best suited to the local environment .

(follow-up page 4)



Rémi Gouin, a member of the Foundation's College of Experts.

The Foundation projects are located in the primary forest region which separates the central plateau from the coast. For decades, even centuries, this region has been subject to extensive deforestation due to human activity, from both the west and east.





Reconnaissance mission with the local population. (CI photo)

(continued from page 3)

MID-PROJECT EVALUATIONS

These evaluations are a fundamental element in monitoring the projects supported by the Foundation.

To find out more, see our special «Evaluations» project file in Newsletter N°4, “Special Cambodia”



Go to www.fondationensemble.org heading News Publications.

The WWF team has come to the conclusion that the areas of the forest that have already been cleared need to be replanted with native species. Thirty hectares must be planted in 2008. The CI teams have decided to get the communities to compete with each other in terms of biological advances and the protection of the primary forest. The winners will be rewarded through means of financial help for development projects.

Villages are paid for their conservation work.

These conservation contracts are a new concept in Madagascar and very few of them exist elsewhere in the world. This is an initiative which could serve as an example in the discussions which are starting now at international level, regarding northern countries paying the southern countries for “avoided deforestation” in these southern areas.

How does the CI intend to evaluate the actions of participating villages ...?

This involves quite a complicated monitoring system. The first figures indicating the impact of their efforts will be available at the end of 2008. The most successful village will then receive 20 000 euros. 15 000, 10 000 and 5 000 euros will be awarded respectively to the three runners up.

In general, the villages like to invest these sums into areas of public interest: health, water and education.

What about these two programmes in the long term...?

The two teams know that they must work within a fixed time frame. They have already begun to look for financing to follow on from Fondation Ensemble. The European Union has been approached to support the WWF programme on a more long term basis. CI has already secured financial backing for another two years and is looking for permanent funding. The system should be effective as the sums budgeted for, on average 5 000 dollars per village, per year, seem sufficient to motivate the extremely poor and isolated villagers.



Flower inventory (CI photo)

Is the Foundation achieving its goal of linking development with environmental protection?

I think so. Some original solutions have been implemented to protect the world's most endangered species, benefiting the most deprived populations. However, only time will tell.

Programme CI

Total budget:
1,2 million Euros

FE Grant:
188 000 euros

www.conservation.org

WWF

Total budget:
711 000 Euros

FE Grant:
200 000 Euros

www.wwf.fr



NEW

Small grants Funds :

Besides its four fields of involvement, the Foundation mobilizes a wide part of this funds to protect endangered species.

Introduced this year, the Foundation's "small grants funds" has specific selection criteria and procedures, in order to fulfil the more individual expectations of small structures. Discover here seven examples...

L'HOMME ET L'ENVIRONNEMENT

The protection of lemurs in the coastal forest of Vohibola

Animal biodiversity
Madagascar

Conservation, fauna habitats, economic alternatives for communities, IGA set up...

THE SHARK TRUST

An illustrated catalogue of shark species

Animal biodiversity
UK

Creation and distribution of a catalogue featuring 180 species of sharks in the north-east Atlantic and Mediterranean.

SHECHEN CLINIC

The supply and quality of water

Water and Sanitation
Nepal

Try to achieve a self sufficient water supply which is clean enough to fulfil the needs of the clinic. Save on electricity consumption.



AWELY

Protection of the long nosed crocodile

Animal biodiversity
Nepal

A conservation programme combining research and development and increasing awareness to combat the brutal and massive disappearance of this species.

FABPL

Creation of a Collective Beehive

Animal biodiversity
France

Increase awareness regarding the diminishing numbers of bees. The creation of a collective beehive at an agricultural school. Training.

ISHPINGO

Community nurseries and active reforestation

Sustainable Development
Ecuador

The creation of nurseries in order to fulfil the ecological and economic needs of the Kichwas populations in the Talag area.

MEDECINE DE LA NATURE

Ossot tomatjeat

Sustainable Development
Cambodia

Renewed emphasis on traditional medicinal remedies to help ethnic groups in Ratanakiri.

Discover all these Small grants on

www.fondationensemble.org
Heading Small Grants



SHARING EXPERIENCES

TWO PROJECT PROPOSALS WHICH ARE MORE RELEVANT TODAY THAN EVER

Biodiversity: combining development with conservation

«Because there is a direct link between poverty and environmental damage, it seems both inevitable and imperative to implement a sustainable biodiversity protection policy which is inseparable from human development...»

Desertification, poverty and food hygiene

«Fundamentally, desertification is a problem based on the lack of development

You will find all the information regarding these project proposals at www.fondationensemble.org heading - News/Parutions/News

You too,

can take part in the Foundation's shared experiences. Write to us here:

communication@fondationensemble.org

To subscribe to or receive forthcoming issues:

www.fondationensemble.org

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Four new technical information sheets:

Download our articles and worksheets.

Fondation Ensemble regularly uploads documents concerning the techniques implemented by its partners on its web site. This offers a wealth of information, where knowledge and methodologies can be shared.



Sustainable water resource management for rice growing micro-perimeters.

«Development works to improve the rice growing areas can only be achieved through community teamwork». Here you will discover the 4 stages developed by **Inter Aide**, from identifying the needs of local farmers, to the completion of the works to be carried out.



Latrines in Burkina Faso

Lucien Humbert and San Traore present alternatives for the problems experienced with the latrines visited in Burkina Faso (effective hygiene, emptying issues, available resources and excessive costs).



Establish a poverty profile in the heart of a rural community.

Water Aid presents us with its methodology. Understand how the communities themselves perceive poverty. Identify the poorer households using specific criteria defined by the community itself. The projects can then target them more successfully.



Environmentally friendly sanitation, ECOSAN toilets

Eco-sanitation is a new integrated approach regarding the management of liquid and solid waste. It offers organic and environmentally friendly solutions, as well as a much appreciated above ground solution for areas where the water table is high. **Protos** and **Wecf** tell us more...

DIARY

The next commission for **Programme Funds** will be held in November 2008. Submit your project by September 13th at the very latest.

Small grants Funds: Projects can be submitted throughout the year. The next selection committee is planned for mid-October.

Consult all these technical information sheets on www.fondationensemble.org heading News/Parutions/Sharing experience.