

EDITORIAL

CONGRATULATIONS !



A very active member of the FFI program (see pp3), **Dr Jenny Daltrey**, whom the Foundation met in 2005 during a mission in Cambodia, just received the honorary title of *Officer of the Order of Sahemtrei*.
www.fauna-flora.org

The Association *Voûte Nubienne* received the World Bank's prize for "Innovative Climate Change Adaptation Ideas".
www.lavoutenubienne.org

The Geres was selected as a finalist for the «Financial Innovations for Development» award organized by the French Development Agency and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
www.geres.eu

Dear reader,

What is biodiversity? Why is it so important to preserve it? Two eminent personalities, Mrs. Julia Marton Lefèvre and M. Jean-Marie Pelt propose their answers and talk about this masterpiece of creation that man is so far from having inventoried.

Yet right in front of our eyes we are watching the type of worldwide destruction that Hubert Reeves has described as comparable to an asteroid striking the earth. Each year since 2000 we have lost 6 million hectares of primary forests, and almost 20% of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed. Between now and 2050, 25% of all known species may disappear. Are we now living through the 6th mass extinction? How long can man, responsible for this disaster, be blinded by his short term vision?

The process is underway; the countdown has started. It's up to each of us to learn and understand, in order to be prepared to act. Each of us should do what they can according to our means and our abilities; each of us should act with a sense of conviction in order to work towards a sustainable reconciliation between man and nature. This mobilization exists: the Foundation lives it every day on the ground, through its different partners. This mobilization is within our reach. I hope that more and more of us will walk this path. 2010 is the Year of Biodiversity. We must not miss this date with destiny!

Enjoy the newsletter,

Jacqueline Délia Brémond
Vice-president.

SOMMAIRE

NEW ON THE SITE...

SHARING EXPERIENCES
Download the latest technical sheet by *L'Homme et L'environnement*, available at :

www.fondationensemble.org
Section : Sharing experiences

NEWS / PUBLICATIONS
Read J. Délia Brémond's article in *Alliance Magazine* (March 2010)

www.fondationensemble.org
Section : News/Publications

Words from an expert : Jean-Marie Pelt, member of the College of Experts, describes *Nature's precious gifts* in his latest work.

P 2

Key Figures: what the Foundation invests in biodiversity conservation and the protection of endangered species.

P 3

Interview : On the occasion of the Year of Biodiversity, Mrs. Julia Marton Lefèvre, Executive Director of IUCN, shares her reasons for feeling hopeful.

P 3

A close look at our work on the ground: J. Délia Brémond's perspective on Madagascar, and Luc Mogenet's evaluation of activities in Cambodia.

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Monocultures, herbicides, ▲ insecticides... For 50 years bee mortality worldwide may have increased by over 30% on average

‘Overall the services provided by our biosphere are estimated to be worth 33,000 billion dollars a year’ (excerpt from ‘Les dons précieux de la Nature’)

WORDS FROM AN EXPERT

‘Let’s develop an affectionate relationship with nature that goes beyond mere respect.’



Nature’s Precious Gifts, (Les dons précieux de la nature) Jean Marie Pelt’s latest work, has just been published. An opportunity for this well known

professor of plant biology and pharmacology, President of the European Institute of Ecology and member of the Foundation’s College of Expert, to share his love of nature and his sense of urgency needed to preserve it.

You compare us to M. Jourdain. Biodiversity is part of our everyday lives but we hardly realize it. Why is this such a concern?

J.M Pelt : the idea of biodiversity is fundamental to the balance of nature. But this is an idea that is not obvious to us. We think that everything just works on its own. We don’t understand that we can upset this balance. Yet we actually do, through our misplaced and sometimes predatory actions, by destroying

species that are all part of nature’s delicate balance.

Can you provide an example?

For dozens of year the Western provinces of China have seen deforestation. As a result, during the monsoon season, the run-off from the rains is carried down the rivers, like what happened to the Yang Tsé river in 1998. The flood victims numbered in the millions in an area equal to half the size of France. When you upset the balance, man pays the price.

You envisage a ‘Copernic’ revolution, that takes into account the resources we deplete and the regulating services that nature provides.

Nature gives us food from the lands and the oceans, wood to heat ourselves, medicines, fibers, forests... This, we are aware of. But we do not realize the other countless services that it provides.

Let’s continue with the example of forests: they not only provide wood, but they also absorb CO₂, which mitigates the risks of global warming, clean up the air and fight against soil erosion. A forest prevents rain water from rushing too quickly into rivers, regulating the flow and therefore allowing the replenishment of

ground water. Forests are also the habitat of wildlife, which offers us with opportunities for recreation. But these are not effects we feel immediately and directly. This is why I wrote this book: It points out the countless gifts of nature with the hope of raising awareness.

The Foundation supported your programme *La citoyenneté au naturel*. How does the younger generation respond to your actions?

We organize regular activities in kindergartens, and we are also active in junior high schools and high schools. I am struck by how much this generation is interested, as if there was a quasi-instinctive awakening of our species that is beginning to worry about its own survival.

In this year of biodiversity, what are your hopes and aspirations?

I wish for the growth of scientific knowledge. I hope that we become aware of the damages that man inflicts. I give in the book the example of the actual martyrdom of bees. I count on our growing awareness, hoping that we develop an affectionate relationship with nature that goes beyond mere respect. Our generation has gambled everything on material progress, and I sincerely believe that our children will feel betrayed by these values. Let’s have the courage to stop this discourse, and look at ourselves in the mirror. And let’s be reminded of Rabelais’ wise words: ‘Science without conscience is the soul’s perdition’.

Want to know more?

‘Les dons précieux de la nature.’ Jean-Marie Pelt. (Ed Fayard) 2010.

Key figures

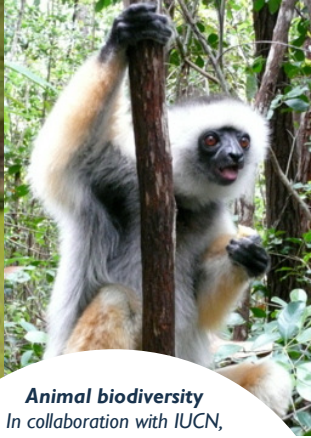
Since 2004, 19 % of the 14 millions Euros invested at the international level by Fondation Ensemble contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

Animal biodiversity represents 50% of the Small Grants Fund, 17 partnerships and a total of 385,377€ invested.

Download all programmes and small-grants supported by the Foundation at www.fondationensemble.org



60% of services provided by ecosystems worldwide are degraded



Animal biodiversity
In collaboration with IUCN, Fondation Ensemble participated in supporting 15 microprojects of the Peter Scott Fund.



Every day in 2010
IUCN features on one endangered species. This initiative, which can be freely shared, can be found at :

www.iucnredlist.org/species-of-the-day



INTERVIEW

'We need to establish economic values for all that nature provides'

With Copenhagen behind us, here comes 2010 and with it all the hopes that the Year of Biodiversity brings.

Mrs. Julia Marton Lefèvre, Executive Director of IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) shares her vision for the upcoming years and highlights important dates.



Mrs Julia Marton Lefèvre
IUCN Executive Director

There is talk of a 6th mass extinction. What are the readily visible signs?

J. Marton Lefèvre: The rate of species extinction worldwide is about one thousand times more than the natural extinction process. IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species shows that we may possibly lose 22% of all known species of mammals. 60% of the services provided by the world's ecosystems have been degraded. The situation has particularly worsened over the last few years.

Yet development relies closely on ecosystem services...

Nature's services not only contribute to the economic growth of nations, but also to their social development. They contribute to the fight against poverty, in particular in developing countries. Hundreds of million people depend almost exclusively on seas, rivers and forests for their livelihoods and economic activities. The degradation of natural resources leads to emerging conflicts that we are unfortunately witnessing already.

In the long term, only healthy ecosystems and sustainably managed natural

biological resources can provide the primary materials that our economies need, and protect us from climate change. We need to establish economic values for all that nature provides, which would give us incentives to preserve and restore ecosystems and penalize those who damage the environment. This constitutes the basis of the relationship between IUCN and Fondation Ensemble.

A partnership that IUCN and Fondation Ensemble started three years ago...

We are now considering a new orientation, based on the preservation and sustainable management of natural resources by local communities, and the improvement of livelihoods, from both a social and an economic perspective. The goal we have is to pool our expertise.



IUCN will hold its next Congress in 2012 in South Korea. How can we maintain mobilization until then?

A number of scheduled events – the UN Convention on Biological Diversity next October, a new Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), etc - if they have the buy-in of all the principal actors working on nature conservation and human development- will be essential steps. We will evaluate this mobilization during our World Congress but also during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will take place the same year.

Our Partners

On Biodiversity



www.conservation.org
Madagascar -
Democratic Republic of Congo

www.pactworld.org
Cambodia



www.noiconservation.org
Guinea Bissau



www.wwf.fr
Madagascar

Download the list of our partners on Animal biodiversity at :
www.fondationensemble.org
Section : Small Grants



▲ **Madagascar**
The barren lands of the High Plains near Tana.

300 year old Rosewood. Primary forests in Madagascar originally covered 80 to 100 % of the island.



▲ **FFI**
Farmer's market groups for organic vegetable in Phnom Penh, Cambodia



▲ **Poh Kao**
There may be only 3,000 tigers left in the wild, compared to 100,000 in 1900. Cambodia.

The Founder's perspective

Small or large, projects complement one another.



In Madagascar, over 80% of plant, reptilian, mammals and amphibian species are endemic. International organizations and micro programs are doing the impossible to conserve this unique heritage.

Nine partnerships have been signed with our Foundation since 2004. The country has received over 1.5 million Euros in investments to date. Last October, Jacqueline Délia Brémond visited the teams on the ground.

First step: the Fandriana-Marolambola region, to meet with CI and WWF, an opportunity to see with her own eyes the extent of the degradation of primary forests, chiefly caused

Madagascar

by slash and burn. Despite a difficult context, the first results of community-based biodiversity conservation seem encouraging. 'WWF and CI intervene on large areas and benefit from the power of indispensable international organizations, which is a real plus', the Foundation Vice-President concluded.

In Vohibola, J. Délia Brémond visited the tree nursery created by *L'homme et L'Environnement* (Man and the Environment) and appreciated the relevance of their tree replanting project. In parallel, the processing of niaouli - an invasive species - into an essential and, in addition, organic-oil (see technical sheet) has created a market and enabled the creation of a hundred jobs. A well conceived action that bears fruit!

Luc Mogenet uncovers results

According to the FAO, Cambodia may have lost 30% of its primary forests between 2000 and 2005. The creation of protected community areas, that are official since 2008, is a first response that offers tangible results. But indicators to assess the status of biodiversity are sometimes absent...

Diversified pilot plots for food crops, the creation of management centers and garden market organization: such are some of the visible changes that Luc Mogenet has reported during its evaluation mission in the Cardamomes Mountains last January, that he carried with the FFI teams.

Here indicators have been used to highlight the important progress achieved, for example, on the involvement of local populations and food security, on a 50% reduction of soil erosion and on the deforestation rate. But how can one assess the objective of conserving fauna and its habitat, which are part of this programme, when no indicator is available?

Further North, in the Tonlé Sap region, considered a global Biosphere reserve, Birdlife has created five *Integrated Farm and Biodiversity Areas* (IFBA). Here again the signs that food security has improved are obvious. Incomes have increased by 75 %. Here and there one can see new fruit trees growing.

Families grow vegetable garden, organize rice banks, group their savings. But here again there is no data to assess the

actions undertaken for the benefit biodiversity, this time the Bengali bustards. It is estimated that 800 of them remain on the lake banks. This represents 50% of the global population of the species! Any hopes of saving this species now lie on long term, promising initiatives such as ecotourism, financial incentives and others.

Cambodia

ALL NEW

Created with the support of Fondation Ensemble, the Shark Trust guide has just been published : *An identification of Sharks, Skates, Rays and Chimaeras*. It inventories different species of sharks, including 50 species endemic to the North Atlantic.



For more information on this organization:
www.sharktrust.org

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The Foundation wishes to sincerely all partners who have provided the iconographic documentation in this issue.

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