

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

- Sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable fishing
- Land and marine biodiversity conservation
- Renewable energies
- Ecomaterials

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS



Mozambique, coastal areas of West Africa, Ecuador, Peru, Cambodia, Laos

For full details of our selection criteria:

www.fondationensemble.org
Under the heading 'Programmes'



TECHNICAL SHEETS

AGRO-ECOLOGICAL MARKET GARDENING IN MOZAMBIQUE

Discover the recipes for biopesticides devised by ESSOR and beneficiary communities in Maputo, where they have jointly developed the first urban agro-ecological market garden business.

www.fondationensemble.org
Heading: News/Publications
Technical sheets



Dear Readers,

Like any other living organism, a foundation evolves over the years.

It learns from its mistakes and is enriched by its experience. Mindful of events and changes in the outside world, a foundation keeps abreast of current affairs and their inevitable impact on the projects it supports. While a foundation must of course stay faithful to its mission, there needs to be some flexibility in the way in which its goals are put into practice so as to better reflect the constantly changing world in which we live.

It is for this reason, at the start of our Foundation's tenth year of operations, that we have taken a close and critical look at our strategy. This analysis has led us to refocus our activity and rethink our sectors of intervention, which must all reflect our unswerving commitment to sustainable development.

The Water/Sanitation sector, which was receiving very few genuinely sustainable water management proposals, has thus been abolished. In the interests of coherence and clarity, we have also grouped together our sectors as follows: Sustainable Agriculture and Fishing, Land and Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Renewable Energies, Ecomaterials. The Small Grants Fund will be confined to 'Conservation of Threatened Species'. Our core programme countries have also been redefined and now comprise Mozambique and the coastal area of West Africa; Ecuador and Peru; Cambodia and Laos.

This, then, is how we are embarking on our tenth year of operations – with much careful thought and deliberation so that we can bring the projects we support to a successful conclusion with maximum efficiency.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Jacqueline Délia Brémond
Chairman Delegate

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Agrobiodiversity and Environment

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Foundation supports initiatives that improve food security and lead to livelihood improvement and diversification for the local population through sustainable, environmentally friendly approaches.

Quinoa has long been known as the 'golden grain'. Prized once again today for its taste and nutritious properties, quinoa, like amaranth and the Andean lupin, is making a comeback in Ecuador, where it is creating new sources of income for the poorest communities in the north-west of the country.

Quinoa is a cereal that can grow in extreme climatic conditions, offering an alternative to traditional cereals such as maize. In the Cotacachi region, where the Oxfam project operates, and where 69% of the population still lives below the poverty line, quinoa enables growers to increase their income by up to 18%. One kilogram of quinoa sells for the equivalent of one dollar in the local markets. This is a real boon for the 800 beneficiary families when it comes to improving their food security!

But the Oxfam project goes further. Over the last three years, villagers have been trained in agro-ecological farming techniques, which reduce the use of chemical inputs and help conserve local biodiversity. In parallel with this, irrigation systems have been improved to reduce the amount of water used on the plots of land.

Until very recently, most small producers - mainly women and children - spent all their time on subsistence farming. Now, new sources of sustainable income are emerging, offering the local villagers hopes of a brighter future.

Beneficiaries: 4 000 people
Length: three years
Total budget: € 400 586
Fondation Ensemble grant: € 150 000
www.oxfamfrance.org



SUSTAINABLE FISHING

The Foundation supports initiatives aimed at conserving fish stocks in the highest risk areas through a community-based approach (setting up protected areas, combating illegal fishing, conservation activities...).

Sierra Leone - Liberia Safeguarding fish stocks

The waters of Sierra Leone and Liberia, rich in fish stocks, regularly attract industrial vessels that come to fish illegally in waters reserved for artisanal fishing.

How can 12 000 local fishers and their families be given back the means to make a living from their own natural resources? The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) has entered into partnerships with the governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia, local communities and other local and international stakeholders in order to set up community surveillance projects. Local fishers inform EJF of all illegal fishing in the inshore exclusion zone. Once the alert has been given, the EJF patrol vessel goes to the scene to identify the boat. Photos, videos and GPS readings are then sent to the partner authorities, leading to fines being imposed.

This community surveillance project operates beyond the local level. The Spanish authorities in Las Palmas are now paying

closer attention to West African fish imports. They recently impounded a cargo of 28 tonnes of fish after EJF provided evidence that the entire cargo came from illegal fishing. Other goals of the project include community management of protected marine areas, the encouragement of good fishing practices, the introduction of sustainable alternative income generating activities such as oyster farming, and the promotion of renewable (solar) energy.

After these initial successes in Sierra Leone and Liberia, EJF is currently extending its activities to other African coastal nations that are victims of illegal fishing (Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire), following the same principle of community involvement.

Beneficiaries: 12 000 fishers
Length: two years
Total budget: € 770 000
Fondation Ensemble grant: € 75 000
www.ejfoundation.org



Peru

Setting up coffee production

Through this project, located in the 182 000 hectares of the Alto Mayo Protected Forest in north-west Peru, 200 coffee growers and their families are directly involved in conserving their environment. And reaping the resulting economic benefits.

In return for programme support from Conservation International, beneficiaries must sign an agreement, closely linking their coffee growing to conservation of the forest and the numerous species found there. The stakes are high: deforestation is threatening 159 varieties of tree and creeper, many native orchid species, the Andean titi monkey (*Callicebus oenanthe*) and the spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*). And for the 10 000 inhabitants living downstream from the forest, water resources are also under pressure. Each grower learns to derive full benefit from the sustainable

techniques being used. At the heart of this project's success lies the balance between the grower's commitment to conservation and the economic benefits that can be expected.

A total of 200 farmers are working with CI to grow coffee in the shade of the forest canopy. This coffee is certified organic and bears the Fair Trade label, offering added value and new business opportunities. The project covers conservation techniques, sustainable agriculture, protection of water resources, capacity building (setting up growers' associations, good governance) and income diversification.

Beneficiaries: 10 200 people;
10 000 hectares of forest
Length: three years
Total budget: € 287 000
Fondation Ensemble grant: € 125 000

www.conservation.org



LAND AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The Foundation supports initiatives aimed at protecting or rehabilitating particular ecosystems on account of their biodiversity or any other environmental or human interest (carbon storage, source of Non-Timber Forest Products, defence against climate disasters, prevention of erosion or desertification, water capture zone...).

Small Grants Programme Endangered Species

The Small Grants Programme is now confined to the protection of endangered animal species. All countries are eligible, with no restrictions.

JOINT FUNDING

Fondation Ensemble and the Synergie Solaire endowment fund are co-funding a project run by 'Humana People to People' in Mozambique (Changalane, Maputo Province) to enable the most disadvantaged communities to have access to solar energy.



Laos

Expanding the supply of biodigestors

In the context of the National Biodigester Programme, Czech NGO People in Need aims to supply 17 500 households in some of the most disadvantaged rural communities by intro-duc-ing a sustainable business model.

During its last field visit in February, the Foundation was able to assess the multiple benefits of this project. No more firewood gathering; no more cooking smoke filling the house – and an end to the negative impacts these have on both health and the environment. Gone, too, is the expense of purchasing chemical inputs to use on household plots.

People in Need (PIN) has proved to the project beneficiaries that they can now turn the biomass they produce (animal and human excrement) into sustainable energy. One a biodigester has been installed, it produces methane, which is

used to provide light in the living area and directly power the gas burners. While more and more families are coming round to the system, which has the added advantage of providing a constant supply of natural fertiliser free of charge, there is some resistance to connecting household latrines to the biodigestors.

The combination of adequate information and attractive rates should, however, gradually win the day. PIN's next objective: an independent business model that is no longer reliant on the grants made during the current development phase.

Beneficiaries: 17 500 rural households
Length: two years
Total budget: € 312 000
Fondation Ensemble grant: € 135 000

www.clovekvtisni.cz/en

RENEWABLE ENERGIES

The Foundation supports initiatives that enable the most disadvantaged populations to have access to renewable energies and reduce their consumption of non-renewable or costly fuels, and/or initiatives that use agricultural, animal or human waste to produce energy.

ECOMATERIALS
The Foundation supports initiatives that favour the sustainable use of local, ecological materials for housing and for the production of items or equipment accessible to all.

Read about the Nubian Vault Technique in Newsletter 27 downloadable at:

www.fondationensemble.org

For further information:
www.lavoutenubienne.org

ON THE SPOT



Deforestation for cultivation.

AVSF Sustainable agriculture

Where: Oudomxay province
Beneficiaries: 20 000 villagers
Length: June 2012 - June 2015
Objectives: to set up new management guidelines and sustainable agriculture practices
Fondation Ensemble grant: € 175 000
Total budget: € 412 387
www.avsf.org



Cardamom production.



GRET Bamboo sector

Where: Houaphanh province
Beneficiaries: 15 000 villagers
Length: October 2011 - October 2015
Objectives: development of the bamboo sector (incense sticks, toothpicks, crafts, foodstuffs).
Fondation Ensemble grant: € 200 000
Total budget: € 495 509 €
www.gret.org



The bamboo sector generates new sources of income for the community throughout the year.



Jacqueline Délia Brémmond reports on her visit to the Foundation's projects in Laos

Long cut off from the rest of the world, Laos is today attracting the interest of its powerful neighbours. They are securing extensive concessions to exploit the country's mineral and forest resources, in exchange for which they are undertaking village electrification programmes and constructing roads and dams that do not, however, meet with universal approval. The AVSF project promotes sustainable agricultural practices for 20 000 villagers in the province of Oudomxay. The first crops of maize harvested and wickerwork production are encouraging, generating income for the most disadvantaged. But the competition on this fertile land is tough. Chinese investors have just bought a 50 hectare plot for rubber (hevea) planting. And for semi-industrial scale production of green beans for their own consumption, they are imposing massive use of chemical inputs, supplied free of charge. In the short term, it's an unequal battle but does that mean we should simply give up? We don't think so.

Lack of local expertise: another serious problem. A shortage of qualified personnel means that NGO-trained Laotians are moving to the booming private sector. There is a positive spin-off: in this way, local associations play a direct part in strengthening local capacity. Much

effort, however, has to be put into compensating for this constant turnover, especially in the isolated rural areas where the Foundation and its partners focus their vital support.

In the mountains of northwest Laos, NGO Gret has successfully launched several types of bamboo sector development. **Marketing, however, remains a difficult problem to resolve** in a country with a limited road network, where the farming villages tend to be isolated. Further to the south, near Luang Prabang, the same problem arises for teak plantations that are now managed sustainably, thanks to a TFT programme. While this teak now has official certification, it is proving difficult to find a steady distribution network because of transport problems and a production capacity that buyers consider to be too low.

What solutions can be found to help projects run smoothly and to support and encourage our partners? Every field visit prompts a host of reflections. It is, however, a source of great satisfaction to us as founding members to see the projects we support 'in the flesh' and to meet both the beneficiaries and the project teams on the ground, all so full of generosity and professionalism.

TFT Production of certified teak

Where: Luang Prabang
Beneficiaries: 2 800 villagers
Length: May 2011 - April 2014
Objectives: sustainable management of teak plantations; certification and marketing of the teak
Fondation Ensemble grant: € 100 000
Total budget: € 428 000
www.tft-forests.org



Distribution channels sought for certified teak plantations.



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