

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

In 2008, the Foundation reached a significant new milestone. Four years into this endeavor, we took on our 100th project! This round number throws light on the course our team has taken so far, in close collaboration with all our partners.

Of course, we all know how this path can be difficult. Obstacles crop up; sometimes they are unpredictable, and sometimes, inevitable. For teams on the ground, this requires constant perseverance, patience, and relentlessness, because reality challenges theory and demands careful consideration.

Several times a year, the Foundation team sets off on missions to evaluate the impact of the projects it supports. I personally went to Senegal and Guinea Bissau and just returned convinced of the importance of exchanges on the ground. Such exchanges foster increased connectivity and expertise-sharing between all development actors, and are pivotal to success!

As of today, we have brought to a close our support to 20% of our programs. These have each been closely evaluated on the ground. Therefore, the Foundation has at its disposal new sources of capitalization and a renewed opportunity to share experiences.

In 2009, our publications will be open to new testimonials and new voices. May this New Year offer everyone the chance to have their stories heard, and thus benefit the greatest number.

Enjoy your reading,

Jacqueline Délia-Brémond  
Vice-présidente.



CONTENTS



**Interview:** «On the ground, everything comes alive. I move from theory to practice». Jacqueline Délia Brémond.

P 2/3

**Life of the Foundation.** The Fondation Ensemble reaches one hundred supported projects. A visit beyond the numbers.

P 4

**Program Commission Agenda:** Last days to submit your program...

P 4

**Sharing Experiences:** Two new technical sheets can be downloaded from the website: *Shechen Clinic* and *JTS*.

P 4



Mangrove trees planted by Oceanium in Senegal

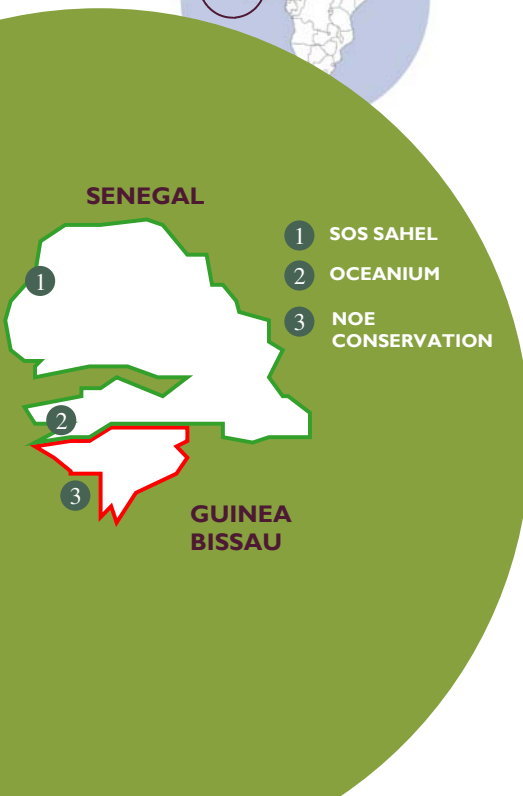
2009 Objective: 5 million

«On the ground, everything comes alive. I move from theory to practice».

INTERVIEW

Jacqueline Délia-Brémond

Every year, the Vice President of the Fondation Ensemble sets off to the field to meet teams set up on the ground. She deems these missions crucial, as they allow her to fully enter the realities of the projects. Returning from Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, she shares her insights.



Since the Foundation was created, you have made sure you personally went to the field every year, where the projects unfold. Why in your eyes is this so important ?

In Paris, I read files and meet with the organizations that set up the projects. Of course, I can ask them as many questions as I need to better grasp the concepts. But I remain removed from the reality of the actions we lead.

On the ground, I discover this reality in its full dimensions: the country where the project unfolds, with its specificities; the implementing actors, and the difficulties they may encounter; the people participating and the ones on the receiving end, and their culture.

Everything comes alive, I move from theory to practice. This is fundamental to me.

In your last missions, you went to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. Why exactly did you choose these countries?

In these countries I was looking to visit programs related to the conservation of biodiversity, which is one of the areas of action of the Foundation that I particularly care about.

It is also one of areas that are most complex to manage, because although the destruction of biodiversity took place at a blistering speed, rebuilding it - since this is really the case most often - will be lengthy and uncertain.



In Guinea Bissau, in the Bijagos archipelago, the establishment of a new Marine Protected Area with Noé Conservation

In Casamance, you met with members of Oceanium and visited the protected marine area. What are the main impacts of the program that can be observed on the ground?

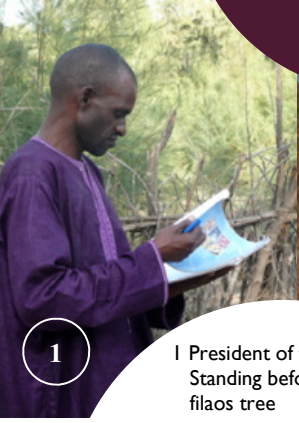
Oceanium, led by Haidar el Ali, an exceptionally charismatic and dedicated man, leads two simultaneous fights: combatting mangrove desertification, and restoring the coastal marine ecosystem that has been drastically impoverished, which forces the exodus of Senegalese fisher-folks.

This year, 6 million mangrove tree propagules were planted. With regards to the new marine protected area, I noted that the one in Bamboung, which was set up by Oceanium in 2003, now displays a transformed marine biotope. Our project spans on 15,000 ha, so it is more ambitious, but it is led by the same team, which makes me confident.

(follow-up page 3)







1

1 President of the Union Standing before replanted filaos tree

2

2 Progression of sand dunes onto market garden basins

3

3 President of a Women Committee

4

4 Drop irrigation system.

(continued from page 2)

**You also visited the program led by SOS Sahel...**

On this coastline, in the East of Senegal, sand takes over water like of a flooding river, towards the food crops of the populations of the dunes basin. It is a spectacular phenomenon, you can almost see it happening before your eyes!

The program, that SOS Sahel manages very well with the help of unions, fights this phenomenon by planting trees (Filaos tree), bushes or grass (vetiver). At the same time, it trains farmers to sustainable agricultural techniques. These are crucial on such a poor soil, further destroyed by fertilizers and pesticides.

I was also very happy to meet women groups who are very pleased with the improved hearth program, which succeeded in greatly reducing wood consumption and fires.

**Guinea-Bissau is a country where the Foundation has started to be involved. You chose to support the Noé Conservation program.**

This program is in its starting phase.

**What may one expect on the ground at this stage ?**

A lot, especially when it deals with a very complex project that seeks to protect a huge marine area of 60,000 hectares !

This includes analyzing the project design and structural elements that entirely depend upon, of course, its location, local partners, and the many people in charge already on the ground, with their abilities to carry on the project as planned.

It is also about attempting to grasp the genuine demands of the population, taking into account its livelihood and resources ; these do not always match the descriptions one finds in books. Well ! And about trying to gauge the odds for the project to succeed, in a near or more distant future.

By going on location, like I have done, and by putting our heads together with the organization, the design can be inflected, and together we can give the project better odds of success.

This is how our Foundation plays its role entirely, which is not solely this of a donor, but a genuine partner with organizations it works with.

The introduction of enhanced hearths In the Niayes area...



... by SOS Sahel, has reduced wood consumption and fires.

**How does this mission reinforce your beliefs in the relevance of the axes of intervention of the Foundation?**

I believe we are moving forward in the right direction, keeping in mind that some areas of action, such as biodiversity, are infinitely complex, and that we do not have the same references, that we do not master the tools as clearly as when we are dealing with, for example, access to water or sanitation.

At times this immense territory makes me dizzy, I have the sensation to be a hummingbird attempting to put off a wild-fire with a droplet in its beak ; yet I am convinced, despite all this, that the very mission of the Foundation is to have a presence in all areas where life is endangered, be it human, animal, or plant. Everything is linked. Together.

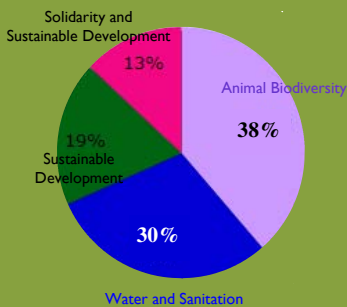
«By going on location, like I have done, and by putting our heads together with the organization, the design can be inflected, and together we can give the project better odds of success.»



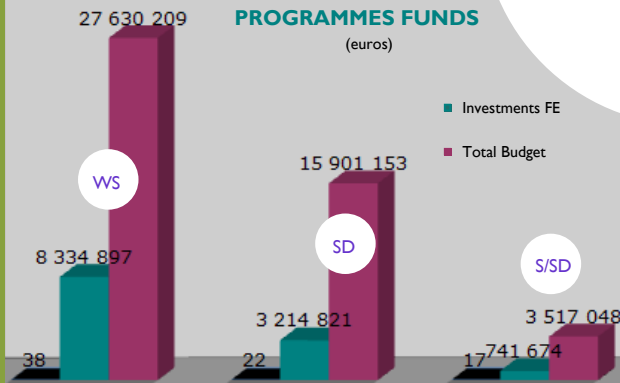
Find out more about our partners:  
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[www.sossahel.org](http://www.sossahel.org)  
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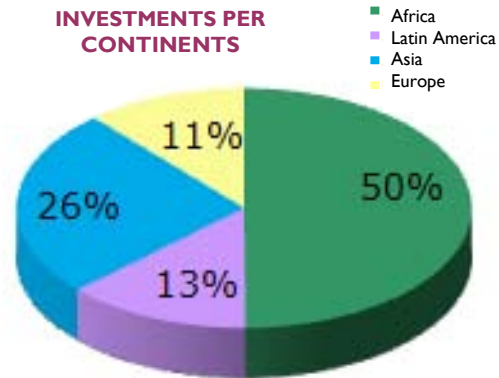
## SMALL GRANTS



## PROGRAMMES FUNDS



## INVESTMENTS PER CONTINENTS



## LIFE OF THE FOUNDATION

**100 programs underway... Investments rising steadily (+21% from 2007 to 2008). A presence on 4 continents. The Fondation Ensemble is slowly carving its path. A journey beyond the numbers.**

12,753,643 euros invested! 77 programs and 23 small grants underway! That is how one could briefly summarize the results obtained by the Foundation, four years into its mission. But what is beyond these numbers?

First of all, it is a collective commitment; the Foundation does not act alone. Its subsidies complete a total investment – all donors taken together – of € 47,048,410. By being part of this structure, it aims at participating in emerging projects that are more substantive and more sustainable.

The Fondation Ensemble reaches a milestone : 100 projects supported.

De facto, sharing experience is at the heart of the approach of the Foundation since its beginning. 2008 reinforced this willingness: enhanced participation of the Foundation in thematic networks, new technical communications, involvement in international symposiums, etc.

### Four years into its endeavor, the Foundation is holding its course.

A few weeks way from the World Water Summit, access to water and sanitation remains the main priority of the Foundation. It represents 65% of its funds, that is €8,334,897 and 38 supported programs, helping over one million people in 14 countries. €3,214,821 are invested in the *Sustainable Development* action area and € 74,674 in the area of *Solidarity and Sustainable Development in France*.

2008 saw the emergence of the very first small grants program supported by the Foundation. Overall, these represent 23 new partnerships and € 462, 251. *Animal Biodiversity*, the first area of investment for this small grants funds totaled €179,147 and 7 programs. Hence, 38% of this fund is dedicated to helping endangered species.

Finally, 21 programs have been completed since 2005. They represent precious

sources for capitalization, and beg the questions of the effective date at which a project is finished and of its monitoring.

### SHARING EXPERIENCES

Two new technical sheets were elaborated in collaboration with our partners *Shechen Clinic* (Optimization of water circulation systems) and *JTS* (Setting up Enhanced Tropical Gardens) and may be downloaded from the Foundation's web site!

**Climate, Energy, Development:** when you buy the Handbook of Best Practice edited by the GERES, you contribute to developing its free distribution in countries of the South:

[contact@geres.eu](mailto:contact@geres.eu)

## DIARY

**LAST DAYS**

### PROGRAMME COMMISSION

Submit your proposal at the latest on February 27 2009 at

[info@fondationensemble.org](mailto:info@fondationensemble.org)

Find **The Fondation Ensemble 2008 Annual Report** on our web site, under the News/Publications page.



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