

EDITORIAL

OUR ENGAGEMENT
IN AFRICA



- Total investments by Fondation Ensemble: **€ 7,142,658**
As part of a total investment of : **€ 26,887,956.**
- 34 programs.
- 13 small grants.
- 14 priority intervention countries, including Burkina Faso (27%).
- 570,000 beneficiaries, essentially in rural areas. 77% with regard to 'Water and Sanitation' projects.

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ONGOING

Your entrepreneurial project seeks to create sustainable jobs? Submit it to our current call for proposals, available on our web site at:

www.fondationensemble.org
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Dear Reader

Over half of the programmes of the Foundation are dedicated to it. Thirty-eight partners and over seven million Euros are invested there. It is therefore no surprise that we dedicate a special issue to the African continent. Africa, as we came to know it. Africa, rich from our experiences on the ground, and quite different from the usual clichés. Africa, plural, diverse, puzzling sometimes, and endearing always.

« Africa, or Africas ? », asks C. Jamati (pp2). A fundamental question that forces us to reflect on our globalized- and often narrowing - thought systems, that while prevalent on a global scale clearly show their limitations (pp2), and hold governments and citizens accountable.

Let's get closer to these men and women and the hopes they carry. In a recent visit to Malawi, I saw them at work (pp3). This newsletter is naturally dedicated to them. So that together we keep this image of these vibrant Africas, of their differences that create sustainable wealth. Inspiring Africas!

Enjoy your reading,

Jacqueline Délia Brémont
Vice-President.



Eating a more balanced diet, halting wasteful habits, producing more food... Such are challenges to feed the whole human race.



Africa is the only continent where agricultural production per inhabitant has decreased in the last 30 years.

WORDS OF AN EXPERT

Will the human race find ways to feed itself in a few years?

Demographic explosion, climate disturbances, evolution of food demand and of agricultural production, pollutions, threats to biodiversity all represent a source of pressure on natural resources worldwide. Will our planet be able to feed close to nine billion people in 2050? A report by the Science Academy, led by G. de Marsily, member of our College of Experts, and H. Leridon, demograph, forces us – individuals and governments – to face our responsibilities in a global context.

850 million people worldwide were undernourished in 2006. Today, after the 2008 food crisis, they are one billion. Arable areas are not indefinitely expansible, and often already degraded (for

example through erosion, and salinisation). Soil productivity seems to be weakening. Energy prices are on the rise. Climate change is altering the global food production. The picture is not very reassuring. And yet! We know it is possible to feed nine billion people in 2050. If a few conditions are met: an annual increase of global productivity of 2% per year, halting wasteful habits, and more balanced diets. Which are all, of course, part of an approach that is more respectful of the environment.

Our planet's future will be predicated on solidarity.. or won't be.

Governments, international institutions or individuals, we are all invited to take responsibility in search of a global equilibrium.

Political institutions, to start, will need to anticipate, organize and regulate the sharing of benefits derived from agricultural products between nations. Climate changes will have higher impact on the distribution of agricultural products than on their global volume.

Some countries in arid zones (in North Africa or the Middle East) are bound to be dependent on imports for 60% of their food needs. Other countries, in sub-Saharan Africa, are experiencing the strongest demographic growth - which fuels an urban/rural imbalance - , although their infrastructures and productivity are the weakest and they are already home to a third of undernourished people worldwide (the other two thirds are in Asia).

What support will local populations receive to curb birth rates and develop food production? It is estimated that 123 million migrants will potentially move from South to North countries because of climate change. A genuine challenge!

What is particularly absurd is that 30 to 40 % of the worldwide agricultural output is wasted. Distribution systems for food products, their storage and, above all, individual behaviors are clearly questioned. Balancing and stabilizing prices must be examined and include measures against speculation; this will allow the co-existence of high technology, low cost production systems for global trade with a protected regional production by rural activities of the South.

Finally, how long can we ignore the issue of valorization of the services rendered by nature? The sustainable protection of our environment and the availability of natural resources provided by biodiverse ecosystems are at stake...As is, undeniably, our ability to live together.

Towards a more balanced global diet

And how about individual responsibilities? 37 % of cereal production worldwide is dedicated to cattle feed, which also uses a lot of water resources. Can industrialized countries carry on consuming as much meat (88kg per inhabitant, compared to 5kg in Asia)? And what about our consumption of biofuels, and the pressures it places on international food markets?

Lately, many conflicts have taken place that relate to access to land and natural resources. International sales of agricultural lands are increasingly happening and should be examined. It is time to learn from these events before the situation is totally out of control. This planet belongs to us all, but not enough to all of us together...

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Journey in Urban Africa will thrill urban development professionals who are active in Africa, and all those who love this continent.

The introduction of the book, written by Claude Jamati, member of the Foundation's College of Experts, is an *Ode to Biodiversity*. A fascinating journey with enlightening testimonies, a great variety of subjects and authors, and urban cases that span over cities as diverse as Addis-Abeba, Durban, Nouakshott, Porto-Novo, Tanger and several cities in Cameroon.

'Journey in Urban Africa'
(Voyage en Afrique Urbaine)
Under the direction of Pierre Gras.
Collection Carnets de Ville.
Ed. L'Harmattan.





Inter Aide

Corn husks obtained using natural fertilizers from ECOSAN latrines, are of similar size than those obtained with chemical fertilizers.

Concern Universal

After 6 months a tree is planted on the naturally fertilized soil of the Arboloo latrine.

Pro Action Développement

Awareness raising work that bears fruit.

FOCUS ON THE FIELD

In Malawi, ECOSAN latrines gain in popularity.

It is estimated that one out of seven people in Malawi – where J. Délia Brémond visited projects supported by the Foundation in April - dies before reaching age 5 due to a water related disease, and that 60% of the population does not have access to drinking water. Highlight on **Water and Sanitation activities and their sanitation and environmental impacts.**

In Malawi, a primarily rural country (86% of the population), cholera is dreaded by most families. In the Zomba district, in Chinidamba, inhabitants identified sanitation as a priority.

Inter Aide undertakes important efforts for sanitation, installing latrines and overseeing the establishment of protected water points that rely on smart and sustainable water pumping systems. While only two percent of investments contribute to the development of ECOSAN latrines, the initial results are promising. In Mpawa, a rural family decided to try this out, and is extremely satisfied. Testing this latrine system over 6 months

allowed the production of a 100 % natural fertilizer that is devoid of smell and particularly active. The palpable benefits are not solely for health: they are also economic, since buying fertilizer is no longer needed, and environmental, since soil structure is restored. The results on corn crops have been very encouraging, and there is no doubt that this experiment will gain increasing numbers of adepts.

Chants and a festive atmosphere in Montonya school. Here the latrines installed by **Concern Universal** are very much appreciated by the 800 pupils and their teachers. The reaction was similar in Katmande, where 187 latrines have been built for 535 families. Here, the village chief and his wife have led the way.

'This way, I'll leave a tree behind me'

In Kamgulliste, village inhabitants chose the Arboloo toilets. One each latrine spot a tree will be planted in six months. A real gain over deforestation!

All these initiatives take time and awareness raising, activities in which **Pro Action Développement** invested a lot. Thanks to perseverance, trainings, "Easy to Do" events, results are here: 38 out of 38 families in Kamwendo chose to install ECOSAN latrines and are very satisfied, as this 90 years old couple (see picture above).

In addition to visit the installations, this trip highlighted the energy and openness to progress of the Malawi people. An encouraging signal for the Foundation to continue investing here.

SOLAR ELECTRIFICATION

Some very feminine energy sources.

Solar electrification? A huge change in the lives of Malawians. Portraits of local women who lead on this venture.



Médina et Cécilia (Barefoot College). Thanks to them, 135 households are fitted with solar energy in their respective villages of Chitala (60) and Chimo-njo (75). Today they are each responsible for an installation and repairs workshop and for training technicians on the ground.



In Louwinga, the installation of a Solar Aid system in a center for children orphaned by AIDS was organized by AIDS was organized by a woman from this collective, who is since micro-franchised. She has already managed to sell 30 kits in one month.

The 5 programmes visited by the Foundation



- 5 www.solar-aid.org
- 4 www.proactiondev.org
- 3 www.barefootcollege.org
- 2 www.concernuniversal.org
- 1 www.interaide.org



Migrations et Développement
4400 Moroccans of the Anti-Atlas have now access to drinking water. The sustainability of sanitation systems that have been set up requires additional investments. Here in Tagmoute, the ditch pump has failed. The sand filters are not fueled any longer.



▲ Operating Sand Filters
In Assghar, waste waters overflow into the oued, located close to houses. According to M Affholder, the sand filter that was planned upstream of the ditch must be established.



SHARING EXPERIENCES

Sodis

In the new technical sheet SODIS, downloadable on the Foundation web site, you'll discover how infected water can be turned into drinking water. All you need is a colorless PET or glass bottle, sun rays and 6 hours of patience. This process is already being used by 4 million individuals in thirty countries. A simple and accessible answer, whose details can be found here:



www.fondationensemble.org
Section : Sharing experiences

NINETEEN ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FOUNDATION WEB SITE

On a regular basis the Foundation team solicits its partners to share their expertise and results on the ground, building a wealth of information that can be downloaded from the Foundation web site.

Nineteen technical sheets are already available and have primarily focused on the areas of *Water and Sanitation* and *Other sustainable development actions*.

See them all at
www.fondationensemble.org
Section : Sharing experiences

To contribute to this sharing of experiences or share your reaction to them, please contact:

communication@fondationensemble.org

EVALUATION...

Following up with partners for the long term :

The example of the "Migrations and Development" Programme.

How does one make sure activities and installations on the ground are sustainable for beneficiaries? This question is at the heart of the approach of the Foundation and its strategy to support and follow up projects.

Last May Michel Affholder, member of the College of Experts, went to the Taroudant province on an expert mission. This wasn't his first time...

His visit was the continuation of two other missions in 2007 and 2008 as well as the technical reports produced by the organization *Migrations and Development* (Migrations et Développement). His objectives: evaluate, in two target villages, whether recommendations have had impact, and validate the operations and the sustainability of the installations. This took place in close collaboration with the teams on the ground and local authorities.

Michel Affholder's expertise and his experience with SIAPP* and ASTEE* are well appreciated here as they enable him to provide recommendations that are very much adapted to the local context.

In Tagmoute for example the problem is a failing pumping system that threatens the supply to the sand filters, and therefore the carob production upstream. Installing an emergency pump is highly recommended as to ensure continuous operations.

In Asschar, the hooking up households to the water network is operational. But equipments for water purification are an issue, as they seem stalled since the last visit. As per the report from the last visit, a buffer basin has been built ahead of the ditch to avoid waste water from overflowing, but its size is unfit for the needs. Reed beds that would serve as filtration system have not appeared yet! As a result water coming from the ditch end up flowing directly into the oued, which angers inhabitants downstream. It is now urgent to revise the capacity of the buffer basin.

These investments are nowhere near those agreed upon with people upstream. Remains the willingness of village organizations, without whom no investment can be expected to last in the long term...

*SIAPP Syndicat Interdépartemental pour l'Assainissement de l'Agglomération Parisienne. www.siaap.fr
ASTEE : Association Scientifique et technique pour l'Eau et l'Environnement. www.astee.org

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