



*Promoting a new kind of human development incorporating
environmental protection*

NEWSLETTER NO.1 - NOVEMBER 2005

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A word from the founders

People often ask us "Why a foundation"? The only answer we can give is "Why **this** particular foundation"? The idea of a foundation was self-evident to us. Our children shared our conviction that the disparity of opportunities available to people depending on where they are born is so unequal that we had to make a contribution towards redressing the balance.

Why **this** particular foundation, with the twin objectives of improving the living conditions of underprivileged populations and at the same time conserving or even restoring the environment?

It is in the countries - generally in the south - where poverty is the harshest that we always find the worst deterioration of the environment, with the attendant suite of disasters: famine, disease, lack of drinking water and sanitation, deforestation, etc.

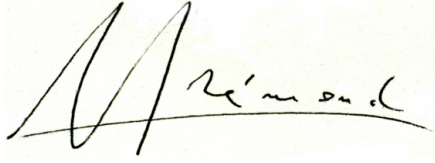
We did not wish to work in crisis mode, but rather to give support to long-term actions in which the players involved may continue after our intervention has ceased. This is why the operations initiated by our foundation are concerned with the long term rather than the moment, as part of the only possible development that can be envisaged, which is, of course, sustainable development.

We called this private, family foundation **Ensemble**, which means 'together', because this symbolised for us the connections that we wished to work towards establishing. Together with our children, of course, and with those who help to run the foundation: the members of the Board of Directors, the commission of experts, together with those who run the foundation on a daily basis, in particular the Chief Executive, Irène S. Almeras. Together with the organisations who submit their projects and who help us to implement them in the field, and with the institutions and partner organisations that complete the financial support we provide.

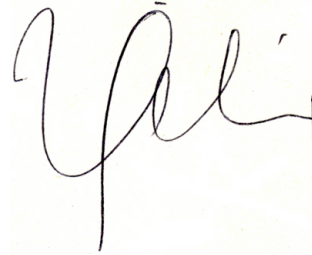
As founders we are engaged in the daily life of the foundation, and each individual project to which we give our support is first analysed and examined in depth. We have created

the impetus for a dynamic movement that has become part of our daily lives and we are pleased with the result.

Gérard Brémond
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized, starting with a large 'G' and 'B' that are connected, followed by 'rard Brémond' in a cursive script.

Jacqueline Délia-Brémond
Vice-Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, starting with a large 'J' and 'D' that are connected, followed by 'élia-Brémond' in a cursive script.

The foundation in a few lines

The aim of *Fondation Ensemble* is to contribute to projects geared towards "promoting a new kind of human development incorporating environmental protection".

Since January 1st, 2005, the team at *Fondation Ensemble* has received over 300 proposals for projects in 82 countries. 19 projects have been selected and 14 have already started.

We would like to give particular thanks to the members of the Board of Directors and the experts who provide their support for the project selection process.

As this Newsletter was going to press, the projects committee and the college of experts were about to examine around twenty submissions. The results of this third Commission will be available on the foundation's website from the beginning of February 2006.

This year also provided an opportunity to initiate the setting up of a network of partnerships (foundations, networks, international and bilateral cooperation, etc.), whose contact details can be found in the links on our website.

We would like to remind you that the foundation launched in June, a call for Biodiversity projects. A certain number of projects submitted in response to this appeal will shortly be examined by the projects committee and the college of experts.

Here are the projects supported by *Fondation Ensemble*, which are already underway:

Africa

- Reinforcement of food safety, Burkina Faso, *Eau Vive*
- Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene education, Burkina Faso, *WaterAid*
- Sustainable access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, Malawi, *Inter Aide*
- Drinking water, hygiene, sanitation and public health, Senegal, *EAST*
- Pollution control of a river in South Africa, *Ashoka*

America

- Fighting poverty through the promotion of solar cooking, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, *Bolivia Inti*
- Wastewater treatment in two rural districts of Puno, Peru, *Care France*
- Urban wastewater disposal, Peru, *Ashoka*

Asia

- "Kherla - eco-friendly village", India, *Aravis Vikas*
- Waste management, Indonesia, *Ashoka*

Europe

- Practical ecology workshops, France, *CPIEMMV*
- A taste of green for everyone, France, *Fondation Nicolas Hulot*
- Environmental awareness raising and education campaign "In the land of the Vultures", France, *LPO*
- Ecological sanitation and waste management, Ukraine and Romania, *WECF - Mama 86*.

For more information: <http://www.fondationensemble.org/ensemble/articles.php?id=31>

Zoom on ...

Here is a selection of experiences, taken from current projects.

Aravis Vikas' eco-friendly village

We would like to thank Omita Paul for the presentation of the eco-friendly village of Kherla - <http://www.aravisindia.org>

Defining an eco-friendly village

We have defined a model village as one that provides opportunities, choices and resources for the spiritual, physical and economic growth of all its residents leading to a state of social, mental and physical well being in individuals.

A model village has peace, harmony and eco-abundance as its essential characteristics. An eco-friendly village recognizes that natural resources are exhaustible and, are not free gifts of nature. Whatever we take from Mother Nature has to be returned if we have to develop in a sustainable manner.

Kherla is a village in Gurgaon district of Haryana in India. The distance from Delhi, the capital of India is 70 kilometers - a 80 minute drive if traffic is not too bad. This village with 1200 households and a population of 9000 persons is situated in the Aravali range of mountains and has a rocky terrain. Rain is scarce. The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture and the produce from two crops sown every year includes wheat, mustard and millet.

We selected this village for setting up a replicable model for sustainable development through eco-friendly practices because here the environmental degradation is almost complete. The traditional water sources have dried up. No infrastructure for sanitation exists. Households do not have toilets. Village streets are in shambles and the behaviour of people reflects "nothing can be done in these circumstances" attitude. The project time frame is 24 months.

We started our experiment with a survey of the village assets and carried out a participatory need analysis with the involvement of the village persons.

A two day workshop on environmental awareness was organized, during which the villagers formulated the Action Plan for the regeneration of the environment.

Immediately after this workshop ARAVIS started a vocational training centre on environmental issues along with income generation activities in this centre for women in Kherla. The local youth were mobilized to plant *Jatropha Caucus* (Bio-diesel producing trees) in the village on an experimental basis.

In the first phase, we have now started the construction of a model low cost toilet with gas supply system at our Vikas Kendra. This will be followed by construction of 50 low cost toilets by 31st December 2005. We also plan to finish the installation of two submersible pumps for potable water supply by the end of 2005.

PHAST by Inter Aide in Malawi

We would like to thank Lionel Combey for his article on the PHAST approach, from which this excerpt was taken - www.interaide.org

The overall aim of Inter Aide's water projects in Malawi is to procure sustainable improvement in the health of the target communities through a variety of complementary actions.

To achieve this goal, the projects have adopted an approach called PHAST - "**Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation**" - as promoted by the WHO. PHAST methodology implements a participatory approach which consists in involving local communities in identifying the hygiene and sanitation problems facing them and finding practical solutions to solve these problems.

Adapting the PHAST tools for use.

The PHAST method offers a wide range of pertinent, entertaining activities to stimulate information exchanges and discussions in the local communities.

It is also indispensable **that the graphics materials, or 'tool kits' be adapted** to reflect the actual cultural characteristics and level of educational of the target group. The use of graphic materials encourages wide participation in the basic classification activities.

The Projects in Malawi have also developed **pedagogical tools for children**, as large numbers of children attend the meetings. There are also a number of games that allow children to assimilate basic hygiene principles.

Furthermore, the **capacity of the trainers to run these activities is crucial**: the trainer must place **the community at the centre of the action and the discussions** and remain on the sidelines to act as a catalyst.

Working in small groups

It is important to work in small groups in order to fully engage all the villagers. Depending on the subject covered, the groups may or may not be mixed. Individual proposals are then shared in order to analyse the situation and take the requisite decisions. **Decisions are taken by the community as a whole.**

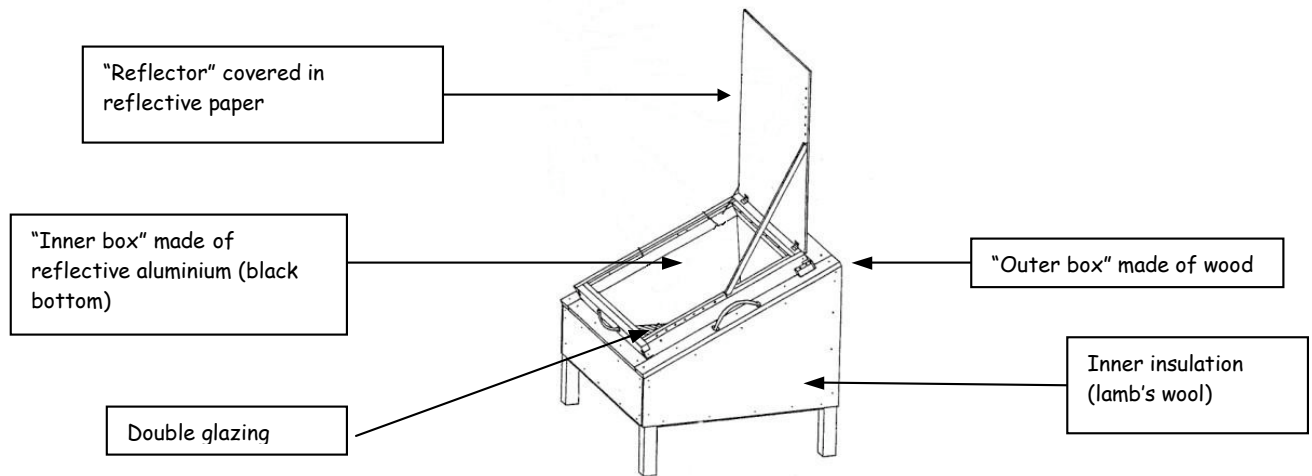
Workshops and trainers.

The workshops and methodology used by the trainers are a key factor in the success of the project. This is why considerable efforts are deployed in terms of monitoring and training those who run the workshops. A full analysis of how the Chikowi programme operates was undertaken with the team, which allowed us to grasp the extent of the difficulty in adapting the approach to villages that are always different. The trainers are now more aware of the importance of local action. In this respect, it is heartening to learn that trainers are now consulted by the villagers to help resolve internal conflicts in certain villages. Involving the team more in strategic choices and in the conception of the methodology has also reinforced their motivation and critical faculties.

Details of the training courses proposed are available on the website in the EAU/Animation section: <http://www.interaide.org/pratiques/pages/eau/animation/animation.htm>

The solar cooker from Bolivia Inti

We would like to thank Robert Chiron for the diagram of the solar cooker - <http://boliviainti.free.fr/>



Operating principle: sunlight shines through the glass. It is absorbed by the black surface and the cooking recipient, and converted into heat (greenhouse effect). The infrared rays emitted cannot escape through the glass.

Workshop: "Encouraging auxiliary fauna in the garden", proposed by the CPIEMMV

We would like to thank Thomas Bailly for the presentation of this workshop- <http://www.cpiemmv.com>

The aim of the CPIEMMV's practical ecology workshops is to promote various techniques of home gardening that respect the environment.

Illustration with the workshop "Encouraging auxiliary fauna in the garden"

Garden fauna consists of all the tiny creatures we sometimes catch sight of but don't pay attention to and which, through their daily activity, help to preserve nature's balance. They all have a role to play, whether insects, birds or mammals. They can make your gardening practices more ecological.

Why encourage fauna in the garden?

- To fight garden pests and keep interventions to a minimum
- To facilitate the pollination of plants and fruit trees
- To contribute to biodiversity at a local level
- For the pleasure of children and adults

The practical ecology workshop presents the different groups of animals that are beneficial for the ecological balance of a vegetable patch or ornamental garden.

There are many species of animals and plants that may be indispensable in the garden to keep the use of chemical products to a minimum. A balance between prey and predators can limit the damage caused by voracious pests. This is what a garden needs to avoid the use of pest control products that destroy these balances. A pile of wood, a compost heap, an old tree, a pile of stones or a low wall, a sand or dirt patch can all serve as a refuge for many species of small animals.

The workshop also covers various techniques for enticing auxiliary fauna into a garden, by offering a guided tour of a biological garden and instructions on how to make bird houses and other types of shelters ...

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