

EDITORIAL

Dear readers :

Allow me to first extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Ashok Khosla, a member of our College of Experts, for becoming, last October, president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Mr Khosla is a field person who has been deeply involved throughout his career in leading national organizations; he is now at the head of the first global network dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity. His talent and wealth of experience in a variety of governmental and international institutions will be invaluable assets in this new mandate in the next four years.

2008 is coming to a close. It has been a year which saw among other things the launch of our "small grants funds", which led to emerging partnerships and a direct dialogue with these new collaborators. 2008 was also a year marked by new capitalizations of our "programmes funds". The Foundation has been active for 4 years now, and it carries on its mission, paying attention to the latest innovations, listening to its partners on the field, present among international donors, and firmly engaged in sharing experiences.

The Foundation succeeded in developing guiding indicators and evaluations scheduled throughout the life cycle of the projects. Both processes fuel a transparent and pragmatic approach that capitalizes on successes and mistakes as learning experiences.

New voices are on the rise. New commitments towards international collaboration are made. This is part of our responsibility: promoting philanthropy, so that it plays its role among actors of change.

Enjoy your reading.

Jacqueline Délia Brémond
Vice-President

«Conservation of biodiversity needs at least the same level of attention that other global environmental issues have garnered.»

A. Khosla
President of the IUCN

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EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Members of the college of experts, NGOs, ISOs, donors, beneficiaries...

Stakeholders in the Foundation sharing their experiences are as many as they are diverse.

This report illustrates the actions of the Foundation team to seeking to engage in these exchanges and thus accept its share of responsibility on emerging human and environmental issues.

Biodiversity Conservation and Development : Best Responding to the Needs

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized its 4th World Congress in Barcelona. Over 7500 delegates and 800 workshops aimed at debating the questions at stake with regards to biodiversity conservation.

One of the most noteworthy events was IUCN's publication of its new Red List of threatened species, showcasing for the first time the comprehensive status of all mammal species in the world.

Water, forest, indigenous populations, species conservation, the link between the fight against poverty and the conservation of biodiversity were some of the topics considered during these few days dedicated to Nature.

Is the protection of biodiversity compatible with poverty reduction?

Often discussed was the importance – and the associated difficulties – of genuinely considering the interests of the populations whose livelihoods depend directly on the use of natural resources.

Many were the actors who came to share their commitment to the efforts of biodiversity conservation.

Small Grants Funds were at the center of several of the many workshops. The discussions addressed a broad range of topics, such as the challenges encountered in monitoring projects, evaluating their

impacts, replicating best practices, and renewing support to a given organization...

From the donor's perspective...

Even multilateral donors, such as the World Bank and the French Global Environment Fund (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial), realize that small grants funds are a very practical way to involve local populations in activities of biodiversity conservation, this towards a «diverse and sustainable world».

International Civil Society mobilized

Over 100 representatives of national platforms from 82 countries constituted a forum and adopted a joint action plan during the latest seminar organized by Coordination Sud.

Water and sanitation, climate change, fight against exclusion, aid efficiency, conflict prevention, market regulation: six priority actions were identified in this forum, which also developed a calendar for action from now until 2015.

Find out more about these national platforms at www.ong-ngo.org

GOOD TO KNOW...

PCLG

(POVERTY AND CONSERVATION LEARNING GROUP)

is an international information and awareness network, which the Foundation belongs to.

Its mission is to deepen knowledge, in particular on the linkages between poverty and conservation.

This exchange forum is open to all.

To contribute:

www.povertyandconservation.info





Water and sanitation in Burkina Faso

Shared findings

The Foundation «Suez Environnement- Eau Pour Tous» (Suez Environment -Water For All Foundation) and the Fondation Ensemble organized a partners roundtable on 18 November.

The Fondation Ensemble wishes to vigorously thank the Fondation «Suez Environnement Eau Pour Tous», who initiated this meeting, and express its gratitude to all participating partners for accepting to share, in a transparent manner, their experiences in the field.

Eau vive, Sos Sahel, Water Aid, Gret, Pseau, Rain Foundation, le Secours Catholique (Catholic Relief) discussed their strengths and the areas they identified as having room for improvement.

The conversations addressed advocacy strategies, innovative technologies, network strength, the training of elected people, demonstrated know-how in water and sanitation, and knowing and understanding local actors...

Soon, everyone's interventions proved beneficial to all participants as sources of exchange and ideas to build upon.

Too many programs are terminated too early. This finding, shared by all, directly begs the question of the effective length of given projects. How can one determine when a project is genuinely over? What solutions can be established for evaluation, including after the effective end of the installations?

In the current context of decentralization in Burkina Faso, harmonizing the actions undertaken by different actors on the field – associations of water users, water

management committees, and heads of centers or village councils on development - is at the core of the life cycle of the programs.

«It would be quite interesting to share our experiences with regards to the local actors», SOS Sahel spontaneously suggested.

We agreed on studying the possibility of organizing in Ouagadougou in 2009 a meeting for partners involved in Burkina.

These moments of sharing would allow local teams to meet and exchange their best practices, the techniques they implement, their strengths, and the solutions to the challenges they face...

Specific approaches could be addressed: reforestation, ecosan, site maintenance, etc.

Today two donors are committed with field actors and convinced of the potentially fruitful outcomes that may emerge from such knowledge sharing.

Because we all know that part of the solution is to work together.

Symposium

Organizing a better governance

Last October the Centre Français des Fondations (the French Foundation Center) organized a symposium on «Foundations' Range and Stakeholders».

The philanthropy world is evolving, and is increasingly professionalized. Today, there is no doubt that a foundation must establish equal criteria for all and support coherent projects that are in line with its mission and meet genuine needs. Each foundation can develop tools to insure a substantial evaluation of its results and inform its strategic choices. As stated by the Véolia Foundation:

«The evaluation we performed highlighted the lack of visibility of our donor activities and a need to clarify our global strategy» confided Dominique Boizeau, director of communication.

Moreover, foundations are examining their own operations and learning about their stakeholders : local populations, partners, members, colleges, etc. Stakeholders are many and diverse, and they engage in the approaches of the foundation, in a dynamic driven by innovation and involving all actors of change.



Read the "Evaluation Report" we shared in this symposium at www.fondationensemble.org/aprog_proc.php



PARTNERS HIGHLIGHT

Médecine de la Nature and Eco Ecole share their expertise and present two new technical sheets. Read or download them freely on the Foundation web site.

Discover the benefits of the Moringa Oleifera, also called “tree of life” – not a coincidence!

Walk the path developed by the F3E to engage in a pattern of sustainable development within a school, and join the 25,000 institutions already bearing this label in Europe.

These files are all downloadable. Please do not hesitate to contact us to share your own experiences. The Foundation can provide you with a presentation template that has been specifically developed to highlight your expertise and thus benefits the greatest number.

To discover all our technical sheets: www.fondationensemble.org/aactu_part.php



5 million planted mangrove trees... Congratulations to the Oceanium team !

This success rewards the dynamism of Oceanium, an organization chaired by Haïdar El Ali and cited by the magazine “Le Monde 2” as one of the 100 actors that will save the planet.

Since its inception, Oceanium has bet on the participation of local populations. Established in 2003, the Bamboung protected marine area is an exemplary management model for West African biodiversity, and a success that spans 7,000 hectares.

A solid communication strategy is another of Oceanium’s proven strengths. Several stories that highlight the social and environmental issues at stake on the ground have been run.

The founders, who will visit next December, will bear witness to the impact of these conservation initiatives. Check out the next newsletter in 2009 to hear their reports.

Tangible outcomes on tree planting:

- 11,000 villagers have been mobilized to restore mangrove in Casamance
- 6, 302, 000 mangrove trees have been replanted on 1,200 hectares throughout Casamance, in Niafarang, Elinkine, Nioumoune, Marssassoum, and Tobor.

2009 Objective : 6, 000 hectares.

Source :



www.oceanium.org

MEET WITH...

Supported by the Aillagon Law of August 1st 2003, a system of employee “skill donation” lies at the crossroad of professionalism and solidarity.

And may offer an untapped source of skills for organizations in need...



One of the several companies actively involved in the concept is ENEA, a company that specializes in energy, water and environment. The Foundation was pleased to meet its members recently to learn more about the rigorous process they have established.

This process is based on the equivalent of two months of “time credits” per year and per consultant, and benefits from a partner network in the developing world and a management team dedicated to supporting and coordinating projects.

«The idea is to make our skills available to contribute to population economic and social development, towards sustainable development and environmental protection”. Support, strategic planning, work monitoring, ex-post evaluation... A broad range of skills is available for NGOs.

Find out more at www.enea-consulting.com

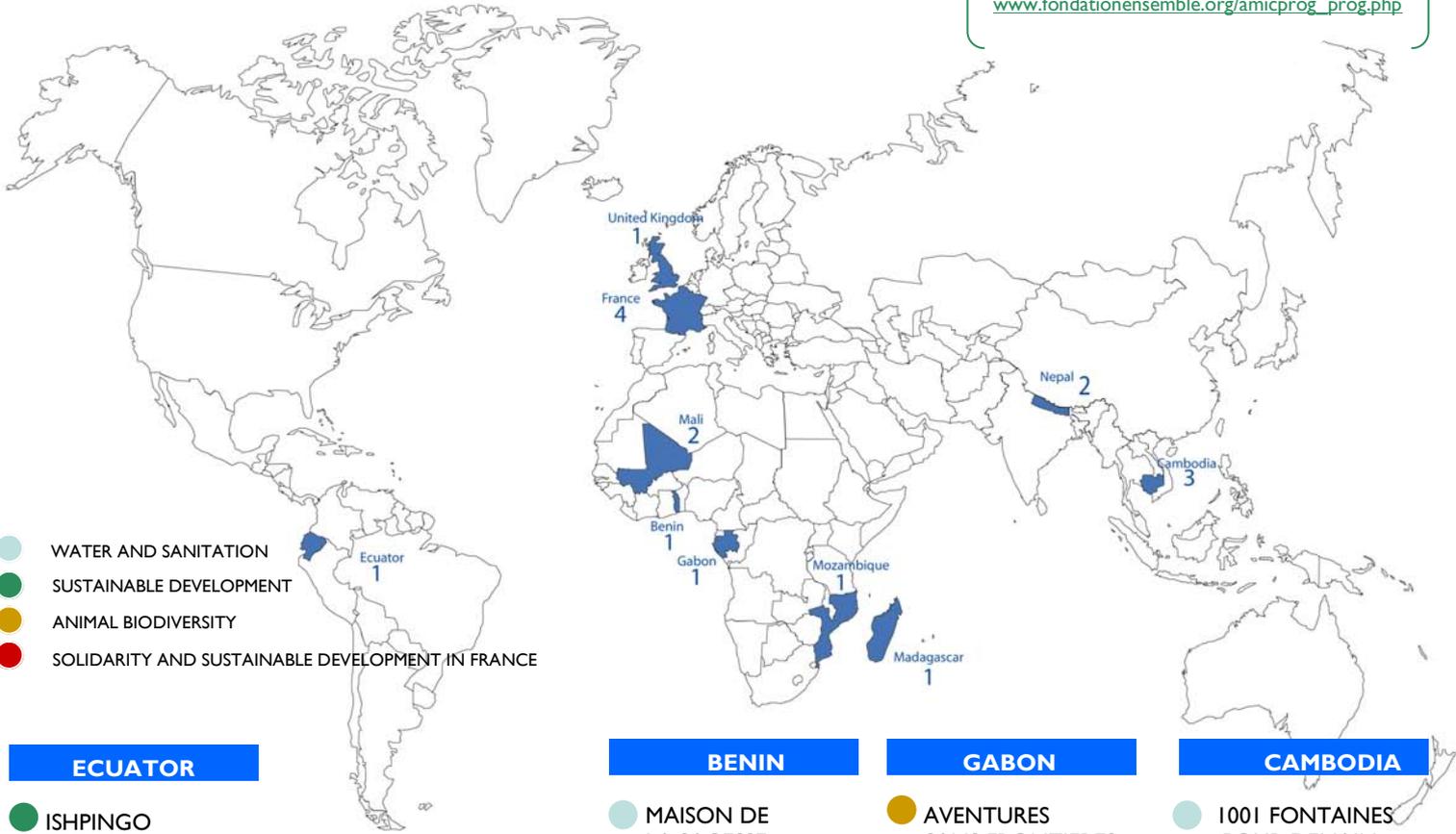


VIE DE LA FONDATION

Small Grants Funds

A map of ongoing partnerships

See all sponsored small grants at www.fondationensemble.org/amicprog_prog.php



ECUATOR

- ISHPINGO

BENIN

- MAISON DE LA SAGESSE

GABON

- AVENTURES SANS FRONTIERES

CAMBODIA

- 1001 FONTAINES POUR DEMAIN
- MEDECINE DE LA NATURE
- GERES

FRANCE

- FABPL
- ECHO MER
- MTH
- TREMPLINS

UNITED KINGDOM

- SHARK TRUST

MADAGASCAR

- L'HOMME ET L'ENVIRONNEMENT

MALI

- GRAINES D'ECOLES
- ALAD

NEPAL

- SHECHEN CLINIC
- KANGYUR RINPOCHE FOUNDATION

MOZAMBIQUE

- ESSOR



“In the context of climate change, the multiplication of all events related to desertification (droughts, flash floods, dust storms, famines, migratory movements, forest fires, etc) is likely to profoundly impact global food security».

Michel Jarraud,
WMO Secretary General



India: rice transplant in an experimental paddy
Photo FAO by G. Bizzarri

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Over 900 million people suffer from hunger world-wide.

130 million hectares are undergoing desertification. Beyond these numbers lies the urgency to mobilize...

The Foundation is launching a call to proposals on «desertification, poverty and food security».

Eligibility criteria can be found on our web site on the “News/Publications” page (see link below).

The Foundation is particularly seeking to support actions that enhance available land and water resources.

Selected initiatives will offer solutions to crop and water conservation, irrigation and drainage.

The list of accepted methods is detailed in the call for proposals.

All proposals must reach the Foundation at the latest on February 28 2009, so that they can be examined by the first project commission in 2009.

DIARY

PROGRAMMES FUNDS

To be considered in the next commission of the Programme Fund, submit your proposal at latest on 28 February 2009.

The Foundation receives many proposals, and suggests that you do not wait until the last minute to submit yours.

To submit a proposal :
info@fondationensemble.org

SMALL GRANTS FUNDS

Project submission is ongoing all year long. The next selection committee will convene in April 2009.

To submit a small grants funds on animal biodiversity :
species@fondationensemble.org

To submit another small grant :
small@fondationensemble.org



Read details on this call for proposals at
www.fondationensemble.org/aactu_vie.php

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To subscribe

<http://www.fondationensemble.org/indexa.php>

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

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