

EDITORIAL



Mr Gérard Brémond,
during the Foundation's
College of Experts luncheon.
September 11th.

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to announce contributions from some new speakers in this issue.

Firstly, Mrs. Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors has kindly offered to take part in our "interview" section, reminding us of the importance of integrating environmental protection within human development programmes.

On September 11th, we had the pleasure of hosting the third, annual luncheon for our College of Experts. This was the perfect opportunity for us to thank each and every one of its members, as when it comes to project planning or site evaluations, their input is crucial to us. In addition to the informal discussions between guests, we were able to enjoy three speaker contributions based on key experiences. Firstly, Michel Affholder, who has been particularly involved in the evaluation of ongoing Moroccan projects, shared the fruits of his evaluation with us; this was a true demonstration of the need for both rigor and self-effacement.

With "Co2 solidaire", Alain Guinebault, General Delegate for the Geres organisation, spoke to us about the Kyoto protocol, working toward a better understanding of carbon offsetting and the aim to reduce greenhouse gases; flexible mechanisms, which provoked mixed reactions ...

Finally, the luncheon drew to a close after listening to Mr. Pierre Gay, director of Doué zoo. He shared his knowledge and inexhaustible enthusiasm with us on the subject of animal biodiversity conservation...

This issue invites you to share in the major topics featured at the luncheon. It is an opportunity to share in this rich yet convivial exchange of experiences and information. Debates emerge here and there, links are formed and projects born... This is the basis of our Foundation.

Happy reading!

Jacqueline Délia Brémond
Vice-President.

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The College of Experts

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Mme Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel.

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INTERVIEW

Jacqueline
Aloisi de Larderel

"Man cannot live without a healthy environment"

You have been involved in Fondation Ensemble from the very beginning; how would you describe what has taken place since then?

In 4 years, Fondation Ensemble has come a very long way, with a total of 63 validated projects, 18 of which are already completed, teaching programmes, initial experiences, the provision of technical information sheets, an informative website... And all this thanks to a small but dynamic, competent and extremely efficient team!

You have followed the major environmental issues for many years. Do you think that the Foundation has pursued pertinent project missions?

First of all, I would like to point out that many foundations focus on health and child protection issues. This is good... But man cannot live without a healthy environment:

many illness and food safety issues are linked to water contamination, air pollution, waste, as well as the deterioration and contamination of soil. Climate change is the cause of cyclones, flooding and drought, devastating the poorest communities. We already hear talk of "climate change refugees". Based on the principle that prevention is better than cure, we must urgently tackle the causes of these problems and in doing so, combat environmental problems. Fondation Ensemble has thus chosen project areas which to me seem essential.

Water is a worldwide major issue, even the cause of some conflict. More than one billion people throughout the world do not have a constant supply of clean drinking water and nearly 2.5 billion live without suitable water sanitation facilities.

Fauna and flora are a natural reservoir for agriculture and human food supply. Our flora has always helped in the production of pharmaceutical products. Micro-organisms act against pollution and provide sanitation. Bearing in mind its uses, its economic, social, scientific, recreational and aesthetic value, biodiversity merits long term protection for the survival of the biosphere. It is our responsibility for future generations.

Energy is at the heart of sustainable development problems: it is essential that we develop energy resources which are both renewable and environmentally sound.

Finally, if we really want to progress on the path toward sustainable development, individuals must learn to adapt and modify their behaviour and lifestyles.

This will only work with the help of awareness campaigns and education; an important project for the Foundation.

As a member of the project committee, you take part in the project proposal selection. What advice would you like to give any association seeking support from the Foundation?

Project planners must not forget that any activity undertaken must be able to continue after the project is finished. That's essential! This means that you need to plan ahead, from the very moment you create the project, ensuring close involvement with locals, good training for future project managers and if needs be, careful planning for ongoing project maintenance.

Development aid is growing, what advice would you give to associations and foundations starting out in this field?

There is a Chinese proverb which says that is better to teach someone how to catch fish than it is to simply give them one. All too often throughout my career I have seen where aid has come in the form of equipment, food and medical donations... Of course these are vital, but it is also crucial to develop and support active communities or the creation of small local businesses which can learn to fulfil the necessary "environmental services" required (for example: the construction of sanitation systems or solar ovens, the development of adapted cultural systems...). Support for small grants is also very important. And, I repeat, it is necessary to favour actions which will protect our natural environment, without which any form of sustainable development is impossible.

Biography

Former senior civil servant with UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel is the member of the scientific Board of ADEME (French Environment and Energy Management Agency) and ICLEI (Local Government for Sustainability), a member of the board of directors of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), E+Co (Energy through Enterprise, winner of the 2008 "Sustainable Investor" award - Financial Times) and of the Fondation Ensemble. Mme Aloisi de Larderel is also member of many committees and networks.



Mr Affholder has made two evaluation reports and his commitment extends to helping partners with the on site application of his recommendations. Infrastructure diagram for information purposes.

FOCUS

11th September 2008: the College of Experts annual luncheon A convivial gathering with a wealth of information and experiences shared. Highlights...

This year, the annual luncheon for the experts welcomed twenty seven people. Mr and Mrs Brémond opened proceedings by expressing their sincerest thanks to the College of Experts, whose members they credited for the Foundation's first "very encouraging" results.



Mr Gérard Brémond emphasised the Foundation's rigorous management... the results of which the Board of Directors were able to appreciate by reading the 2008 bi-annual report.

Mr Gérard Brémond opened the gathering with some key figures concerning the Foundation. More than ten million euros invested in the field, two thirds of which have been dedicated to water and sanitation projects. In all, some 63 programmes have been supported by the Foundation since 2005. The President warmly congratulated the entire Foundation team, in particular Mrs Irène Serot Almeras, its director, for her "remarkable management".

Mrs Jacqueline Délia Brémond paid tribute to three members of the administration: Mrs Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardere, Mr Michel Albert and Mr Jean-Louis Servan Schreiber.

She also addressed all the experts present, expressing her fullest gratitude for their involvement, "it is rare for the project committee to differ in opinion when it comes to the final selection. Some of them have been involved in projects from the very beginning, seeing them right through to the end. Others have been able to make site visits, providing invaluable mid-project evaluations".

Mrs J Brémond then presented the outcome of the June committee meeting, highlighting the fact that all of the projects had been proposed by existing Foundation partner associations.

Amongst these projects, two are located in high risk countries: Haïti and the Democratic Republic of Congo. But, "it is also the Foundation's role to take a risk every now and then alongside its partners and to demonstrate our trust".

Finally, Mrs Délia Brémond spoke of the new small grants fund and congratulated these small structures for their enthusiasm and impact on site. Thanks to the creation of this fund, the Foundation is able to develop smaller scale projects focusing on water and sanitation, solidarity/environment, with a particular focus on animal biodiversity. As of this year, the Foundation has also been able to support numerous endangered species: sharks, gavials, bees... Mrs Délia Brémond took the opportunity to thank the Foundation team for its ongoing support for these small grants.

Presentation by Michel Affholder

An expert with extensive on site experience, Mr Affholder has no qualms in making precise technical recommendations which have a major impact on how programmes are run. He has already carried out two evaluations. An illustration of his involvement...

Mr Affholder reminds us of the project context: southern Morocco, disadvantaged zones, essentially rural areas in peripheral urban locations.

(follow-up page 4)

Archives

To consult the 2007 expert's luncheon report :

www.fondationensemble.org
News - Publications /
Newsletter

"Today, migrant Moroccans are the driving force behind the development of their village."



A meeting where members of the Board of Directors and the College of Experts were able to share experiences and opinions.

(continued from page 3)

The starting point for this water and sanitation programme is based upon migrant Moroccans, who remain loyal to their village origins. Village people have been successfully integrated within this water distribution network project. Of their own accord these people have organised themselves to raise funds, to install and maintain metres in order to create income and to build their own reservoirs and pipe systems. “They have really grasped the value of water”.

Mr Affholder explains what really stood out for him in these two Moroccan villages: “villagers had complete confidence in the efforts of the local association presidents, who proved extremely dynamic. There was a clear sense of effective and motivated group organisation; great enthusiasm!”

What need is there for an expert on site? Mr Affholder remarks that primarily, such a visit “is reassuring”... To begin with, he makes his decision based only on what he’s seen on paper. Once on site, he can see the reality of the project. He sees the location and meets the people. “It’s very interesting to see if associations can really transform what appears to be a sound action plan on paper into a pertinent working project” remarks Mr Affholder.

Of course the expert is asked to make comments, but he insists that “he is not there to substitute the existing project managers. He must respect the choices made by the local community and above all not undermine them.”

During a site visit, an expert can also give a helping hand, sometimes even surprising themselves with the results: “Last time, I was actually able to rectify a pump installation problem and managed to get it working”.

Mr Affholder also visited the suburbs of Casablanca and re-iterated the “importance of a project being rooted around local contexts”. This particular case concerned sanitation in shanty town areas. These areas are located within the perimeter responsible for sanitation services of the Grand Casa. “Once on site it became obvious to me how vital it is for local representatives and authorities to work closely together in order for a project to be successful.”

Presentation by Mr Alain Guinebault (General Delegate of GERES)

In line with the Kyoto protocol, 126 countries have committed to limiting and globally reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 5.5%, based on 1990 figures, between 2008-2012. Mr Guinebault presents the “Co2 solidaire” mechanism, which is fully supported by the Geres organisation.

The principle is simple: to limit the climatic effects and production of Co2 thanks firstly to a reduction in emission levels (choosing to take the train instead of an aeroplane for example), and secondly through resorting to compensatory mechanisms based on sustainable investments. If we take the example of a return trip from Paris to Djerba, this is equivalent to a ton of Co2. By spending 24 euros on sustainable development projects in developing countries, it is possible to offset this by helping to reduce the equivalent of these emissions elsewhere.

“For NGO’s, it is a hefty investment”, admits A Guinebault, “but it also creates new investment resources”. It is a genuine opportunity to develop renewable energy resources. The Geres organisation has improved solar cookers in Cambodia. Objective: an energy saving of 25%.

“Social and economical issues are important” insists A Guinebault. The Geres organisation is committed to implementing large scale projects through a concentrated public awareness campaign, to guaranteeing 100% of funding using carbon finance mechanisms, to continuing to raise public awareness (through tourism agencies, airports...) and finally to providing smaller associations with the means to get involved (shared financing, training...).

This presentation raised several questions and reactions.

With regard the topic of compensation, Mr Rémi Guin questioned the best way to promote reforestation projects, such as those supported by the Foundation in Madagascar for example...

Mr Guinebault advised that the benefits, as far as forests are concerned, are measured over 30 years. “The problem is the uncertainty of what will become of the forest in 30 years time”.

(follow-up page 5)

A round trip Paris/Djerba
= 1 ton of Co2.

Calculate your
carbon footprint at
www.co2solidaire.org



*Co2 solidaire,
A subject which provokes
many questions...*

(continued from page 4)

When we provide cookstoves in Cambodia, we know that their life span is 3 years. We know that the cookstoves have been purchased by the population and that families use them. It is in their own interest therefore, to use energy economically. "It is a virtuous cycle that is easy to control. In the case of forests, everything is based on the quality of those involved, i.e on the State". Yet, remarks A Guinebault, "favourable conditions, based on viable partners and a stable government, are really very limited".

A question from Mr Jean-Louis Servan-Schreiber: "Are we not just giving the rich a chance to "pay-off" their environmental conscience, rather than really tackling the causes of the problem?"

For A Guinebault, "this is just one stage. We are looking for better ways to ensure that all members of society commit to a reduction in Co2 emissions". It is a "tremendous tool for attracting attention and making the issues and mechanisms understood. Obviously we will still need to carry out other actions in order to make real economies".

The price of energy has been mentioned here as an extremely favourable factor, at least for northern countries. "As today we must admit that only price signalling works", regrets Alain Guinebault.

A question from Mrs. J Délia Brémond: What is this market worth?

According to A Guinebault, the voluntary compensation market is estimated worldwide at a value of 100 million dollars.

"Today, our principal buyers are the British.

In France it's still early days", admits A Guinebault, even if some tourism based businesses are using it as a commercial advantage and including it in their pricing".

What safeguards are in place to ensure that certain projects that could cause further damage to the biodiversity are not given priority ?

For A Guinebault, clearly there are none. "Everything is based in the field, on those involved on site".

The debate concluded with a presentation by Mr Philippe Lévêque, who wanted to highlight the dangers and risks, as well as the need to prevent them. "The Eucalyptus forests are already selling at three to four times their price". He would like to see work carried out in terms of funding and sharing between the different people involved in order to pre-empt future scandalous situations.

"We must be able to rely on help from partners such as the Foundation, who are suitably distanced to help us learn from what has been done".

(follow-up page 6)

"Europe is moving toward more stringent legislation regarding Co2 emissions, which is proving more costly for businesses."

Vincent Denby Wylkes

"Until now, air and water were considered as free goods. Today we realise that air also has its price".

Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel.



To find out more about and to evaluate and compensate your emissions, go to www.co2solidaire.org

For more information concerning the Geres organisation, please go to www.geres.free.fr



To find out more about the Geres organisation's projects that are supported by the Foundation, go to www.fondationensemble.org Programmes/ sponsored programmes



“When it comes to biodiversity conservation, it is crucial to help local communities. That is the essence of making it work.” P Gay

(continued from page 5)

Presentation by Mr Pierre Gay (Director of Doué zoo - La Fontaine)

Biodiversity: the last thing on our minds? “I been called a dreamer more times than I can remember” confides P Gay, and yet ... the account of a passionate professional, never short of ideas!

“What luck! Because my father had the idea of creating a zoological park, I was able to grow up in the magnificent setting of Doué zoo. It is a unique site, an eco-system in its own right. I grew up here just like Tarzan”.

Then P Gay met people who were to have an important impact on him: “I went to see Gérard Durell at Jersey zoo, who showed me how we could make captive animals thrive. I also had the opportunity to meet the founders of the LPO (Ligue Pour les Oiseaux / Bird League). Despite our differences, these well known naturalists welcomed me.”

Bit by bit the project developed, focusing on endangered species in the natural environment. Our goal remains clear: “we really try here to combine the animal’s well-being with our visitors’ enjoyment.”

“One day I had the chance to support the project of a young Madagascan, which really changed my point of view about biodiversity”, continued P Gay. He wanted to set up an association in his home country in order to save his village forest. P Gay decided to make a donation of 3 000 euros. “After two years I went to see this association on site for myself.”

“Two bikes with pumped up tyres, a micro-dam so that people could grow rice rather than destroy the forest ... I had a full tour of the operation. No one could show me a single animal. Not even a lemur! We donated money for biodiversity conservation and here it clearly demonstrated to me that this was best done via the well-being of the population”.

To celebrate Doué zoo’s 40th birthday, P Gay wants to sponsor 40 projects. He will spend 6 months researching the Internet, meeting key people with the passion and dedication to manage this type of project. He will travel to Peru, Colombia, Ecuador...

Most of the chosen projects are directly linked to human activities, “because to obtain credible results, it is crucial to help local communities.”

Since 2001, P Gay has been dedicated to these projects, investing some 150 000 euros annually. To this figure you can also add the cost of his team’s salaries, “Because I wanted to surround myself with skills.”

Some of these projects have developed further. “For one project we have joined forces with zoos in Holland and Great Britain. Together we are trying to protect the last Giraffe herds in Niger. The budget today is close to 90 000 euros.”

In Peru, P Gay is working on the protection of the tropical rain forest on the Pacific coast, which remains much neglected ...

“One day I leave for Argentina to release condors in the Andes. The next day I am off to Bulgaria to help with the re-introduction of vultures. I leave for each trip with the same goal: to respect local cultures. It’s fascinating! Everyday I learn something new.”



“During the course of my travels,
one simple thing has become clear to me:
Nature is sick ...
and mankind is one of the reasons why.”

For more information
concerning the Doué zoo,
please go to
www.zoodoue.fr



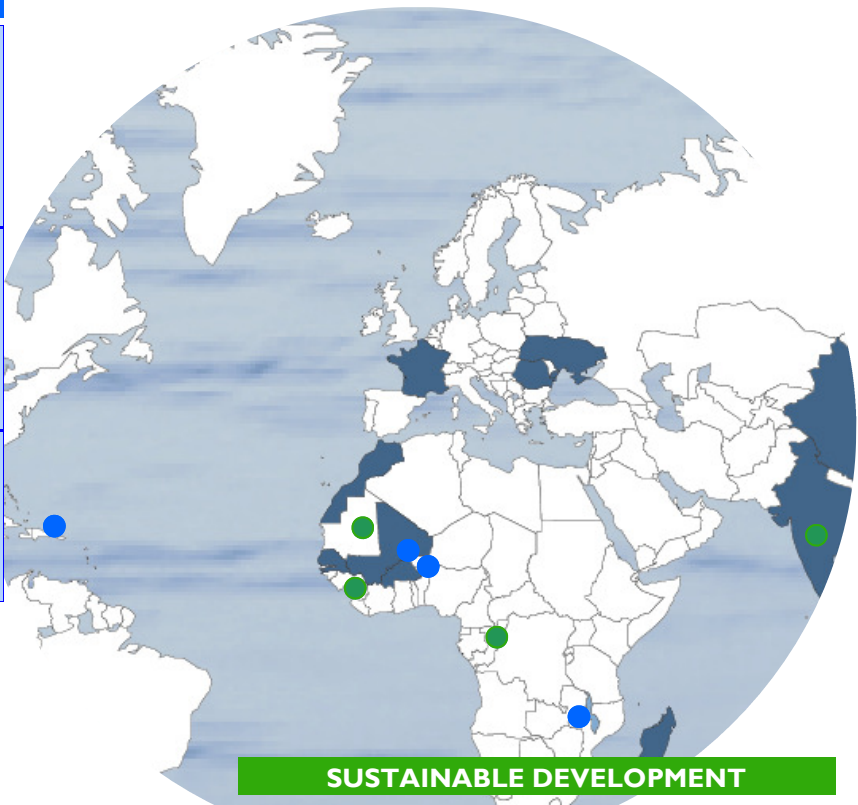
FOUNDATION LIFE

June 2008 Committee programmes

The 10 new programmes selected at this committee represent 2.08 million euros and bring Foundation investments to more than 11 million euros since 2005.

WATER AND SANITATION

<p>Rain Foundation MALI BURKINA FASO Storing rain water</p>	<p>AVSF MALI Concerted management of pastoral resources and the protection of small scale livestock rearing.</p>
<p>Eau Vive BURKINA FASO Drinking water and sanitation</p>	<p>SOS SAHEL BURKINA FASO Improving local facilities in order to make drinking water and sanitation readily available.</p>
<p>Inter Aide MALAWI Protection and development of water and land resources.</p>	<p>Protos HAITI Development of water resources.</p>



To localize our sponsored programmes www.fondationensemble.org Programmes / International presence

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

<p>Noé Conservation GUINEA Conservation of endangered marine biodiversity.</p>	<p>Gret MAURITANIA Recycling plastic waste in Nouakchott.</p>
<p>Conservation International RDC Communal biodiversity management and the protection of large monkeys.</p>	<p>Geres INDIA The completion of 1000 Solar buildings in the Indian Himalayas.</p>



SHARING EXPERIENCES

A few words from our partners.

DIARY

PROGRAMMES FUNDS

For the next Programme Funds committee meeting, submit your project no later than February 27th 2009.

To submit a project
info@fondationensemble.org

“Waste water treatment system using biological filtration in Peru”, “Solar cooking in Bolivia”, “The use of Biogas and its impact on China” and “Establishing a poverty profile at the heart of a rural community”... All of these technologies and more are available on the Foundation website which is regularly updated.

New information sheets are available to web users in the “news publications” section, helping to share the experience of our on site teams. The information made available here comes from their experiences and takes into account specific schemes.

The aim is to highlight sources of funding: not just the successful achievements but also the difficulties sometimes faced.

Designed to be methodological tools, these technical sheets can be downloaded directly from the Foundation website.

If you would like to comment on a technical sheet or offer your own input...

Write to us here:
communication@fondationensemble.org

SMALL GRANTS FUNDS

Projects can be submitted throughout the year. The next selection committee is planned for mid-October.

To submit an animal biodiversity small grants fund application
species@fondationensemble.org

To submit a small grants fund application
small@fondationensemble.org



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www.fondationensemble.org
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The Foundation wishes to thank all its partners which have contributed to the iconographical documentation in this issue.

Fondation Ensemble
45 rue de Babylone. 75007 PARIS
Tel: 00 33 (0)1 45 51 18 82.
Fax: 00 33 (0)1 45 51 18 90

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