

Concept note for a Conference at Rio+20 on “Poverty eradication and the Environment”, June 19th, 2012

Principal partners

Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Institut Veolia Environnement, France

Supported by: Ministry of the Environment, Brazil and French Development Agency (AFD)

Associated partner: CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Media partner: TV Globo

Venue: Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro

Languages: Brazilian, English

Format

The joint Conference will take the form of a one-day event, gathering prominent speakers in Rio de Janeiro on June 19th 2012: academics, decision-makers, government representatives, NGOs representatives, etc. Considering the complexity and the importance of the issue, it is necessary to bring all the potential change-makers at the same table.

Objective

The objective is to broaden, through the collaboration with Brazilian and international counterparts, the work that has started at the [Conference “Poverty and the Environment”](#) organized by the Veolia Environment Institute and the Agence Française de Développement in Paris in June 2011.

The Conference in Rio will consist in

1. Presenting a general introduction on the interactions between poverty eradication and the environment
2. Analyzing the links between poverty and the environment in the Brazilian context, with a focus on two of the most important issues “Biodiversity and poverty” and “Sustainable and inclusive urban development”
3. Highlighting the importance of local practitioners by presenting innovative field practices for poverty reduction and the preservation of the environment
4. Discussing the conditions to create a network of partners who share a consensus of the importance of documenting and disseminating these practices to establish a Global Knowledge Management of practices for sustainable and inclusive development.
5. Concluding with global governance for sustainable development and how the roles and responsibilities could be shared in the future.

Eventually, the Conference will:

- Provide a platform for an in-depth dialogue, to mobilize and raise awareness on the interactions between the environment and human development;
- Contribute to promote extensively the most advanced scientific knowledge and also practical solutions and innovative actions;
- Demonstrate through concrete examples that solutions exist, and that they can be reproduced or scaled-up to move towards “The Future we Want” if better documented and disseminated;
- Help build consensus more widely and create opportunities for international partnerships.

Supported by



AGENDA CONFERENCE JUNE 19, 2012 POVERTY ERADICATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Version of 06152012

09h00-10h15

OPENING

. Opening remarks

Ms. Izabella Teixeira, Minister of the Environment, Brazil

. Welcome addresses

Prof. Liszt Vieira, President, Botanical Garden Research Institute (JBRJ)

Ms. Ludivine Houssin, Head, Scientific Congress and Partnerships, Veolia Environment Institute

. Introductory Keynote speech: Poverty, climate change and sustainable development

Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman, IPCC and Director general, TERI

. Discussant

Dr. Luiz Pinguelli Rosa, Director, COPPE, UFRJ (*tbc*)

10h15-11h30

SESSION 1 / Biodiversity, poverty and sustainable development

. Manuela Carneiro Da Cunha, Anthropologist, Holder of the Chair Knowledge Against Poverty, Collège de France

. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, director general, IUCN

. Jose Maria Cardoso da Silva, Executive Vice-President for Field Programs, Conservation International

. Pavan Sukhdev, founder and CEO of GIST Advisory

Q&A

11h30-11h45 *Coffee break*

11h45-12h45

SESSION 2 / Sustainable urban development and social inclusion

. Aisa Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat

. Carlos Correa Scaff, Mayor of Monteria, Colombia

. Rémi Genevey, Executive Director in charge of Strategy, Agence Française de Développement

Q&A (30 min)

12h45-14h30 *Lunch break*

14h30 -16h30

SESSION 3 /Learning from “Innovative field actions for sustainable development”

How new methods of documentation, evaluation and promotion of grassroots innovations can be critical for progress towards sustainable development?

Part 1: Demonstrating the importance of innovative local actions and practices:

2 exemplary case studies taken from the publication FACTS Brazil or from case studies led by NGO or other practitioners in Brazil or internationally.

Jean Marc von der Weid, Coordinator Public Policy Programme, AS-PTA – *agro ecology*

Andre Albuquerque, CEO and Founder, Terra Nova – *urban slums*

Part 2: Round table: building consensus and mobilizing strategic partners to promote a global knowledge management of innovative field actions for sustainable development.

- . Justin Kilcullen, President, CONCORD, CEO, Trocaire
- . Henri Rouille d’Orfeuil, former President of Coordination Sud, presenting FACTS Initiative
- . Mônica de Roure, Director, Ashoka Brazil & Paraguay
- . Henri Valot, Outreach Director, Civicus

16h30-16h45 Coffee break

16h45-17h45

CLOSING : Global Governance for sustainable development

- . Laurence Tubiana, General Director, IDDRI
- . Staffan Nilsson, President, European Economic and Social Committee
- . Jean Rossiaud, University of Geneva

Q&A

. Closing addresses

Background note on Poverty eradication and the environment

Since global population could reach 10 billion by 2050, people's needs (food, basic services, etc.) and requirements could also rise, forcing societies to adapt and devise new development and growth models. At the same time, the world is facing several other challenges: limited and vulnerable natural resources, loss of biodiversity, finite land that is sought for competing uses, need for new energy sources, demographic pressures - particularly in urban areas - and climate change. All those have to be addressed simultaneously if we want to find solutions that will make the future of societies sustainable.

The economic fragility often goes hand in hand with environmental vulnerability and vice versa. Particularly in urban areas, access to basic services for the poor is seriously lacking. Combined with the natural capital's fragility, poverty reduction programs must integrate environmental and social dimensions to go beyond purely economic and short term improvements. Promoting a more inclusive development is also needed on the condition that poor communities are recognized as full partners who have the right to take part in the definition of their future. For example, in the case of access to energy, not only low-carbon solutions should be deployed but it should be done according to local contexts to avoid inappropriate one-size-fits-all strategy. In this context, a number of priority objectives stand out.

They are:

- To make the poor less vulnerable to climate-related risks;
- To improve the livelihoods of the poor through the preservation of biodiversity, the sustainable development of natural assets and an improved access to energy;
- To contribute to improving the quality of life of the poorest, and their access to basic services, particularly in cities;
- To promote innovations in business models, in modes of funding, and in forms of cooperation between key parties.

For further information on the conference organized in Paris, please read the Background papers which were sent by the Veolia Environment Institute as a contribution to the Zero Draft Document to UNCSO for Rio+20. [This contribution includes 4 articles:](#)

1. The Poverty-Climate Nexus: A Review of the Debate since The Stern Review

Laurence Tubiana (Iddri), Noura Bakkour (Iddri), with contributions from Lord Nicholas Stern (LSE)

2. Biodiversity and poverty: old debates, recent evidence and emerging controversies

Pavan Sukhdev (GIST Advisory), Raphaël Billé (IDDRI), Romain Pirard (IDDRI), Kaavya Varma (GIST Advisory)

3. Poverty Eradication and Quality of the Environment in Urban and Peri-urban Areas

David Satterthwaite, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), comments and suggestions of Benoit Lefèvre (IDDRI)

4. What is the role of the private sector in Combating poverty and caring for the environment?

Frédéric Dalsace and David Ménascé (Chair Social Business, Entreprise and Poverty, HEC)

Organizing partners - Further details

The Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro

The Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro - JBRJ - was founded on June 13, 1808.

Today the Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro Research Institute - name given in 1995, is a federal agency under the Ministry of Environment and established itself as one of the most important research centers worldwide in the fields of Botany and Biodiversity Conservation.

With a total area of 143.98 hectares, the institution has an Arboretum - area open to visitors - with 57 hectares, which houses a collection of approximately 10.000 living examples of flora representing Brazilian ecosystems and elsewhere. There are about 3.350 species grown in Living Collections, distributed in nearly 200 beds of the Arboretum, 15 lakes - where are also included aquatic plants -, and greenhouses of Orchids, bromeliad, cactus and Insectivorous, and six themed gardens: medicinal, sensorial, biblical, Japanese, rose garden and hummingbirds. The distribution of the collection landscaped covers alleys, historic buildings and the Way of the Atlantic Forest. In JBRJ it is possible to find native trees and remarkable species, such as Ipe, Andiroba, Jequitibá, Imperial Palm, Pau-brasil, Pau-mulato, Seringueira and Sumaúma. Nor can one fail to appreciate the monuments, such as the House of Pylons, statues of Echo and Narcissus, created by Master Valentim, and the portal of the Academy of Fine Arts, designed by the French architect, Grandjean de Montigny.

Protected by IPHAN, JBRJ was recognized by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve in 1992. In the 21st century, JBRJ is stated as a multidimensional institution, providing the society with scientific research, culture, environmental education and leisure, as well as actions of socio-environmental responsibility. It also comprises the National School of Tropical Botany, the Museum of Environment and the National Center for Plant Conservation.

Institut Veolia Environnement

Created in September 2001, the Veolia Environment Institute's main goal is to contribute to a fuller understanding of the transformations occurring at the interface of society and the environment. Its actions aim at detecting implications of those environmental changes on public policy, private initiatives and society in general. The Institute relies on its Foresight Committee to guide its reflections thanks to the diversity of expertise of its 7 eminent members: Helene Ahrweiler, Harvey Fineberg, Pierre Marc Johnson, Philippe Kourilsky, Rajendra K. Pachauri, Mamphela Ramphela and Amartya Sen.

The Veolia Environment Institute promotes foresight reflection on subjects related to the environment in partnership with universities or research organizations in order to shed light on the important issues for the upcoming decades. These investigative efforts aim to contribute to public debate on an international scale. Its work relies on three kinds of activities: a research program, led in partnership with academic experts; a publication program based on two new publications: S.A.P.I.EN.S, a multidisciplinary scientific journal, and FACTS Reports dedicated to field actions. As a third initiative, it develops an international conference program. Jointly organized with academic/institutional partners, these events seek to create a forum for discussion and to raise awareness on the major themes defined by the Institute among university circles, institutional organisations and civil society. Previous conferences are:

- "Health, Environment and Education", with Institut Pasteur, France – June 2004 - Paris, France
- "Public services and Management: designs, issues and implications for local governance", with Institut D'Economie Industrielle (IDEI, France), January 2006 - Toulouse, France
- "Energy, environment and development: analyzing opportunities for reducing poverty", with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI India) and Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI, France) - December 2006 - Bangalore, India

- “Climate 2050: technology and policy solutions”, with Pew Center on Global Climate Change (USA) and the National Round Table on the Economy and the Environment (NRTEE, Canada) - October 2007 - Montreal, Canada
- “Trade, urbanization and the environment”, with Center for Human and Economic Development Studies, School of Economics, Peking University (China) - October 2009 - Beijing, China
- “Reconciling poverty eradication and quality of the environment: what are the innovative solutions?”, with AFD, IUCN, IDDRI, FERDI, HEC and WBCSD - June 2011 - Paris, France

Supporting partner

Agence Française de Développement (*French Development Agency*)

AFD is a bi-lateral development finance institution established in 1941 that works on behalf of the French government. Its mission is to finance development according to France’s Overseas Development Assistance policies. It is a public entity dedicated to activities of an industrial and commercial nature, and operates under the aegis of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs , the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Overseas Territories .

AFD’s activities are aimed at reducing poverty and inequalities, promoting sustainable economic growth, and protecting “Global Public Goods” of benefit to all humanity. Protecting Global Public Goods includes the fight against climate change and pandemics; the preservation of biodiversity; the promotion of social and environmental responsibility; as well as aid to countries weakened by strife, war and natural disasters. AFD’s actions in favor of economic growth and preservation of the environment fall directly within the framework of the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals, which was set out in 2000 and seeks to reduce global poverty by half by the year 2015.

AFD works hand-in-hand with many partners: national, regional and local governments; local authorities and municipalities; international agencies; non-governmental organizations; foundations; private companies; entrepreneurs; and local banks, microfinance institutions and capital markets.

In addition to leveraging financial assets, AFD leverages its intellectual assets and those of its partners. Through its activities, research and debates, AFD strives to increase French influence in the area of development assistance.

Associated partner

CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is an international alliance of members and partners which constitutes an influential network of organisations at the local, national, regional and international levels, and spans the spectrum of civil society. CIVICUS includes the following in its definition of civil society: civil society networks and organisations; trade unions; faith-based networks; professional associations; NGO capacity development organisations; philanthropic foundations and other funding bodies. CIVICUS has worked for nearly two decades to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened. CIVICUS has a vision of a global community of active, engaged citizens committed to the creation of a more just and equitable world. This is based on the belief that the health of societies exists in direct proportion to the degree of balance between the state, the private sector and civil society. CIVICUS provides a focal point for knowledge-sharing, common interest representation, global institution-building and engagement among these disparate sectors. It acts as an advocate for citizen participation as an essential component of governance and democracy worldwide. CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people and it gives expression to the enormous creative energy of the burgeoning sector of civil society.