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THE CATEGORIES OF SUSTAINABILITY IN LOCAL PROJECTS THE EQUATOR PRIZE AT WSSD- JOHANNESBURG- 2002

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INTRODUCTION: THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE LOCAL PROJECTS

In 1992, the Rio Earth Summit focused the international community on the critical linkages between environment and development.[1] In 2000, dealing with the concepts of globalization, the acceleration of environmental degradation, the development in policies, institutions and technologies, and the remaining of social inequality and poverty, [2] the world formalized goals that have been discussed since after 1992 through the United Nations Summits.[3]

These goals of calling for reductions in poverty, improvements in health and education, and protection of environment were expanded and endorsed by 149 heads of state and the United Nations General Assembly in the Millenium Declaration. An integration of this Declaration with the International Development Goals resulted in the Eighth Millenium Development Goals,[4] which took into account the conservation of biodiversity, the combat of deforestation, the management of sustainable lands, the protection and promotion of human health and the combat of poverty. The Eighth Millenium Development Goals were the basis for the formulation of programs, by the UNDP, to respond to those challenges, and to be discussed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, 2002. One of these programs came to be the Equator Initiative, and the institution of the Equator Prize. The communities nominated for this prize, as mister Kofi A Annan said, demonstrated that the Millenium Goals are within reach, and that there are effective local solutions to many of the

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most pressing challenges of human development, including poverty and biodiversity loss. [5]

This report tries to make one initial consideration about the 27 demonstration-projects and communities selected by the Equator Prize, in relation to those goals, particularly to the ones included in the Environmental Sustainability and Global Partnership for Development Goals. It also states, as a personal observation, that the Equator Initiative has been a congregation of multiple and differentiated cultural manifestation, of political diversification, and of environmentally rich projects which were put together in a meeting with the same spiritual feeling of solidarity.

Or, as Mister Ian Johnson said, we can reduce world poverty in ways that advance equity and environmental sustainability, but it will require collective community action, from small civil society organizations to large multinational corporations, from local and national governments to international agencies. We must all play our part. [6]

A) THE EQUATOR INITIATIVE

The Equator Initiative is a program promoted by the United Nations Development Programme - UNDP, in partnership with the United Nations Foundation, The World Conservation Union- IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, the International Development Research Center- IDRC, Brazil Connects, the Government of Canada and the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE). It provides a vital link between local work of communities to combat poverty and sustain biodiversity and a global audience dedicated to the advancement of human development (Annan, K. 2002).

The ideas for the creation of the Equator Initiative came, at first, from the comprehension that the challenges of poverty and biodiversity loss cannot be dealt with isolation, and more, that the two issues are inseparable, specially in the Equator Belt where the world's greatest concentrations of poverty and biodiversity overlap (Wirth, T. 2002).[7] This initiative addresses local development challenges and works with issues of structure set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development - water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity and ecosystem services, also recognizing that partnership is another central theme of the Conference (Annan, K. 2002).

This initiative promoted the Equator Prize which, through the Equator Initiative Advisory Committee, asked for local environmental projects in countries within the Equator influence, where the world's greatest concentration of both human poverty and biological wealth is located. 420 nominated projects from 77 countries within the Equatorial Belt were evaluated. 27 projects were selected by the Equator Prize Jury for final consideration .[8] This initiative placed these nominated communities at the cutting edge of the transformation of global knowledge on sustainable development into concrete action (Brown, M. M. 2002).[9]

These 27 projects represent 19 countries in the three continents, Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In this last one, projects of World Heritage Sites have been also selected. All of these projects reflected

communities that worked to reduce poverty and conserve biological diversity in their environmental programs.

The African continent presented seven projects from five countries, Cameron, Comoros, Kenya (two), Madagascar, and Tanzania (two). Asia and Pacific came with six projects from four countries, Fiji, India (three), Malaysia and Thailand. Latin America and the Caribbean, at the end, presented fourteen projects from ten countries, three being from the World Heritage Sites. The countries are Belize, Brazil (four), Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala (two, one being from the World Heritage), Mexico, Nicarágua, Perú, Costa Rica (World Heritage) and Honduras (World Heritage).

The selected projects are, by continent: *AFRICA,* Support Group for Conservation and Sustainable Development Initiatives (CACID) – Cameroon; Mohéli Marine Park – Comores ; Honey Care Africa Ltd. – Kenya ; Il Ngwesi Group Ranch – Kenya ; Association of Manambolo Natives (FITEMA) – Madagascar ; HASHI Soil Conservation Project – Tanzania ; Suledo Forest Community – Tanzania; *ASIA AND PACIFIC,* Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area Network – Fiji ; Medicinal Plants Conservation Centre – India ; Kerala Kani Samudaya Kshema Trust – India ; Tribal Communities of the Jeypore Tract of Orissa – India ; Uma Bawang Resident's Association (UBRA) – Malaysia ; CBIRD Center, Sub Tai – Thailand ; *LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN,* Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) – Belize ; Green Life Association of Amazônia (AVIVE) – Brazil ; Amazon Life Project – Brazil ; Cananéia Oyster Producers Cooperative – Brazil ; Couro Vegetal da Amazônia Project – Brazil ; Inter-institutional Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture on Hillsides/River Cabuyal Watershed Users Association (CIPASLA - ASOBESURCA) – Colombia ; Empresa Forestal Integral de Bayamo – Cuba ; Organización Manejo Y Conservación, S. C. / WCS-Guatemala – Guatemala ; Café de la Selva – Mexico ; Programa de Campesino a Campesino, Siuna (PCaC) – Nicaragua ; Ese'eja Native Community of Infierno – Peru; *WORLD HERITAGE SITES*, Iniciativa Talamanca - Costa Rica ; Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén (ACOFOP) – Guatemala; Mosquitia Pawisa Agency for the Development of the Honduran Mosquitia (MOPAWI) – Honduras.[10]

B) STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECTS

The projects work with different kinds of natural resources (environmental activities), and apply the concept of sustainable development in different situations, maintaining the great involvement of the local communities in the organization, the development and the implementation of their propositions. So, local sustainable development has been seen here from the point of view of these communities, their culture and technological knowledge, organization of work, articulation with other organizations (as NGOs and local, regional and national government) and financial structure, from global and local agencies.

The report of IDRC [11] analyses the 27 selected communities based on seven main questions, which were related since to motivation until to building capacity

needs of the projects. The questions are: *Project catalysts*, pointing out the motivation for the outset of the projects; *Community dynamics*, involving local, indigenous, and sectional groups, and minority groups empowerment; *Contributions*, from communities, external funding, other partnerships, enterprises and governments; *Factors* contributing to the spread and support of the projects, as education and training, citizen empowerment, networking and documentation; *Key factors* that led to the success of the initiatives, involving social management as management committees, transparency and reporting with stakeholders, education and training component; *Technical questions*, as protection and restoration of biological resources and technology and knowledge transference; *Institution and policy change*, as development of formal partnerships and revised legislation; and *Capacity building needs,* as financial assistance, education and training, ecological management, infrastructure, health and market expansion.

Some conclusions of this analysis explain the success of the initiatives. In general terms, the key factors are the active participation of all community members, the transparency and reporting between the community and all of its stakeholder partners, and the knowledge of the importance of restoration, monitoring and protection of ecosystems resources.

"The key factors that led to the success of initiatives are by: The active participation of all community members, especially women, in strong, formal, community-based management and partnerships. A coordinating mechanism between all stakeholders to provide a management structure for sustainable utilization of resources and the promotion of the value of biodiversity in each community; this includes economic decision making and resource management. The support of government and local industry, formalized into a partnership agreement that emphasizes sustainable development objectives.

The transparency and reporting between the community and its stakeholder partners. Forming community-based management and protection committees by strengthening local capacity in leadership training and environmental education and to raise awareness of the need for sustainable environmental practices. Education also serves to engage community members and leaders in a manner consistent with local traditional knowledge.

The importance of restoration, monitoring and protection of the local environment and ecosystem resources".[12]

The report also takes into account that the success of the initiatives were dependent on the involvement of various sectors of the communities, leadership authorities, and the involvement of minority groups. Common groups of people identified by the communities include: farmers, fishermen, local inhabitants/indigenous communities, research institutions/scientists, schools/teachers, NGOs, women, elders, young people, government and administrative authorities, traditional authorities and involvement of all ethnic groups and social classes.

Some communities created natural resources management committees. In some cases new legislation was enacted based on lessons learned through the projects. Other projects made the transformation of regulation from command and control to economically based. The majority of communities obtained financial resources from partnerships. The needs are focused on the areas of capacity building, education,

access to health, participation in decision-making, creation of space where researchers can experiment with new environmental management plans. The help they receive decreases the exodus of community members, particularly women.

Many stakeholders, such as NGOs and people from other villages, had knowledge and techniques that they introduced to the community. Many skills were taught to the communities through education and training.

After that, the report lists a series of recommendations based on the seven stages of a cycling process (Miller and Lanou 1995): *Organization of Work; Assessment; Developing a Strategy; Developing a Plan of Action; Implementation by Stakeholders; Monitoring and Evaluation; Periodic Reporting.*

The recommendation to the communities takes them as able to: explain the rationale of taking action and document the development and implementation of the project; understand and explain the process of implementation of the project so as to control its different aspects; identify the progress achieved so that the gains are not lost or eroded without the communities' knowledge; prevent a return to the situation which prevailed at the beginning of the project; identify for themselves the factors which contribute to the success of their initiative and the factors which could have a negative impact on the future development of their project; and to understand the importance of replication so that their initiative can become a benefit to other communities.[13]

C) THE PROJECTS BALANCE

We will develop this chapter showing a synthetic panel of the main propositions of the projects, their regional and continental similarities, and the main lessons learned.

The African projects –Honey Care Africa, Il Ngwesi Group Ranch, CACID: Support Group for Conservation and Sustainable Development Initiatives, FITEMA: Association of Manambolo Natives, Mohéli Marine Park, Hashi Soil Conservation Project, and Suledo Forest Community– deal mainly with communities established in common properties, receiving more common benefits in water, transportation, health and education than individual grants for each family, mainly working with restoration of biodiversity (for example in flood plain as CACID project), on sustainable income generation (Honey Care Africa), tribes knowledge, practices and attitudes of forests restoration (HASHI project, Suledo Forest Community, Association of Manambolo Natives- FITEMA), eco-tourism (Il Ngwesi Group Ranch), and protection of marine life (Moheli Marine Park).

The Asian and Pacific projects –Fiji Locally - Managed Marine Area Network, Medicinal Plants Conservation Center, Kerala Kani Samudaya Kshema Trust, Tribal Communities of the Jeypore Tract of Orissa, Uma Bawang Residents' Association, and CBIRD Center Sub-Tai– work with resources from their biodiversity, in eco-pharmacology, ethno-botany, hand made products, including the transference of royalties to tribes (as Kerala Kani tribe), utilizing herbal gardens in communities,

promoting revitalization of medical heritage (for example, the Medicinal Plants Conservation Center), and restoring fishing resources (as Fidji Locally-Managed Marine Park Network), as a role to maintain biodiversity, revitalize local health and food traditions, and sustain daily livelihoods.

We can divide the Latin America and Caribbean projects in three parts: projects from Brazil, projects from Latin America and Caribbean, and projects of World Heritage, because of their regional, cultural and institutional specific features.

The four projects of Brazil, AVIVE: Green Life Association of Amazônia, Bolsa Amazônia, Amazon Life Project and Cananéia Oyster Producers Cooperative, are divided in the ones from Amazônia basin, where the national interest on local sustainable development mostly is, and one from the state of São Paulo, where the city of São Paulo, the biggest urbanization of Latin America, live together with poor little communities of the Atlantic Forest. The Brazilian Amazon basin projects, as the Asian and Pacific ones, also deal with natural resources and biodiversity, as the project of rubber vulcanization, projects for the production of clothes and bags (Amazon Life Project), home products of natural medicine and cosmetics (AVIVE project), and jointing sustainable agriculture and agro-industrialization, production of pulps, honey, oils and hand-made objects (Bolsa Amazonia). An additional similarity with other African, Asian and Latin American projects is the utilization of women work, who combine their home affairs with the development of products through the use of resources found near their homes and families, as in Silves (Brasil), Granma (Cuba), Pune (India) and Waza- Logone (Cameron).

The project from São Paulo was part of a great international program of the World Bank, named Projects of Decentralized Execution (PDE) which were composed by demonstrative projects on sustainable development. That project, managed by afro descendants (the Mandira community), works with resources (oysters) in a mangrove forest with the aggregation of products processing techniques.

The projects of Latin America and the Caribbean –Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE), Inter-institutional Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture on Hillsides (CIPASLA), Bayamo Whole Forest Company, Management and Conservation Organization (OMYC), Café de la Selva, Campesino to Campesino Programme of the Municipality of Siuna (PC a C) and Ese' eja Community of Infierno– follow the same characteristics of the ones already described.

We can see the promotion of income generation in eco-tourism (Toledo Institute for Development and Environment- TIDE and Ese' eja Community of Infierno, as Il Ngwesi Group Ranch in Africa), or in the cultivation of resources (coffee in Café de la Selva, as well as Honey in Honey Care Africa); community knowledge in forests restoration, here with the peculiarity of the construction of ecological forestry farms (Bayamo Whole Forest Company) with green agricultural practices (Campesino to Campesino Programme,) or including wildlife conservation (Management and Conservation Organization - OMYC); protection of the environment with reduction in poverty and restoration of resources (with agro-ecology in Watershed-River Cabuyal Watershed Users Association and fishing in a flood plain area, at the African project CACID).

Finally, we have the three projects of World Heritage Sites, within Maya and Tawakla Biosphere Reserves, Talamanca Iniciative and Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOPOF), both in Maya Reserve and Mosquitia Pawisa Agency for the Development of Honduras (Mopawi), in Tawahka Reserve. They work with wild life conservation, promotion of organic agriculture and tourism (Talamanca Initiative), sustainable management of resources of forests (ACOPOF), protection of forests and species, as the green Iguana, the recognition of community land rights, (MOPAWI), as Talamanca project, with environmental action for cultivation in organic way (cacao), and improvement of eco-tourism.

We realize that, at least and in general terms, the social practices and the construction of Latin projects follow the same structure of all projects presented in the Equator Prize, including participation of all communities in production and management, in qualifying, in the generation of social incomes and restoration of biodiversity demonstrated during the presentation of all projects at the Equator Initiative Seminar, on Ubuntu Village, during WSSD.

The lessons learned (14) include: the organization of large association for economic reasons (Honey Care Africa); the promotion of a better knowledge and an improvement of building capacity (Il Nwesi Group Ranch); the increase of eco-tourism activities (CACID); the improvement of e-commerce for amazon products (Bolsa Amazônia); the increase of national institutional partnership (AVIVE), the continuing minimization of costs through participation of the community (Suledo Forest Community); the strengthening of strategic partnership with NGOs specialized in social and environmental aspects (Ese'eja Community of Infierno); the transference of methodologies of integrating productive projects (CIPASLA- ASOBESURCA); the capacity to work with the given structures, following the community's rhythm, and seeing them with no idealization (FITEMA); the promotion of previous training to allow the communities adaptation to the proposition (Mohéli Marine Park); the involvement of the communities in forests conservation (ACOPOF); the development of networks, human resources and strategic plans (Café de la Selva), the increase of conservation strategies to save plants (Tribal Community of Jeypore) among others.

D) CONCLUSIONS: THE CATEGORIES OF SUSTAINABILITY IN THE TWENTY SEVEN LOCAL PROJECTS AND THEIR RESULTANTS

The next step to understand the projects dynamics and dimensions is to present one analysis through the several categories of sustainability given by the researches and theoretical approaches. "When we ask about the sustainability level we want, or we may look for, we must examine the ideological, social and institutional contradictions contained on that discussion, and analyze the distinct sustainability dimensions to transform them in objective criteria of public policy" (Guimarães, 1997). It's also necessary, for qualitative and quantitative measurement purposes, to analyze their practices objecting the re-qualification of the goals, the proposition of new

programs, the strengthening of partnerships, and the organization of networks of information and re-applicability.

The results of the Equator Initiative local programs and projects contain, at least, five categories of sustainability: political, institutional, economical, physical-environmental and cultural.

The political sustainability, manifested in international agreements (Viola, 1998, 1997), generates the institution of environmental programs, that included management and decentralization, allied with models of local development projects, taking into account the 21 Agenda and the local resultants of the Conventions of Climate and Biodiversity . In those models it is possible to see also new patterns of planning and execution, based on independence, transparency, participation and partnership. The political and institutional sustainability may be confirmed trough the reunion of these elements, and also by the given articulation between the global and the local, with the maintenance of the connections between the participants of all involved institutions, prioritizing new actors and practices, based on confidence, rigor and responsibility. The Equator Initiative obtained this kind of sustainability in quite all their projects, also innovating with the implementation of laws and local agreements. The best examples are the projects that influenced, in 2001, the Rural Land Law in Tanzania, and the one that developed the concept of benefit-sharing with the tribal community, leading to policy changes in the Biodiversity Bill in India.

We may summarize the political sustainability of local projects in convergent politics of global investments and national socio-environmental decentralization, good institutional strategies, strengthened social actors and independence in decentralized management.

The institutional sustainability constitutes the strongest part of local programs. Institutional strengthening of national public agencies, creation of new organisms, re-adequacy of functions, and the creation of regional program linked to environmental qualification were also contemplated in the projects presented.

The main examples are from the projects that made the transformation of regulation from command and control to economically-based, and the ones where the communities obtained financial resources from partnerships. Only one community obtained finances through self organization. Another received a local contribution; both are from Africa .

"Needs are focused in the areas of capacity building, education, access to health, participation in decision-making, etc. Many communities need help to educate and train leaders and community members on how to run the project in a better way, and look at ways to increase financial capacity, improve communication by improving and building roads"(IDRC conclusions).

We may also verify in the projects the general items required to this kind of sustainability, as global and local strengthening of institutional structures, the vertical and transversal trends of these articulations with co-responsibility, new actors organized in new institutional ways of life, and the increase of the horizontal environmental sustainability internalization process.

Among others, the economic sustainability is difficult to be evaluated because of the financial and post-financial phases of the projects, and the aggregation of different kinds of assessment in its different phases. The quantification of all this assessments and complementary works is not given by economic indicators, and the sign of success of these kinds of projects links social and economic appropriation together . We must stress that the debate of the phases of management and business propositions is necessary to these kinds of projects. So, grants for management and business plans are essential for permanent economic sustainability, as well as other activities of management, as production, commercialization, institutional and technical capability, and specialized assessment.

The list of all stakeholders contributions involve community contributions, with all 27 involved in a kind of support (labor, land, education), external funding by Embassies, NGOs and Agencies (in 18 projects), UNDP (4 projects), Enterprises and Market development (3 projects) and one Government contribution (IDRC, pg.6).

The economic structure for sustainability may be translated, at least, in global financial sustainability, return of costs of capital efficiency, institutional costs rationalization and, mainly local management organization, during pre and post investments consolidation, besides global and local political guaranties to their complete implementation.

The physical-environmental sustainability reflects the social efforts to achieve this model. For that, the social actors, regardless their class or ideology, become involved and, looking for results and solutions, create associations, modernize local public agencies, increase assessments and reach isolated social sectors. And considering all the criteria and limits of the laws and the institutional standardization, they create a physical network, incipient but quantified, to measure the experiences of sustainability.

The projects presented deal with different biomes, and their main questions are the risks of globalization, as loss of bio-diversity, exhaustion of renewable resources, soil degradation and biomass appropriation (Giddens, 1991). The projects also try to overcome the challenges of nature valuation and markets issues, all of that allied to new individual values and ethics.At last, the projects are part of a global consensus on a transition to sustainability strategies, as the ones appointed by Goodland(1991), Guimarães (1998), Martine (1993), Hogan (1993) and Sachs (1994).

At the Equator Initiative, we saw 27 demonstrative projects working with great environmental questions of global and regional intervention. The projects reflect local actions against the risky questions mentioned above. Many of the projects were initiated due to post-disaster situations. The types of disasters identified by the communities include: environmental disasters (such as droughts, floods, hurricanes and soil erosion), unsustainable resource extraction (such as clear-cutting forests, slash and burn agriculture, destructive oil extraction), construction projects (such as dams, roads), political/legal situations (such as civil war, government laws and control and land concessions), social situations (such as high birth rates, influx of immigrants, labor shortages and poverty) and economic/market situations (crash in market prices, poaching and illegal trafficking).

The mainly environmental references of them are: at reforestation of forests; in rural forest communities; management of forest and coastal resources in environmental preservation areas, with management of mangrove resources, including industrialization and depuration; management of biodiversity with introduction of alternative technologies; activities with apiculture; promotion of the ecotourism with biodiversity, and environmental education, that may be found on practically all the social territory of the programs.

Forests restoration is included in resources restoration, and livelihood in hydroelectric dams, as the project Support Group of Conservation and Sustainable Development Initiatives (CACID) from Cameroon/ Africa; and in the watershed management, as Interinstitutional Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture on Hillsides/ River Cabujal Watershed Users Association (CIPASLA- ASOBESURCA), in Colombia/ Latin America and Caribbean

But quite every project presented some problems in social and productive appropriation. Among the main problems detected, we may list: inadequate production management; inadequate buildings norms; products licenses required; lack of necessary public infra-structure; as sanitation, difficulties and vagaries in the management of enterprises directly linked to public power; inadequate enforcement; disrespect in the management of plans, and the necessity to include questions of capacity, management and association as essential questions to the organization of local sustainability.

The physical-environmental sustainability of local programs may be given, so, by: the proposition of compatible buildings with programmed production structure; the inclusion of land questions, public and private physical infra-structure and licenses systems; management and business plans to enable the success of the post- financial phase of the projects; initial capacity of coordinators, managers, and technicians responsible for administrative and technical management of NGOs and co-participant associations; enforcing systems, monitoring and evaluation of programs at the local, regional, national and global levels, with the participation of all partners of the projects; and evaluation of the positive and negative environmental impact degree on the ecosystems, including renovation of managed natural resources, possibilities to re-apply the projects in ecosystems of same degree, and insertion, on international monitoring systems, of regional and global risks resources.

And finally, the cultural sustainability is given by the concomitant appropriation of experts and traditional systems of culture, even by the insertion of traditional populations, their resources management forms, necessary associative and land ownership structures, as by technical and institutional pertinent assessments, assessed to the organization of programs, technical, administrative and institutional management and global articulation. In fact, the IDRC Report, in its conclusions, observes that "the technologies and approaches used by the communities are many and varied. Some technologies/approaches are new and innovative, while others are based on skills of the community members and still others based on traditional practices. A common theme, however, is that many of the technologies and approaches used, emerged as a result of stakeholder and community involvement in the processes". For

that, the ethical knowledge could be put in practice, privileging the "knowledge" notion, not only as a denotative elements conjunction, but also as ideas of how to do, how to live, how to ear (Lyotard, 1989), allied to a competence that exceeds the application of a mere criterion of the truth and enlarges the criteria of efficiency (technical qualification), justice and/or happiness (ethical wisdom). So, the concerns to be firmed are those that permit to circumscribe a determinate knowledge on the constitutive culture of the people. The degree of execution difficulty presented by the programs is, in fact, resultant either by the lack of technical capacity of traditional populations, or by the lack of precise diagnosis of how much this popular knowledge "teaches" to technical participants, what are the alternative forms, social and environmentally generous and correct, in the management of natural and environmental resources and their resultant products.

One last particular question must be appointed, and it is the one that concerns with the new manifestations on gender. In fact, examples in India and Cuba could show us that the participation of women in the organization, articulation and conservation in local projects are fundamental. In Cuba, they developed an agreement on gender perspectives to ensure equity between men and women which is an innovative initiative in the regional context (IDRC- conclusions). In India, women participation on projects of management of medicinal plants could aggregate the many social traditional functions they are responsible for, as family and home, with the organization of the extensive work required by the projects.

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NOTES

1. The World Bank and Agenda 21, July 2002 preface vii
2. About poverty, linked with development and environment see:" Linking Poverty Reduction and Environment Management: Policy Changes and Opportunities", The Department for International Development (DFID)- U.K; The Directorate General for Development of the European Commission (E.C.); The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and The World Bank, July 2002
3. The Summits are: the 1995 Social Summit in Copenhagen, the Earth Summit +5 held in New York in 1997, the Social Summit 2000in Genève, and the XIIIth International Aids Conference, held in Durban in July, 2000. in The World Bank and Agenda 21, July 2002, p. 15
4. The Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Achieve universal primary education; Promote gender equality and empower women; Reduce child mortality; Improve maternal health; Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Ensure environmental sustainability; Develop a Global Partnership for Development. in op.cit. p. 2- 3.
5. Annan, K., Secretary General of the United Nations, in UNDP "Equator Initiative Partnership/Equator Prize 2002", UNDP, August 2002, p. 2
6. Johnson, Ian, Vice President Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, The World Bank, in The World Bank and Agenda 21, July 2002, preface viii.
7. Wirth, Timothy E., President, United Nations Foundation, in "Equator Initiative Partnership/Equator Prize 2002", UNDP, august 2002, p.5
8. The Equator Prize 2002 Jury was composed by eight members: H. E. Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, Nobel Peace Laureate; H. R. H. Princess Basma bint Talal, Royal Hashemite Fund for Human Development, Jordan; professor Calestous Juma, director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and chancellor of the University of Guyana; Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro, president of the IUCN- The World Conservation Union; Mrs. Graça Machel, president of the Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO; Mrs. Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation, Nobel Peace Laureate; dr. Emil Salim, chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the WSSD and of the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation; and professor M. S. Swaminathan, UNESCO Cousteau Chair in Ecotechnology and chairman of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, in op.cit. p. 18- 21
9. Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programe, in "Equator initiative/ Equator Prize 2002", UNDP, August 2002 p. 3
10. The description of all projects are included at the annex I
11. The IDRC Report, 2002. p. 6 - 7.
12. op.cit. p. 7-8
13. op.cit. p. 9
14. Personal notes from the Equator Initiative Seminar. Ubuntu Village 24 August to 3th September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Annexes:

I. Summary of Initiatives Winners

ANNEX I

EQUATOR PRIZE 2002 - FINALISTS[1]

Africa

Cameroon
Support Group for Conservation and Sustainable Development Initiatives (CACID)

CACID, a Cameroonian environmental NGO, has dedicated itself to comprehensively addressing the environmental and developmental challenges facing the nation's Waza-Logone floodplain. Home to a 170,000 hectare UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a rich diversity of plant and animal species, the floodplain was nearly destroyed by construction of a large hydroelectric dam in 1979. To restore the wetland and the livelihoods of its inhabitants, CACID formed a collaborative management committee composed of park management and community representatives to co-manage the natural resources of the region. CACID has also led local efforts to restore the water balance of the plain. Since 1992, CACID has rallied stakeholders to promote re-emergence of the wetlands through sound natural resource management and small-scale eco-development that has not only succeeded in restoring the ecological fabric of the floodplain, but has also brought opportunities for sustainable income generation.

Comoros
Mohéli Marine Park

Home to a rich variety of plant and animal species, including the dugong and the Livingstone fruit bat, the Comorien Island of Mohéli is a treasure trove of biodiversity. To protect this natural legacy, 10 villages in southern Mohéli began in 1995 to advocate for designation of their offshore waters as a marine park. Guided by the principle of participatory co-management of natural resources, these villages and the Comorien government worked for six years towards establishment of Mohéli Marine Park. Through extensive consultations, agreements for co-management were signed between the government and each of the 10 villages. As a result of the dedication of community residents and the collaborative Park Management Committee, Mohéli has now seen a doubling of revenues for local fisher folk, protection of 45 green turtle breeding beaches, and a halt to destructive reef fishing practices.

Kenya
Honey Care Africa Ltd.

Based on a vision of environmentally sustainable income generation, Honey Care Africa works in a mutually beneficial relationship with rural beekeepers to reduce

poverty and promote biodiversity conservation in Kenya. By encouraging sustainable income generation, Honey Care Africa helps protect species-rich natural areas in Kenya from overuse and encroachment. Honey Care Africa also helps reduce poverty by guaranteeing to purchase all the honey produced by participating households at a competitive price through direct cash payments. As a result, close to 2,000 rural Kenyan households are now able to rely on beekeeping for supplementary income. In total, these households care for 10,000 individual hives and produce 60-96 metric tons of honey for sale annually. Most importantly, these households are able to earn US$200-250 per year - an amount that is often enough to make the difference between living above or below the poverty line.

Kenya
Il Ngwesi Group Ranch

The Il Ngwesi Group Ranch on Kenya's Laikipia Plateau has had great success in reducing local poverty and conserving biodiversity through promotion of ecotourism and establishment of a community owned trust responsible for local land management. The ranch itself is a collectively owned initiative of 499 local households that incorporates an exclusive ecotourism lodge and a locally led committee responsible for land and resource management. By limiting poaching through community patrols and leading efforts to sustainably manage local resources, the trust has helped to secure a more certain future for wildlife on Il Ngwesi and neighboring reserves. Poverty at Il Ngwesi has been tackled through the redirection of tourism revenues back to the local community. By adopting a collaborative approach to resource management, Il Ngwesi has achieved remarkable success in promoting local livelihoods without compromising the integrity of the natural environment.

Madagascar
Association of Manambolo Natives (FITEMA)

In Madagascar, a global hotspot of biodiversity, the Association of Manambolo Natives (FITEMA) has looked to an indigenous land use system, called Dina, to creatively re-establish control over their resources and help preserve the species-rich forests and swamps of the Manambolo Valley. Using the Dina system, FITEMA is working to reverse destructive forest practices, provide food security, and protect biological diversity. By negotiating with government agencies for local control over natural resource management and establishing resident monitors and community guards to protect local forests, FITEMA has been able to virtually eliminate deforestation in the valley. Importantly, this work has linked existing reserves to form the longest unbroken chain of intact forest in Madagascar. Poverty is also being alleviated, through improved food and livelihood security, co-operative management of resources, a reduction in conflict, and an improved relationship with government.

Tanzania
Hashi Soil Conservation Project

In Tanzania, the HASHI project has had broad success in reversing land degradation through a rebirth of traditional forms of conservation. Through the project's work, people have been able to re-establish their traditional Ngitili system of land management with huge dividends both for the natural environment and the livelihoods of communities. Through the Ngitili system of enclosures, farmers prolong the availability of fodder during dry periods to better ensure the survival of their cattle. Restored areas now support production of more food products, including fruits, meat, and milk. As well, more tree varieties have been planted, soil conditions have improved, wells have been restored, and households now spend less time away from their farms searching for food and water. Biodiversity benefits have arisen from the restoration of ecosystems, regrowth of tree species and medicinal plants and the return of species to the arid region, including bird and butterfly species.

Tanzania
Suledo Forest Community

Harnessing their knowledge of the species-rich Miombo forests of Tanzania's Arusha region, the Suledo Forest Community has established an effective system of village-based forest management that meets the diverse needs of local people. After being spurred into action in 1993 by government plans for use of local forests, communities have regained control over land management and have devised a system of unique forest planning zones. To add weight to community anti-poaching rules, area villages have passed supportive by-laws and members of local communities now patrol each forest zone to ensure enforcement. As a result of these interventions, villagers have access to a greater range of forest products, including sustainable timber and products such as fruits, nuts, mushrooms and medicines. Water supply has also been improved, sustainable tree nurseries, vegetable gardens and orchards have been introduced, and maize production has increased from 15 to 25 bags per hectare.

Asia And Pacific

Fiji
Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area Network

Since its inception in 1999, the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network has grown to include communities in six districts and cover 10% of the inshore marine area of Fiji. The involvement of communities in the network has led to increases in the number and size of clams, crabs, and other species harvested adjacent to taboo areas, where fishing is prohibited. As a result, household incomes have increased 35% over three years and catches have tripled. Much of the success of the

network can be attributed to its participatory and collaborative focus, which has ensured that local people are at the center of the network's operations. As a testament to the success of the network in protecting marine biodiversity and alleviating poverty in fishing communities, the government of Fiji has recently incorporated many of its approaches into national policies designed to protect the coastal resources of Fiji for future generations.

India
Medicinal Plants Conservation Centre

By recognizing the strength of the link between plant resources and the livelihoods of rural people, the Medicinal Plant Conservation Centre (MPCC) in Pune, India has achieved great success in advancing the cause of medicinal plant conservation while also lifting rural people out of poverty. In con-junction with local communities, MPCC encourages economic development opportunities through cultivation of medicinal plants, a decentralized system of nurseries raising 50,000 plants of 50 different species, and a network of herbal production centers. By promoting cultivation of medicinal herbs, MPCC relieves much of the pressure on dwindling natural supplies of these plants. As well, through collaborative botanical inventories, villagers and MPCC have laid a sound foundation for conservation work in the state. Perhaps most importantly, the work of MPCC allows tribal communities, previously excluded from conservation work, the opportunity to actively participate in efforts to protect their botanical heritage.

India
Kerala Kani Samudaya Kshema Trust

Often, indigenous people hold the only detailed knowledge of the curative properties of rare plant species. This was the case with the Argyapacha plant (Trichopus zeylanicus) of India, which was eaten by the Kani people to combat fatigue and reduce stress. In a model of benefit sharing, however, the Kanis agreed with Kerala's Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), that they would reveal its properties in exchange for an equal share of the benefits of commercialization. In 1997, the resulting product was licensed and the Kani Trust was founded to represent Kani communities and promote local development. So far, the Trust has supported poor members of the community, provided insurance for pregnant women, and assisted in cases of accidental death. Representing over 700 families, the Trust now provides a critical source of employment to tribal people as cultivators and processors of the plant, ensures that harvesting techniques are sustainable, and empowers communities to become involved in conservation and development to their own benefit and that of the wider world.

India
Tribal Communities of the Jeypore Tract of Orissa

In the Jeypore Tract, Orissa, introduction of new crop varieties and forest degradation have led to a dramatic decline in the number of native plant varieties. For instance, native rice varieties have fallen from 1750 to 150 in number and are increasingly under threat. To counter this decline and to ensure the security of their food supply, tribal communities have initiated a programme to enable sustainable livelihoods and promote agro-biodiversity conservation, community gene management, and environmental protection. Local farmers are now involved in participatory plant breeding and the compilation of community biodiversity registers, which have been combined with the development of community seed and grain banks. Through these initiatives, remaining varieties of rice are being conserved and over-exploited medicinal plants are being cultivated in community gardens instead of being harvested from the region's fragile forests. Critically, market linkages have been created that allow communities to benefit financially from their conservation activities.

Malaysia
Uma Bawang Resident's Association (UBRA)

In the Malaysian state of Sarawak, the Uma Bawang Resident's Association (UBRA) represents a community of less than 100 people that has successfully used blockades, and now innovative mapping efforts, to defend customary land rights and access to forest lands. Critically, since UBRA's first mapping workshop in 1995, this technique has been increasingly used by other communities to legally defend their borders and secure recognition of traditional lands. UBRA also helps communities learn a wide variety of skills that provide cash income, including communal rice farming and milling, pig-rearing, handicrafts marketing, growing pepper and fruit trees, and developing sustainable teakwood plantations. Projects supported by UBRA provide incomes without endangering forest resources and are complemented by work in reforestation and restoration of damaged forestlands. Since 1992, UBRA has planted 4,000 tree seedlings in degraded areas, with an average of 200 fruit trees planted per family, and is leading a new reforestation initiative focused on native species

Thailand
Community Based Integrated Rural Development (CBIRD) Center, Sub Tai

For many years, residents of Sub Tai village, Thailand were forced to supplement their incomes by poaching in nearby Khao Yai National Park, a repository of rare species and Thailand's oldest national park. This all began to change in 1985 when the Population and Community Development Association of Bangkok launched CBIRD Center in Sub Tai to deal with issues of economic indebtedness and poaching.

In this participatory project, villagers signed a commitment not to cut trees or hunt in the park in return for low-cost loans. To ensure that the rich biodiversity of Khao Yai National Park is protected, loans are disbursed for ecological income generating activities such as tree-planting and trekking services. As a result, income in Sub Tai has nearly doubled and many community members are free from debt. Through greater community involvement in park management, illegal logging in the park has fallen by 75% and the many rare species of Khao Yai National Park, including the Asian elephant and tiger, now have a more secure future.

Latin America and Caribbean

BELIZE
Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)

The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) works in some of the poorest areas of Belize and, through the Maya Mountain Marine Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative, collaborates with local communities to promote sustainable income generation and conservation. TIDE has focused much of its poverty reduction efforts on certification programs and training, including an on-going program to train and certify flyfishing guides and an "ECO-OK" certification project for sustainably produced local timber. The project also supports microenterprise and ecotourism training through a tourism arm, TIDETours. TIDETours subcontracts with small community-based businesses trained by TIDE to return income to communities and promote local enterprise. Through promotion of participatory co-management of natural resources and development of community monitoring, the project has also reduced poaching of endangered manatees, the practice of gillnetting, and illegal hunting and logging.

Brazil
Green Life Association of Amazônia (AVIVE)

AVIVE was founded in the Brazilian city of Silves to defend and preserve the local environment and culture while also working to improve the quality of life of local people, especially women. Since being launched in 1999, much of AVIVE's work has focused on developing techniques for sustainable extraction of the Aniba plant, also known as pau-rosa, as well as other medicinal and aromatic native plant species. The project also promotes the home production of natural medicines and cosmetics as an economic alternative for the women of Silves. These products are now sold in stores, catering to local consumers and tourists, and are marketed abroad to generate income for local women. The organization also leads an important environmental education program and produces seeds for the replanting and recovery of regional forests, where extractive activities threaten biodiversity. To protect the endangered pau-rosa and other rare plant species, AVIVE highlights the importance of sustainable

extraction and is actively involved in the creation of a Sustainable Development Reserve where these species can be cultivated in ways that do not imperil their existence.

Brazil
Bolsa Amazônia

Founded in 1998 by Brazilian NGOs, the Federal University of Pará, and international donors, in partnership with private sector companies such as DaimlerChrysler, Bolsa Amazônia is a regional organization dedicated to developing sustainable enterprises in rural forest communities of Amazônia. With a focus on sustainable agriculture and agro-industrialization, Bolsa Amazônia assesses market demand for locally produced sustainable products and supports development of related goods, including coconut fiber gardening items, banana flour, frozen fruit pulp, honey, oils, and hand-made paper and handicrafts. Building from its local successes, Bolsa Amazônia now has representative offices in all Amazônian countries and assists thousands of families with opportunities for employment. By investing in the future of communities and promoting the sustainable use of resources, Bolsa Amazônia is a model for the successful interaction of private enterprise and communities for the conservation of biodiversity and the reduction of poverty.

Brazil
Cananéia Oyster Producers Cooperative

The Cananéia Oyster Producers Cooperative is a community based organization centered on the Mandira Neighborhood Extractive Reserve. Launched in 1994, and expanded in 1997 to cover the entire Cananéia estuary, the cooperative was established to reconcile oyster harvesting with conservation of the region's highly biodiverse mangrove forests. To ensure that harvesting activities are within the law, and that destructive techniques are abolished, the cooperative has launched intense efforts to promote community enforcement of regulations. As well, they have worked to establish their own oyster brand. By skipping middlemen and building a reputation for a quality product, they have tripled the price received for their catch. As well, the installation of nurseries in all communities now allows harvesting even when the natural harvesting season is closed. Through increased incomes and an improved framework for conservation, the work of the Cananéia Oyster Producers Cooperative demonstrates the power of community-driven efforts to conserve biodiversity and provide for sustainable economic development.

Brazil
Amazon Life Project

The Amazon Life Project is a visionary alliance of three Brazilian rubber tapper associations, the Nawa Institute for the Development of Sustainable Extractivism,

and the company Couro Vegetal da Amazônia S.A. The objective of the project, launched in 1991, is to make the rubber tapper's traditional handicraft competitive on the international market while also ensuring that Amazônian forests are preserved for future generations. By working to develop, produce, and commercialize the innovative Treetap® vegetable leather product, the project contributes to improving the quality of life in rubber tapping communities. In addition to securing major fashion houses as clients, the project also ensures that production processes meet the international certification standards of the Forest Stewardship Council. By involving rubber tappers in sustainable production of Treetap®, the project is reversing a cycle of unsustainable forest use and poverty and helping to directly protect over 900,000 hectares of wild forest from unsustainable exploitation.

Colombia
Inter-institutional Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture on Hillsides / River Cabuyal Watershed Users Association (CIPASLA-ASOBESURCA)

CIPASLA-ASOBESURCA, a major consortium of Colombian community and development organizations, works to protect the environment and reduce poverty in the River Cabuyal watershed. Composed of CIPASLA, a network of government, NGO and research organizations, and ASOBESURCA, an organization uniting communities in the watershed, the consortium coordinates efforts to address the environmental and developmental challenges facing local communities. As a result of CIPASLA-ASOBESURCA's work with the water board and producers' associations, holistic plans for watershed management have been developed that have improved social and economic conditions in communities. Communities are now able to retain larger shares of product value due to development of local agro-enterprises. Rising incomes have also helped reduce pressure on local forests. As well, under the leadership of CIPASLA-ASOBESURCA, reforestation and spring-restoration efforts are underway and local farmers are increasingly encouraged to adopt appropriate farming techniques for their steep-sloped lands.

CUBA
Bayamo Whole Forest Company, "Ecological Forest Farms Initiative"

Bayamo Whole Forest Company is a local enterprise that promotes rational and sustainable use of natural resources in the Cauto River Basin. The project, led by the provincial administration of the province of Granma, holistically addresses the challenges of the region to preserve species, protect the environment, and promote socio-economic advancement. Specifically, the project is working to reforest the Cauto River Basin, undertake hydrological cleaning through reforestation, provide job opportunities, and generally improve food and environmental security. The main tool that the project uses to meet these ends is the construction of "forestry farms". These

farms provide environmental and economic benefits to families who enjoy use of 12 hectares of land for 30 years and are motivated through their "ownership" to protect the plant and animal species that also call these forests home. Through its comprehensive approach, the project has created 220 new jobs, helped control soil erosion, and protected vital habitat for riverine and forest species.

Guatemala
Management and Conservation Organization (OMYC) / Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

The working partnership between OMYC, a grassroots community organization representing residents of Uaxactun, and WCS-Guatemala, the local arm of an international NGO, is a model for how organizational collaboration can be used as an effective tool to fight biodiversity loss and poverty. Recognizing that these challenges can not be addressed by a short-term project, OMYC and WCS work together to sustainably manage an 83,558 hectare forest concession in Uaxactun. Together, they help ensure that local livelihoods are sustainable and that plant and animal species are protected. These projects include important studies of wild turkey conservation and palm leaf harvesting sustainability. This work is critical from a biological standpoint as well as socio-economically since both local turkey and palm populations serve as important sources of income. The partnership has also launched efforts to develop an integrated vision for resource management in Uaxactun, diversify the local economy, and protect the natural resources upon which local people depend.

Mexico
Café de la Selva

Café de la Selva is a chain of coffee shops that sells organic coffee grown by indigenous communities from Chiapas. The chain is the result of the collaboration of the Union de Ejidos de la Selva, a peasant organization, and the Vinculo y Dessarrollo civil association. Together these organizations have developed five successful coffee shops in Mexico City and have worked to develop the reputation of Café de la Selva among urban consumers. The origin of the coffee itself is what makes Café de la Selva so special. By controlling the entire vertical chain of coffee production, the Union de Ejidos de la Selva is able to improve indigenous farmer income and self-sufficiency. With over 20 years of experience, the Union collaborates with 1,250 families in 42 communities to ensure the adoption of better soil management and environmental practices. By using certified organic techniques, farmers are able to control erosion, limit pollution, create a healthier environment for other species, and produce coffee that meets the demands of the most discriminating consumers

Nicaragua
Campesino to Campesino Programme of the Municipality of Siuna (PCaC)

PCaC was founded in 1992 with the goal of controlling a rapidly expanding agricultural frontier, achieving food security, and restoring deforested areas in Nicaragua's Siuna municipality. To meet these goals, PCaC promotes the use of leguminous plants and green fertilizers as cover crops. This works to stabilize the soil and leads the way for crop diversification and improved land use planning. As a result of PCaC's work and its network of volunteer "promoters", corn yields in Siuna have more than doubled and bean production has more than tripled. Adopting improved agricultural practices has also halted the damaging practices that previously took a devastating toll on the nearby, species-rich Bosawas Biosphere Reserve. By helping peasant families develop a series of forestry activities that help to protect biodiversity, including reforestation projects that planted at least 1,000 trees, PCaC is actively conserving the species-rich forestlands of the region. Through its work, PCaC has helped to replace destructive agricultural practices with sustainable systems that ensure food security, increase family incomes, and protect local biodiversity.

PERU
Ese'eja Community of Infierno

With the emergence of global environmental awareness, there has also been a surge of interest in sustainable tourism. In Peru, a partnership between a private enterprise, Rainforest Expeditions, and local indigenous people provides a model for how ecotourism can be used to solve problems of biodiversity loss and poverty in the developing world. Building on a commitment to conservation made 25 years ago by the local Ese'eja people, the partnership has constructed Posada Amazonas, a 30-bedroom lodge that serves as the base for responsible tourism and conservation activities. Since 1998, work has also been undertaken to protect species such as giant river otters, macaws and Harpy eagles. With a proportion of revenues invested in local conservation and development projects, the local environment also benefits from this collaboration. Critically, an annual profit of US$35,000 was paid to the community in 2001 and wages from employment have increased mean family income by 38% since 1998.

World heritage sites

Costa Rica
Talamanca Initiative

A collaborative partnership of three community-focused organizations - Associacion ANAI, APPTA, and CBTC - the Talamanca Initiative has worked since 1983 to integrate biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development in the

Talamanca region of Costa Rica. The initiative's biodiversity conservation efforts include establishment of Gandoca-Manzanillo National Wildlife Refuge, a last sanctuary for the endangered Manatee, and development of Central America's only permanent raptor migration monitoring program. To encourage sustainable socio-economic development, the initiative has promoted crop diversification and organic agriculture, with APPTA's processing system becoming the largest volume producer and exporter of organic products in Central America. Since 1991, the initiative has also run a Regional Training Center and has helped establish 13 local ecotourism ventures. As an example of the gains that have been made through the initiative's work, income in villages has risen up to six-fold and communities have been able to engage in sustainable income generating pursuits that also work to protect their natural environment.

Guatemala
Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP)

ACOFOP is an organization of community-based groups covering 30 rural villages in the buffer zone of the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, a 2.1 million-hectare region of international biological importance. The most innovative aspect of this initiative is that, through ACOFOP, these communities have assumed responsibility for sustainable management of resources within the biosphere reserve. Currently, the communities have 437,597 hectares of forests under management plans, of which 241,448 hectares are internationally certified by the Forest Stewardship Council - the world's largest certified forest area under community management. As well, the critical work of ACOFOP helps to limit uncontrolled migration and reduces conflict over natural resources. ACOFOP also provides badly needed jobs in local communities and vocational and skills training in the region. Ultimately, the work of ACOFOP has reduced local poverty, limited deforestation, and replaced a regime of unsustainable exploitation of biodiversity with an era of sustainable use.

HONDURAS
Mosquitia Pawisa Agency for the Development of the Honduras Mosquitia (MOPAWI)

Representing several thousand Miskito, Garifuna, and Mistizo inhabitants of the Honduran Mosquitia, MOPAWI works to protect habitats ranging from coastal beaches to pine savanna and primary rainforest. A key outcome of MOPAWI's work has been the recognition of community land rights, including a 40-year agreement on 68,000 hectares of broadleaf and pine forest. MOPAWI has also been able to protect some 230,000 hectares of Tawahka ancestral territories through declaration of the Tawahka Biosphere Reserve. The project also promotes sustainable income generating activities that allow communities to emerge from poverty without imperiling the species with which they coexist, including production of organic cacao, ecotourism development, and responsible forest management. A similarly varied approach has

been applied to conserving biodiversity, with projects to protect leatherback and loggerhead turtles and the rare green iguana. Importantly, the work of MOPAWI has raised the awareness of communities to the importance of protecting biological diversity and has encouraged communities to prevent construction of a dam in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

NOTE

1. "Equator Initiative Partnership/ Equator Prize 2002", UNDP, august 2002 pg. 6- 17