



United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development  
Conferência das Nações Unidas sobre Desenvolvimento Sustentável

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#1

Wednesday,  
June 20,  
2012

Children displaced  
by drought line up  
to receive food in  
Mogadishu. The poor  
are hardest hit by  
climate change and  
other problems

Abdurrahman Warsameh/IPS

# Rio Outcome Bleak With No New Funding

► By Thalif Deen

Amidst recrimination, anger and charges of “strong arm tactics”, negotiators eventually endorsed a global plan of action for sustainable development following marathon sessions lasting over six weary days.

A proposal for a 30-billion-dollar global fund for sustainable development – initiated by developing countries – was shot down even before it could get off the ground.

The United States and the 27-member European Union (EU) refused to approve the proposal, leaving in doubt how an ambitious blueprint for sustainable development, titled “The Future We Want,” is to be financed over the next decade.

“Without funding commitments, the Rio+20 outcome is likely to go the same way as previous documents of this nature, adopted with much

fanfare and at great cost by world leaders,” Palitha Kohona, Sri Lanka’s permanent representative to the United Nations, told Terra Viva.

The funding is essential for most developing countries if they are to implement the lofty aspirations expressed in the 49-page outcome document.

But all is not lost, according to Martin Khor, executive director of the South Centre, a Geneva-based think tank of developing nations.

“The document is quite fair and balanced, given the current negative state of international cooperation for development,” he said.

Khor told TerraViva that at least the final document reaffirmed the Rio principles, including the common but differentiated responsibilities, which is precious for developing countries as it spells equity in sharing the costs of shifting to an environmentally friendly economy.

“A weakness is that there is no commitment

by the North for new funding or for concrete technology transfer,” he added.

The 132 member Group of 77 (G77) developing countries, plus China, managed to get a decision to start a U.N. General Assembly process to consider new financial and technology mechanisms. But it will be a tough fight.

Secretary-General of the Rio+20 summit Sha Zukang defended the agreement.

“We think the text contains a lot of action. And, if this action is implemented, and if follow-up measures are taken, it will indeed make a tremendous difference in generating positive global change.”

Meena Raman of the Malaysia-based Third World Network said, “The outcome document does not have the ambition needed to save the planet or the poor but it has not taken us backwards, particularly given our initial fears that Rio+20 might be Rio-40.”

## LEIA TAMBÉM

page 3

Rio’s Roadmap Falls Flat,  
Civil Society Groups Say

page 7

Belo Monte, uma ferida na  
Amazônia

page 9

O poder da Vale em  
Moçambique

page 11

Um terço das espécies em  
perigo

page 12

TerraViva, the  
Inconvenient Witness

page 15

The Two Faces of BRICS  
Development Aid

# TerraViva, 20 Years On

Dear reader,

Twenty years after its first edition came out at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, TerraViva – a communication tool produced by the IPS news agency – is once again being published, this time to report on the different aspects of and challenges facing the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, better known as Rio+20.

Over these 20 years, we have produced many TerraViva special editions, at U.N. conferences as well as at major civil society gatherings.

To that end, we have mobilized hundreds of journalists from across the planet to produce highly professional, multicultural editions in various languages, which have made TerraViva a reference point for many political and other decision-makers.

That tradition could not be missing at this important meeting.

Although IPS has been closely following the preparations for Rio+20 for months, as part of our editorial policy that pays special attention to news about development, civil society and developing and emerging countries, as of June 13th we have been producing our daily on-line edition of TerraViva from the conference, and starting today, the print edition.

As our journalists have reported over the last months, the challenges are huge, especially the necessity of

moving from the concept of sustainable development, which drew so much attention 20 years ago, to the need to fully integrate economic, social and environmental policy-making to stave off the much-predicted planetary collapse.

It is a question of understanding what it would mean if we failed to immediately adopt a number of measures, what the cost of these measures would be, and how they could be financed.

As the documents that are being discussed indicate, extreme poverty and inequality between rich and poor must be drastically reduced, and the effects of population growth must be fully understood, since global population is projected to reach nine billion by 2040, which will drastically increase demand for food, energy and drinking water.



“Our team of journalists, who have come from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, will provide you with reporting on different aspects of the debate.”

Achieving inclusive growth, with sustainable production and consumption, would make it possible to deal differently with the problem of climate change and other threats to the planet.

In order to do that, new indicators must be established for monitoring and combating these problems.

Our team of journalists, who have come from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, will provide you with reporting on different aspects of the debate, the positions taken and declarations made, and the solutions proposed, so that communication will play its role in this great challenge for our planet.

I am sure that you will appreciate this, just as you have our previous editions of TerraViva.

Happy reading!

**Mario Lubetkin**  
IPS Director General



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# Rio's Roadmap Falls Flat, Civil Society Groups Say

► By Stephen Leahy

“Very disappointing” is how business and non-governmental organisations describe the formal intergovernmental negotiations at the Rio+20 summit Tuesday.

After two years, negotiators from more than 190 nations agreed Tuesday to a 49-page document intended to be the roadmap for this transformation. It will be presented to heads of state in Rio de Janeiro at the opening of the high-level portion of the summit on Wednesday. U.N. officials said it was highly unlikely any changes will be made.

The document leaves out the 30-billion-fund to finance the transition to a green economy proposed by the G77 and does not define tangible Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Goals that expire in 2015.

“This is extremely disappointing.... There is no vision, no money and really no commitments here,” said Lasse Gustavsson, World Wildlife Fund’s international head of delegation to Rio+20.

“Rio+20 should have been about life, about the future of our children, of our grandchildren. It should have been about forests, rivers, lakes, oceans that we are all depending on for our food, water and energy security,” Gustavsson told TerraViva.

The conference has been a stark contrast to the exciting “we will change the world” atmosphere at the first Earth Summit in 1992, said Robert Engleman of the Worldwatch Institute, an international environmental think tank.

While the document mostly re-confirms past commitments in a very passive way, there is a new confirmation of the importance of traditional seed saving, and to consider strengthening the U.N. Environment Programme, Engleman told TerraViva.

“This document is a great disappointment, there’s no ambition and little reference to the planetary boundaries we face,” said Kiara Worth, representing Children and Youth at Rio+20.



A poster on a wall at Riocentro. Civil society groups say they are “very disappointed” with formal negotiations at the Rio+20 Earth Summit

Stephen Leahy/IPS

“The voices of civil society and future generations is going unheard. We ought to call this Rio minus 20 because we are going backwards,” Worth told TerraViva.

Steven Wilson of the International Council for Science, a non-governmental organisation representing national scientific bodies and international scientific unions, said, “The scientific evidence is clear. We are going to need a major effort global in science and technology to meet the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced. I don’t understand why there is no section in the document on science - this sends a very unfortunate message.”

Jeffery Huffines of Civicus, World Alliance for Citizen Participation based in Johannesburg, South Africa, said, “We have a fundamentally flawed economic system and we in civil society had hoped governments of the world would recognise this reality but they haven’t.”

Instead, there are 49 pages of concepts without any commitments or means for going forward with these concepts. The role of civil society participation has been limited. “We need more democratic decision-making, not less,” he said.

## U.N. Paper Factory Threatened with Closure

► By Thalif Deen

One of the world’s largest “paper factories” – a dubious title traditionally conferred on the United Nations – is on the verge of running out of business.

The world body, which now calls itself “Paper Smart”, has drastically cut down its paper output. Virtually every single document is now being transmitted electronically – a decision taken by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The United Nations says it is putting sustainable development into practice at the Rio+20 summit, which runs Jun. 20-22, through its Paper Smart initiative to minimise both paper use and the conference’s overall carbon footprint by encouraging the use of digital documents.

“There will be extremely limited print-on demand (sic) services when needed,” it warned.

In a bygone era, hundreds and thousands of press releases and voluminous U.N. reports came uninterruptedly from the paper mill in the Secretariat in New York. And at the end of the day, the reports ended up in a garbage dump – or, more recently, in a recycling bin.

No longer, says a U.N. official. “We produce paper only on demand,” said Magnus Olafsson, director of the U.N. Meetings and Publishing Division at the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

In an interview with TerraViva, he pointed out that the 132-member Group of 77 developing countries, the largest single coalition at the United Nations, requested only six printed pages of a 40-page document during the negotiations at Rio+20.

“If we succeed”, he said, it will be the wave of the future. “The reaction from member states has been very positive,” he added.

# Multinacionais na mira dos movimentos sociais

► Por Mario Osava

A Monsanto, a Vale e a indústria de agrotóxicos foram os alvos principais dos cerca de 2.000 manifestantes que ocuparam algumas ruas do centro do Rio de Janeiro, na noite de 19 de junho.

“A Monsanto mata gente, mata rio/ Agronegócio, a mentira do Brasil” foi um dos gritos do protesto. O ato, convocado por movimentos sociais participantes da Cúpula dos Povos, teve uma maioria de camponeses e agricultores familiares provenientes de todo o Brasil e do exterior.

A canadense Judith Marshall, sindicalista de Toronto, trouxe denúncias do seu país e de Moçambique, onde morou por oito anos após a independência daquele país africano em 1975, contra os abusos da Vale.

O ex-presidente da empresa, Roger Agnelli, chegou a ser conselheiro do governo moçambicano para assuntos internacionais e no Canadá a Vale enfrenta processos judiciais por práticas inseguras que teriam provocado várias mortes, informou.

Agricultor assentado da reforma agrária em Atalaia, no estado de Alagoas, Joelson Melquiades, protestou contra os agrotóxicos com uma máscara de proteção da boca e nariz, como muitos dos manifestantes.

Sua roça de macaxeira, feijão, inhame e hortaliças, seguindo as orientações da agroecologia, sofrem a contaminação dos venenos agrícolas. Por isso ele e seus vizinhos condenam a monocultura da cana de açúcar presente nos arredores. Economia verde, em discussão na conferencia oficial da Rio+20 é “pura enganação”, sentenciou.

Shell, Syngenta, Bayer, Bunge, Nestlé, Petrobrás e até mesmo Natura, a indústria de cosméticos que aproveita insumos naturais, e se considera “verde”, foram duramente criticada por “explorar o trabalho feminino, o saber tradicional e bens comuns”, por oradores.

Algumas dessas empresas, como a Vale e a Petrobrás, contribuíram com um bom dinheiro para custear a realização da Rio+20.

O movimento de oposição à hidrelétrica



Manifestante denuncia multinacionais do agrotóxico na Rio+20

Mario Osava/IPS

Belo Monte, no Xingu, esteve presente com sete ativistas e desalojados. A Norte Energia, consórcio que toca a construção, “falou em indenização e reassentamento em 90 dias”, mas nada aconteceu, acusou Elisvaldo Gomes, um agricultor de Assurini, onde a família possui 50 hectares.

Agora promete providências para dentro de dois anos, sem indicar terras nem condições dos novos estabelecimentos rurais.

Sua colega da delegação de Altamira, Ana Laida Barbosa, que trabalha no Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI), se queixa da “criminalização” com que Belo Monte reage contra “qualquer manifestação contrária”.

A passeata foi curta. Vindos do Aterro do Flamengo, onde se realiza a Cúpula dos Povos, os manifestantes se organizaram em frente ao Consulado dos Estados Unidos e se concentraram na rua seguinte, a Santa Luzia, no centro da cidade.



Nearly 1,500 people used Rio's Flamengo Beach as a canvas on June 19. Their bodies formed the lines of an enormous image promoting the importance of free-running rivers, truly clean energy and including indigenous knowledge as part of the solution to climate issues.

Spectral Q/Chico/Paulo



# PNUMA e Cúpula dos Povos em confronto por economia verde

► Por Fabiana Frayssinet

O diretor-executivo do Programa das Nações Unidas para o Meio Ambiente (PNUMA), Achim Steiner, acredita que ele a Cúpula dos Povos coincidem quanto ao atual modelo econômico ter causado o colapso ambiental. Porém, o diálogo sobre como substituí-lo se transformou em áspero debate.

O encontro com Steiner foi o mais esperado da Cúpula dos Povos: um alto representante da Rio+20 se deslocou para o outro lado da cidade, até a sede da reunião da sociedade civil no Aterro do Flamengo, para discutir com ecologistas e ativistas sociais sobre economia verde.

A economia verde é proposta como uma grande transformação dos modelos de produção e consumo para deter a contaminação e o esgotamento dos recursos naturais.

“A Cúpula dos Povos é crítica da econo-

mia verde, porque os povos é que sofrem a crise do capitalismo e desse modelo de produção que quanto mais se agrava mais avança sobre nossos direitos”, afirmou de início a brasileira Fátima Mello, uma das organizadoras do encontro.

Diante desses pronunciamentos, Steiner se confessou “surpreso”. “No PNUMA estabelecemos que o modelo econômico atual não é o modelo do futuro. Estamos de acordo com vocês nisso”, afirmou.

Sem seus habituais terno e gravata, Steiner explicou que o “fracasso” de não se ter evitado a degradação natural “tem a ver com o modelo econômico do mundo que trata o planeta como mineração: extrair, extrair e extrair”.

E quase adotou a mesma linguagem que a platéia adversária, ao se declarar crítico da “capacidade do mercado de alcançar o desenvolvimento sustentável”.

As diferenças surgiram ao se buscar op-

ções a esse modelo. Steiner propôs atribuir um valor econômico ao ecossistema, para promover “leis que protejam a natureza ou negócios que não sejam destrutivos”.

Também se referiu a novas tecnologias “boas e possíveis”, como as energias limpas e renováveis, que não gerariam desemprego.

Seus argumentos não convenceram o embaixador da Bolívia perante a Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU), Pablo Solón, quem acusou Steiner de “não ter sido honesto”. “Por trás desse conceito está o assumir que a natureza é um quintal”, enfatizou Solón elevando a voz.

“Não por ter elevado o tom de voz, tudo o que você disse é correto”, respondeu Steiner. Nessa polarização entre capitalismo e anticapitalismo “o mundo não avançará”, ressaltou ao argumentar o difícil que é conseguir consenso entre todos os Estados-membros da ONU.



Achim Steiner debatendo na Cúpula dos Povos. Crédito: Cortesia João Roberto Ripper

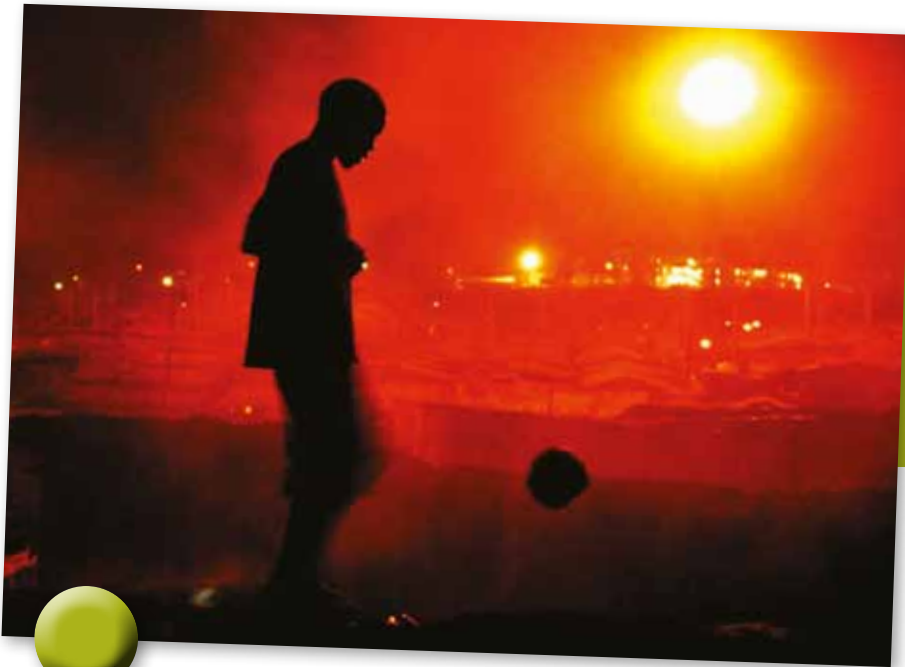
Propor uma economia verde sem regulamentar o mercado financeiro causará o contrário da conservação: “uma bolha financeira imprevisível”, apontou Larissa Packer, da organização Terra de Direitos.

## GRUPO INVEPAR. MOBILIDADE PARA O FUTURO.



A Invepar é um grupo comprometido fortemente com o desenvolvimento do Brasil e uma das principais empresas do setor de infraestrutura de transporte. É ela quem cuida, entre outras empresas, da administração do MetrôRio e da Linha Amarela. Suas atividades têm como fim a prestação de serviços de mobilidade e como valores, a responsabilidade socioambiental e o empreendedorismo. E por ser uma empresa com uma visão que vai além da sua área de atuação, a Invepar é patrocinadora da Rio + 20.





**Homemade soccer ball, by Julius Mwelu, Nairobi, Kenya**

A young man in Nairobi plays with a homemade soccer ball amid the toxic smoke from a burning dumpsite.

# Are you ready to Connect4Climate?

World Bank's social media campaign engaged African youth caring about climate change

► By Sabina Zaccaro

In the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 17) in Durban, South Africa last December, the World Bank Connect4Climate social media campaign launched a photo and video contest on climate change.

People from the ages of 13 to 35 were asked to share their personal climate change stories focused on Africa around six key themes: Agriculture, Energy, Forests, Gender,

Health, Water. Through photos and videos of 60 seconds or less, young people entering the Connect4Climate competition were able to tell and give vibrant evidence of how climate change is affecting their lives and communities.

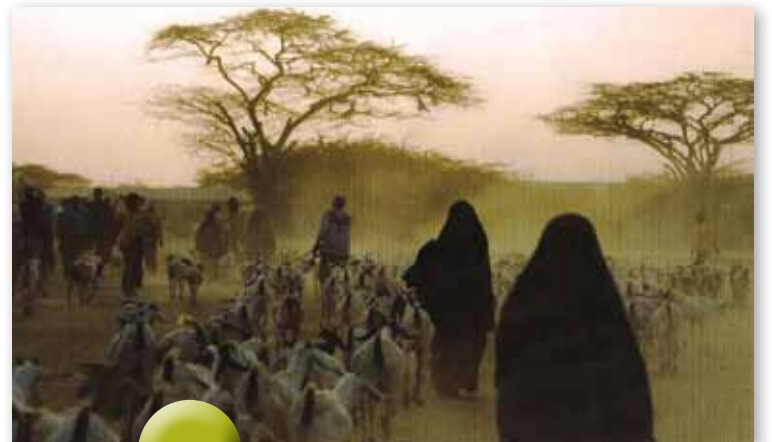
Winners were announced at COP17 in Durban and awarded at the WB offices in Africa and in Washington. Here some of the most powerful winning photos; check out Connect4Climate website to watch all the selected pictures and videos, and learn more of their authors! <http://www.connect4climate.org/>

*"The Connect4Climate initiative is a new model for listening and amplifying voices from the local level to a global audience in an effort to communicate climate stories in a more meaningful way."*  
Lucia Grenna, Connect4Climate Program Manager



**The Well by Maria de la Guardia, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Two young girls on Lamu, off Kenya's coast, pull water up from one of the many wells throughout the island.



**My lovely County, by Maash Shaikh Hussein, Nairobi, Kenya**

On the way to market to sell goats in Wajir County, Kenya. We hope world leaders will deliver on their promises for a greener world.



**The Solitude, by Kamilia Safi, Asmara, Eritrea**

My grandfather used to tell me about a tree, this tree. He is dead now but the tree is still there. At the end of the 19th century, 30 percent of Eritrean territory was covered by forest; a hundred years later this percentage has been reduced to 0.45 percent. However, today forested areas are being expanded as the government aims to restore the natural environment.

*"Today's rapidly changing social media environment presents a great opportunity for global discussion and advocacy. With an impressive coalition of partners, Connect4Climate will amplify local voices and enable policymakers to listen and learn from the innovations that are happening throughout Africa."*  
Corrado Clini, Italian Ministry of Environment



**Solar panels, the sunny energy by Dina Osman, Durban, South Africa**

Most of these houses are low cost; some are government-built. Yet almost all have solar panels, not only providing electricity but doing so in a sustainable manner. This photo was taken in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.



► Por Clarinha Glock

A indígena Sheyla Juruna chorou ao falar para TerraViva sobre a construção da Usina Hidrelétrica de Belo Monte no rio Xingu, norte do Brasil.

Em meio a seus “parentes” — como se refere aos demais representantes dos povos indígenas reunidos na Cúpula dos Povos —, ansiosa por participar das discussões, as lágrimas de Sheyla revelam sua impotência diante das inúmeras tentativas feitas até agora de barrar a obra.

“A minha alma chora, choro por tudo o que está acontecendo lá, porque a vida do nosso povo está ameaçada. Acho que estas discussões são importantes, mas enquanto o Governo Federal não se sensibilizar, parar a obra, e buscar outras formas de energia, não vamos vencer”, reconheceu Sheyla Juruna.

A construção da Usina de Belo Monte é um tema recorrente na Cúpula dos Povos durante as discussões sobre o tipo de desenvolvimento proposto pelo governo brasileiro. Sheyla contou como os índios da região estão se matando, envolvidos com violência, com alcoolismo, e como a cultura vai se perdendo.

Os integrantes do Movimento Xingu Vivo, que apoiam os indígenas, explicam que a usina não vai afetar somente a população do entorno, mas todos os que vivem do Rio Xingu.

Sheyla não acredita mais que haja espaço para diálogo com o Governo. “O Ministério Público leva para a Justiça, os juízes não fazem nada, a gente está sendo abandonada. A obra está em andamento a todo vapor e as questões sociais não estão sendo vistas. Estão calando a boca dos povos indígenas com as migalhas. Até onde vamos com isso? Agora, disse, é partir para a briga, e com as próprias mãos, se for necessário”.

No dia 15 de junho, os parentes de Sheyla fizeram um manifesto simbólico: usando mãos, enxadas, furadeiras, cavaram as pedras e abriram enseadeiras —barragens provisórias que desviam o curso do rio para permitir o trabalho em área seca durante a construção da barragem definitiva— sob o escaldante sol da Amazônia. O rio voltou a correr no seu fluxo.



Indígenas protestam contra a construção de Belo Monte

Atossa Soltani - Cortesia Amazon Watch

## Belo Monte é uma ferida aberta na Amazônia

“A vida é assim: a sociedade é democrática e as pessoas têm todo o direito de protestar. Não reprimimos a manifestação”, disse Gilberto Carvalho, secretário geral da Presidência da República, em entrevista à agência Carta Maior depois do debate sobre “Democracia e Direitos”, na Cúpula dos Povos.

Carvalho negou que a construção da usina vai alagar aldeias indígenas e prejudicar as populações locais. “Pelo contrário, há duas áreas que estão sendo agora demarcadas por causa de Belo Monte”, argumentou.

“Somos privilegiados por termos recursos hídricos, o mundo nos inveja. Não vamos transformar a riqueza hídrica num problema. Para o padrão de desenvolvimento que precisamos ter para o Brasil, vamos continuar construindo hidrelétricas; os erros cometidos na construção destas usinas

não podem anular a necessidade e a propriedade de seguirmos construindo”, afirmou.

A placa de propaganda, no caminho para o Riocentro, local onde está sendo realizada a Conferência Rio+20, assegura: Belo Monte tem segurança e saúde garantidos.

Em 1º de abril de 2011, a Comissão Interamericana de Direitos Humanos (CIDH) outorgou medidas cautelares a favor dos membros das comunidades indígenas da bacia do Rio Xingu, no Pará. A justificativa foi proteger a integridade pessoal e a vida destes beneficiários diante do impacto da construção da Usina.

Na ocasião, a CIDH solicitou ao governo brasileiro que suspendesse imediatamente o processo de licenciamento e impedisse a realização de qualquer obra até que fossem obser-

vadas condições mínimas de respeito aos direitos daquelas pessoas. Em 29 de julho de 2011, diante da resposta do Governo Federal, a CIDH modificou o objeto da medida, amenizando os termos do pedido anterior, mas reforçou novamente a preocupação com a garantia dos direitos dos povos indígenas.

Para Sheyla e seus parentes, a Cúpula dos Povos foi o espaço que restou para obter apoio e denunciar que, para eles, a construção da usina de Belo Monte não é sinônimo de desenvolvimento sustentável.



Clarinha Glock/IPS

“Acho que estas discussões são importantes, mas enquanto o Governo Federal não se sensibilizar, parar a obra, e buscar outras formas de energia, não vamos vencer”, reconheceu Sheyla Juruna

# Putting Resilience at the Heart of Development

► By Helen Clark\*

The world's population today is healthier, wealthier, and better educated than ever before. Yet, despite incredible progress, disconcerting realities stubbornly persist.

Many people still live in extreme poverty, even where economies are growing rapidly. Over 20 percent of the world's population lives in states which are considered fragile and highly vulnerable.

Global economic and financial systems remain volatile. Armed violence and organised criminal networks are a growing threat to human security in many countries. Women continue to face serious barriers to real empowerment. Our planetary boundaries are being stretched to the limit.

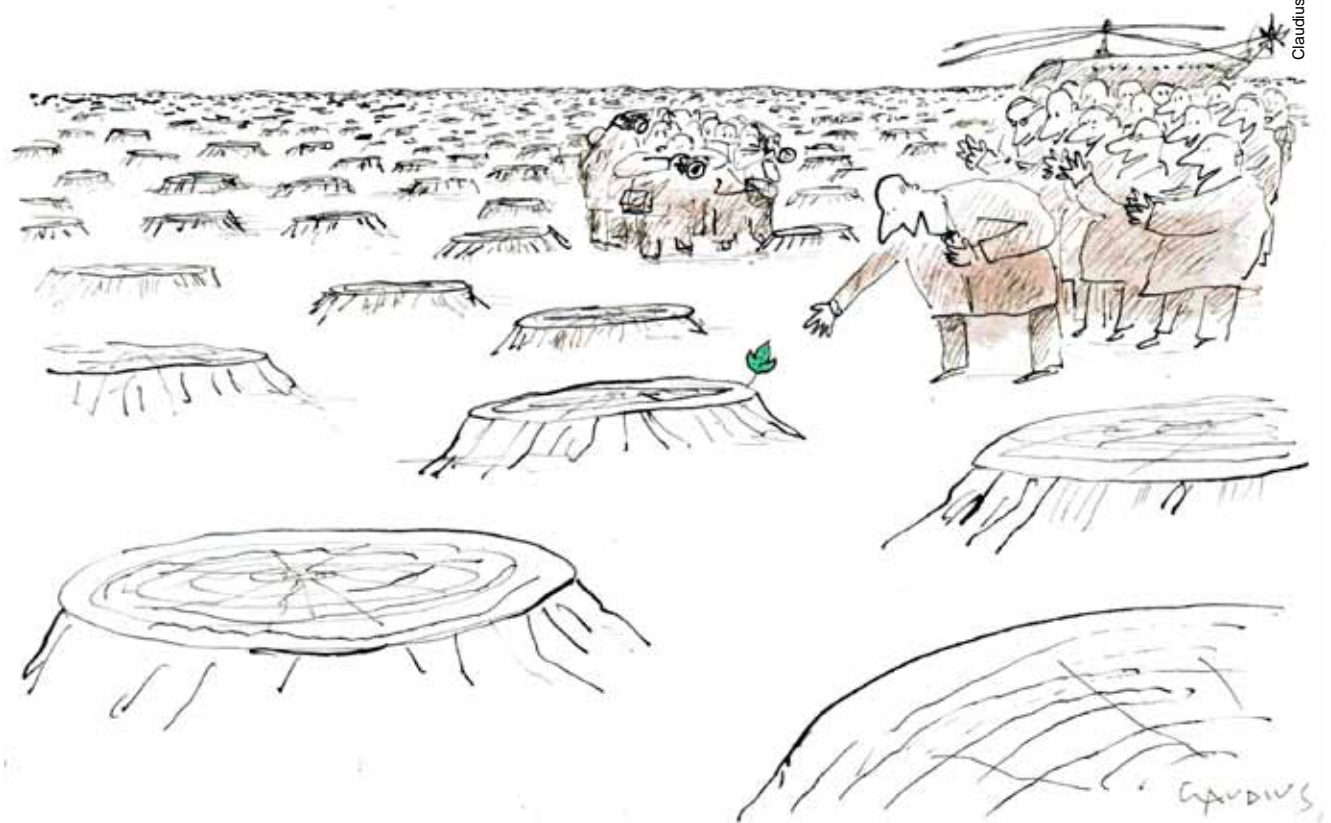
Therefore, when world leaders come together in Rio de Janeiro in June to discuss sustainable development, resilience must be an important part of the discussion.

Achieving development which lasts is not about trading economic, social, and environmental objectives off against each other. It is about seeing them as interconnected objectives which are best pursued together.

For the UN Development Programme (UNDP), achieving resilience is a transformative process which builds on the innate strength of individuals, their communities, and institutions to prevent, lessen the impacts of, and learn from the experience of shocks of any type, internal or external, natural or man-made, economic, health-related, political, or social.

In 2000, Mozambique was battered by cyclone-related flooding, which left 800 people dead, half a million people homeless, and disrupted the livelihoods of over one million more, affecting 4.5 million people in total.

Fast forward to 2007 when floods of similar magnitudes again hit Mozambique.



"When societies invest time in learning from adversity, they become better prepared to face it in the future."

This time the death toll was 29 people compared to 800 people and the numbers displaced were some 70,000 compared to one million. When Mozambique was hit for the second time, the society was much more prepared, disaster risk had been addressed in a more comprehensive manner, and the government had provided leadership and articulated a clear strategic vision.

The key lesson from Mozambique's experience is that when societies invest time in learning from adversity, they become better prepared to face it in the future.

Building resilience benefits from governance which is active, effective, honest, and fair, and not just in developing countries. As the recent financial crisis showed, not all developed countries have retained systemic resilience to economic shocks. Unless developed countries are prepared to see years of human development and progress wiped away when adversity strikes, their systemic resilience to shocks is critical as well.

State fragility is a function of not only weak institutions but also of social systems under strain. A resilient state is anchored in a cohesive society. Stark inequalities and inequities undermine that.

The costs of an adequate social protection floor are one to two percent of GDP. Yet, currently, only around 20 percent of the world's working age population – mostly in middle- and upper-income countries – has access to comprehensive social protection systems.

It takes hard work to establish these attributes in any society. It is even more difficult to do so in those wrecked by conflict and violence. Yet, without such capacities for tolerance, fragility can overwhelm the institutions and systems of a society.

*\*Helen Clark is Administrator of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and former Prime Minister of New Zealand.*

*The full version of this column can be read at <http://www.ips.org/TV/rio20/>.*



## New Economic Yardstick Includes “Natural Capital”

By Julio Godoy

Assigning nature a monetary value and incorporating it into gross domestic product (GDP) are key aspects of a global policy of sustainable development, according to legislators and scientists gathered at the first world summit organised by GLOBE International, an association of parliamentarians concerned with environmental policies.

The summit took place Jun. 15-17 in the Tiradentes Palace, the original seat of the Brazilian congress.

“Developing ‘Natural Capital Accounts’ is a critical step towards reshaping existing policy and national accounting frameworks to accurately reflect the relationship between the economy and the environment,” Barry Gardiner, a Labour party member of the British parliament and vice president of GLOBE, told this reporter.

Gardiner added that under the present GDP system, many activities harmful to the environment are counted as growth and therefore considered positive to the economy. “You then see your GDP is rising, but it would be an unsustainable growth, because actually you are destroying your natural capital,” he explained.

“With the adoption of the System for Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) last February, there is now an internationally agreed framework to account for these interactions and to measure material natural resources like minerals, timber and fisheries,” Gardiner said.

The SEEA, approved by the U.N.



Photos: Julio Godoy/IPS

General  
assembly at  
the Tiradentes  
Palace



GLOBE opening  
plenary session  
at the Tiradentes  
Palace, Rio de  
Janeiro

statistical commission after years of research, contains the first set of internationally agreed upon standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables for producing internationally comparable statistics on the environment and its relationship with the economy.

Environmental national accounting can be a useful tool for governments to bolster their bargaining position vis-à-vis multinational companies exploiting resources in their countries, said Glenn-Marie Lange, managing director of the policy

and economics team at the World Bank’s environment department and advisor to the U.N. team that put together SEEA.

“If you know the extraction cost of a given resource, and the market price of it, you can improve your negotiation position so as to obtain a larger share of the benefits for your country,” she said.

“SEEA can also help local communities to demand benefits to be better distributed, and get their fair share of them,” Lange said.

Lange said that the SEEA is being piloted in several countries. “It is far

### Top Line Points

- Over 300 senior legislators from across the world attended (including 40 Presidents of Congresses and Speakers of Parliaments, and Chairs of Parliamentary Committees from 85 countries).
- The Summit, supported by the UN and the Government of Brazil, is a major new process for legislators dedicated to establishing a mechanism for scrutinising and monitoring governments on delivery of the original Rio agenda; progress within the UN Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification; as well as commitments to emerge from Rio+20.
- The Summit has three objectives to address the critical omissions since the 1992 Earth Summit:
  - Scrutiny: establishing a mechanism at the international level to monitor implementation of Rio commitments by governments.
  - Legislation: providing a platform to advance laws and share good legislative practice to underpin the Rio commitments.
  - Natural capital: incorporating natural capital into government accounting.
- Participating legislators negotiated the Rio+20 Legislators’ Protocol, which parliaments across the world will now look to ratify.
- The Summit will reconvene in Rio biennially.

from perfect, but we are improving it. The second volume of SEEA is (in) the pipeline.”

In its final protocol, the legislators attending the GLOBE summit agreed to “push for the inclusion of natural capital in our respective countries’ national accounts” and to “advance legislation that integrates the national capital approach into policy analysis and decision making”.

Yet this agreement was ultimately weakened by such restrictive provisions as the phrase “as nationally appropriate”, now ubiquitous in international agreements.

# African Delegation Sceptical about Monetary Value of Nature

By Isaiah Espisu

As the first World Summit of Legislators concluded here, the Kenyan delegation warned that the world's developing nations must be careful when putting a monetary value on natural resources.

"Developing the (idea of) a natural capital account is a wonderful concept that we should all embrace. But we must be sure that there is no conspiracy from the developed world to take advantage of unexploited natural resources in Africa and other developing countries," said Kiema Kilonzo, a Kenyan legislator and member of the Kenyan delegation to Rio+20 conference.

Similar scepticism was expressed by the coordinator of the African team of negotiators at the ongoing U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Rio+20.

"Issues of natural capital are sovereign issues of every country. Such issues should not

be discussed in such a multilateral environment and platforms. How does a country like Brazil know what its natural capital is, for example? This is a dangerous debate," said Macharia Kamau, the coordinator of the African team.

He cited the example of Alaska, which was sold by Russia to the United States before it was known to have vast oil reserves.

"In 1960, Botswana had a per capita of 60 dollars. Yet nobody knew that it had diamonds and coal as unexplored natural capital," said Kamau, who also serves as the Kenyan ambassador to the United Nations.

He observed that in many cases, African countries do not have the ability to assess the value of their natural capital. "The most important thing is that we need technology transfer, resources capital, proper institutions and political goodwill – without referring on any country's natural

capital potential," he said.

Natural capital refers to a range of physical assets within the natural environment, such as soil, biodiversity, water, forests, and others which deliver value as ecosystem services.

"We are not saying that we want to repeat mistakes made in the past when the developed countries depleted their environmental capital in their quest for development. We should not reinvent the wheel. What we are saying is that the developed world should take the responsibility to finance, facilitate the technology transfer for African countries to exploit their resources and develop sustainably," said Kilonzo.

He referred to a position put forth by the Indian delegation at the World Summit of Legislators in Brazil that "all developed countries cleared trees and forests in order to construct roads. Yet, as much as we do not want to repeat the mistake, there is no way we can construct ours without clearing the way first," he said.

## Parlamento Europeu ausente no Rio

O Parlamento Europeu (PE) cancelou a viagem de uma delegação à Conferência das Nações Unidas sobre Desenvolvimento Sustentável, a Rio+20, argumentando que as tarifas exigidas pelos hotéis da cidade brasileira do Rio de Janeiro estão proibitivas.

A decisão levantou críticas por parte das organizações da sociedade civil, que insistem em que o Parlamento Europeu realize o seu dever como uma instância de controle das ações do executivo – neste caso, a Comissão Europeia.

Alguns grupos lembraram que seus próprios ativistas estão presentes na Rio+20, sem incorrer em despesas exorbitantes. Apesar das críticas, e mesmo depois de o governo brasileiro intervir junto aos hotéis do Rio para reduzir as tarifas, o Parlamento Europeu manteve a sua decisão de não enviar uma delegação oficial.

Por outro lado, parlamentares europeus, como a sueca Isabella Lövin, deputada pelo Partido Ambiental, viajaram por conta própria e participam dos debates no Rio de Janeiro.

Já no Rio, Lövin disse ao repórter que a cara viagem, de Bruxelas, onde o PE tem sua sede, até a cidade brasileira, não tinha valido a pena – citando a famosa frase de Shakespeare, ela observou que a Rio+20 foi "muito barulho por nada". (Julio Godoy)

**Many African countries do not have the ability to assess the value of their natural capital**



Isaiah Espisu/IPS

com



THE WORLD BANK

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# Keeping Governments' Feet to the Fire

Busani Bafana interviews **JOHN GUMMER**,  
President of the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE)

If global leaders gathering this week for the Rio+20 conference are under immense pressure to deliver on the 1992 Earth Summit commitments, that pressure has just been doubled by parliaments taking out the environmental accountability whip.

In the words of one British legislator, Barry Gardiner, "we want governments to keep their feet to the fire".

John Gummer, (now Lord Deben), president of the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE), agreed.

Gummer told this reporter on the sidelines of the First World Summit of Legislators held in Rio, Brazil: "International conferences have always been meetings of ministers and chief ministers, but in the whole issue of the environment it has become increasingly true that it is the parliament and legislation organisation making decisions and pushing the agenda forward."

Gummer said parliamentarians should make governments accountable for promises they made by signing up to international environment agreements. But parliamentarians have been kept out of the loop so that governments have got away with murder when it comes to acting on environmental issues.

"Governments have often signed up to agreements but many times do not do what they promised," said Gummer.

Commitments to environmental agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol have varied from proaction to inaction at the expense of citizens, now more vulnerable than ever to poverty and climate change.

If governments have failed to deliver on international green agreements, where does that leave the lawmakers?

"Things are done one by one, and we have started by getting

governments to realise how important these environmental issues were and Rio in 1992 itself did that over time... and Rio+10 summed up that we have not done as much as we ought to have done. Rio+20 is the moment in which we move the big stage forward and say we can do a great deal more," Gummer told in an interview.

Asked about what form of pressure could be exerted on governments to act, Gummer said parliaments were powerful instruments in democracies if the elected representatives did their job properly.

He cited the examples of Mexico and Britain, which have passed progressive climate change legislation. The Chinese People's Assembly has also piled pressure on its government to implement green commitments.

"We are seeing this big change taking place and what is happening in Rio+20 is to consolidate and make sure we work together and get the best practices. GLOBE is the beginning of a powerful movement throughout the world. Legislators represent people and it is the

**Commitments to environmental agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol have varied from proaction to inaction at the expense of citizens, now more vulnerable than ever to poverty and climate change**



Busani Bafana/IPS

**"Governments have often signed up to agreements but many times do not do what they promised," said Gummer**

people who are being destroyed by climate change and other assaults on the environment," he said.

A major outcome of the four-day global summit, which has attracted 300 speakers of Parliaments, presidents of Congresses and Senates and senior legislators from all over the world, is the Rio+20 Legislators Protocol.

The protocol negotiated during the summit is based on the objectives of strengthening the scrutiny of the work of governments, supporting national legislation to advance and share best legislative practices, and incorporating natural capital accounting into national economic models to enable legislators to better monitor the use of natural capital.

The Rio+20 Legislators Protocol was signed by each of delegations to uphold it and take active responsibility to press their governments to implement it. Legislators will regularly return to Rio to measure what governments have done in line with what they have committed to do.

Given that in some parts of the world, parliaments have been reduced to rubberstamps of the governments, will the protocol be enforceable?

"Yes, it is certainly enforceable in as far as the people who sign it make sure it is enforceable," said Gummer. "Of course, some governments have very complacent parliaments but we cannot say that about the South African parliament, the British parliament and Australian parliament. What is happening in Mexico, Brazil and China and growing throughout the world is part of the democratic upsurge.

"There is no doubt the environment is something which brings people together and makes them much more active than any subject I can think of."

GLOBE is expecting Rio+20 to enshrine the concept of natural capital to facilitate that future policies are measured not only by their effect on gross national products but also on natural capital.

# México es ejemplo de modernización legislativa ambiental

**Según la nueva ley de cambio climático, las emisiones de gases invernadero deben abatirse en 30 por ciento hacia el año 2020 y en 50 por ciento para 2050**

Por Julio Godoy

**D**os nuevas leyes de protección ambiental y sustanciales reformas a otras tantas hacen de México un ejemplo repetidamente mencionado en el Primer Congreso Mundial de Legisladores ambientalistas celebrado en Río+20.

Las dos normas vigentes desde el 6 de junio, de protección civil en caso de riesgo y de cambio climático, constituyen un nuevo paradigma en la legislación mexicana ambiental, según el vicepresidente de la organización mundial de legisladores ambientalistas, GLOBE International, Barry Gardiner.

Además, el parlamento mexicano aprobó reformas sustanciales a las leyes de desarrollo forestal sustentable y de equilibrio ecológico y servicios ambientales. El propósito es reducir emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero causadas por la deforestación y la degradación de los bosques y optimizar el manejo de servicios ambientales para beneficiar directamente a las poblaciones locales.

Estas reformas fueron posibles gracias al apoyo de varias instituciones internacionales, como el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial, el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambien-

te y las agencias de cooperación de Alemania y Noruega.

Legisladores mexicanos presentes en el congreso dijeron a Terra-Viva que GLOBE fue una instancia esencial en la preparación de las nuevas leyes.

El ambiente político nacional tras las controvertidas elecciones de 2006, manchadas por acusaciones de fraude contra el entonces nuevo presidente Felipe Calderón, "no permitían una cooperación multipartidista", según la fórmula de la senadora Yeidckol Polevnsky, del opositor Partido de la Revolución Democrática.

"Para nosotros, legisladores mexicanos, GLOBE constituyó un espacio neutral que impulsó el diálogo multipartidario y ofreció asesoramiento en cuestiones técnicas ambientales y de procesos legislativos y administrativos", dijo Polevnsky a este reportero.

La ley de protección civil moderniza normas en materia de construcciones en zonas de riesgo sísmico, obliga a la contratación de seguros a personas individuales y jurídicas e impone a los gobiernos federal, estadual y municipal la creación de mapas de riesgo y la homologación y capacitación de responsables de la protección civil.

"Después de la tragedia del terremoto de 1985, que mató a



De izquierda a derecha: legisladores Nicolás Bellizia Aboaf, Yeidckol Polevnsky y Alcibíades García Lizardi en el Palacio Tiradentes de Río de Janeiro, antigua sede del Poder Legislativo de Brasil

más de 10.000 personas y causó daños de más de 7.000 millones de dólares, era evidente que México necesitaba una ley moderna de protección civil", dijo a para este artículo el senador Alcibíades García Lizardi, miembro del opositor partido Convergencia.

Sin embargo, la primera norma en la materia fue aprobada apenas en 2000, añadió García Lizardi. "Pero era una ley con muchas deficiencias".

Por otra parte, la legislación sobre cambio climático nació de la conciencia de los legisladores de que México, aun sin ser un país con altas emisiones de gases invernadero, necesitaba adoptar medi-

das de mitigación y de adaptación al calentamiento global.

La senadora Polevnsky detalló que la norma obliga al gobierno a concebir una estrategia de mitigación de gases invernadero y, sobre todo, de adaptación a los efectos del cambio climático a mediano y largo plazo.

"Se establece que una estrategia de adaptación de 10, 20 y 40 años, sea concebida, revisada y actualizada regularmente" dijo. La norma "también obliga al levantamiento de un inventario de especies de fauna y flora para medir efectivamente la mejora o el deterioro de nuestra biodiversidad".

De acuerdo al texto legal, las emisiones de gases invernadero deben abatirse en 30 por ciento hacia el año 2020, y en 50 por ciento para 2050. "Fijamos como base el año 2000 para hacer la reducción más efectiva", explicó la senadora.

El diputado Nicolás Bellizia Aboaf, del opositor Partido Revolucionario Institucional, coincidió con sus colegas.

"Sin el apoyo de GLOBE, el (gobierno) Partido Acción Nacional nunca habría aceptado cooperar con la oposición en la formulación y aprobación de estas leyes ambientales", concluyó.



Deshielo en el pico mexicano de Orizaba



# “Vale tem mais poder do que governo em Moçambique”

► Por Mario Osava

Quando o presidente da Vale esteve em Moçambique há dois anos, foram suspensos todos os vôos para a província do Tete, onde a empresa brasileira extrai carvão mineral. A rota se tornou temporariamente exclusiva dos visitantes.

Com esse fato Fabien Manissa, agrônomo que presta assistência jurídica ao movimento moçambicano dos atingidos pela Vale, ilustra o poder dessa ex-estatal brasileira no seu país. É mais poderosa do que o próprio governo, garante.

A Vale conta com isenção fiscal por “dez a quinze anos”, tirou de uma empresa indiana a concessão da ferrovia de 600 quilômetros até o porto da Beira, para exportar carvão, e planeja construir nova linha de Moatize ao porto de Nacala, cruzando o sul do Malawi.

Nacala é um porto de águas profundas, barateará o transporte e favorecerá a exploração de fosfato, outro projeto da Vale. Tudo com fortes impactos sobre a população da região, denunciou Manissa ao falar na Assembleia de Convergência Energia e Industrias Extrativas, na Cúpula dos Povos.

Os privilégios que conseguiu em Moçambique, que lhe permitem explorar um negócio bilionário “a custo quase zero”, se devem basicamente à “corrupção” que domina governo desde meados dos anos 80, disse a TerraViva.

Falta de terra e condições de manter a produção agrícola são o principal dano provocado aos desalojados pela mina Moatize e o transporte do carvão, segundo ele. São 1.500 famílias reassentadas numa área e 700 a 800 hectares, “distante uns 50 quilômetros da vila”, o que dificulta mais ainda suas vidas.

Por isso, meios adequados de transporte constituem outra reivindicação do movimento dos atingidos.

Os reassentados também precisam de abastecimento de água potável. Antes viviam à beira do rio, agora em terras áridas, sem possibilidades de cultivar o milho, sua principal produção.

A Vale não “respeita regras mínimas, básicas”, dos direitos da população afetada, avaliou Manissa, que veio à Cúpula dos Povos buscando “reflexão e troca de informações”. Faltam informações em Moçambique para uma consciência dos problemas da extração mineira, muitas vezes a população local sequer sabe das greves ocorridas nas minas, exemplificou.

Dos cerca de 10.000 empregos oferecidos pela Vale em Moçambique, apenas mil são ocupados por habitantes do Tete. Entre 2.000 e 3.000 provêm do exterior,



Manifestação de afetados pela Vale, dia 19 de junho no Rio de Janeiro

a maioria brasileiros, filipinos e sul-africanos. Também se emprega a mão de obra barata do vizinho Zimbábue, que vive uma grave crise, enfatizou Manissa, que está acompanhado de um colega do movimento dos atingidos pela Vale.

Um terceiro ativista foi barrado no aeroporto de São Paulo e devolvido a Moçambique, sem explicações, lamentou.

## INVEPAR GROUP. MOBILITY FOR THE FUTURE.



Invepar is a group strongly committed to the development of Brazil and one of the main companies of the transportation infrastructure sector. It handles, among other companies, the administration of MetrôRio and Linha Amarela (Yellow Line). Its activities aim at providing mobility services and its values are socio-environmental responsibility and entrepreneurship. And as it is a company with vision that goes beyond its area of operation, Invepar sponsors Rio+20.



Patrocínio Ouro:



# Rio + 20 and Beyond: Together for a Sustainable Future



Claudius

► By José Graziano da Silva\*

As stated in the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the 1992 Earth Summit, human beings are at the centre of sustainable development.

However, even today, over 900 million people still suffer from hunger. Poor populations worldwide, especially in rural areas, are among those most vulnerable to the food, climate, financial, economic, social and energy crises and threats the world faces today.

We cannot call development sustainable while this situation persists, while nearly one out of every seven men, women and children are left behind, victims of undernourishment. It would be a contradiction in terms.

Hunger and extreme poverty also exclude the possibility of sustainable development because the hungry and extremely poor need to make use of the resources they have at hand in whatever way they can to make ends meet. For people who are chronically hungry and malnourished, meeting their immediate needs is their paramount concern – planning for the future is often a luxury they cannot afford.

Paradoxically, over 70 percent of the world's hungry people depend on agriculture, fisheries and forestry for at least part of their livelihoods, so their daily choices also help determine how the world's natural resources are managed.

We cannot expect a poor farmer not to

chop down a tree for fuel if he doesn't have another source of energy; we cannot ask an artisanal fisherman not to fish during spawning time if that's the only way to feed his family.

Hunger puts in motion a vicious cycle of reduced productivity, deepening poverty, slow economic development, resource degradation and violence. Hunger and natural resources are increasingly a factor of internal conflicts and conflicts between nations. Even when they are internal, their impacts frequently surpass the borders of countries. So, there is also a direct link between food security and security.

The quest for food security can be the common thread that links the different

challenges we face and helps build a sustainable future.

As world leaders meet for Rio+20, we are at a crossroads. In one direction is the path to further environmental degradation and human suffering; in the other direction lies the future we all want. The Rio summit offers a historic opportunity we cannot afford to miss.

We know how to end hunger and manage the earth's resources in a more sustainable way. But we need a stronger political will to do it.

We should look to Rio+20 as the beginning of a new process and not the finish line. And it's a path that we cannot travel alone.



FAO

"We know how to end hunger and manage the earth's resources in a more sustainable way."

Sustainable development, as is the case of ending hunger, is a goal to which every one of us must contribute – citizens, companies, governments, social movements, civil society, non-governmental organisations and regional and international bodies and institutions.

Together, working from the local to the global level, we can build the future we want. And this future needs to start today.

*\*José Graziano da Silva is Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).*

*The full version of this column can be read at <http://www.ips.org/TV/rio20/>.*

## Pouca poesia na Cúpula dos Povos

► Por Mario Osava

O ator Nelio Fernando está na Cúpula dos Povos declamando poemas. "Mario Quintana, Vinicius", oferece ele, ao lado do cartaz indicando R\$ 1,00 como preço de um poema declamado. "Alguns pagam mais", reconheceu.

Cecília Meireles e Olavo Bilac são outros poetas bem cotados. "Na sexta declamei muito", mais de 200 poemas, informou. Ante a resposta negativa de alguns, esclareceu que o público de eventos como a Rio+20 não é muito receptivo.

Na FLIP (Festa Literária Internacional de Paraty), chegou a superar 500 declamações num dia. Se mapeasse as feiras literárias, onde tem maior audiência, poderia viver disso, garantiu.

Mas ganha a vida com outras atividades como "ator, palhaço e dançarino", no teatro e outros espetáculos. É de São José dos Campos, cidade paulista, mas vive no Rio há pouco mais de um ano.



Mario Osava/IPS



# Biodiversidade: um terço da vida em extinção



► Por Fabíola Ortiz

O alerta é global: um terço das espécies no mundo correm risco de extinção. São quase 20.000 espécies em perigo, anunciou a União Internacional para a Conservação da Natureza que lançou a Lista Vermelha de Espécies Ameaçadas durante a Conferência Rio+20.

O estoque de alimentos, água limpa e a sobrevivência de milhões de pessoas podem estar ameaçados pelo rápido declínio das espécies de animais e vegetais do planeta. Segundo levantamento, de 63.837 espécies, 19.817 estão ameaçadas de extinção, das quais 41% dos anfíbios, 33% dos corais formadores de recifes, 25% dos mamíferos, 13% das aves, e 30% de coníferas.

A lista vermelha publicada pela IUCN (sigla em inglês para International Union for Conservation of Nature) é um “indicador crucial da saúde da biodiversidade mundial”, segundo o estudo.

“A sustentabilidade é uma questão

de vida ou morte para a população do planeta. Um futuro sustentável não será possível se não conservarmos a diversidade biológica”, alertou a diretora geral da IUCN, Julia Marton-Lefèvre.

A lista vermelha revela ainda que os ecossistemas de água doce estão sob “grave pressão” devido ao aumento populacional e à exploração desenfreada dos recursos hídricos. Os peixes de água doce também correm risco em razão de “práticas pesqueiras insustentáveis e pela destruição do seu habitat pela poluição e construção de barragens”.

Um quarto da produção pesqueira mundial de água doce está no continente africano, porém 27% dos peixes na África estão ameaçados de extinção. A pesca excessiva já reduziu mais de 90% de alguns estoques de peixe comerciais. Além disso, 36% das arraias estão ameaçadas de extinção.

A pesca em recifes de coral no mundo movimentou US\$ 6,8 bilhões anuais. No entanto, 55% desses recifes estão em risco ou degradados e, segundo a

Lista Vermelha, 18% das garoupas, uma família de grandes peixes de recife de importância econômica estão ameaçadas.

Segundo a Lista Vermelha, 16% das borboletas endêmicas da Europa estão ameaçadas. Os morcegos também estão em risco, com 18% ameaçados mundialmente.

Borboletas e morcegos são polinizadores e, de acordo com a IUCN, pelo menos, um terço da produção mundial de alimentos, 87 dos 113 principais cultivos alimentícios, dependem da polinização efetuada por insetos, morcegos e aves. Este serviço prestado pelo ecossistema é avaliado em mais de US\$ 200 bilhões por ano.

Um futuro realmente sustentável só será possível se os líderes na Rio+20 buscarem soluções que conservem a biodiversidade e, ao mesmo tempo, apoiem a sobrevivência e criem oportunidades de investimento empresarial”, argumentou a diretora global do Grupo de Conservação da Biodiversidade da IUCN, Jane Smart.



The COMplus Alliance operational platform is a network of networks which provide a diverse communications platform on sustainable development communications. COMplus member organizations are drawn from across the media, communications and sustainable development sectors, providing a unique range of viewpoints on current strategic and thematic priorities

COMplus Partners Include:

Conservation International (CI), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Global Environment Facility (GEF), GlobeScan, International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Inter Press Service (IPS), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), One Planet/DevTV, Thomson Reuters Foundation, TVE, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), TVE- Asia Pacific (TVEAP) and NHK (Japan's sole public broadcaster).

COMplus' ongoing partnership with GLOBE International has resulted in continued media training and media output at high-profile events attended by government officials, private sector leaders, civil society, and opinion leaders. GLOBE comprises over 150 influential legislators from both developed and developing countries. These legislators are committed to advancing domestic legislation on climate change to ensure that international agreements are effective.

# TerraViva, the Inconvenient Witness

► By Roberto Savio \*

The 1992 Earth Summit was one of the great moments of collective optimism. Maurice Strong of Canada, who founded the U.N. Environment Programme, managed to move on three fronts simultaneously. First, the customary one, was to call together the heads of state.

The second, novel one was achieving the participation of large companies, through the creation of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, because without a commitment from the private sector, it would have been more difficult to reach a global agreement on the climate.

But the third was the most revolutionary: for the first time, a United Nations conference was going to open its doors to civil society.

Until Rio, only international non-governmental organisations that had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (around 800 at the time) could participate. More than 3,000 civil society representatives, many from the local and national level, were at the Earth Summit.

Obviously, the reaction of many governments was negative, and they managed to get the NGOs to meet in their own parallel and simultaneous forum, while only a few representatives attended the assembly of delegates. Since then, that has been the space carved out for civil society.

IPS had covered environmental issues since it was founded in 1964, and it had a great deal of credibility. I was director general at the time, and I went to talk to



Claudius

Strong to help him see that two simultaneous meetings held 40 km apart were certainly not what he would have wanted.

I then presented him with the idea that IPS could produce a daily newspaper about the conference which, distributed at both gatherings, could serve as a tool for communication and participation.

But I wanted to make sure that IPS could cover the conference and distribute the newspaper. Strong supported the idea, but warned me that if any country protested, only U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali could save me from being expelled, since only member states could circulate printed matter at a conference.

From Boutros-Ghali, a master of diplomacy and cryptic phrases, I was unable to obtain a definite guarantee. But I understood that he was in favour of it, as long as we did nothing that was indefensible.

During the conference, he ignored protests from several countries about the presence of a non-governmental actor.

That is how TerraViva came out for the first time, with a 20- to 56-page Spanish edition (comprehensible to Portuguese-speakers), and a 12- to 14-page English edition. It was like putting together a real newspaper, and for IPS it was a new, creative experience, which gave birth to a high-level group of professionals.

Since 1992, TerraViva has been produced at U.N. conferences and other major events, which eventually included civil society gatherings like the World Social Forum.

TerraViva has played an unprecedented role in bolstering democracy and transparency at intergovernmental meetings.

Diplomats act on instructions from their governments, and when they have

TerraViva has played an unprecedented role in bolstering democracy and transparency at intergovernmental meetings.

differences with other diplomats, these do not continue to rankle as personal issues outside of the meeting. But when TerraViva reported that such-and-such a delegate had taken a stance that civil society did not accept, the participants in the NGO forum sought out the delegate in question and argued with him or her, even in his or her hotel room.

Diplomats thus had to pay a formerly unknown personal price, and were forced to inform their governments when a certain position did not have the support of civil society.

Unfortunately, we have all-too-sufficient evidence that governments do not always listen to the voices of their voters.

On the climate front, after 20 years of twists and turns, we are returning to Rio with great expectations. But we have lost precious time in which the deterioration of the planet has accelerated and has become more glaring. At the same time, the public has become more ecologically-minded than ever.

If Rio+20 fails to produce significant concrete results, the political system's deficit of democracy will be evident. And TerraViva, once again, is here to generate participation and awareness - fundamental pillars of democracy.

\* **Roberto Savio** is president emeritus of IPS, and was editor of the TerraViva produced at the 1992 Earth Summit.

## Nutrire il Pianeta, Energia per la Vita

Da RIO+20 a Milano 2015



EXPO 2015 Official Global Partners





# Q&A: Women Must Be at the Forefront

Isabelle de Grave interviews **MICHELLE BACHELET**,  
Executive Director of UN Women

Unlocking women's energies and allowing them to become drivers of change could fuel the motor of sustainable development.

The question is whether world leaders meeting at the Rio+20 summit in Brazil are squandering or seizing this tremendous opportunity to harness women's full potential.

In an interview with U.N. correspondent Isabelle de Grave, Michelle Bachelet, head of U.N. Women, explains the vital link between gender equality and the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

**Q: How does gender and women's empowerment relate to sustainable development?**

A: Twenty years ago, at the (first) Rio Summit, there was a unani-

mous agreement that sustainable development would never be realised without gender equality and that holds true today.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are integral to the achievement of sustainable development. Gender equality is the factor which brings together the three dimensions. It determines the access that men and women have to productive resources such as land, finance, and technology, it determines the ability of individuals to take advantage of opportunities such as education and employment, and it circumscribes access to social protection and basic services.

Women farmers make up 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and 80 percent in some parts of Africa. If women had

the same access as men to agricultural resources, production would increase by 20 to 30 percent, and has the potential to reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12 to 17 percent.

**Q: Participation and leadership is one of the key themes of the UN Women mandate. Will women's participation in discussions held at Rio+20 be a reflection of progress in this regard?**

A: We are advocating for women's leadership and participation because we know that when you do have women discussing things and when you allow women a strong voice, this frees up space for change.

But it's not only about participation in one particular conference that is key, it is about women's participation and leadership in diverse areas, and



Sriyantha Walpola/IPS

Michelle Bachelet,  
head of U.N.  
Women, speaks to  
the press

how we are able to link this to an action plan. We believe gender equality has to be mainstreamed – taken into consideration in all areas of development – and recognised as a concrete goal in itself.

The full version of this interview can be read at <http://www.ips.org/TV/rio20/>.

## Mulheres foram às ruas por seus direitos

► Por Clarinha Glock

Enfeitada com um colar de penas e carregando um cartaz escrito à mão, Rosenilda Candido, 38 anos, indígena do grupo Terena, mostrou por que veio da aldeia Bananal, em Aquidauana, no Mato Grosso do Sul, ao Rio de Janeiro para integrar-se à Cúpula dos Povos. Representando a Articulação das Mulheres Brasileiras, chegou tímida à Marcha das Mulheres, mas com um discurso fortalecido pelos debates.

A lista de reivindicações de Rosenilda era semelhante à de outras milhares que fizeram a caminhada saindo do Museu de Arte Moderna até o Largo Carioca, no centro da cidade: não à violência, mais segurança nos territórios, demarcação de terras, direitos iguais com os homens.

“O urbanismo está trazendo a exploração sexual para as aldeias, dificultando a plantação, provocando poluição e desmatamento”, observou.

A faixa alaranjada que carregou durante a Marcha trouxe o apelo da



Clarinha Glock/IPS

tailandesa Anchalee Phonklieng, 50 anos: “Mulheres da Ásia lutam por liberdade”. Anchalee reclamou da falta de oportunidades e disse que não há muito espaço de participação em seu país. “Podemos contribuir com conhecimento, opinião e informação”, garantiu.

# On the Road to Green European Farming

► By Claudia Ciobanu

European farming is based on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EU, whose main logic, to produce increasingly more food largely through industrial farming, needs reassessment.

The costs have been steep: agriculture accounts for one-quarter of water use in Europe; yearly, 100,000 hectares of land are lost because of deterioration; biodiversity is vanishing at an unstoppable pace.

Now a process of reforming the CAP is taking place, to result in a revamped policy after 2014.

Over 350 billion euros of public money go to financing of EU farms over seven years. The commission proposed that, starting from 2014, 30 percent of direct payments to farmers are conditioned upon the adoption of measures like crop diversification, maintaining pasture lands permanently, and leaving seven percent of the land on each farm uncultivated.

For many of the bloc's over 15 million farmers, the proposals may not be that difficult to implement. In Eastern European countries like Romania, for example, up to two-thirds of farms can be subsistence or semi-subsistence.

"Most of the people have given up farming in our village," says Marcel Has, a Romanian farmer who works on a two-hectare farm (most of it rented) in Firiteaz village, Arad county, Western Romania.

"I was also about to give up two years ago, but then I read in a farmers' magazine about the possibility of connecting directly with consumers who are interested in the type of clean, local food I can provide. Now I can support my family and fix my house. I think there is a future in ecological farming, food in the supermarkets is of poor quality and people want to eat better."

Opponents argue that it implies huge new bureaucratic burdens on farmers and that it could stifle existing green practices.

"I know that some farmers are already



Claudia Ciobanu/IPS

Marcel Has, from Firiteaz village, in Arad county, Western Romania. In his eco-farm he grows mostly vegetables, which he sells to a community supported agriculture scheme.

"Most of the people have given up farming in our village," says Marcel Has, a Romanian farmer who works on a two-hectare farm.

doing more; we definitely do not want to penalise the champions," EU Commissioner for Agriculture Dacian Ciolos told TerraViva. "That's why the Commission is ready to consider a system of equivalency in those member states or regions which have already done a lot in this direction."

"But beyond this flexibility, the principle stays the same," he added. "The key point with these (green) agricultural practices linked to direct payments is to have a real impact at European level. And we can only

have it if we ask every single farmer in the EU to employ these practices."

Green NGOs are finding themselves as allies of the European executive in convincing member states to accept the reforms.

It "is an attempt to shift thinking about CAP, to orient it towards the safeguarding of public goods," Trees Robijns from BirdLife, one of the NGOs working on CAP in Brussels, told TerraViva. "But we will see whether it turns out to be a greening of CAP or rather greenwashing."



# The Two Faces of BRICS Development Aid

► By Fabiana Frayssinet

The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) face a key choice: to opt for “good” development aid, based on sustainable development, or for the “bad” old traditional model, which they criticised when they were its recipients.

This was the conclusion of a debate on the sustainability challenges facing the leading emerging economies in BRICS, at the People’s Summit being held in parallel to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20.

Countries like Brazil have not ceased to receive international aid, but the size of their economies has turned them into global aid donors, said Adriano Campolina, country director for ActionAid Brazil.

While the government promotes family farming to combat poverty and inequality and improve food security, at the same time agribusiness is expanding in Brazil, with the growth of monoculture and the concentration of land tenure in a few hands, creating unemployment and harming the environment, Campolina told TerraViva.

“These contradictions wind up being reproduced in the development aid strategy,” he said.

On the one hand, the government promotes “good” cooperation with African countries, emphasising family agriculture and food self-sufficiency, for instance.

But on the other hand, it also practises “bad” aid policies, selling its own technology for producing ethanol from sugarcane and acquiring vast tracts of land in other countries for monoculture plantations of soybeans or sugarcane, replicating its national agribusiness model, he said.

Olga Ponizova of the Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (Eco-Accord), a Russian NGO, described a similar strategy in her country, which subsidises the construction of nuclear power plants abroad by Russian companies.

“The challenge, as we grow richer, is for our aid not to repeat the imperialist strategy of development aid of the past,” said Vera Masagão of the Brazilian Association of NGOs (ABONG).



Indigenous peoples protest against projects supported by BNDES Brazilian Development Bank in front of its headquarters June 18

It is possible to implement “good” cooperation, based on solidarity, by exporting successful experiences that have arisen from years of social progress, she said.

Marcia Andrews, a South African activist with People’s Dialogue, an

organisation building political and intercultural dialogue between Southern Africa and Latin America, said there should be more monitoring to examine and avoid “bad” cooperation mechanisms, as have been described for Brazil and China. None of the BRICS has a clean sustainable development record, she said.

Andrews expressed concern over the inclusion of her country in BRICS, a move that she attributed to pressure from China, which views South Africa as a “gateway” to the African continent for Chinese trade and investment.

But making these contradictions manifest is not a simple matter in countries like South Africa or Brazil, that are governed by left-wing parties which waged long struggles for freedom and democracy.

How can you build a viable opposition against governments that call themselves progressive? asked Andrews, expressing a concern shared by many at the People’s Summit.

How can you build a viable opposition against governments that call themselves progressive? asked Marcia Andrews, expressing a concern shared by many at the People’s Summit

While Brazil promotes family farming to combat poverty and inequality and improve food security, at the same time agribusiness is expanding in the country, with the growth of monoculture and the concentration of land tenure in a few hands

# Q&A: “Today’s Food System Is Failing Small Farmers”

**TerraViva interviews KANAYO F. NWANZE, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**



Smallholder farmers have the potential to contribute to feeding nine billion people by 2050, says Nwanze

**I**t is now accepted wisdom that rethinking agriculture is one of most critical issues facing this and future generations.

TerraViva spoke with Kanayo F. Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, a U.N. agency that focuses on eradicating rural poverty in developing countries through hands-on interventions like financial services, markets, technology, land and other natural resources.

Excerpts from the interview follow.

**Q: IFAD, and in general experts on agrarian matters, see the fight against poverty as inextricable from the preservation of the environment. In this context, what do you expect from Rio+20?**

**A:** As it stands, today’s food and agriculture systems are failing smallholders in developing countries. This is because two key points are not understood well enough by policymakers and the general public. First, of the 1.4 billion people living on under 1.25 dollars per day, one billion of them are in rural areas in developing countries, and the vast majority of those depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

The problem is that these farmers, both women and men, are often not empowered to manage their natural resources. They do not have secure access to their land. They are reliant on the weather and do not have access to institutions and markets.

**Q: Can you define the position you are advancing at Rio+20?**

**A:** We are advocating for three big changes to today’s food and agriculture system. We are pushing for massive scaling up of investments in “sustainable smallholder agriculture” that can increase farmers’ productivity and incomes, improve their resilience to erratic weather conditions, and prevent the natural resource base from further degradation.

There are plenty of examples of smallholder farmers driving agricultural production and supplying national and even global markets. They have the potential to increase their production and contribute to feeding nine billion people by 2050. They need a little support and not handouts.

**Q: How would you strengthen the role of poor peasant farmers and their**

**organisations in order to reach these objectives?**

**A:** We want to enable poor women and men to have a voice in decision making and governance processes and form equitable partnerships and contractual relationships. In 2011, the projects we financed supported 13,000 marketing groups, trained more than 700,000 people in business and entrepreneurship, and 2.1 million people learned about community and natural resource management. We also work with many national and regional farmers’ organisations.

**Q: What you are proposing seems applicable especially to rural women.**

**A:** Absolutely. I’ve always said that the average small farmer is a woman with a baby on her back. On average, women constitute 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries – in sub-Saharan Africa as much as 50 percent – but they are poorly paid, have less secure jobs, less access to education, and have less access than men to agricultural resources such as land, livestock, credit, fertiliser and machinery.

Experience shows how rural organisations, including cooperatives, can help women to overcome the social, economic, and environmental limitations they face through lending services, such as access to markets and information. Investing in young people, both girls and boys, living in rural areas is key to enhancing agricultural productivity and food security.

*The full version of this interview can be read at <http://www.ips.org/TV/rio20/>.*

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