



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

RIO+20 | Rio de Janeiro | June 2012



#3

Friday,
June 22,
2012

The Merry Umbrella Project sends an optimistic message to participants at Rio+20



Busani Bafana/IPS

Rio + 20: The Rift Between Hope and Power

At the demonstrations in the streets of Rio de Janeiro and the colourful People's Summit, civil society activists brainstormed together, chanted slogans and railed against nearly everything.

Meanwhile, in Riocentro, hours upon hours elapsed in dull deliberations and speeches by government officials that seemed as if they had been penned by

the same ghost writer. Fresh air was exchanged for drab three-piece suits, perhaps explaining the lack of courage to forge a less grey future.

Rio+20 may pass into history as emblematic of the vast gulf between the cries in the streets and the uninspired language of the conference's final outcome document.

But it is not the end of the road, not for

the United Nations or for civil society. The world body's own secretary-general characterised the document as "timid", and activist movements understand that much work remains unfinished.

For 2014, Sustainable Development Goals need to be defined - ones that are far more audacious than the "unanimous" document signed in Rio.

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or Death Choices**



Ana Libisch/IPS



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► Análise de Mario Osava

Na Rio+20 ocorreu pela primeira vez uma ruptura total da sociedade civil ativa com a conferência das Nações Unidas. A Cúpula dos Povos e suas várias passeatas no centro da cidade repetiram à exaustão uma radical rejeição à economia verde e às indecisões do Riocentro.

Mesmo as grandes ONGs, com assento nas negociações oficiais e mais abertas ao diálogo, entraram em choque com o documento aprovado no processo preparatório e fechado a alterações, “exigindo” retirar do texto a menção à “participação plena da sociedade civil”.

“A Rio+20 que não queremos” é o manifesto encabeçado por personalidades como Marina Silva, Fabio Feldman, o ambientalista americano Thomas Lovejoy e Yolanda Kakabadse, presidente da WWF Internacional, em que se afirma que “a sociedade civil não compactua” com o documento “O futuro que queremos”, fraco e com “graves omissões” em relação à preservação e recuperação socioambiental do planeta.

Mas a Cúpula dos Povos também decepcionou pela desorganização. Tendas vazias onde e quando deveriam abrigar

oficinas e assembléias anunciadas, eventos cancelados sem aviso, nenhuma central onde qualquer participante e mesmo os jornalistas pudessem se orientar foram alguns sintomas do caos instalado.

Intérpretes com seus equipamentos de som estavam ociosos na tarde da quinta-feira nas grandes tendas plenárias com capacidade para 800 pessoas, onde estavam previstas “Assembléias dos Povos: nossas soluções”. A desmobilização foi quase total no penúltimo dia do fórum, num melancólico contraste com a Rio-92.

Os índios compuseram o grupo mais organizado, especialmente no primeiro dia, em que foram os únicos a iniciar pontualmente suas reuniões, mobilizando centenas de pessoas num Aterro do Flamengo quase deserto, com instalações sem identificação e dezenas de atividades inscritas mas não realizadas.

Tudo pode ser reflexo da exaustão desse modelo de conferências em que a reunião paralela da sociedade civil supostamente interage com o encontro decisório de governantes de todo o mundo, com a quantidade de participantes se sobrepondo à relevância do conteúdo. O fórum ganha ar de comício e a montanha de discursos se desmancha no ar.

Experiências que apontam soluções, como as da Articulação do Semi-árido (ASA), que desenvolveu muitas tecnologias de armazenamento de água da chuva e convivência com o clima seco do Nordeste, pouco puderam aparecer, soterradas pelo discurso fácil e hegemônico da confrontação.

As passeatas se multiplicaram no Rio esta semana denunciando a fragmentação da dita sociedade civil organizada. Mesmo na “grande marcha” da quinta-feira, dominada por três centrais sindicais e o Movimento dos Sem Terra, cada grupo ocupou um espaço na Avenida Rio Branco, com seu carro de som.

O clima na atual conferência é o oposto do entusiasmo gerado pela de 1992, tanto no Riocentro como no Aterro do Flamengo. É talvez um choque de realidade. As convenções e acordos da Rio+92 constituíram uma novidade, uma surpresa para todos.

Muitos assinaram ou apoiaram seus princípios, sem a devida consciência das suas implicações, tanto que vários países, Estados Unidos à frente, não ratificaram ou não aderiram aos tratados resultantes da também chamada Cúpula da Terra. A Rio+20 pode ser, nesse sentido, o fim de certas ilusões.

Get Ready for a World of Nine Billion

► By Thalif Deen

As the global population threatens to explode - from the current seven billion to over nine billion by mid-century - the sharp increase in humans not only means overcrowded cities but also increasing demands on food, water, energy and shelter, foreshadowing devastating implications for a sustainable future.

The 21st century is a critical period for people and the planet, with demographic and consumption trends posing tremendous challenges in a finite world, warns a new report released at the Rio+20 summit on June 21 by the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA).

Appropriately titled "Population Matters for Sustainable Development," the report underlines the relevance of population dynamics in the sustainable development agenda "which has been lost over the past decades".

It puts forward concrete human-centred and rights-based policies to address issues facing the world at large in the 21st century.

In an interview with TerraViva, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin said improving the wellbeing of humanity now and into the future requires above all a genuine and immediate shift towards sustainable production and balanced consumption - the hallmark of

the green economy.

"Everywhere, but especially in emerging economies, millions more people are becoming richer consumers of goods and services, thus adding to pressures on natural resources. Sustainable patterns of consumption - enabled in part by appropriate technologies - are therefore urgently needed," he said.

Dr. Osotimehin said new global population dynamics present many challenges but also offer opportunities to secure a sustainable future. Demographic shifts, such as the trend towards living in cities, can reduce strains on the environment by reducing consumption of resources.

"Slowing population growth can have a positive impact on environmental sustainability in the long run. It will also offer nations more time to adapt to changes in the environment. However, this can occur only if women have the right, the power and the means to decide freely how many children to have and when," he said.

The report says more than two-thirds of the governments of the 48 least developed countries (LDCs) have expressed major concerns with high population growth, high fertility and rapid urbanisation.

In order to bring the population agenda back into the sustainable development discussion,



Fahim Siddiqi/IPS

Efforts to promote sustainable development that do not address population dynamics will continue to fail.

there is a need to recognise that population dynamics have a significant influence on sustainable development; efforts to promote sustainable development that do not address population dynamics have and will continue to fail; and population dynamics are not destiny.

But change is possible through a set of policies which respect human rights and freedoms and contribute to a reduction in fertility, notably access to sexual and reproductive health care, education beyond the primary level, and the empowerment of women.

Dr. Osotimehin said governments also

need to integrate population trends and future projections into their development strategies and policies. "Investments that are built on - and take advantage of - demographic trends can help transform populations into rich human capital that can propel sustainable development," he said.

"Planning for projected changes in population size for trends such as migration, ageing and urbanisation is an indispensable precondition for sustainable rural, urban and national development strategies, as well as meaningful efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change."

IPS Announces Launch of WebTV



Ana Libisch/IPS

The new WebTV will draw on more than 400 journalists in 140 countries.

After nearly 50 years as an international wire service, the Rome-based Inter Press Service (IPS) is branching out into IPS WebTV, keeping pace with the latest advances in digital technology.

Utilising its current resources and manpower, the new IPS WebTV will draw on more than 400 journalists in 140 countries, many of them with substantial expertise already in the visual media, according to IPS Director-General Mario Lubetkin.

The pilot phase will be launched in early 2013 with daily broadcasts through the web originating from its studios in Rome.

Lubetkin told TerraViva that the IPS network of journalists, mostly from or based in the global South, will bring a new visual

dimension to reporting on issues relating primarily to development, rights, energy, food, civil society, gender empowerment, the environment - and the growing emergence of the South on the multicultural world stage.

"IPS WebTV will be much more than a visual cousin of the print product," Lubetkin said.

The formal launch, presided over by the President of the U.N. General Assembly Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, took place on the sidelines of the Rio+20 summit of world leaders here.

Also speaking at the launch were Sergio Alli representing the government of Brazil, Omar Resende Peres, president of the IPS Television Board, Carlos

Tiburcio, chair of the IPS Core Group of Donors, and René Castro, minister of environment, energy and telecommunications of Costa Rica.

"I am confident that the IPS WebTV that we are launching today would contribute in a meaningful way towards advancing our continuing efforts for global solidarity and cooperation to a higher and more mutually beneficial level," Al-Nasser said.

"As a media institution primarily focusing on development issues and providing a perspective of the South, (IPS) is making a major contribution towards presenting a balanced view with diversity of perspectives and highlighting the needs of the most vulnerable in the global agenda." (Thalif Deen)



Agriculture Emerges as Bright Spot on Rio Horizon

► By Claudia Ciobanu

Agriculture and food security are one area where experts say that even a more general level of agreement, as reached in the final Rio+20 declaration, constitutes progress.

"The European Union considers that the Rio final agreement could have gone much further, (but) when it comes to agriculture and food security, I think the document is consistent enough in that the importance of small family farming for improving global food security is properly recognised," EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos told TerraViva.

According to the commissioner, the main value of the Rio agreement for global food security is that it acknowledges that this is an issue that needs to be addressed from economic, environmental and social points of view and that international collective efforts are needed in this direction.

Other positive aspects in the agreement,



Peruvian farmer Inocencia Chipana shows her coffee beans outside a cooperative warehouse.

farmers from the negative effects of global food price volatility.

Ciolos' relatively positive assessment of agriculture and food security in the Rio+20 final document is shared by Emile Frison, director general of Biodiversity International.

According to Frison, agriculture was one of the less controversial points in the negotiations but this should be taken as a good sign, meaning that countries have come to accept the urgency of addressing food security as a global problem.

"Malnutrition has finally been recognised as a major concern for the future," Frison told TerraViva. "And it has been acknowledged that if we want to address the issue of malnutrition, we cannot solve it only by offering pills and supplements, but a more sustainable solution has to be found and this has to come through a more diverse agriculture that provides a more diverse diet and a better health."

according to Ciolos, are the acknowledgement that technology and innovation have to be made available to small farmers, not just to agri-businesses, and the need to cushion

Our Livelihoods, Their Lunch

► By Busani Bafana

Canadian grain and lentils farmer Nettie Wiebs does not support a green economy, a term she says has become a euphemism for corporate land grabbing that is putting smallholder farmers out of business.

The concept of a green economy is being touted as a path to a sustainable future at Rio+20 but La Via Campesina, a global organisation of smallholder farmers, is fed up with what it sees as greenwashing.

"Our analysis of the green economy solution is that it is a false solution and in reality it is a legitimisation of land grabs, water grabs and seed grabs from their rightful populations, the smallholder farmers," Wiebs told TerraViva.

"We utterly reject the idea of a green economy based on the agribusiness model of corporate interests because a vast majority of people in the world are badly served by it. We're in a deep struggle to defend healthy food production and a living environment for all of humanity. It



Protesters denounce the new "green economy" at a march in Rio de Janeiro June 20.

is our livelihood and their lunch."

Wiebs, who runs a family farm east of Vancouver, said despite living in a highly industrialised country, corporate investment in agriculture is displacing smallholder farmers like her. She said a recent census in Canada noted that the small farm population is rapidly shrinking and its collapse was linked to corporate investment in agriculture "solutions".

"We are in this food crisis because of agribusiness which makes prices very volatile, speculation in commodity markets, increases hunger and gives control over food production processes to a small group of actors whose key objective is to profit," Wiebs said.

Luc Gnacadja, the executive secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, views the term "land grabs"

as overly negative, arguing that land transactions are business transactions that empower farmers as well as from investors.

"Land grabbing is a kind of business and in every business there are crooks," Gnacadja told TerraViva. "It is the responsibility of government to keep crooks in check, regulate and incentivise best practises."

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IUCN working with COM+ at World Conservation Congress, Jeju, South Korea, 6-16 September 2012

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, is a long standing member of COM+. It helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges by supporting scientific research; managing field projects all over the world; and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN, international conventions and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

The world's oldest and largest global environmental network, IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts in some 160 countries.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Held every four years, the Congress aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

The 2012 World Conservation Congress will be held from 6 to 15 September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea. Leaders from government, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, business, UN agencies and social organizations will discuss, debate and decide solutions for the world's most pressing environment and development issues.

For more information on the World Conservation Congress go to
<http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>

NGOs Reject Final Rio Document



Claudia Ciobanu/IPS

Representatives of WWF, Greenpeace and Oxfam criticise the final text and exclusion of NGOs from negotiations Thursday, June 21

► **By Claudia Ciobanu**

NGOs present at the Rio+20 conference complain that they were only consulted on the official document at the last minute, when they could no longer make a significant impact.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the official segment of the Rio+20 conference June 20, when heads of state were supposed to rubber-stamp the final document presented by Brazil, a representative of NGO groups present here said that “the text is completely out of touch

with reality and NGOs at Rio do not endorse this document.”

The NGO representative (identified as Waek Hamidan from Climate Action Network Europe by Brazilian media) said that the text was a failure because it did not address crucial issues such as ending support for fossil fuels and nuclear power, or taking clear steps to address high seas destruction.

He asked that, if the text remains as it was presented Tuesday, mentions of civil society being part of drafting it be removed from the introduction to the document.

NGOs present in Rio have all expressed

deep disappointment with the final document, though they do not all necessarily agree with the call to strike out mentions of the text being elaborated together with civil society.

Barbara Stocking, chief executive officer at Oxfam, told TerraViva on June 22 that her organisation supports eliminating the civil society reference from the final text.

“Basically, civil society does not stand with that set of declarations,” Stocking said. “The basics are there, but there is nothing in it really that civil society has been strongly pushing for. There was no proper process of how civil society could be engaged.

“The dialogues took place just in advance of the actual high-level part of it but there has been no real means to bring that in because the actual text was closed by the time that was finished.”

But Sharon Burrow, secretary general of the International Trade Union Confederation, took a different approach. “I support the ambition and the views, but my challenge is not to remove us from the text but to clarify what co-determination (co-decision) really means when we move forward,” Burrow said.

“We, civil society, trade unions, represent the people and so do politicians. They presented us with a final text on the eve of the summit, that was most frustrating. But it’s not about a word in the text, it’s about the fact that if they’re serious about co-decision, they have to tell us how we will be involved, tell us what is the timeline.”

Kumi Naidoo, head of Greenpeace International, told TerraViva that leaving civil society in the text or not is a theoretical question at this point, as no further changes will be made and the majority of civil society finds the document clearly inadequate and lacking in ambition.

Epic Theatre in Rio, Says Greenpeace’s Naidoo

► **By Amantha Perera**

The outcome of Rio+20 was dismissed as a “complete failure” for its lack of specific targets and deadlines by Kumi Naidoo, the executive director of Greenpeace.

Greenpeace has been one of the most vocal critics of the outcome of months of discussions on the final declaration at the Rio summit on sustainable development, which has increasingly come under fire by civil society as a sellout.

“There is a lot of spin and theatre to show that the outcome here has been a success,” Naidoo said June 21, one day before the summit officially ends.

“Are there specific benchmarks, are there

specific resources (committed)?” he asked. “The reality is that there is a complete failure in that regard.”

Naidoo acknowledged that there were major disagreements among negotiating countries, but added that this will not be emphasised in official recaps of the summit. “They were under pressure to put on a nice face and say it was success.”

The Greenpeace head said that the full failure of the outcome should not be put entirely on Brazil, but added that the host nation should accept some blame for its efforts to secure a consensus, no matter how weak.

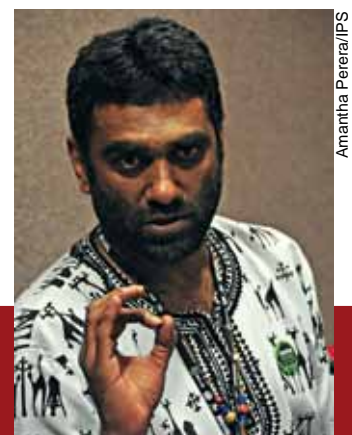
“Many governments have complained how hard Brazil was pushing to get any agreement at any cost,” he said, adding that

the final result was a document with the lowest possible ambition. He also blamed richer nations for defending their own narrow interests.

Some U.N. officials who have been monitoring the negotiating process also said that there was pressure. One told TerraViva that many countries agree the declaration does not offer solutions to the dire crises currently faced by humanity, but were unlikely to say so publicly.

Naidoo stressed that a declaration lacking specific targets will fail to halt worsening problems like climate change, loss of biodiversity and deforestation.

“The bottom line is that on all fundamental things on environment and climate, things



Amantha Perera/IPS

“The bottom line is that on all fundamental things on environment and climate, things are extremely dire,” said Greenpeace head Kumi Naidoo

are extremely dire. All the signs are that time is running out. Within the context of lack of specific commitments with appropriate resources, we declare the outcome as an epic failure,” Naidoo said.

Q&A: “Rio + 20 Document Is a Start, Not the Outcome”

Claudia Ciobanu interviews KARL FALKENBERG, head EU negotiator at Rio + 20

The European Union considers the Rio+20 final document as imperfect, but a good starting point for further work.

Terraviva spoke to the EU’s lead negotiator in Rio, Karl Falkenberg, who is also director general for environment in the European Commission.

Excerpts from the interview follow.

Q: How do you find the final document presented by Brazil?

A: I think it’s a good document. It’s not a document that reflects completely the EU’s ambitions, but we understand that we have to make compromises and reflect in the document common positions. But very good messages are highlighted in those common positions, such as that if we want to successfully eradicate poverty, we have to do it by sustainable development, green economy, and creating decent jobs in line with the environmental limits of this planet.

In order to get there, we have described a number of concrete actions in various areas such as water, land use, energy, oceans, sustainable production and consumption, resource efficiency. We have covered all the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic; out of that we will develop the SDGs (sustainable development goals) in the next year and a half.

This document is a start, it’s not the outcome, and we would have wanted to take it one step further, but that was not possible.

Q: “Green economy” was replaced with “green economy policies” to reflect

global South fears that the North wants to dictate a vision.

A: There have been lots of misunderstandings, particularly about the green economy. The impression in the beginning was that we are saying what green economy is and that their economy is not green and ours is, and they have to change their economies to be like ours.

But that’s a misunderstanding. Because we have to change our economy to make it green and developing countries have to change theirs. But we have also made it clear that there is not only one green economy: green economy means that we have to work within the environmental limitations of each of our countries with the resources that we have and we are very different so there are different forms of green economy. It’s just a name for sustainable economy in a way.

Q: What about the other criticism of green economy, that it implies a dangerous financialisation of nature?

There have been lots of misunderstandings, particularly about the green economy. We have to change our economy to make it green and developing countries have to change theirs

Karl Falkenberg, European Commission Director General for the Environment



Laurent Achédjian/Friends of Europe

A: I think there are still too many people who can only think in terms of working against each other, not with each other. In the green economy we will need companies, we need enterprises. There are very good companies, which take very decisive steps forward in working resources efficiently, offering decent work conditions, taking many responsibilities, and there are many who don’t.

Q: What to do about those? Are voluntary commitments from them enough?

A: Voluntary commitments have often not been effective, that’s why we are clearly calling for a role for governments. A similar framework at the international level is needed and that is why we want to continue to negotiate environmental conventions, on chemicals, waste and others, and that is why upgrading UNEP (the U.N. Environment Programme) was so important here: the world has to give itself a strong, efficient institutional framework to handle environmental issues.

Q: Is putting a price on natural capital a good direction?

A: Yes, because policies need to be monitored and measured. What you can’t

quantify, you can’t really monitor. The fact that we are moving in the direction of natural capital accounts and the necessary reporting for this by companies is a good way forward.

Q: How did you feel as EU negotiator in a world where the power balance has changed?

A: I was a trade negotiator before being an environmental one, so this is something that I have seen for the past 10-15 years. China, India, Brazil, Russia are clearly emerging powers which are economically very tough competitors to us. The old idea that we would define developing countries not in terms of competitiveness but in terms of the number of poor is completely outdated.

So differentiation in favour of countries like Burkina Faso or Uganda or Bolivia is still very much reasonable, but differentiation in favour of the biggest polluters, like China, or for very competitive international traders like India and Brazil does not make sense.

So we have to rethink negotiations: we have to involve them much more and they have to take more responsibilities. This is what’s happening now and that’s why negotiations have become much more complicated.

The Path of Sustainability from Rio to Milan

► By Sabina Zaccaro

Imagine a space in which humanity can reconcile the often conflicting imperatives of population and a healthy natural environment.

Imagine this space shaped as a doughnut, providing a perspective on sustainable development that pursues environmental sustainability and social justice together.

Kate Raworth from Oxfam Great Britain introduced her novel research during a side event organised by Oxfam and the Expo Milano 2015 at Rio+20.

“Achieving sustainable development for nine billion people has to be high on the list of humanity’s great uncharted journeys,” Raworth told TerraViva.

“If we go over the limits of environmental ceiling there is unacceptable environmental degradation, but if we go under the floor of social boundaries, then we have unacceptable human deprivation. The space in the middle, within the boundaries, is the only just and safe space for all.”

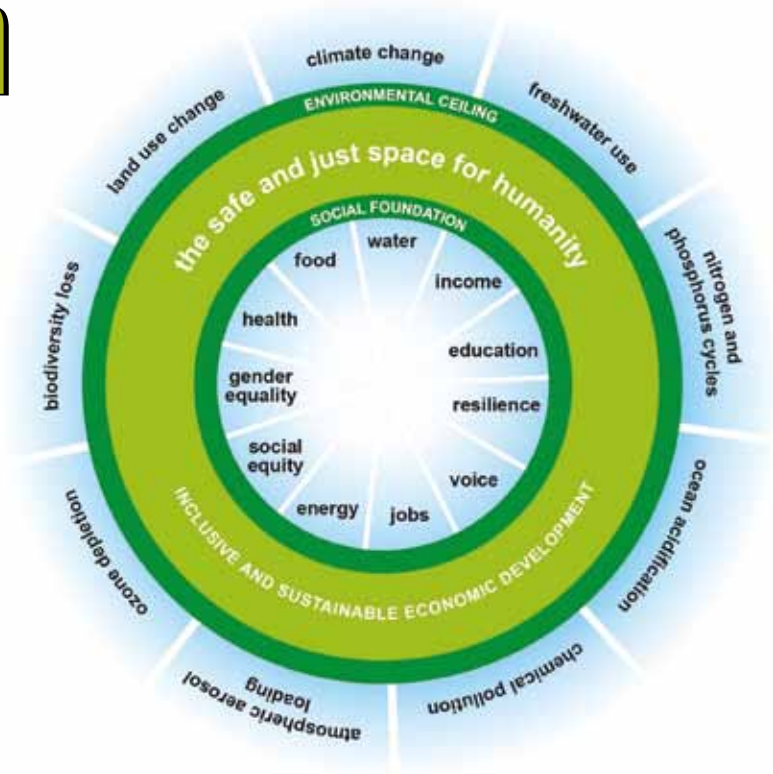
The Expo 2015, scheduled to run three years from now in Milan, Italy, will focus on

food and nutrition. Titled “Feeding the planet, energy for life”, the Expo aims at stimulating a global discussion on the challenges linked to food production and food security, safety, availability and nutrition.

“We have to make peace with the earth, and defend it so that all the peoples can have access to its land, water, forests and seeds, and biodiversity,” said renowned Indian environmentalist Vandana Shiva, who was invited by ActionAid, a civil society partner of Expo Milano, to give her views on equity and sustainability.

Rio+20 is a crucial summit for Earth’s future, she said, “But food security must remain on top of the agenda even after Rio.”

Ana Claudia Rossbach, director of the Interecao NGO, a Brazilian partner of the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI) that promotes sustainable development through citizen participation, told TerraViva, “What traditionally happens is that governments take decisions top down and communities have less opportunities to participate, or if there is some space for them, it is always in a consultative way.



“If communities understand what’s possible to build in their territory, then transformations are possible. If they don’t know, if they don’t look abroad, they will be excluded from development forever.”

In July, Expo Milano will announce its financial support for the participation

of civil society representatives from 10 developing countries to the upcoming international participants’ meeting Oct. 10-12. The meeting will be held every year until 2015, and convenes all the countries, institutions and organisations that are shaping the Expo 2015.

www.rio20.gov.br

AS BOAS IDEIAS SÃO COMO UM RIO: ESTÃO SEMPRE SE RENOVANDO

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Não é de hoje que a CAIXA contribui para a sustentabilidade e inclusão social. Prova disso são os inúmeros projetos e ações que a CAIXA desenvolve em todo o Brasil. Desde o financiamento a programas de infraestrutura e habitação à implantação da agência-barco, que leva serviços bancários às populações ribeirinhas do Amazonas. Agora, a CAIXA se une a formadores de opinião de todo o mundo na Rio+20. Uma oportunidade para aprender, divulgar novas ideias e reafirmar o compromisso da CAIXA com você e com o planeta.



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Indígenas querem cultura como pilar da sustentabilidade



Marcos Terena e Gilberto Carvalho

► Por Clarinha Glock

Uma comitiva de 25 indígenas do Brasil, Filipinas, Estados Unidos, Guatemala, Argentina e México chamou a atenção dos participantes da Rio+20. Com suas músicas e gritos, pinturas e roupas típicas, eles se reuniram perto das bandeiras símbolos do evento, no Riocentro, para entregar a Declaração da Kari-Oca 2 aos representantes do Brasil e das Nações Unidas.

Outros 400 indígenas não puderam entrar – ficaram retidos na barreira de soldados, a poucos metros da entrada do principal pavilhão. A aldeia instalada em Jacarepaguá reuniu cerca de 600 indígenas de quase todo o mundo que analisaram a situação dos povos desde a Rio 92.

“Estamos conscientes da história de massacre dos povos indígenas no Brasil e sabemos de nossa dívida com os índios”, falou o ministro Gilberto Carv-

alho, da Secretaria Geral da Presidência da República, que recebeu o documento em nome da presidenta Dilma Rousseff. Carvalho acompanhou parte da caminhada.

“Não há como não se comprometer. Deus e a Mãe Terra abençoem todos

“Estamos conscientes da história de massacre dos povos indígenas no Brasil e sabemos de nossa dívida com os índios”, falou o ministro Gilberto Carvalho, da Secretaria Geral da Presidência da República

vocês”, falou, pouco antes de entrar no Riocentro para a cerimônia de entrega da Declaração a Nikhil Seth, diretor para Desenvolvimento Sustentável das Nações Unidas.

Foi um encontro amigável, de boas intenções, em que as denúncias de violações dos direitos dos indígenas, presente durante todos os dias da Rio+20 nas discussões da Kari-Oca e da Cúpula dos Povos, foi apresentada na Declaração e através de depoimentos emocionados como o de Tom Goldtooth, em nome dos povos Navajo e Dakota, dos Estados Unidos.

“Este documento representa o espírito de nossos ancestrais, dos que não estão aqui porque não puderam vir, e das gerações futuras”, anunciou Goldtooth.

Berenice Sanches Nahua, do México, reiterou que a economia verde não pode ser encarada como uma solução, se é a causa do problema, e o REDD (Redução de Emissões por Desmata-

mento e Degradação) é o coração da economia verde.

“Na prática, esperamos que o governo brasileiro estabeleça uma política de participação indígena, porque mostramos essa capacidade aqui”, disse o líder brasileiro Marcos Terena a TerraViva, pouco antes de encontrar o representante da ONU.

Em seu discurso, o líder indígena brasileiro Marcos Terena ressaltou que a Declaração tem recomendações simples.

“Convidamos toda a sociedade civil a proteger e a promover os nossos direitos... em harmonia com a Natureza, solidariedade, coletividade, e valores, como cuidar e compartilhar. Se a ONU quer criar um mundo justo, precisa ouvir a voz indígena sobre equilíbrio e sustentabilidade. Nesse sentido, nossa recomendação para a Rio 20 é a inclusão da cultura como quarto pilar do desenvolvimento sustentável”, afirmou Terena.

E finalizou com um pedido: três minutos para falar na Conferência. “Acreditamos que em três minutos podemos ajudar a fazer uma nova Nações Unidas”.

Em nome do Secretário Geral das Nações Unidas, Seth disse que a ONU vai fazer todo o possível para encorajar os governos a respeitarem e honrarem a cultura e as tradições, a terra e a espiritualidade dos povos indígenas.

Segundo Seth, o documento final reconhece explicitamente os direitos dos indígenas e a ONU vai fazer “todo o possível para respeitar e honrar os resultados da Rio+20”. Seth prometeu repassar ao secretariado o pedido de Terena para falar na plenária.

Ao final, o líder espiritual que abriu a Kari-Oca há uma semana fez uma reza simbólica e Terena convidou para o encerramento do fogo sagrado marcado para as 13h da sexta-feira, data de encerramento da Conferência.



Rio Juruá, Acre.

Fabíola Ortiz/IPS

monocultura intensiva e de exploração mineral.

Falar de mercado de carbono significa que alguém aposta que vai ter poluição no futuro e está dizendo para o mercado se proteger, observou a economista. Para Amyra, a natureza jurídica do mercado de carbono não é clara.

O que se quer, na verdade, é fazer com que as empresas deixem de ser poluidoras e passem para o mercado sustentável. De boa fé, os mercados de carbono deveriam ter prazos, pressupondo que a poluição vai acabar, o que não ocorre. E o Estado deveria ser capaz de fiscalizar, o que não acontece.

Já as commodities ambientais defendidas por Amyra são construídas com as comunidades e originárias dos recursos naturais em condições sustentáveis. Amyra chegou a esse conceito quando passou a estudar o binômio água e energia, na década de 90, depois de ter mergulhado no sistema financeiro durante mais de 20 anos, parte deles na Bolsa de Mercadorias e Futuros (BM&F).

“As commodities ambientais têm que conservar o patrimônio natural e não degradá-lo ou mercantilizá-lo. O sistema financeiro deve ser o agente financiador para que as populações preservem o meio ambiente e tenham ocupação e geração de renda”, disse.

► Por Clarinha Glock

A economista brasileira Amyra El Kalili começou a atuar no mercado financeiro quando as mulheres nem pensavam em chegar perto dos bancos.

Uma das pioneiras no uso da expressão commodities ambientais, em 18 de junho deu uma palestra sobre Fraudes no Monitoramento do Financiamento Climático durante um seminário da agenda paralela da Rio+20.

Filha de um beduíno palestino que chegou ao Brasil na década de 60, tem duas certezas: a primeira é que palestinos e israelenses estão predestinados a conviverem lado a lado, por isso defende dois Estados para dois povos; e a segunda é que o meio ambiente chegou ao mercado e os instrumentos econômicos financeiros ambientais são mais do que necessários.

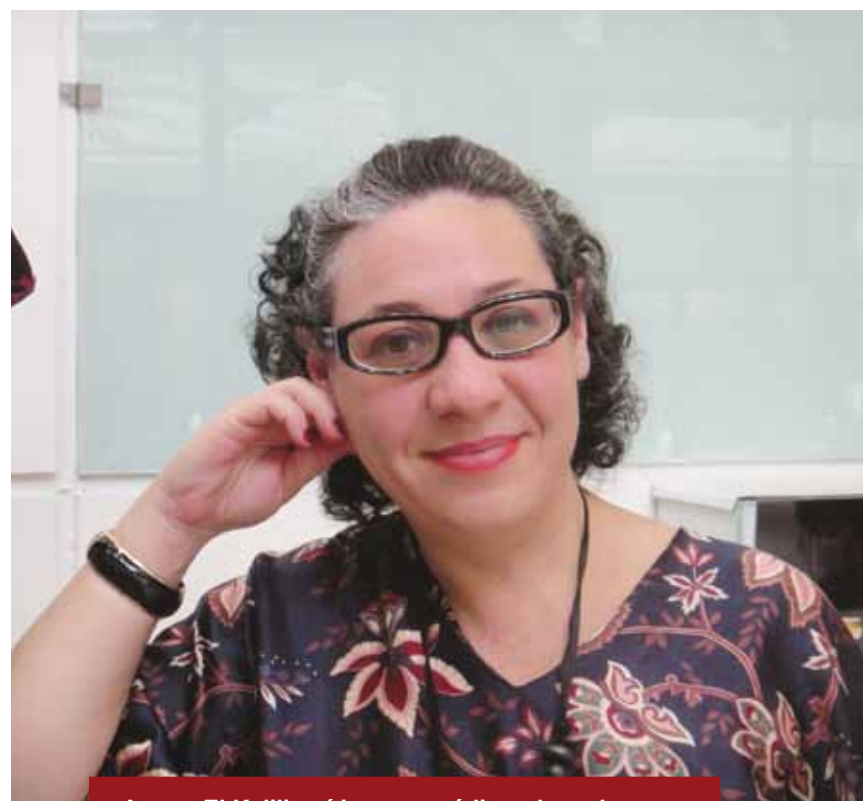
“Chamo isso de responsabilidade socioambiental do sistema financeiro”,

explicou Amyra a TerraViva. Esse novo mercado deve considerar o impacto social, ambiental e de geração de ocupação e renda, e agregar todas as reivindicações feitas na Cúpula dos Povos a seu planejamento financeiro.

A crítica de Amyra é sobre como o sistema se apropriou do termo commodities ambientais. “Meio ambiente, recursos naturais estratégicos e bens comuns não pertencem ao Estado, são bens de uso difuso; o Estado é tutelador, e não pode, pela Constituição, vender ou doar”, salientou.

Portanto, o minério não é do minerador, que tem uma concessão para explorar. Ninguém pode se adonar da água, é um direito humano.

As commodities convencionais são produtos ou mercadorias, geralmente matérias-primas, produzidos em larga escala em nível mundial. Exigem tecnologias de ponta, maquinário pesado,



Clarinha Glock/IPS

Amyra El Kalili, crítica aos créditos de carbono.

Cilantro Spices Up Coexistence with Drought in Brazil

► By Mario Osava

Many grow lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, beets and other vegetables. But cilantro is ever-present in the gardens that are helping rural families weather the lengthy drought that is once again wracking Brazil's impoverished Northeast.

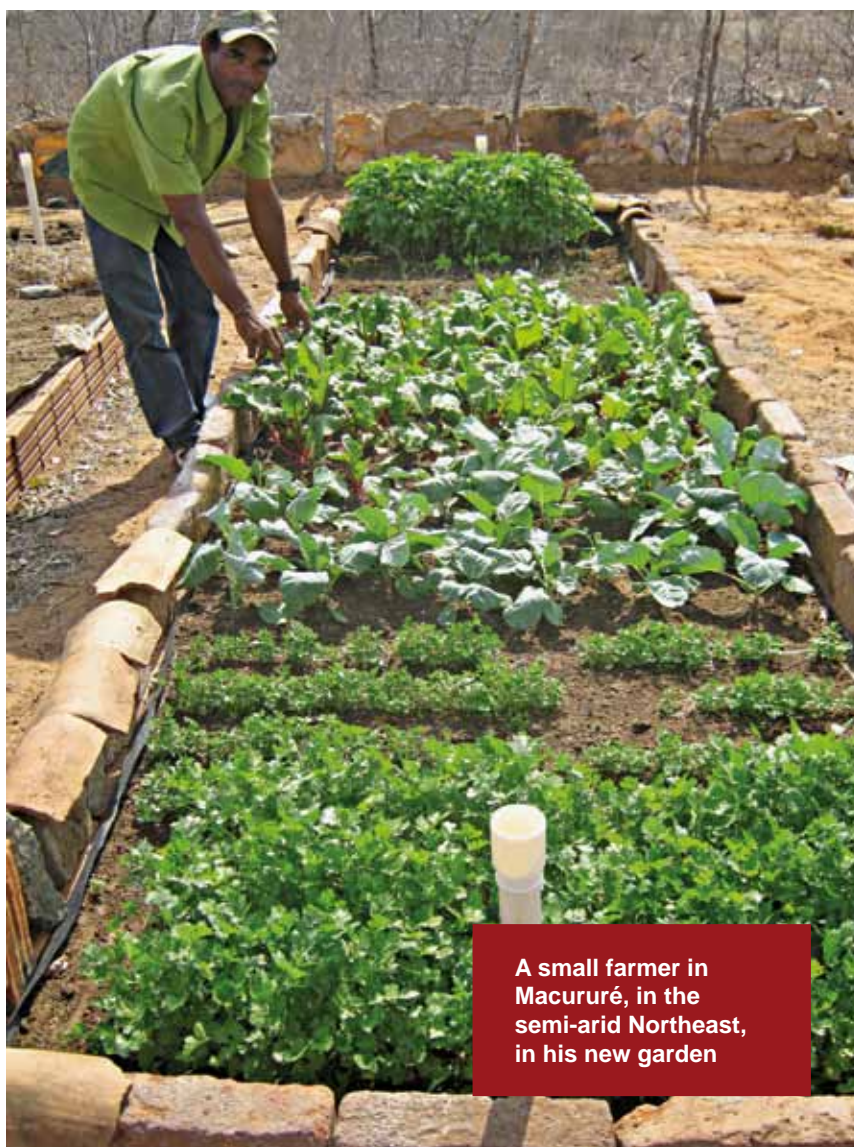
Cilantro is the favourite "because of the flavour it adds to beans, meat, pasta – everything," said Silvia Santana Santos, a beneficiary of the Projeto Gente de Valor (PGV), a project that has helped families create "productive backyards" in 34 municipalities in the state of Bahia, where poverty is aggravated by water scarcity.

The taste for cilantro has drawn families to get involved in initiatives that are enabling people to deal better with the semi-arid climate in the state and improving living conditions in the 282 poorest rural communities in Bahia, as identified by the Regional Action and Development Agency (CAR), the government body that is carrying out the project.

The PGV's three main goals are to install small-scale water tanks for harvesting and storage of rainwater, boost production, and provide training. The total investment is 60 million dollars, half of which is financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the other half by the Bahia state government.

"No one buys beans, but they do buy cilantro," said Julio Santos, who lives with Silvia Santana and their seven children in the community of Sitio Taperinha of just over 100 families, in Jeremoabo, one of the municipalities included in the project, which IPS visited.

The drought destroyed the maize and bean crops, but "we sell our vegetables every 15 days" without interruption, said Santos, who agreed to abandon his traditional grain crop, which is vulnerable to the risks posed by the semi-arid climate of the Northeast, a region that is home to 22 million of the country's 198 million people.



A small farmer in Macururé, in the semi-arid Northeast, in his new garden

"Everyone is eating better, without poisons, because we don't use toxic agricultural chemicals."

Vegetable gardens could become the main activity of families in the future, he said. A profit margin is ensured by irrigation using water from two 5,000-litre half-buried rainwater tanks built with support from the project, which capture water that runs along the ground.

During drought conditions, the water harvested by the tanks is used up in two months. But the Santos family also has a pump to draw water from a nearby spring, which has allowed them to continue growing fresh produce. In addition, with assistance from the project, they have begun to produce honey.

As of February, the project had created 5,644 gardens, which have "changed people's eating habits," said Gilberto de Alcântara from Curralinho, a community in the municipality of Itapicuru, 175 km south of Jeremoabo, a town of 35,000 people that is the seat of the municipality.

The project has also "helped people

understand what a valuable role women play," because it is women who care for the terraces where the vegetables are grown around their houses, said Cleonice Castro, a young community activist from Jeremoabo who works with the Pastoral da Criança, a Catholic organisation working on behalf of children that has helped reduce child mortality in Brazil.

And everyone is eating better, she added: "without poisons, because we don't use toxic agricultural chemicals."

"The excellent focus on the poorest communities" and the active participation of women and young people are aspects that make the PGV "one of the best of the experiences we have carried out in a number of countries," said Ivan Cossio, IFAD country programme manager for Brazil.

The project has helped increase incomes by expanding traditional local activities like sheep and goat farming, beekeeping, production and gathering of cashews and native fruits, the production of yucca-based products, and craft-making.

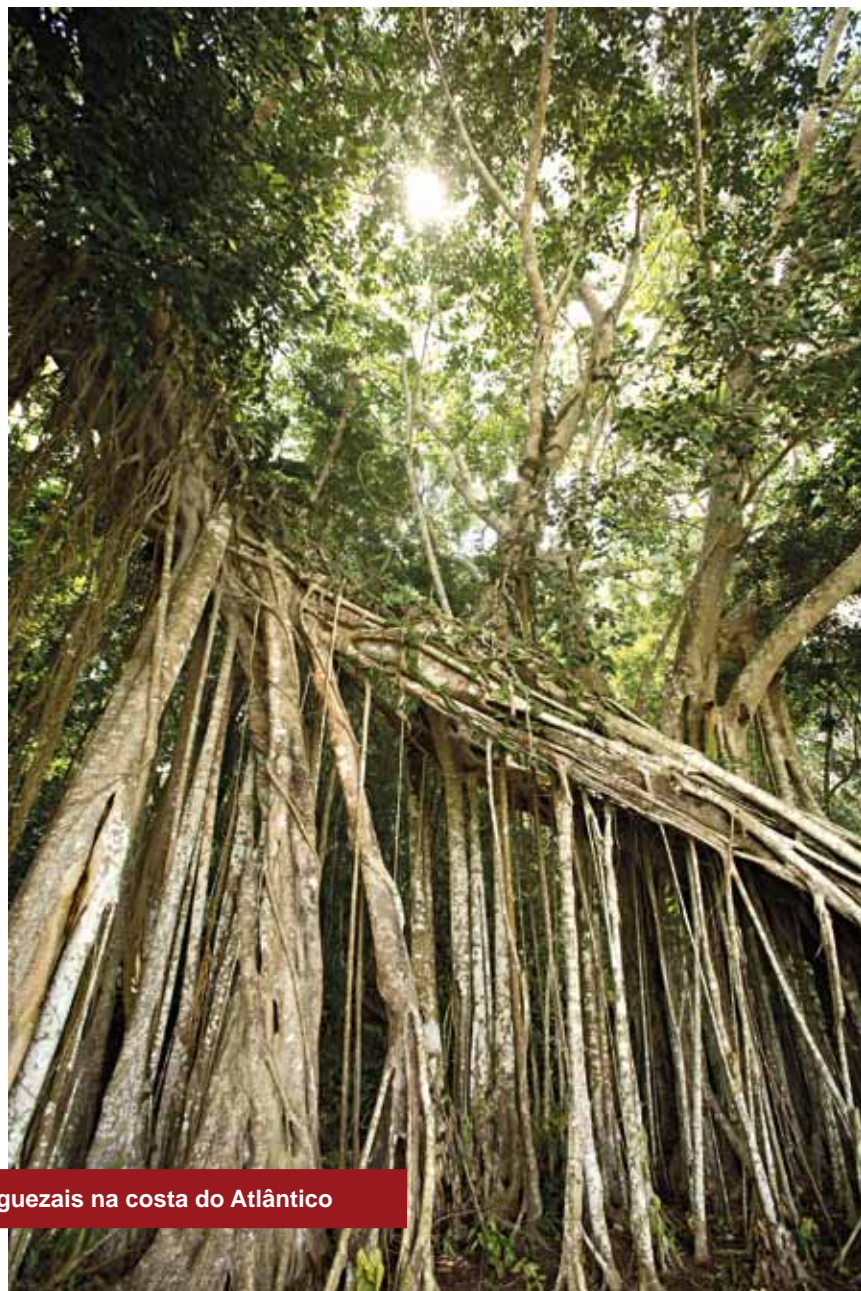
Techniques have also been introduced to increase productivity in the vegetable gardens. For example, plastic sheeting has been placed underneath the traditional terraces to keep water from seeping into the ground, and shade screens are stretched over the crops to protect them from sun damage and curb evaporation, said Carlos Henrique Ramos, an agronomist with the CAR and assistant coordinator of the PGV.

The "productive backyards", with the double rainwater harvesting tanks and larger underground tanks used to provide drinking water, training in water use and management, and agricultural technical assistance are the mainstays of the project, which has benefited 36,500 people directly and 55,000 indirectly.

Eight local NGOs under guidance from the PGV have been involved in implementation of the project, with the goal of reaching "the poorest of the poor," said Cesar Maynard, the coordinator of the project.

Regional Institute for Appropriate Small Farming and Animal Husbandry

Destruição de manguezais ameaça a vida no planeta



Manguezais na costa do Atlântico

Mauricio Ramos/IPS

► Por Mario Osava

A grande expansão mineira e energética da América Latina está destruindo manguezais, que são indispensáveis para a vida não só nos mares, alertou Esperanza Salazar na Cúpula dos Povos.

Um exemplo é a unidade de regaseificação que o México implantou no Porto de Manzanillo, estado de Toluca, na costa do Pacífico, para processar o gás natural importado do Peru.

As obras complementares, um gasoduto, ampliação de vias de transporte e construção de canais, além de termelétricas e indústrias, estão devastando os manguezais da Lagoa Cuyutlán, que concentra mais de 3.000 hectares desse tipo de ecossistema, lamentou a representante da Redmanglar Internacional. Trata-se uma das áreas pantanosas mais importantes do país, salientou à TerraViva.

Esperanza, que dirige a ONG Bios Iguana, de Toluca, participa dos debates na Cúpula dos Povos estabelecendo a relação dos manguezais com os vários temas em discussão, como mineração, mudanças climáticas e a Redução das Emissões por Desmatamento e Degradação das florestas, a REDD.

A REDD é uma falsa solução e muito mais preocupantes as pretensões de incluir os manguezais nesse esquema, com que se ampliaria o mercado de carbono, segundo a posição da Redmanglar.

Os manguezais fixam seis vezes mais carbono do que as florestas de outras áreas, sendo portanto uma fonte de grandes negócios que, além de permitir a degradação territorial, prejudicaria numerosas comunidades ribeirinhas, principalmente de pescadores artesanais, argumentam os membros da rede.

Esses ecossistemas vitais para a reprodução

É preciso reconhecer, no caso das hidroelétricas, que seus impactos se espalham também rio abaixo, não só rio acima, repercutindo nos ecossistemas costeiros e portanto nos manguezais, reivindicou Esperanza Salazar

da vida marítima são ameaçados por muitas atividades econômicas, além das alterações nos rios por represas e as indústrias extrativas. Grandes projetos turísticos em áreas costeiras, portos, a poluição industrial e petroleira e a aquicultura de camarões estão entre elas.

É preciso reconhecer, no caso das hidroelétricas, que seus impactos se espalham também rio abaixo, não só rio acima, repercutindo nos ecossistemas costeiros e portanto nos manguezais, reivindicou Esperanza.

A economia verde, proposta pelo Programa das Nações Unidas para o Meio Ambiente com a adesão dos governos, representa uma ameaça geral, ao promover um crescimento econômico baseado em intenso uso dos recursos naturais e os vários mecanismos de compensação pelas emissões de carbono e desmatamentos, temem os ativistas presentes na Cúpula dos Povos.

Outro fator de aumento da devastação seria a adoção, no caso do Brasil, de um código florestal como o que se está gestando no Congresso Nacional, numa reforma da antiga lei, apesar dos vetos da presidente Dilma Rousseff a várias modificações aprovadas pelos parlamentares.

Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life

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Haunting Sculptures Depict World in Crisis

► By Isaiah Esipisu

Danish artist Jen Galschiot is sending a strong message to delegates at the Rio+20 summit - one that some may not wish to hear.

His metal sculptures, found outside the Riocentro summit complex, are elegant and diverse, but also aim to prick the conscience of world leaders gathered here. The most conspicuous one - the Statue of Liberty - holds a document with an ironic message: "The Freedom to Pollute".

"We are not asking people to freely pollute the environment. But this sculpture symbolises the conflict between our demands for unbridled consumption and our concern for the planet that would imply that we restrict our excesses,"

Galschiot told TerraViva.

Another eye-catching statue shows a pregnant woman hanging on a cross, titled "In the Name of God" - a statement about the Catholic Church's rejection of family planning and contraceptive use.

"The world is changing very fast, and population pressure is already affecting the climate and livelihoods. The more people there are in the world, the more forests are felled to create space for settlement, farming and grazing, the more the climate keeps changing," said the artist.

"People need the freedom to choose the size of families they should have, in tandem with the available resources," he added.

Galschiot's sculptures, such as a series of figures titled "Climate

Refugees", paint a disturbing vision of a world plagued by hunger and want.

According to the United Nations, the number of people forced to move from their homes due to climate-related disasters could rise to 150 million worldwide in the next 40 years.

"It will be remembered that in 1992, the world's heads of states made a promise to the world that they would form a global partnership for sustainable development, and make the world a better place for the future generations. But 20 years on, all the promises have been broken. Billions of people are going without food, have no access to electricity, children are not going to school, and the list is endless," he said.

Artist Jen Galschiot discusses his work.



Isaiah Esipisu/IPS



Cortesia Acaiafoc

Milagre da silvicultura

Incorporar árvores ao trabalho agrícola e à pecuária, juntando com conhecimentos tradicionais e inovação, permite o desenvolvimento de métodos mais amigáveis com o meio ambiente, além de reduzir a vulnerabilidade na América Central, região que corre o risco de perde 19% de seu PIB por conta das mudanças climáticas. Os avanços das técnicas agroflorestais foram tratados em um encontro paralelo da Rio+20, com a presença de ministros, cientistas, técnicos e agricultores.

Women Fighting Same Old Battles at Rio+20

► By Zofeen Ebrahim

What does birth control have to do with reducing global emissions? Everything, women around the world would say, because they know how closely linked reproductive health is to poverty, food security, climate change and more.

This message was precisely what female leaders at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development were saying, but not many were listening, least of all the Vatican.

“The only way to respond to increasing human numbers and dwindling resources is through the empowerment of women,” said Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister of Norway and former director-general of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

“It is through giving women access to education, knowledge, to paid income, independence and of course access to reproductive health services, reproductive rights, access to family planning,” she stressed.

Female leaders have long been telling the world that sustainable development is not just about deforestation, climate change and carbon emissions. It’s about understanding that sustainable development will not be possible without gender equality and that sexual and reproductive rights are human rights.

This concept is nothing new. At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, there was unanimous agreement that sustainable development cannot be realised without gender equality.

So it’s frustrating for people like Rebecca Lefton, a policy analyst focusing on international climate change and women at the Center for American Progress, a Washington D.C.-based think tank, to be fighting over something that was recognised 20 years ago.

Lefton has followed the negotiations for several months, and to her dismay, has found that many references to women’s reproductive rights and gender equality have been scrapped from the Rio summit’s text.

“Women’s rights and gender equality were affirmed, but not as strongly as they



A woman's work is never done. Taken in a low-income settlement in Karachi, Pakistan.

Fahim Siddiqi/IPS

could be,” she told TerraViva. “I don’t think the text would be reopened to be revised or tweaked,” she added.

Brundtland sounded more optimistic. “It looked quite bad some weeks ago in the preparing process for this meeting.... In the last week or two this has improved,” she said, citing “key passages on women as central partners in decision-making”.

The United States, Norway and several women’s rights organisations were fighting to keep the language strong, but the Holy See (the Vatican) led the opposition to remove passages ensuring women’s reproductive rights.

“The result is that the final text has no reference to reproductive rights and commits to promotion rather than ensuring equal access of women to health care, education, basic services and economic opportunities,” said Lefton.

“It’s quite frustrating to find the Vatican

“We know from research that advancing gender equality is not just good for women, it is good for all of us,” said Michelle Bachelet, executive director of U.N. Women.

exerting so much power over what the majority of women want but don’t have access to,” she told TerraViva, adding that the Vatican equates reproductive rights and health with abortion - an inaccurate comparison, at best.

Female heads of state and government gathered at the Rio+20 women leaders’ summit nevertheless remained undaunted

and pledged that the document they signed would not be lost in the “forest of declarations on gender issues”. They urged governments, civil society and the private sector to prioritise gender equality and female empowerment in their sustainable development efforts.

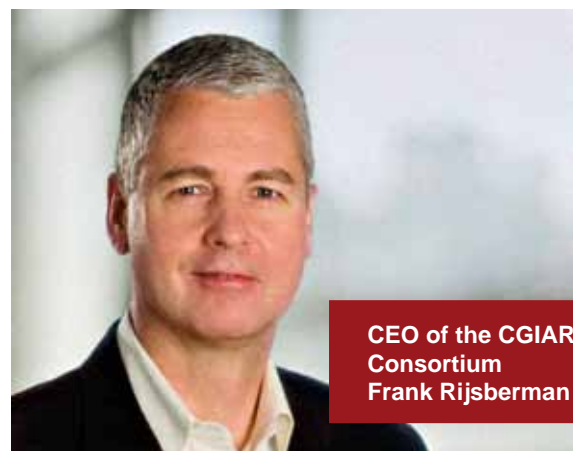
“We know from research that advancing gender equality is not just good for women, it is good for all of us. When women enjoy equal rights and opportunities, poverty, hunger and poor health decline and economic growth rises,” said Michelle Bachelet, executive director of U.N. Women.

Cate Owren, executive director of the Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), criticised the removal of references to reproductive rights from the Rio outcome document.

“Political compromises for the sake of an agreement should not have cost us our rights - nor our planet,” she said.

Q&A: Putting Science to Work for Small Farmers

Busani Bafana interviews **FRANK RIJSBERMAN**, CEO of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research



The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is putting science to work in boosting food production through a global research portfolio worth five billion dollars launched at the Agriculture and Rural Development Day (ARDD) this week.

New chief executive officer of the CGIAR Consortium, Frank Rijsberman, told TerraViva that CGIAR's research programme includes a diverse range of partners to ensure that data translates into results on the ground.

The five-year portfolio focuses on increasing the productivity of small-scale farmers, who provide up to 80 percent of the food supply in developing countries.

Smallholder farmers are CGIAR's top priority because when they have access to new agricultural technologies and crop varieties, they are able to get more out of their land, labour and livestock.

Q: Who are the targets of the research portfolios?

A: The portfolio of 15 CGIAR research programmes organises the publicly-funded research of the CGIAR Consortium and its partners in order to meet the challenges related to food insecurity, rural poverty, malnutrition and environmental degradation.

It targets both donors and investors in public agricultural research, by presenting to them an attractive investment portfolio, and the implementers of agricultural research, by organising and coordinating their efforts.

The research targets Africa, Asia and Latin America – with at least half of the projects in Africa.

Q: What specific research gaps does

CGIAR seek to fill through the allocation of these funds?

A: Private sector research primarily focuses on the needs of commercial farmers, not the smallholders in developing countries that have different crops, different diseases and different problems accessing markets. CGIAR focuses on the needs of the 500 million smallholder farmers, mostly women, with less than two hectares of land, who provide most of the food in developing countries.

Q: Will CGIAR centres compete to access the funds?

A: The research programmes in this portfolio have been approved by our collective investors (through the CGIAR Fund Council). Funding will be allocated based on performance

agreements between the CGIAR Consortium and the centres leading the programmes.

Q: Can you briefly comment on the link between sustainable development and agriculture?

A: In response to the food price spikes in 2008, 2010 and 2011 (that pushed some 44 million people into poverty), farmers are trying to produce more food and they are ploughing under new and marginal lands more rapidly than even during the Green Revolution.

Unless agricultural research manages to help raise crop yields sustainably – getting more crop per ha of land – millions more hectares will be ploughed under. That is why agriculture and environment are new best friends, working together for a food secure future while safeguarding the planet.

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.



Patrocínio Ouro:



A megalopolis per se constitutes a senseless waste of energy, human and otherwise. To change that, cities need to launch an improbable, most likely rather unpopular revolution that would affect practically all aspects of life



Shanties near waterways are a common sight in Manila.

Kara Santos/IPS

Megacities Face Life or Death Choices

► Analysis by Julio Godoy

The cliché that mega-conferences like Rio+20 are “too big to succeed” can also be applied to the megacities of our day such as Rio de Janeiro: they are simply too big to become green and sustainable.

And yet that’s precisely the commitment made by the mayors of the 59 largest cities of the world, reunited in the so-called C-40 group.

At a side event during the U.N. conference on sustainable development here, the mayors of the C-40 group recalled that the largest urban centres of the world have “the potential to reduce their annual greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE) by over one billion tonnes by 2030”, an amount equivalent to the annual emissions of Mexico and Canada combined.

Now the mayors want to reduce emissions by 45 percent by 2030.

Mind the word “potential” – omnipresent in these days of meek admissions of well-known, concrete catastrophic scientific data and vague promises to tackle the problems sometime in the future.

Indeed, megalopolises across the world, from Rio de Janeiro to Mexico City to

Tokyo to Shanghai, have vast potential to reduce pollution because they are big polluters in the first place.

A megalopolis per se constitutes a senseless waste of energy, human and otherwise. To change that, cities need to launch an improbable, most likely rather unpopular revolution that would affect practically all aspects of life, from transport to waste management to the generation and consumption of electricity, to food supply and population management.

If such a revolution is to succeed, cities must cease to lure rural populations searching for better lives in large urban centres. If such a revolution is to succeed, megalopolises would be capitals of fairytale countries, unlikely to come true in our lifetimes.

Let’s begin with transport. It is well known that transport activity is responsible for 13 percent of all anthropogenic GHGE, and for 23 percent of the world’s carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion. Transport’s dependency on oil is a staggering 95 percent, and it accounts for 60 percent of all oil consumption.

To reduce their share of such pollution, cities would have to offer efficient public

transportation, and simultaneously discourage the use of private automobiles by substantially increasing taxation and fuel prices, and limiting access to urban centres.

Cities would have to encourage the use of bicycles, significantly boost the efficiency of combustion engines to reduce exhaust fumes, and guarantee safety for users of public transport, especially in developing countries. Today, crime is a major discouraging factor for well-to-do citizens, particularly women, to use public transport.

To call such a set of goals difficult to achieve, expensive, and most likely unpopular would be an understatement. But that’s only the beginning of the to-do list for city planners and administrations.

Although heating is not a pressing problem for tropical cities, it is in countries with cold winters. In such places, optimising the thermic isolation of buildings is a must – as it is to have more efficient air conditioning systems during hot summers.

This requires enormous private investments, which would need support by state credit agencies, and tax cuts to make them attractive to citizens. Zero-emission model buildings are already in place in

some industrialised countries – but they are models, still a far cry from becoming standard housing policy.

Furthermore, cities would have to rely ever more on renewable sources – sun, wind, bio-mass. They must discourage waste, especially plastic, aluminium, and other non-degradable compounds. When waste is unavoidable, it must be recycled.

Cities would have to rely on local and regional food sources to further reduce transport emissions. And so on...

As already mentioned, the sustainable city of the future must not only discourage migration from the countryside, it would have to encourage migration back to rural areas to reduce its own population.

In other words, the sustainable city of the future would have to mirror the sustainable country of the future, one that offers opportunities to populations in rural areas, one crisscrossed more by railroads than by highways, the green, socially equitable country of our dreams.

That country is not around the corner, and it certainly won’t be made possible by such mammoth conferences such as Rio+20. That country, the citizens will have to build themselves.