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# THE SUSTAINABILITY THAT WE WANT

BRAZILIAN FORUM OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

## Introduction to the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements

Created in 1990 to advocate the participation of Brazilian society in the parallel events of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations and Social Movements for the Environment and Development – an alliance of more than 500 organizations – has since then grown into the main Forum of participation for Brazilian society in national and international socio-environmental struggles, challenges and events.

Since the UNCED '92 and throughout these 12 years, the work developed by the Forum has aimed at achieving the unification between policy issues - environmental and socioeconomic - in the search for sustainability and, at the same time, seeking to build a just, equal and environmentally principled society. It is from these origins that diverse working groups and networks arose, such as the Atlantic Rainforest NGO Network, the Savanna NGO Network, the Working Group on Forest Policy, the Working Group on Socio-biodiversity and the Agenda 21 Working Group, among other initiatives. Guided by this viewpoint, the Forum also actively participates in the World Social Forum.

In the preparatory meetings leading to the Meeting of Society in Johannesburg, in August and September of 2002, the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Development decided to bring to the UN World Conference on Sustainable Development a consistent evaluation on the principal Brazilian environmental aspects. Also concerned with the Brazilian majority elections, in October, the month following Johannesburg, the Forum deemed as fundamental the elaboration of proposals that could be incorporated both into policy platforms and Rio + 10.

In the context of Rio + 10 the following subjects were defined as priorities: Agenda 21, Socio-biodiversity, Water, Trade and Environment, Energy, Forests and Climate Changes. The Forum's Working Groups worked intensively to analyze the current scenario for each topic, evaluating Brazilian and world aspects under a viewpoint considering economic, legal, developmental, ethical and governance factors resulting in suggestions and proposals towards global governance. This undertaking produced the reflections contained in this publication, and are:

- aim to clearly define what the organizations that make up the Forum perceive as sustainable development;
- indicate the possible ways toward local and global governance and concrete actions; and
- demonstrate that the actions linked to the defense of the environment do not refer solely to the protection of ecosystems, water and others, but mainly to the quality of life for all human beings on earth, which demands changes in the standards of production and consumption.

The document contains, as well, proposals for concrete actions, such as:

- analyze the actual scenario in each issue defined by the Working Groups, evaluating Brazilian and world aspects;
- construct legal references, treaties, agreements and others that, if met, can diminish the environmental impacts produced today;
- combat the globalizing, excluding and devastating economic logic that shadows community needs and disrespects aspects of cultural, religious, environmental, social and local economies.

The Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Development would like to thank all those that have contributed to the construction of a common and widespread logic, in the search for a just, environmentally equilibrated society. And would like to extend special thanks to the support provided by the World Wide Fund for Nature – WWF, the Institute of Religious Research – ISER/Environment and Development, the Federation of Institutions for Social and Educational Assistance – FASE, the Workers Trade Union – CUT, the Sustainable and Democratic Brazil Project, the Ford Foundation, and the Vitae Civilis Institute.

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Brazil, August of 2002

<http://www.ongsbrasil.org.br>

This publication was sponsored by the British Embassy of Brazil.



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SUSTAINABILITY THAT  
WE WANT



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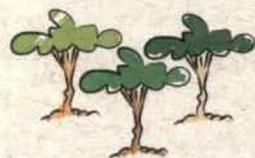
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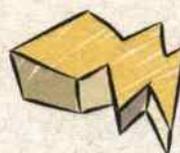
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**BRAZILIAN FORUM OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

**(FÓRUM BRASILEIRO DE ORGANIZAÇÕES NÃO GOVERNAMENTAIS E MOVIMENTOS SOCIAIS PARA O MEIO AMBIENTE E O DESENVOLVIMENTO)**

NATIONAL COORDINATION – OCTOBER OF 2001 THROUGH AUGUST OF 2002

PERMANENT ASSEMBLY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS – APEDEMA/RIO DE JANEIRO  
(ASSEMBLÉIA PERMANENTE DE ENTIDADES DO MEIO AMBIENTE - APEDEMA/RIO DE JANEIRO)

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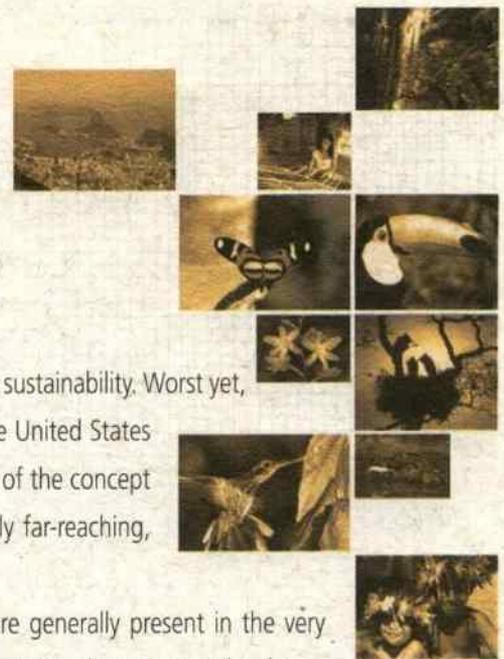
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**TOWARDS THE III WORLD SOCIAL FORUM**  
[http:// forumsocialmundial.org.br](http://forumsocialmundial.org.br)

GRAPHIC DESIGN	ARTE CONTEXTO LTDA
TEXT REVISION	IDA PIETRICOVSKY DE OLIVEIRA
TYPESETTING	COLOR PRESS
PRINTING	GRÁFICA POSITIVA
CIRCULATION	5.000 EXEMPLARES

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER BY FINE PAPERS, COVER PAPER: SILVRE VELLUN – 236G/M<sup>2</sup>, CORE PAPER: SUZANO – 90G/M<sup>2</sup>

## PLATFORM OF BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY THAT WE WANT



### The transition for sustainability in Brazil requires a profound change in the model of development

Ten years after Rio '92 has shown little change and few advancements toward a true sustainability. Worst yet, in many aspects we are seeing a profound retrocession as in the positions taken by the United States following the election of George W. Bush. The intentional undefined and vague nature of the concept of sustainable development facilitated the constitution of a false consensus: apparently far-reaching, but, at the same time, little effective in concrete terms.

The idea of sustainable development shares, many times, the two illusions that are generally present in the very notion of "development". The first is based upon the hypothesis that only one path exists to achieve it, a trail to be followed by different countries, marching one after another. The second illusion, built upon the former, and at the same time, complementing it, leads to the presumption that ecological conditions exist on the planet so that everyone can one day reach the beginning of the line, the laurels of victory; and, can finally begin to live, thanks to this ideal model. Worst: what model is this?

Actually, what should be highly questioned are the standards of production and consumption of the so-called countries "of the North" established as ideal for all human life on Earth. We do not possess the same base material. We are not surrounded by the same ecosystems. We do not share the same traditions. We were not born with the same concept of world. We did not grow up with the same ideals and values. We do not forge the same culture. We are potentially different in our needs, dreams and desires. All of this is denied, however.

And the deceit goes even further: the idea that everyone can reach these imposed standards is equally disseminated as ideals – as long as determined economic prescriptions are followed -, when, more and more, the so talked about international solidarity for development reveals itself as one more farce. The commitment of industrialized countries to devote 0.70% of their GNP to help countries of the South (a renewed promise in the Agenda 21 of Rio '92) was never fulfilled. In the place of a gesture of solidarity, what rules is the iron market law that is more and more competitive and closed and the trade agreements that are harmful to the interests of the majority of humanity.

A majority of around 20% of humanity consumes nearly 80% of the resources extracted from nature, producing at the same time, something close to 80% of the pollution and environmental degradation that threatens the Earth as a whole, especially in terms of the so-called "global warming". Also, in the case of Brazil, the model is more than questionable, in its social, environmental and economic effects. Independent of the growth of the GNP and economic wealth, far inferior in the last decades than anterior ones, the truth of the concentration of income has not changed. Both in 1978 and in 1999, for example, the 10% wealthiest population continue to appropriate almost half (47%) of the national income.

Be it on the international plan or internal plan, the conventional concepts of development are based upon inequity and the ideology of limited growth. Such as the moment in which the President of the United States, George Bush, in full entrance to a new millenium, publicly refused to sign the "Kyoto Protocol", with the justification that his country is not willing to sacrifice a part that leads to economic growth.

The use of the idea of "sustainable development" by the market and by the dominant economist view point seeks to cover up the existence of a social dynamic that combines private appropriation of world materials and the deepening of inequalities. It has therefore become even more necessary to put into effect, in a theoretical and practical sense, the absolute necessity of sustainability, of the quality of life and of environmental justice.

This brings us to two basic questions: the need for what we could call a transition strategy toward sustainability, and the awareness that this strategy cannot be one and only. In the case of Brazil, for instance, the construction of sustainability cannot be carried out by means of instant and fragmented measures. The process requires a profound change in the dominant development model in the country. This model presents five marking traces that, in one way or another, go against justice and sustainability: inequality,

environmental degradation, external dependence, subordinate production re-restoration, weakening of democracy.

### General Principles for the sustainability that we want

Basic principles are needed as orientation for a first effort – common and differentiated at the same time – of transition. These principles are being effectively formulated through popular and academic dialogue and debate throughout the different continents and beyond the Brazilian case:

- The transition to sustainability requires structural changes in the standards of production and consumption and in the forms of natural resource and land appropriation, having to be at the center of the organization model of society, of policy and of the economy.
  - Sustainability needs to be environmental and social. It is incompatible with the enormous consumption of a minority (that can only remain, for a short term, due to the poverty and misery in which the smashing majority of humanity lives) and with the sub-consumption (socially unsustainable and incompatible with the quality of life). Sustainability requires the building of a Line of Dignity, that allows human beings to live without having to destroy the base material of life.

- Environmental justice, on a global level and in each country, is a necessary condition for sustainability. It is not acceptable that a majority of society, especially the most excluded and poorest sectors, receive a disproportional role of contamination and degradation of a common space. The Line of Dignity and Environmental Justice presuppose the democratic use of these resources, through new qualitative standards of consumption that guarantee the access to natural resources and to a clean environment for the whole of the people.

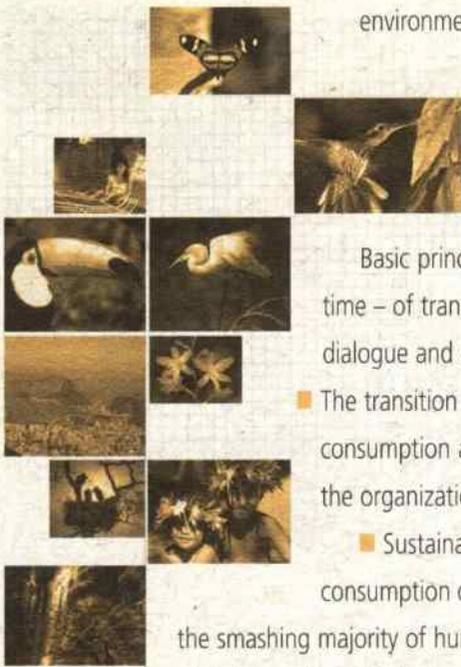
- Sustainability, in this sense, does not coadunate with the tendencies for a rising private appropriation of natural resources, that, like the collection of territories, needs to be utilized mainly to guarantee the survival and quality of collective lives. The submission of social life and the environment to the dictations of the market and the objective of profit have been the main cause of the current ecological crises.

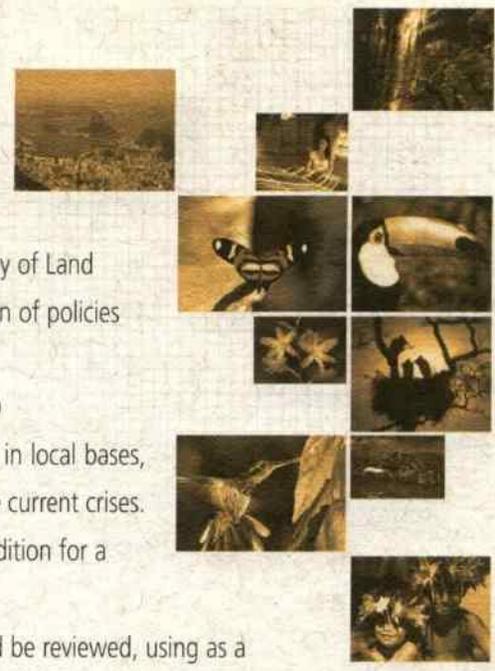
- The struggle for sustainability, based on the above statements, is above all a democratic fight and fight for democracy, because it is based upon the promotion of the well-being of the whole of society on a permanent basis. In this light, the target goal of "public policies" in today's Brazil should be that of making the very existence of a society possible in which all persons have their citizenship recognized, seeking to: create conditions so that the population, living in squalor and poverty, or nearly, can get out of this situation; and assure that, in the future, the land can sustain and permit the reproduction of life and of society, in healthy, ecologically, and socially just conditions.

- The standard of public policy must essentially change toward a basis on strengthening democracy and citizen participation, exchanging short reaching governmental policies, for long term strategic policies. The country's sustainability will never be attained without a sustainability of policy. And this, as we have stated, is realized by means of a democratization of society and democratization of State, seeing that the democratization of one condition is essential so that the other is effective.

- An essential element of transition toward sustainability is the struggle for a quality of life in its different aspects, which signifies making available to all – basic sanitation and good material conditions of life, including the distribution of water, trash collection and treated sewage sanitation. It also implies in the right to enjoy pure air, clean waters, silence, green spaces and to become acquainted with the diversity of flora and fauna species. It further implies in the full validity of social and employee rights, health services, social security and transportation, paid leave and opportunities for professional growth. It demands respect of security rights and physical integrity, including the right of citizens and social groups to neither suffer nor be threatened with violence and physical constraints. Finally, it requires the guarantee of rights to information, education and self-realization, as well as the rights of democratic participation and citizen policy.

- Regarding the process of privatization of public services, we cannot accept the privatization of essential services. This presupposes a redefinition of the role of the State, to build the necessary capacity to regulate and control; creation or strengthening of agencies, boards, committees, etc., with the public service members prepared for the change; own resources and participation of sectors of society that can legitimately represent the diffuse interests of the population.





■ The policies of democratization and redistribution of natural and material resources, such as urban and land reform, should be inserted into more far-reaching strategies of general reconstitution of the standard of use and appropriation of land and collective space.

■ Sustainable land reform continues to be a social and environmental imperative, representing the democratization of property. The settlements sponsored by the Ministry of Land Development merely disguise an explosive situation, if not interlinked with a conjunction of policies geared toward the strengthening of family farming and association.

■ The reproduction of daily life (including food, clothes, energy, transportation etc.) should be localized and decentralized. Food security, especially, should be resolved in local bases, because it deals with a key element to guarantee the quality of life in the context of the current crises. The revision of the agreements relating to the external debt continue to be a basic condition for a development on desirable terms.

■ International relations, especially in their commercial and financial aspects, should be reviewed, using as a parameter the recomposition of relations based on justice and a true cooperation between people and countries. The high remuneration of national and international capital is another factor of the concentration of wealth and income, in domestic and international plans. This, and the total priority conceded to the payment of servicing the external debt, converted social policies to fight poverty, the concentration of income and wealth, unemployment and others of a social nature into increasingly more distant objectives. The foreign debt is responsible for the permanent instability of the foreign accounts and, historically, the driving force for the supposed need to export at any cost.

■ The creation of favorable conditions for democratic sustainability, in this sense, demand profound changes, as much on the global plane of international relations as Brazil's position in this scenario. International trade is not an end in itself, and should be faced as a tool subordinate to priority tasks to fight poverty, inequality, unemployment, unjust and irrational appropriation of natural resources.

■ The issue of employment and income constitutes a right that has become increasingly denied by the tendencies presented in the dominant model, according to which the structure of production becomes highly influenced by external factors that determine not only what will be produced in the country, but also how and by whom.

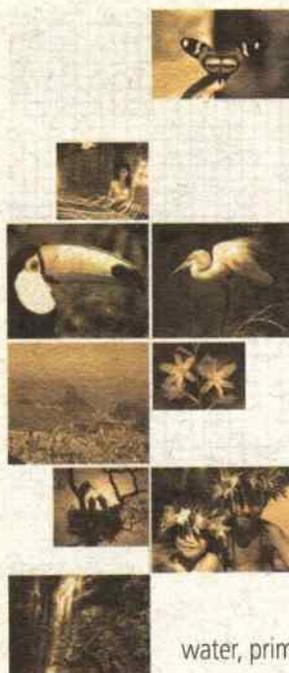
■ The increase in imports destroys the structures of diverse segments of Brazilian industry, exposed to unequal competition with the international production. International access to the domestic market was conceded without any counterpart, and without creating conditions for the restructuring and increase of the competitiveness of Brazilian industry. The transition toward sustainability, therefore, requires a revolution in priorities.

■ The increasing disequilibrium, in demographic and financial terms, between rural and urban spaces is another challenging point in this transition, demanding actions that articulate in a synergic manner rural, urban and border spaces. It is necessary to develop, from the public power to society, a view that contemplates the land and the acting social forces contained there within, so that the policies and the actions can be decided in a more total and agreed perspective. Against the globalization logic of de-territorialization, we want the sustainability of areas, which demands land pacts and social regulation on the use of these places.

■ Still concerning industrial policies, special attention should be given to the standards for the localization of industry. Incentives should be created for the geographic decentralization of production, in a manner that stimulates activities compatible with each region in the country. The concentration of highly polluting industries should be banned. Industries need to be urged and pressured to respect environmental legislation.

■ The management of the environment cannot be restricted to one ministry, neither can it be handed over to economic interests. Public policies should deal with the environment as part of thread of land, of production spaces, of residences, of changes and of services.

■ The development of mass public transportation, and the transportation of cargo via seas and railways, should occupy a good part of the space that today pertains to automobiles and trucks. It is necessary to recover the meaning of cities as places of life, individuals and society, giving priority to the actions that seek to overcome the accumulated debt with the poor of the cities: land regularization, housing policies, sanitation and services in general.



■ The fiscal standard adopted by the country must be changed. It is necessary to eliminate the subsidy concessions and fiscal incentives by the government on activities linked to product exportation due to the large-scale use of natural resources and energy to produce these materials. Activities should be guided to allow the country to develop in such a way as to attend the essential needs of the population, such as: reversion of the commitments assumed by Brazil in the sphere of the WTO and other multi-lateral instances; implementation of mechanisms that restrain the trade of primary materials at debased prices, as well as the international circulation of speculative capital.

■ Science and technology are basic conditions for equitable development. The introduction of new technologies and new standards of production cannot be subordinate to the logic of the market and the short term financial profitability. Legislation and public funds can make it possible to develop science and technology concerned with this objective. The reuse and recycling of scraps and used materials, using residuals and sub-products of the process in itself, as well as the reduction of the consumption of energy, water, primary materials and other raw materials in industrial processes, should receive specific incentives and companies be held responsible when necessary. The life span of consumer goods should be prolonged. Patent rights should have as a limit the rights of all to food and health. The hypothesis of a life patent is not considered.

■ One cannot emphasize enough that the standards of consumerism, in effect in developed countries, are unsustainable and cannot and should not be imitated. Finding our cultural identity is certainly the greatest challenge we have ahead of us.

■ To change the standard of civilization is fundamental and brings back the capacity to dream. And to dream of utopia. It is essential that we take inspiration in a new concept of the world. A vision of a democratic process in eternal construction, capable of conciliating, in a singular ideal of planetary re-foundation, the diversity, the equity, the self-respect, the awareness and the defense of the right to one's own dignity. Without, of course, forgetting, the respect of the environment and humanity, and guaranteeing us a new, necessary motivation: hope.

# AGENDA 21

## 1. Current Challenges

The building process of the Brazilian Agenda 21 got a late start off and began only five years after Rio '92. Since the inception of the process, the Forum of Brazilian NGOs and Social Movements has been engaged and played a key role in the creation of the Policy Committee on Sustainable Development and Agenda 21 (CPDS). The CPDS is presided by the Ministry of the Environment and is a platform where the Forum participates via its representatives. The roles of the CPDS and the Agenda 21, to assist and elaborate in the preparation of public policies on sustainable development, were relegated as secondary plans by the Federal Government and thus resulted in low effectiveness. The task to coordinate the preparation of a national Agenda 21 fell to CPDS.

The preparation process of the Brazilian Agenda 21, albeit with gaps, was recognized for its singularity and relevance: in the past years there has been no other similar example with reference to national public policy on development in the country that has provided opportunities for joint participation and construction.

In 1998, in the start up phase of the discussions, opportunities were sought for the Brazilian Agenda 21 to contribute to the elaboration of the national Pluri-annual Budget Plan (PPA). The local Agenda 21 was transformed into a planning instrument for approximately 100 municipalities. This experience aided to influence leaders, educate the youth and identify values, attitudes, and practices compatible with the sustainability of development.

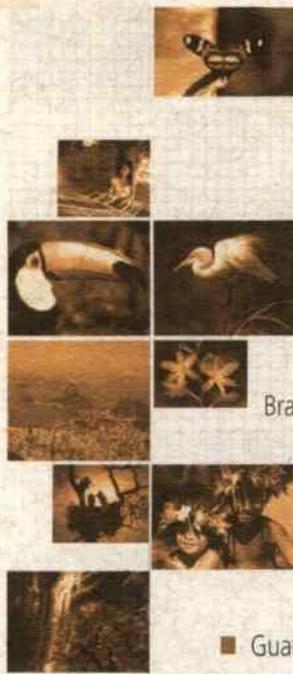
The Agenda 21 is not bound by an international legal agreement – a hard law – which classifies it, to some, as a fragile instrument. Due to the fact that it was not the object of exclusive appropriation by the Federal Government led, in fact, to positive developments, such as making it possible for other levels of government – state and county – and even civil society organizations to adopt the global Agenda 21, and to develop relative projects and actions, and even to launch local Agenda 21s. Thus, the Agenda 21 has been increasingly used in Brazil to substantiate processes of participative planning for development and social mobilization surrounding issues of quality of life.

## 2. Proposals for sustainability

The elaboration and implementation of the Brazilian Agenda 21 cannot be subordinate merely to an economic logic. The dissemination and implantation of the Brazilian Agenda 21 should always be interlinked and accompanied by activities that clearly explicit the values and principles of ethics, of democracy, of solidarity, among others. To meet this end, the Agenda 21, national or local, must always work in conjunction with the Earth Charter and the Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development. Therefore, it is recommended that:

- Utilization of the Brazilian Agenda 21 as a foundation for Government programs and a defining tool for the Federal Budget;
- Transparency in the partnerships between State, organized society and business;
- Eradication of poverty by means of local sustainable development and strengthening of local instances of public jurisdiction;
- Promotion of a multi-sector meeting for analyses and approval of final documents: Brazilian Agenda 21 and Agenda of Priorities;
- Implementation of the National Program for the Elaboration and Implementation of Local Agenda 21s until the year 2012;
- Increase in the participation of municipalities in the national income tax revenue, raising it from nearly 16% to 30%;
- Adoption of an annual index of sustainable development for Brazil, its states, municipalities, biome regions and associated ecosystems and rural regions, that is the result of indicators, information and statistics collected obligatorily by private and social public workers, individuals and groups who will be conducted to produce the data in an appropriate fashion under the guidance of the principle of interdependence.
- Creation of a national education program for sustainability.
- Study and evaluate, in each national biome, the possibility of transforming priority areas for protection into conservation units, taking into consideration the different dimensions of sustainable development.





- Sponsor measures that increase the capacity of the Brazilian population to comprehend all of the issues of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on fiscal, tax and budget issues. Final documents should be written in accessible and comprehensible language to allow for full understanding and commitment to the issues by the Brazilian population.
- Allocate funds, based on a percentage of the GNP of Brazil and in all countries, in order to implement the actions of the Agenda 21.
- Creation of mechanisms for financial compensation to the population directly involved with the protection of relevant areas of environmental value or with the socio-cultural-environmental-ecological Brazilian diversity (CSA – Compensation for Environmental Services, protector-receiver, user-payer).
- Promote and encourage the means for organized social control in public policies, in domestic and foreign debts, in fundraising and in tax revenue distribution.
- Promote and encourage the means for organized social control of actions by businesses that provide public services.
- Guarantee Brazilians the access to water and basic sanitation as the foundation for life.

#### GT AGENDA 21

■ Instituto de Estudos da Religião - ISER ■ Instituto Vitae Civilis ■ Fundação Vitória Amazônica - FVA ■ Associação Ambientalista da Amazônia - Argonautas ■ Central Única dos Trabalhadores - CUT ■ Centro de Estudos Ambientais - CEA ■ Associação Paraibana de Amigos da Natureza - APAN ■ Instituto Paulo Freire ■ Instituto de Defesa do Consumidor

# SOCIO-BIODIVERSITY

## 1. Current Challenges

Through the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the participant nations accepted the responsibility to: guarantee the survival of species, genetic materials, habitats, ecosystems and landscapes; promote the sustainable use of natural resources; recognize the sovereignty of each country upon its own biodiversity; and commit to finding the means to carry out equal profit sharing – monetary and non-monetary – of the derivative benefits of the sustainable use of biodiversity.

In Brazil, some significant advances occurred. The most emblematic progress was perhaps the inclusion of the topic in the national agenda. However, considering the diverse subjects of the CBD, the most effective advancements have yet to take place. For instance, despite Brazil's reasonable number of protected areas and extensive legislation, large gaps exist. To cite just two: the lack of protected areas in certain ecosystems and the low implementation level of these areas; and the absence of complementary strategies for the protected areas to guarantee the effective conservation of biodiversity.

In relation to the protection of biological resources outside natural environments, the country holds herbariums, botanical gardens, zoos and a National Conservation Network for Genetic Resources, coordinated by Emprapa (Brazilian Company for Agricultural Research). These efforts, albeit insufficient, are setback by the poor geographic distribution of these collections.

Biodiversity associates, such as forests, for example, also face other types of problems.

The attempts to create international instruments, even in the sphere of the CBD, that generate conservation duties and sustainable use of forests, are seen as threats to the country's sovereignty. Thus, with relation to forests, the Convention's level of implementation and the framework of national policies are still incipient.

Another aggravating factor is the lack of knowledge on biodiversity itself. A study by the "Current state of Brazilian knowledge of biodiversity", apart from being heterogeneous, showed unsatisfactory levels of knowledge of this biodiversity. Nevertheless, little was done with reference to the knowledge held by indigenous people and local communities surrounding fauna and flora species and their use.

Immense, ongoing challenges remain, such as: the access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge; the equal and just distribution of benefits (profit sharing) and the transference of technology. Furthermore, the management of genetic resources is carried out by a board formed by government members only. This closed administration can turn out to be pernicious in the fulfillment of the objectives of the Convention.

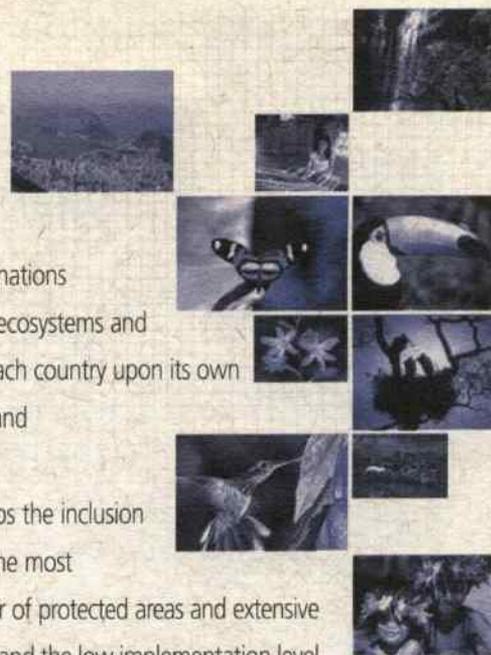
The sparse knowledge with reference to the ecological processes and dynamics of ecosystems is reflected in the decisions on management and use of the Brazilian biodiversity. One of the most significant restrictions for the expansion of sustainable use of biological resources is the poorly defined limit that exists between the modality of use and predatory use, the latter of which brings more short term financial advantages. The conflict between sustainable use and predatory exploration happens in diverse fields and on different scales, starting with the very model of development and continuing through the diverse incentives – economic and political – that benefit the predatory model of land use. This is reflected in agriculture, infra-structure projects, forest management activities and in all processes of occupation and land use in Brazil.

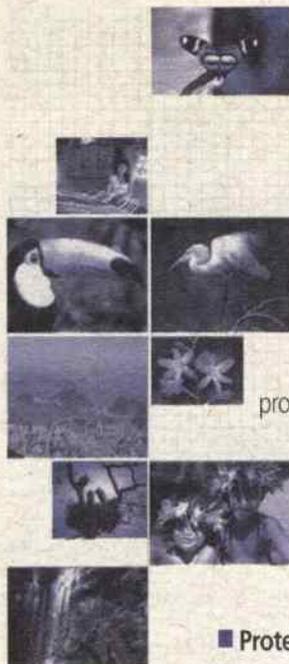
Theoretically, some government sectors (such as, for example, the electric sector) incorporated, into their policies, environmental standards that should orient the rational use of resources and the protection of biodiversity. In practical terms, however, very little is done.

## 2. Proposals for sustainability

■ **Forests** – Conservation and sustainable use: Among other actions, recommend the: development of the National Forest Program in consonance with the National Biodiversity Policy; implementation of national forests; definition and implementation of policies that discourage deforestation; support for extractive reserves and indigenous territories to develop viable economic alternatives and implement monitoring and control mechanisms to satisfy the legal norms that refer to the maintenance of forest vegetation in private properties.

■ **Biodiversity knowledge** – Recommend, among other proposals, the: creation of regional centers, especially in the Northeast and Central West, integrated with the national initiatives of biodiversity inventory and monitoring; realization of new inventories; application of





bio-information techniques seeking to accelerate the dissemination of the knowledge; and equilibrated implementation of the National Biodiversity Policy.

■ **Analysis and mitigation of environmental impacts** – Fundamentals: Guarantee both an independent evaluation process of environmental impacts and a licensing process immune to lobby by interested sectors. Effectively convert environmental licensing into a pre-requisite for the implantation of impact projects – originated by government or private ventures.

■ **Access to genetic resources and profit sharing** – The country's general regulation on access to genetic resources was carried out by means of a provisional measure that, in addition to disregarding a lengthy process of national discussion on the matter, presents innumerable deficiencies. The recommendations, therefore, are: incorporation of the past dialogue and proposals into the provisional measure and conversion of the provisional measure into law; broaden the composition of the Genetic Heritage Board of Management – currently only composed by government members – is responsible for the regulation of access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge and the distribution of profit sharing.

■ **Protection of traditional knowledge** – No provision exists in the country that establishes some concrete way of protecting traditional knowledge. The provisional measure, that deals with genetic resource access and traditional knowledge, mentions that this knowledge should be protected, but neither creates, nor suggests any type of instrument to meet this end. The country needs to develop such instruments and guarantee the cultural survival of communities who detain traditional knowledge, for this is the only way to truly protect traditional knowledge. Finally, the approval of the Statute of Indigenous People would help create a necessary legal framework so that these communities can act integrally on this and other issues.

■ **Technology transference** – Brazil should hold a firm position that guarantees the transference of technology from industrialized nations to developing countries, contemplating the priorities of the latter, and not accepting impositions as to the type or nature of the technology. Biodiversity cannot be considered as an exchange to compensate for the lack of government interest or funds to invest in science and technology.

■ **National Biodiversity Policy** – The National Biodiversity Policy, in its final phase of elaboration, should orient conservation actions and biodiversity use for the diverse sectors that act in areas with interface on environmental issues. Budget funds should be guaranteed to assure its equilibrated implementation.

■ **Social Participation** – The involvement and participation of society is the only way to guarantee the implementation of the Convention or of any public policy for that matter. Thus, an essential part of this process necessitates that the Brazilian positions in the CBD meetings be debated, disseminated and explained to society at large, and that the diverse internal instances of implementation of the CBD be transparent and participative.

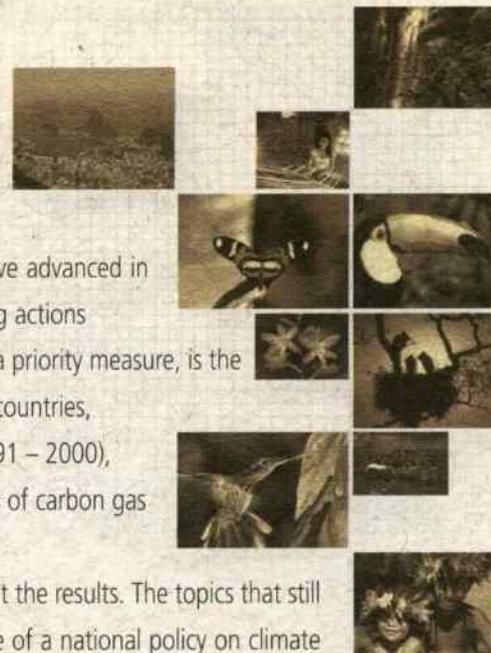
■ **The relation of the CBD with other international treaties** – Facing other international treaties throughout these 10 years, the Convention has lost power, mainly in the sphere of the negotiations of the World Trade Organization – WTO. Important steps must be taken to counterbalance this situation, increasing dialogue among the diverse international treaties and seeking to establish instruments that strengthen the CBD.

■ **Values and principles of sustainability underlying the conservation and use of biodiversity** – The Agenda 21 principles – of democratic participation, transparency and accounting to society – should also be applied in relation to the implementation of the CBD. The principle of caution should always be taken into account and used when necessary, for the conservation and use of biodiversity includes non-material aspects that cannot fall under a monetary status.

#### SOCIO-BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

■ Amigos da Terra - Amazônia Brasileira ■ Fundação Biodiversitas ■ Fundação Vitória Amazônica - FVA ■ União das Entidades Ambientais do Paraná - UNEAP ■ Associação Ambientalista da Amazônia - Argonautas ■ Grupo Pau Campeche ■ Instituto Vitae Civilis ■ Instituto Brasileiro de Difusão Universitária ■ Associação Paraibana de Amigos da Natureza - APAN ■ Movimento de Ecologia Social - Os Verdes ■ Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia - IPAM ■ Instituto de Estudos Ambientais - Maternatura ■ Associação Mineira Defesa Ambiental - AMDA ■ Federação dos Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional - FASE ■ Instituto Terrazul ■ SOS Amazônia ■ Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica ■ Associação Gaúcha de Proteção à Natureza - AGAPAN ■ Central Única dos Trabalhadores - CUT ■ Rede Mata Atlântica ■ Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos - INESC ■ Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza - ISPAN ■ WWF - Brasil ■ Aliança para a Conservação da Mata Atlântica ■ Ecologia e Ação - ECOA ■ Greenpeace ■ Instituto Socioambiental - ISA ■ Associação Nascentes das Águas Puras - ANAP ■ Associação Potiguar dos Amigos da Natureza - ASPOAN ■ Grupo de Entidades Ambientais da Bahia - GAMBA ■ Associação Ecológica Canela - ASSECAN ■ Instituto Ambiental de Estudos e Assessoria ■ Gabinete da Senadora Marina Silva ■ Fórum Ambientalista da Amazônia Oriental - FAOR ■ Pesquisa e Conservação do Cerrado - PEQUI

## Current Challenges



Following 10 years of the Convention on Climate Change, a series of meetings have advanced in the preparation and implementation of an instrument capable of regulating and making actions possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by human action. Include here, as a priority measure, is the responsibility of developed countries with sustainable development in underdeveloped countries, as stated in the Kyoto Protocol that should also be ratified. Only in this last decade (1991 – 2000), emissions rose in both developed and underdeveloped countries and the concentrations of carbon gas in the atmosphere went from 278 thousand ppb in 1990 to 370 thousand in 2002.

Brazil has already prepared its inventory of domestic emissions, but has yet to present the results. The topics that still need to be equated are forests and the necessary control of deforestation. The absence of a national policy on climate and climate changes; the urgent and necessary change in the standards of production and consumption and the alteration of the energy framework, are critical subject for the issue of climate change.

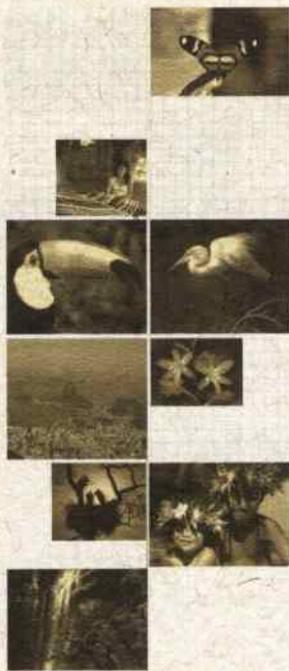
With the creation of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change (FBMC), formal institutional advances were made, but qualified discussion is still limited. Positive steps made were the creation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change and the realization, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of preparatory meetings for the international negotiations. The current goals for reduction established by the Kyoto Protocol will not revert the increase in global gas emissions, seeing that the USA – the country with the greatest greenhouse gas emission – will not ratify the Protocol.

Nevertheless, the ratification of the Protocol is a priority and its delay a critical point of the regime advancement. In Brazil, the rates of deforestation reached an unacceptable level of almost 20 thousand square kilometers (in the Amazon alone), resulting in a significant global impact. The economic mechanisms of the climate change regime, such as the Clean Development Mechanism, joint implementation and the commercialization of certifications for emission reduction, are based upon market principles and will not necessarily guarantee the environmental integrity and effectiveness consistent with the objectives of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, principles of environmental and social equity and a holistic vision on environmental vulnerability should be incorporated in order to revitalize the objectives of sustainability.

## Proposals for sustainability

The following proposals seek a better equation of policies and local and national actions associated to the regime of climate change:

- Make use of the subject of climate change in association with the current energy crises situation, the discussion of the privatization of water and the adoption of sustainable production and consumer standards.
- Support the strengthening of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change.
- Review the programming of an increase in combustible fossil fuels in the Brazilian energy framework.
- Build management capacity on local and regional levels and stimulate the creation of regional forums on climate change.
- Publish the National Communication (a document required by all countries in the terms of the Convention, indicating the existing and necessary measures and policies to achieve the objectives of the agreement).
- Prepare state and municipal inventories as a planning instrument.
- Introduce, in the process of environmental licensing, the request for data on greenhouse gas emission, making it a compulsory notification.
- Adapt and, when necessary, formulate sector public policies (energy, transportation, soil use, water and forests).
- Insert the issue of forests and other Brazilian biomes (savanna, scrub land, wet lands, etc.) into the negotiation plan of the Brazilian delegation in the sphere of the international regime of climate change.
- Restrict the approval of Clean Development Mechanism projects (deforestation and reforestation) and favor projects that provide for the recreation of ecosystems -- their environmental functions and native species.



- Monitor on a national scale the compliance of the Forest Code.
  - Incorporate the issue of climate in the debates to alter the Forest Code and its implementation.
  - Establish parameters of environmental compensation in the licensing of activities that generate greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Create synergy between the regime of Climate Change and other international environmental regimes, such as: Desertification, Forests, Biological Diversity, Water Resources, Ozone Layer and Ocean Rights.
- Reformulate the fiscal and budget system in a manner that directs investments and, eventually, subsidies for the processes of production that do not produce pollution or that have a clear mitigation policy of the pollutant impacts of their production and even still, that contribute toward the efforts of local development and employment generation.

#### CLIMATE WORKING GROUP

■ Amigos da Terra ■ Associação Potiguar de Proteção Ambiental -ASPOAN ■ Grupo de Recomposição Ambiental – GERMEN/BA ■ Grupo Ambiental da Bahia - GAMBA ■ Instituto Ipanema ■ Instituto Terrazul ■ Instituto Vidágua ■ Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia - IPAM ■ ISAN ■ Instituto de Estudos Ambientais - Mater Natura ■ Movimento de Ecologia Social - Os Verdes ■ Instituto Vitae Cívils

# FORESTS

## 1. Current Challenges

The exclusive increase in the value of timber, in detriment to non-timber products and the environmental benefits provided by the forests, resulted in selective and exhaustive exploration of species and to the total suppression of enormous areas for farming expansion and urban settlements in Brazil. Due to its geographic localization, the Atlantic Rainforest was the first to receive the impact of this model. At the time of the discovery of Brazil, the Atlantic Rainforest covered more than 1.3 million square kilometers, nearly 15% of the Brazilian territory, and today is restricted to little less than 8% of its original area.

Historically, there are various factors responsible for the destruction of this biome: predatory exploration of natural and forest resources; diverse economic cycles and the conversion of areas for cattle and farming activities and forestry poles; a fast process of industrialization and urbanization in the main Brazilian cities – more than three thousand municipalities are settled today where the Atlantic Rainforest once stood. The current result is an almost total loss of intact primary forests and the continuous devastation of existing forest fragments, which places the Atlantic Rainforest as one of the most threatened ecosystems of extinction in the world.

Its main remaining areas are concentrated in the states of the southern and southeast regions. To guarantee the protection of biodiversity, the recovery and, especially, the sustainability of the Atlantic Rainforest is the primary objective of the main policies of conservation and of existing strategies for action in the biome. However, to reach this point is the big challenge, seeing that, currently, 108 million inhabitants live in its domain.

Geographically distanced from the space where the colonization of Brazil began, the Amazon Rainforest remained intact until the beginning of the decade of 1970, when the large programs for national integration were begun, promoted by the Military Government. In 1978, only seven years following the beginning of these programs, the Amazon already presented a destruction of approximately 150 square kilometers (3.5% of the total).

The decade of 1980 was a period when the Amazon Rainforest suffered its greatest impact, with a rhythm of destruction that surpassed the rate of 20 thousand square kilometers per year, caused, fundamentally, by the opening of areas for the formation of pastures intended for extensive cattle-raising and financed by generous fiscal incentives.

According to data from the National Institute for Spatial Research (INPE), through the Deforestation Project (Prodes), the area deforested in the Amazon rose from 377,500 km<sup>2</sup> in 1998 to 401,400 km<sup>2</sup> in 1989, reaching a rate of 469,978 in 1994 – the latest available data that was made public in 1996. In terms of annual rate of destruction, the data show a significant increase in the last years, exceeding 11,130 km<sup>2</sup>/per annum in the period of 1991-1992 to 14,896 km<sup>2</sup>/per annum in the biennium of 1992-1994. The period of 1994/1995 showed the higher of the decade, 29,059 km<sup>2</sup>. From 1994 to 2000 the average rate of deforestation is 18,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The process of exploration in the Amazon Region has suffered great changes. The forest, seen as an obstacle in need of removal for farming and cattle raising, has acquired more economic value, with a potential estimated at billions of dollars. In the Amazon State of Pará alone, where logging activity is considered of the utmost importance, there are more than two thousand sawmills in activity, with an estimated gross income of 0.8 billion dollars per year. However, the public policies for the region still do not reflect this potential.

For the most part, the logging exploration in the region is illegal, since the capacity of public agencies for monitoring and control is minor, with innumerable cases of logs taken out of indigenous territories and conservation units. This fact presents two very complex situations: the illegal exploration carried out by loggers established in the region, or who own small, mobile sawmills, and the exploration carried out mainly by river bank communities, especially in marsh plains. Adding to the direct environmental and social impacts, the relation between the logging exploration and the process of land occupation on course in the Amazon Region.

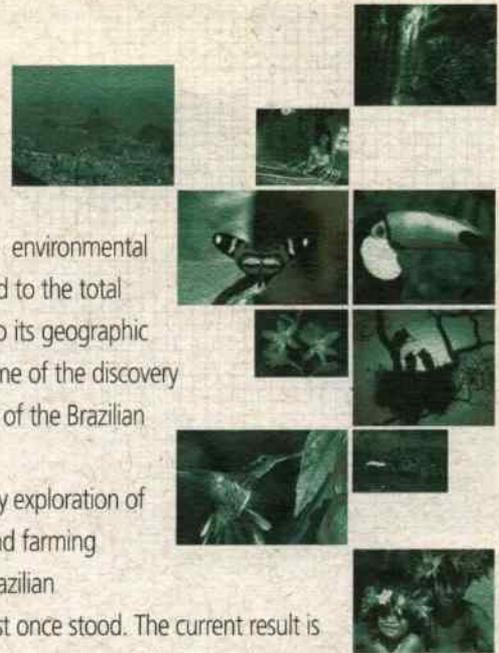
It is necessary to consider the homogenous plantation of commercial use that expanded throughout Brazil resulting from the policy of fiscal incentives sponsored in the decade of 1960 and carried into the decade of 1980, that formed a base forest area that today re-covers approximately 5.4 million hectares, especially the genus Pine and Eucalyptus. These plantations have been used especially for the production of cellulose, charcoal for the metallurgy of iron and steel and firewood. If on the one hand it has a lesser intrinsic importance as an ecosystem, it could achieve great importance in the substitution of a large part of the volume of sawmill wood used today originating from natural forests of the Amazon Region and others.

The homogenous forests should be submitted to forest management criteria, such as the natural forests. High impact practices that this sector employed in the recent past are unacceptable, as, for example, the substitution of natural forests.

## 2. Proposals for sustainability

The advancements:

**The Atlantic Rainforest** – Decree 750/93 among several measures establishes officially the area of the Atlantic forest and prohibited logging





## Current Challenges

The issues relating to the use and availability of water have been a relevant topic of the international agenda. Prior to Rio '92, a Conference in Dublin was held to deal with the issue of water, where, for the first time, basic principles were announced ruling in favor of the option for economic value of water resources, and the World Council on Water was created. Chapter 18 of the Agenda 21 adopted in Rio '92 is dedicated to water issues.

The first World Water Forum was held in Marrakesh in 1997 and assigned the World Council of Water to prepare a long term work to be presented as a World Vision for Water for the 21st century at the II World Water Forum to be held in Hawaii in 2000. In December of 2001, the German government hosted, in Bonn, the Conference on Fresh Water, that focussed on the subject of Water for the Poor, as a preparatory work for the Johannesburg Summit Meeting in 2002 and the III World Forum of Water, that is scheduled to take place in Kyoto in 2003. On a regional basis, the IV Inter-American Dialogue on Water Resource Management, held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, in September of 2001, is on the list of preparatory work for Rio + 10 and Kyoto 2003.

In April of 2002, the Swiss Government carried out, in Ruschlikon, "Sustainable Management of Water: priorities for policy structure and better practices". The object was to test a proposal to coordinate the topics of waters in world terms, and, possibly, to create an international agency. The proposal was not accepted by the present community of governments, academics, civil society groups and NGOs.

Brazil's position for the Sustainable Development Summit Meeting (Johannesburg 2002) should be based on the following priorities: water, energy, health, sustainable development indicators, oceans, eradication of poverty, access to sustainable technologies and to markets. Brazil holds one of the largest fresh water reserves in the world, both surface and subterranean waters, however, due to the non-sustainable management of soil, forests and human settlements, there is a considerable portion of the Brazilian population without access to water. The population's lack of awareness surrounding the value of water results in the prevalence of the "waste culture", particularly in farming uses, apart from the water pollution that causes numerous diseases. Although Brazil's electricity generation is cleaner due to the preponderance of water sources, in relation to the thermals, both conventional and nuclear, the construction of dams has caused serious problems of a social nature as a consequence of the human settlements with a loss of cultural identity of groups obligated to leave their base origins and reference.

The recent study published by IBGE (the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) showed a deficit in the services of sanitation and running water, clearly demonstrating the necessity for a change in paradigms, with the design of clever and creative solutions that permit a decrease in the present socio-economic gap.

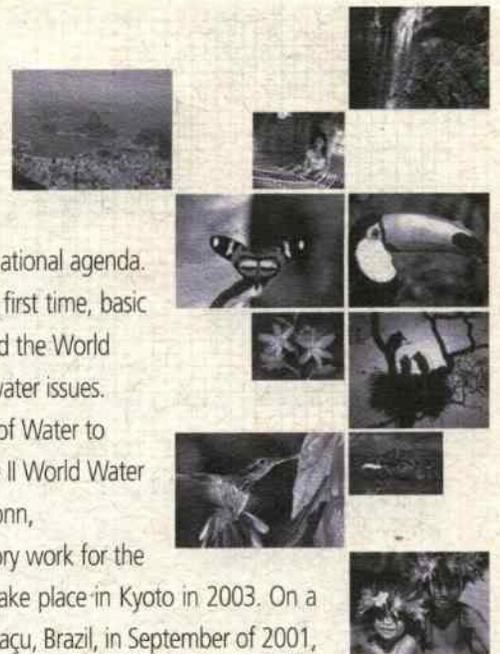
In the agenda of the World summit for Sustainable Development, water is indicated as "a key resource for sustainable development". The Platform of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, presented by Brazil, in May of 2002, indicates the need for new ethics to serve as a foundation for sustainable development and the need for greater integration among social, economic and environmental policies.

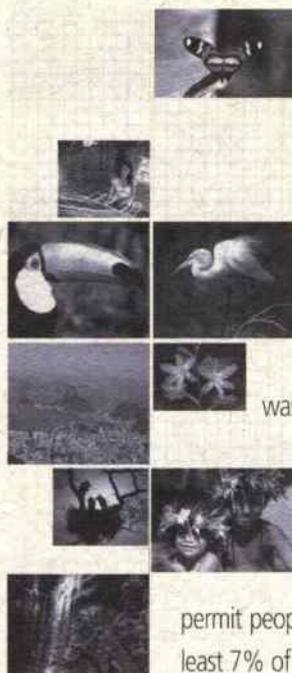
The increase in the value and demand for water is a subject that is on the discussion list both on the national and international agendas. The bill of law on National Framework for Basic Sanitation (4147/01) as well as the Bill of Law 1616/99 that regulates the National Policy on Water Resources, particularly the topic of concession rights, are in discussion in Congress. Both bills are important instruments for sustainable management of water resources in their multiple uses together with strengthening the participation of society in the decision making process.

## Proposals for Sustainability

■ **Policy Agenda** – Water should be a promoting factor of sustainability and Peace. The strategic value of water resources in their multiple uses and the generation of respective opportunities is a fundamental factor. The right to water access should be considered as corollary to the right to life and inherent to health security, seeing that hydro resources generate food and income for populations. The universalization of the access to drinking water and sanitation services, in the terms foreseen in the Declaration of the Millenium Summit Meeting, consolidates the fundamental right to the resource and shows that the world pact agreed upon in 1992 must be maintained in 2002, with the strengthening of all players and decision makers and governments. The capacity building of society to manage water and the social control exercised on a decision making process in its diverse levels are transformed into valuable instruments of action, as well as the equitable participation of society. The adoption of institutional mechanisms to prevent and fight corruption in the water and sanitation sectors, and of a code of conduct in all levels of society – local through international – are necessary (Recommendations from the Declaration of Bonn in December of 2001).

■ **Social Agenda** – The incorporation of gender in the management of water resources is necessary in order to provide equal rights to women in its management. Caution used in the protection of water sources, prevention of pollution and waste, in rural and urban areas. Awareness by





society about the health consequences resulting from diseases provoked by poor administration of water; the capacity building of players and decision makers to meet their respective responsibilities, from local communities to international forums; and social impact studies of the government policies and programs and their relation with hydro resources. Greater involvement of communication mediums and demonstration of their social responsibility surrounding this Agenda.

■ **Cultural Agenda** – Recognize cultural values and practices, including religious, related to water resources, as well as respect of indigenous people and other ancestral cultures. The elimination of production and consumption standards disconnected and incoherent with sustainable development, “the promotion of a culture of sustainable management of hydro resources, and the triumph over the culture of waste” and of the pollution of water resources, both rural and urban.

■ **Economic Agenda** – Rejection of water as a commodity and the urgent need to exclude this issue from the international trade discussions. Investments and funds should not be conditioned to processes of privatization, as recommended, by the world, in the Declaration of Bonn in 2001, considering the integrated management of multiple uses as an economic determinant. Development of economic-financial mechanisms that permit people in a poverty state the access to drinking water and sanitation, in addition to developing countries allocating at least 7% of their respective GNP to assist the less developed or developing countries. Finally, the rise in the value of water resources as capital and not solely their relative services, as well as the increase in value of environmental and ecosystem services, and the increase in value of the economic costs of poor management of water resources (due to the resulting diseases, labor losses and the costs to clean polluted water courses) form a group of topics that need to be discussed in this Agenda.

■ **Spatial Agenda** – The principle of international law that water courses, surface and subterranean, linked or not to one another, that cross over the national borders of more than one State, be considered transborder water courses and/or shared waters, and that management of these hydro courses should be carried out in cooperation, solidarity and responsibility by the basin States – is a premise in the management of these resources. The prevention of illegal settlements in permanent preservation areas and risk areas, preceded by an integration of policies on water resources and public policies on rural and urban settlements, forest recovery and management of solid residuals, are important aspects of this Agenda.

■ **Environmental Agenda** – An integrated vision of environmental management and strategic evaluation of environmental control, as well as the management of ecosystems, recovery of forests, biological diversity, including aquatic, management of soil and climate cannot be unassociated from water resource management. The application of the principles of “polluter – payer” and “user – payer” as a basis of environmental policy and not of economic policy, as well as the damages caused to the ecosystem that provoke the degradation and reduction of water resources. The importance of international treaties, specially the Conventions of Ramsar, Cites and others, regional and bi-lateral, in terms of their consequences on environmental management of hydro resources.

■ **Technology Agenda** – Support the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams, with the reevaluation and “re-potentialization” of the reservoirs. Improvement and maintenance of the existing hydro infra-structures and the utilization of sustainable technologies with the promotion of clean technologies, that have played a role for a considerable period of time in the agenda of developing countries, but have received little attention from the Northern countries. The adoption of policies of residual waste management, preventing or impeding the run off of residuals into water bodies, the assimilation of techniques and good practices in the management of water resources such as the construction of cisterns and other known sustainable mechanisms of gathering water, the reformulation of technological processes to control floods, as well as the reinvigoration or restoration of natural margins of gallery forests of water courses, thus promoting its natural state. Development of sustainable technologies that impede or reduce waste, as well as extending these technologies and good practices to farming, energy and sanitation, adapting them to community needs, respecting cultural values and the economic-financial capacity. It is fundamental to carry out an evaluation of the Brazilian energy framework from the point of view of the sustainability of the water resources.

#### WATER WORKING GROUP

■ Instituto Ipanema ■ Instituto do Desenvolvimento e de Gerenciamento - IMAH ■ Instituto Terrazul ■ Fundação Onda Azul ■ Rede Rios Vivos ■ Associação Potiguar Amigos da Natureza - ASPOAN ■ Instituto Vitae Civilis ■ Fórum da Amazônia Oriental - FAOR ■ Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico - GTA ■ Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional - Fase ■ WWF-Brasil ■ Associação Ecocidade ■ Instituto de Estudos da Religião - ISER ■ Central Única dos Trabalhadores - CUT ■ Projeto Saúde e Alegria ■ Movimento de Ecologia Social - Os Verdes ■ Gamba - Grupo Ambientalista da Bahia ■ Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB ■ Contato Agência Aquariana ■ Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor - IDEC ■ Rede Águas ■ Assembléia Permanente de Entidades de Defesa do Meio Ambiente do Estado do Rio de Janeiro - APEDEMA/RJ

## 1. Current Challenges

The prospect of change in the Brazilian energy framework, particularly stemming from the implementation of the Bolivia-Brazil gas pipeline, was followed by profound changes in the energy sector. It represented an opportunity to advance fundamental aspects of institutional and regulation reform in Brazil, presenting the development of the market for gas and possibilities for increased participation of private capital in new investment projects and in the operation of the sector.

The agreements for the execution of this project led to the fall of the Petrobras monopoly and the privatization of companies that generate (today 30%) and distribute energy (today 70% private). However, the insertion of private capital combined with the withdrawal of investments by the State did not have the expected effect, resulting in the lack of planning and investments capable of supplying the demand of energy.

The World Commission Dams (WCD), in its November 2001 report, concluded that the large dams have more severe impacts than prior evaluation, and that alternatives, that should be analyzed through processes of participation in decision making, exist to the large central power plants. The international lending institutions that financed the WCD process, such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, despite promoting a review of their policies of compensation and resettlement of the communities affected by these undertakings, have not formally committed to respecting these recommendations, which have been equally ignored by the Brazilian government.

More recently, the discussion of the need for an emergency strategy for the sector in crises obscured even more the need for widespread dialogue with society about alternatives to the imposed model, such as: promoting and generating energy efficiency and norms for production and consumption. Energy is no longer a social good; it is a market good, which hinders the access to energy by excluded communities, represented by 20 million Brazilians, and the sustainability to be attained through the efficient and rational use of natural resources.

From the beginning of the process of privatization, from 1995 to date, the energy tariff doubled in value. Privatized companies made more than 100 thousand jobs in the electric sector extinct. With respect to environmental aspects, National Agency of Electric Power - ANEEL and state governments have suffered a significant loss of attributions in the design of development models of the energy sector.

In Rio '92 the energy issue was dealt with on a very superficial level. The Framework Convention on Climate Changes was signed and, due to its relevance, evolved into posterior conferences. Parallel to this, NGOs and social movements prepared and approved various treaties aiming to put into practice a series of actions in the hopes of reaching a sustainable future. The energy treaty, valid to date, defines that the decisions on production, distribution and use of energy should be taken in accordance with the principles of ethics, of equity and of decision making. The treaty also defines that the: access to energy is a universal human right, as is the development of sustainable energy policies and programs; international financial institutions and countries commit to the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams; end of international treaties related to the expansion of nuclear energy generation programs; coherence between domestic and foreign policies of industrialized countries committed with the reduction of their greenhouse effect gas emissions as established in the Kyoto Protocol; priority to the 20 million Brazilians who do not have access to energy, especially in the rural zones.

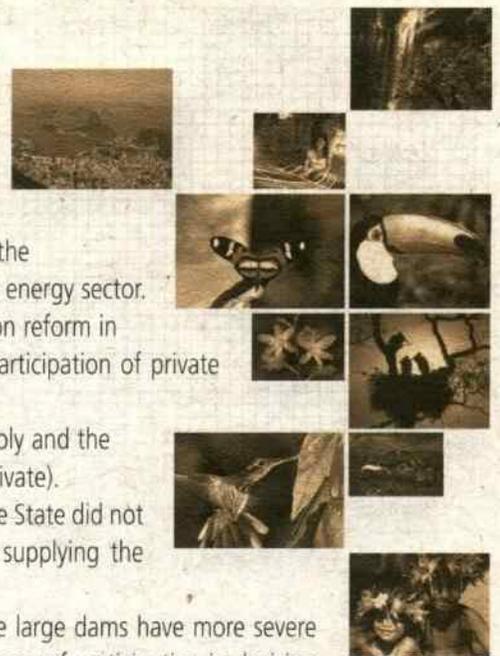
## 2. Proposals for Sustainability

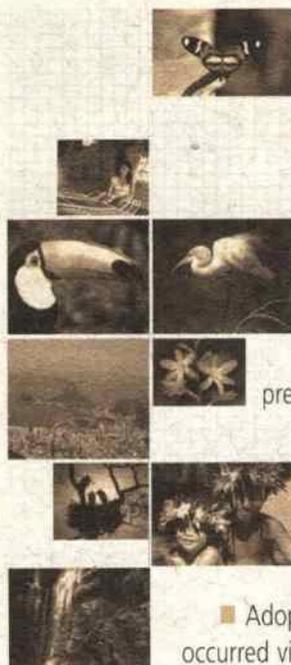
The following proposals and recommendations stem from the aspects analyzed and are:

- Arising from the profound changes that took place in the Brazilian energy sector and the crises supply, establish less intensive consumption standards and goals; review of the industrial model that gives priority to electro-intensive industries; implement energy efficiency and conservation programs in all sectors; reevaluate Brazil's transportation model, guaranteeing an inter-modular, integrated system, creating incentives to reduce the use of fossil fuels and increase the development of renewable resources; review the intention to use Brazil's hydroelectric potential, granting social participation, especially of the populations affected, in the decision making process; moratorium on the Brazilian Nuclear Program and a solution to the problem of the final destination of generated radioactive residuals; carry out audits in power plants that have generated social and environmental liabilities; and implement advantage programs that use the potential of solar, aeolian and biomass energy.

- With reference to large dams: guarantee participation in the decision making processes; incorporate the environmental and social costs in the final cost of energy generated by such undertakings; evaluate the reservoirs in their multiple uses and that the hydrographic basin be used as a unit of evaluation of the cumulative impacts for other power projects and other uses of water; revoke the strategic condition of the undertaking of the Belo Monte Power Plant.

- With reference to the Thermoelectricity Priority Program: propose a review of its emergency classification and the authoritarian way it is being implemented.





- Avoid the damaging consequences to the environment and the health of the population stemming from the increased use of coal and diesel or asphalt residues; avoid the inefficient use of gas mainly used today for the generation of electric energy; direct the use of gas to substitute the GLP (kitchen gas), for use in automobiles in substitution of gasoline and diesel, for industrial co-generation, and for the substitution of the use of coal and diesel oil in industries or thermoelectric plants; avoid technologies of generation of gas energy that involve excessive water consumption; avoid the implantation of gas pipeline projects in sensitive areas in the Amazon, where the fluvial transportation of the gas from national reserves can avoid adverse environmental and cultural impacts and at the same time, generate income and jobs in the region; broaden the investments for the extraction and use of natural gas present in the oil platforms in Brazil.

- With respect to Nuclear Energy, recommend the: immediate end to the Brazil-Germany Nuclear Agreement and place a moratorium on the Brazilian Nuclear Program; commitment by Germany to promote plans to uncommission the stations in operation and a solution for the final destination of residuals, with special attention to the stock residuals today in Angra dos Reis, and carry out audits in the installations and throughout the entire production process –from mining to the end destination of the residuals.

- Adoption of a Priority Installed Potential Use Program that would make it possible to reduce generation losses occurred via energy distribution (6%), carried out with relatively low costs compared to the investments necessary to build new plants; rehabilitation of power plants established over 20 years to meet full potential.

- Implement a program to use renewable fuels such as alcohol and bio-diesel; establish a program for the decentralized supply of energy by Small Power Plants, using this potential with caution and respecting criteria such as the participation of society; create incentives to use biomass such as sugar cane refuse matter and other farm residuals to produce electric energy and co-generation; create incentives for co-generation of vapor and electricity in industrial processes and collective use; create incentives for experimentation and dissemination on a commercial scale of energy equipment – aeolian, thermal solar and photovoltaic; geothermal; gasification of organic residuals, and research in new sources like hydrogen cells; adapt urban plans to future demands for use of solar or photovoltaic energy; incorporate into City Statutes and review Guideline Plans to meet goals, such as, passive use of solar energy and minimum norms of thermal isolation for urban constructions; implement short term measures for the substitution of water heating systems that use electricity in homes and commercial establishments; create investments to use methane gas originating from organic trash residuals and urban landfills.

- That the State reassume its planning role in the energy sector and strengthen its regulation role, guaranteeing the supply and demand, quantity and quality of services in the energy sector, as well as the purchase of energy produced in a decentralized form by alternative sources and guarantee the access of this public interest service to the entire population; and be responsible to determine the period and space of action of sector agents and the participation of diverse sources in the energy framework, seeking to serve the population in a fair way and to minimize the social and environmental costs from the generation and distribution of energy. The actions taken by these agents should be supervised by ANEEL and by boards and inter-institutional instances; change must be made in the environmental licensing norms, with greater and more effective social participation, with greater facility to access information; suspend the Energy Wholesaler Market (MAE); review, by means of an audit, the privatization program; and disregard plans for the division and privatization of the large, still state owned, generating companies.

- Recommend that ANEEL create the norms and regulations that propitiate the sale of energy generated by consumers/small producers linked to the network in order to stimulate the distributed generation; eliminate the incentives and subsidies for the purchase of energy generated by traditional sources; review the single standard value recently established for all energy generating sources; and establish minimum, obligatory levels of purchase of energy produced by alternative renewable sources to distributors.

### Recommendations in relation to public funding:

- Increase public funding to finance alternative source projects; eliminate public financing of large dams and, immediately stop the construction of thermoelectric fossil fuel plants; develop mechanisms for social control of national and international public funding investments in Brazil.

### ENERGY WORKING GROUP

■ Grupo Ambiental da Bahia - GAMBA ■ Assembléia Permanente de Entidades de Defesa do Meio Ambiente do Estado do Rio de Janeiro - APEDEMA/RJ ■ Movimento de Ecologia Social - Os Verdes ■ Associação Potiguar de Proteção Ambiental - ASPOAN ■ Associação Ecocidade ■ Grupo de Recomposição Ambiental - GERMEN/BA ■ Instituto Terrazul ■ Contato Agência Aquariana ■ Fórum de Amazônia Oriental - FAOR ■ Instituto Terra ■ Associação Brasileira de Defesa Ecológica - ABRADE/RJ ■ Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB ■ Instituto Vitae Civilis ■ Instituto Ambiental - CE ■ Centro de Estudos Socioambientais ■ Instituto de Pesquisa da Amazônia - IPAM ■ Federação dos Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional - FASE/RJ ■ Federação dos Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional - FASE/PA ■ Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza - ISPN ■ Instituto Ipanema ■ Instituto Ambiental Vidágua n Alternatives Canadá n Rede Rios Vivos n Universidade Santa Úrsula-RJ n Comissão de Meio Ambiente da CUT/RJ n Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica n Grupo de Recomposição Ambiental - GERMEN ■ GESTA - UFMG ■ Instituto Terrazul ■ International Rivers Network ■ Movimento pelo Desenvolvimento na Transamazônica e Xingu ■ Movimento Contra Termelétricas - SP ■ Núcleo Amigos da Terra ■ Projeto Brasil Sustentável e Democrático - BSD ■ Sociedade Angrense de Proteção Ecológica ■ Sindicato dos Trabalhadores na Eletricidade - SINDELETRO/CE

# TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

## Current Challenges

The concern surrounding the relations between international trade and the environment began to unfold in the 1970s with the Stockholm Conference on the Environment. The Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in 1986, and the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, discharging 260 thousand barrels of petroleum into the ocean, fired the alarm, indicating that humanity had overstepped the planet's capacity limit to tolerate such disasters.

Other events reinforced society and government attention to the subject: the increasing trade liberalization, spurred by the 1986 GATT Uruguay Round; the publication of the Brundtland Report in 1987, introducing the subject of sustainable development and its relations with international trade regulations; and finally, Rio '92, with the Agenda 21 and the incorporation of environmental topics into the agenda that were introduced not only from organizations of society from all over the world, but also businesses and governments.

Although on a rhetorical plane, the concern with fighting poverty, inequality and others of a social nature has joined that of the environment. However, these concerns remain subordinate to the central objective of the countries that detain the decision power in the sphere of international relations, that of widespread and non-restrictive liberalization of trade and finance relations by other countries.

There is an increasing perception that the rising liberalization and globalization of markets is incompatible with fighting poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation and inequality. Trade and finance are exactly the instruments by which the dominant standards of production and consumption, on the international plane, are interlinked. To approach the issue of sustainability in its more far-reaching sense, however, presupposes revision, simultaneously, of the concept of development as a whole and, mainly, the current standards of international relations.

History has shown that international trade dominated by transnationals, cartels, monopolies and oligopolies, annulling supposed advantages related to consumer prices; the prices do not reflect the costs of production resulting from the damages to the environment, health, natural resource stocks, work force etc.; and, for countries specialized in the production of primary goods where prices are constantly depreciated, implies in the growing need to increase the quantity exported.

Parallel to this, trade opening, initiated in the 80s and increased in the 90s, makes imports detain an importance only equivalent to that of the former stage of the country's industrialization process. Brazil's foreign debt has already reached US\$ 241 billion at the year end 2000, a value that corresponds to almost half of the GNP of the same year. In this past decade, US\$ 294 billion were paid to cover debt taxes and installment payments. Yet, the surplus of the trade balance showed increased losses. Contributing factors to this are: the increased presence, in the Brazilian production arena, of international capital; and the privatization occurred during the period, with strong participation of foreign capital, accelerates, in an expressive fashion, the remittance of surplus to the new owners, now found in the exterior.

Nearly 1.2 million jobs were "exported" between 1993 and 1997, as a result of the increase in imports. In the 1980s Brazil ranked 10th among other countries in unemployment rates. Today it is fourth: 3 million formal jobs have disappeared in the decade of 1990. In the agriculture sector, close to 5.5 million occupations were eliminated in only ten years.

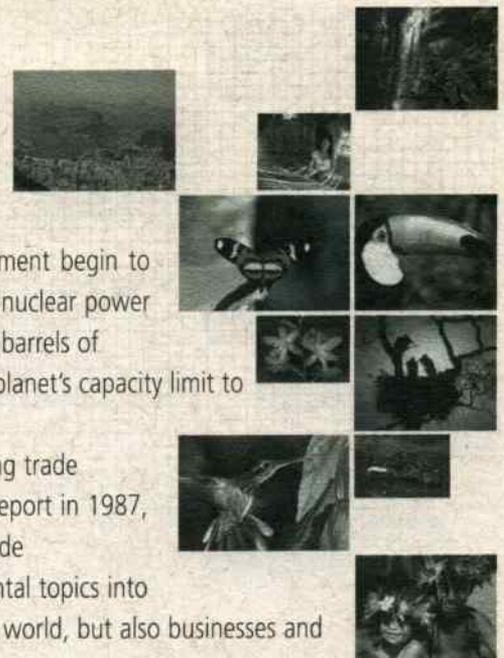
In the negotiations on trade and the environment, the more developed countries seek in a general way to implement laws, norms and regulations that guarantee high demand standards with respect to environmental protection. Brazil is clearly the only country whose government and a good fraction of businesses are reluctant to be a part of the Free Trade Commerce of the Americas. Due to the fact that the economy is more industrialized and diversified than that of other Latin American countries, Brazil, certainly, would suffer the greatest losses with the implementation of the treaty.

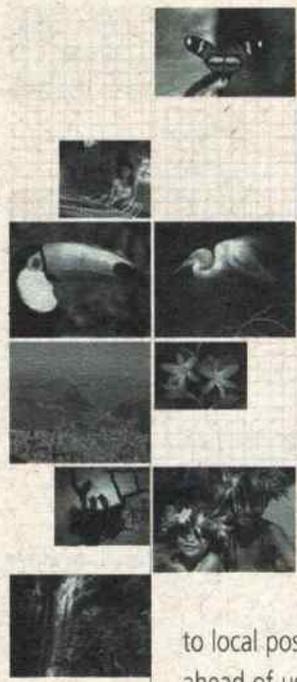
## Proposals for sustainability

Some points resultant of the analysis:

■ **Free Trade and Finance** – Trade liberalization is incompatible with the objectives of democratic sustainability. In the specific case of Brazil, the current economic model does not contain, in its core logic, the possibility to revert the process of permanent debt and dependence.

■ **Foreign debt and multi-lateral organizations** – The foreign debt immortalizes the subordination of Brazil to its creditors. It should be negotiated urgently, conditioning its payment to the interests of the Brazilian population. In a scenario of seeking





sustainability, the funds from the multi-lateral financing agencies and the WTO should be directed toward programs and projects that meet the needs to promote social justice, quality of life and environmental preservation.

■ **Free Trade of the Americas** – It is necessary to monitor and try to intervene in the negotiation process, giving serious consideration to the North American firing power to impose its interests, as well as the traditional rejection of the Brazilian government for society to participate in negotiations of this nature. The Brazilian Network for People Integration (REBRIP), seeks to launch the debate on this subject, stimulating the population to participate and formulate new alternatives.

■ **New production and consumer standards** – Consumer reduction in the countries of the Northern Hemisphere is a fundamental element to provide access to the layers of world population whose income levels are today much less than those necessary for a dignified life. The unsustainable consumer standards in place today in developed countries, and copied by the more favored layers of our population, cannot and should not be imitated – the globalization of customs has already distanced us greatly from our traditional standards, that are more compatible with our real needs and adapted to local possibilities and culture. To reencounter our cultural identity is certainly the greatest challenge we have ahead of us.

Execution



Partnership

