Welcomes you to the Awards Ceremony for the Equator Prize 2002

In celebration of local efforts to reduce poverty and conserve biodiversity, this event is held in partnership with the Local Government Session organized by ICLEI

Friday, 30 August 2002
6:30 pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel – Sandton
Johannesburg, South Africa
The Equator Prize 2002 provides a vital link between the local work of communities to combat poverty and sustain biodiversity and a global audience dedicated to the advancement of human development. The lessons from these communities take on even greater importance when we reflect that two years ago, the nations of the world made an historic commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a set of targets for making measurable improvement in people’s lives by 2015. With remarkable clarity, the communities nominated for the Equator Prize 2002 demonstrate that these goals are within reach, and that there are effective local solutions to many of the most pressing challenges of human development, including poverty and biodiversity loss.

By actively addressing local development challenges and by working across framework issues of the World Summit on Sustainable Development — water, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity and ecosystem services — local communities give hope that the Millennium Development Goals, although ambitious, are attainable. I would like to acknowledge the hundreds of outstanding communities from throughout the developing world that were nominated for the Equator Prize 2002, and the 27 finalists for the leadership they have shown in addressing the Millennium Development Goals on a local scale. The passion, dedication and courage with which they have adopted the cause of local sustainable development are a source of inspiration to the entire global community.

Recognizing that partnerships are a central theme of the World Summit, I would also like to thank Mark Malloch Brown, UNDP Administrator, and Timothy Wirth, President of the United Nations Foundation, for their creative vision in establishing the Equator Initiative partnership. This burgeoning global movement for poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation brings local successes to international attention and ensures that they inform global efforts for achieving sustainable development.

Kofi A. Annan

Secretary-General of the United Nations

It gives me tremendous pleasure to introduce the outstanding communities that are finalists for the Equator Prize 2002. The communities nominated for this prize are at the cutting edge of the transformation of global knowledge about sustainable development into concrete action. Demonstrating that partnerships among individuals, communities, governments and civil society organizations bring great dividends for both local livelihoods and the environment, these communities are models of the kind of sustainable future that UNDP believes is possible.

By highlighting “win-win” situations, where communities are able to benefit from biodiversity while ensuring its survival, the Equator Prize 2002 helps meet the urgent need to learn from local partnerships, point the way forward for other communities, and empower them to implement their own solutions.

Mark Malloch Brown

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme
Celebrating Success

The Equator Prize 2002 recognizes that communities in the developing world are a vital driving force for sustainable development. Whether for food, medicine or income generation, indigenous and other local groups are creatively and effectively using biological resources in sustainable ways to improve their livelihoods. This is especially true in the region between 23.5 degrees north and 23.5 degrees south of the Equator, where the world's greatest concentrations of both human poverty and biological wealth are located.

The Equator Prize 2002 celebrates communities that have made extraordinary efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In this, the inaugural year of the Equator Prize, the Equator Initiative Technical Advisory Committee evaluated 420 nominated projects from 77 countries within the Equatorial Belt. Of these, 27 have been recommended for final consideration by the Equator Prize Jury. These exemplary finalist projects are drawn from a remarkable pool of nominations that reflect the outstanding work of communities throughout the developing world in reducing poverty and conserving and sustainably using biodiversity.

This evening, the Equator Prize Jury awards six Equator Prizes of US$ 30,000. Five prizes recognize outstanding community initiatives from throughout the tropics, while one is specifically awarded to a community initiative associated with a World Heritage Site for successfully integrating conservation and local livelihoods.

The Equator Prize

The Equator Prize sculpture is a physical representation of the dedicated efforts of communities throughout the Equator Belt to promote a more sustainable future. Crafted from certified, sustainably harvested Amazonian hardwoods, the prize was designed by Etel Carmona, a self-taught Brazilian designer, and expresses the interdependency of humanity and the biological resources of the planet.

I am extremely proud of the involvement of the United Nations Foundation as a founding partner of the Equator Initiative and am excited by the exceptional promise of the communities nominated for the Equator Prize 2002. The dedication and innovation of these communities to secure economic prosperity while sustaining biodiversity gives one heart that the most fundamental goal of the World Summit, global sustainable development, is achievable.

When I first discussed the idea for the Equator Initiative with Mark Malloch Brown, it was because I strongly feel that the challenges of poverty and biodiversity loss cannot be dealt with in isolation. The two issues are inseparable, especially in the Equator Belt where the world's greatest concentrations of poverty and biodiversity overlap. Fortunately, the 420 communities nominated for the Equator Prize 2002 conclusively demonstrate that, while the challenges posed by poverty and biodiversity loss are immense, sustainable solutions are achievable.

By forging enduring partnerships for reducing poverty and protecting the environment, the finalists for the Equator Prize 2002 are a beacon of hope for the wider global community. These communities have demonstrated beyond doubt that partnerships, between individuals, communities, and governments, are the key to ensuring that economic development and prosperity do not come at the expense of our global biological heritage.

Timothy E. Wirth

President, United Nations Foundation
Kenya
Honey Care Africa Ltd.

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

Kenya
Il Ngwesi Group Ranch

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

Madagascar
Association of Manambolo Natives (FITEMA)

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

Since its inception in 1999, the Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area Network has grown to include communities in six districts and cover 10% of the inshore marine area of Fiji. The involvement of communities in the network has led to increases in the number and size of clams, crabs, and other species harvested adjacent to tabu areas, where fishing is prohibited. As a result, household incomes have increased 35% over three years and catches have tripled. Much of the success of the network can be attributed to its participatory and collaborative focus, which has ensured that local people are at the center of the network's operations. As a testament to the success of the network in protecting marine biodiversity and alleviating poverty in fishing communities, the government of Fiji has recently incorporated many of its approaches into national policies designed to protect the coastal resources of Fiji for future generations.

**Kerala Kani Samudaya Kshema Trust**

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

**Tanzania**

**HASHI Soil Conservation Project**

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

**Suledo Forest Community**

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

**India**

**Kerala Kani Samudaya Kshema Trust**

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**Malaysia**

**Uma Bawang Resident’s Association (UBRA)**

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

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**India**

**Medicinal Plants Conservation Centre**

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

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**India**

**Tribal Communities of the Jeypore Tract of Orissa**

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

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**Thailand**

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

For many years, residents of Sub Tai village, Thailand were forced to supplement their incomes by poaching in nearby Khao Yai National Park, a repository of rare species and Thailand’s oldest national park. This all began to change in 1985 when the Population and Community Development Association of Bangkok launched CBIRD Center in Sub Tai to deal with issues of economic indebtedness and poaching. In this participatory project, villagers signed a commitment not to cut trees or hunt in the park in return for low-cost loans. To ensure that the rich biodiversity of Khao Yai National Park is protected, loans are disbursed for ecological income generating activities such as tree-planting and trekking services. As a result, income in Sub Tai has nearly doubled and many community members are free from debt. Through greater community involvement in park management, illegal logging in the park has fallen by 75% and the many rare species of Khao Yai, including the Asian elephant and tiger, now have a more secure future.
**Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Belize**

**Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE)**

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

**Brazil**

**Green Life Association of Amazônia (AVIVE)**

AVIVE was founded in the Brazilian city of Silves to defend and preserve the local environment and culture while also working to improve the quality of life of local people, especially women. Since being launched in 1999, much of AVIVE’s work has focused on developing techniques for sustainable extraction of the Aniba plant, also known as pau-rosa, as well as other medicinal and aromatic native plant species. The project also promotes the home production of natural medicines and cosmetics as an economic alternative for the women of Silves. These products are now sold in stores, catering to local consumers and tourists, and are marketed abroad to generate income for local women. The organization also leads an important environmental education program and produces seeds for the replanting and recovery of regional forests, where extractive activities threaten biodiversity. To protect the endangered pau-rosa and other rare plant species, AVIVE highlights the importance of sustainable extraction and is actively involved in the creation of a Sustainable Development Reserve where these species can be cultivated in ways that do not imperil their existence.

**Brazil**

**Cananéia Oyster Producers Cooperative**

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

**Brazil**

**Amazon Life Project**

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

**Brazil**

**Bolsa Amazônia**

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

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

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

**Cuba**

**Bayamo Whole Forest Company, “Ecological Forest Farms Initiative”**

Bayamo Whole Forest Company is a local enterprise that promotes rational and sustainable use of natural resources in the Cauto River Basin. The project, led by the provincial administration of the province of Granma, holistically addresses the challenges of the region to preserve species, protect the environment, and promote socio-economic advancement. Specifically, the project is working to reforest the Cauto River Basin, undertake hydrological cleaning through reforestation, provide job opportunities, and generally improve food and environmental security. The main tool that the project uses to meet these ends is the construction of “forestry farms”. These farms provide environmental and economic benefits to families who enjoy use of 12 hectares of land for 30 years and are motivated through their “ownership” to protect the plant and animal species that also call these forests home. Through its comprehensive approach, the project has created 220 new jobs, helped control soil erosion, and protected vital habitat for riverine and forest species.

**Guatemala**

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

The working partnership between OMYC, a grassroots community organization representing residents of Uaxactun, and WCS-Guatemala, the local arm of an international NGO, is a model for how organizational collaboration can be used as an effective tool to fight biodiversity loss and poverty. Recognizing that these challenges can not be addressed by a short-term project, OMYC and WCS work together to sustainably manage an 83,558 hectare forest concession in Uaxactun. Together, they help ensure that local livelihoods are sustainable and that plant and animal species are protected.

These projects include important studies of wild turkey conservation and palm leaf harvesting sustainability. This work is critical from a biological standpoint as well as socio-economically since both local turkey and palm populations serve as important sources of income. The partnership has also launched efforts to develop an integrated vision for resource management in Uaxactun, diversify the local economy, and protect the natural resources upon which local people depend.

**Mexico**

**Café de la Selva**

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

**Nicaragua**

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

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

**Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP)**

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

**Peru**

**Ese’eja Community of Infierno**

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

**Honduras**

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

Representing several thousand Miskito, Garifuna, and Mestizo inhabitants of the Honduran Mosquitia, MOPAWI works to protect habitats ranging from coastal beaches to pine savanna and primary rainforest. A key outcome of MOPAWI’s work has been the recognition of community land rights, including a 40 year agreement on 68,000 hectares of broadleaf and pine forest. MOPAWI has also been able to protect some 230,000 hectares of Tawahka ancestral territories through declaration of the Tawahka Biosphere Reserve. The project also promotes sustainable income generating activities that allow communities to emerge from poverty without imperiling the species with which they coexist, including production of organic cacao, ecotourism development, and responsible forest management. A similarly varied approach has been applied to conserving biodiversity, with projects to protect leatherback and loggerhead turtles and the rare Green Iguana. Importantly, the work of MOPAWI has raised the awareness of communities to the importance of protecting biological diversity and has encouraged communities to prevent construction of a dam in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

**World Heritage Sites**

**Costa Rica**

**Talamanca Initiative**

A collaborative partnership of three community-focused organizations – Associacion ANAI, APPTA, and CBTC – the Talamanca Initiative has worked since 1983 to integrate biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development in the Talamanca region of Costa Rica. The initiative’s biodiversity conservation efforts include establishment of Gandoca-Manzanillo National Wildlife Refuge, a last sanctuary for the endangered Manatee, and development of Central America’s only permanent raptor migration monitoring program. To encourage sustainable socio-economic development, the initiative has promoted crop diversification and organic agriculture, with APPTA’s processing system becoming the largest volume producer and exporter of organic products in Central America. Since 1991, the initiative has also run a Regional Training Center and has helped establish 13 local ecotourism ventures. As an example of the gains that have been made through the initiative’s work, income in villages has risen up to six-fold and communities have been able to engage in sustainable income generating pursuits that also work to protect their natural environment.
EQUATOR PRIZE 2002 JURY

H. E. DR. OSCAR ARIAS SANCHEZ
ARIA FOUNDATION FOR PEACE AND HUMAN PROGRESS
NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE

Oscar Arias is Founder of the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and a spokesperson for the causes of worldwide peace and disarmament. Educated at the University of Costa Rica and the University of Essex, England, he earned a seat in the Costa Rican congress in 1978, became Secretary-General of the National Liberation Party in 1981, and was elected President of Costa Rica for the term 1986-1990. Assuming office at a time of regional discord, Dr. Arias worked throughout his Presidency to promote peace in Central America. In 1987, Dr. Arias drafted the Arias Peace Plan to halt regional conflict and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Using the monetary award from the Nobel Prize, he established the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress—a foundation that promotes gender equality, the strengthening of civil society in Central America, and demilitarization and conflict resolution throughout the world.

H. R. H. PRINCESS BASMA BINT TALAL
ROYAL HASHEMITE FUND FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, JORDAN

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma has worked internationally and in her native Jordan to promote a host of important issues, most notably in the areas of human development, gender equity and the well-being of children. She plays an active advocacy role, through the United Nations, contributing to global strategies on health, education, population, the environment and the advancement of women. Her Royal Highness is also committed to strengthening the capacity of local communities and groups and fostering models of socio-economic development that increase community participation. She was instrumental in establishing the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) and the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID). She also established the Jordanian National Commission for Women. Her Royal Highness was instrumental in the International Advisory Group to the UN Secretary General in preparation for the 1995 Conference on Women and has contributed to international organizations by serving as Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA and as a member of the UNESCO International Advisory Board of the International Council on Social Welfare and the UNESCO International Panel on Democracy and Development.

PROFESSOR CALESTOUS JUMA
DIRECTOR, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION PROGRAM
KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

Calestous Juma is Director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Program at the Center for International Development at Harvard University and a Research Fellow at Harvard’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Since January 2002, he has served as Chancellor of the University of Guyana. A former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Professor Juma is also a former Executive Director of the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi, which he founded in 1988, a Visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde (UK), a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, and a Member of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences. In addition to serving on the governing and advisory bodies of several international organizations, Professor Juma has won numerous awards for his dedication to technology and environmental policy, including the 1991 Pew Scholars Award in Conservation and the Environment and the 1993 United Nations Global 500 Award. Professor Juma holds a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Policy Studies from the University of Sussex, UK.

MS. YOLANDA KAKABADSE NAVARRO
PRESIDENT, IUCN - THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION

Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro was elected President of IUCN - The World Conservation Union, in 1996. Born in Ecuador, she studied Educational Psychology at the Catholic University of Quito. In 1979, she was appointed Executive Director of Fundación Natura, which under her direction became one of Latin America’s most important environmental organizations. From 1990 until 1992, Ms. Kakabadse coordinated participation of civil society organizations in the United Nations Conference for Environment and Development (The Earth Summit) in Geneva and in 1993 founded the NGO Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano. In August 1998, she was appointed Minister of Environment for the Republic of Ecuador, a position she held until January 2000. A board member of numerous international bodies dedicated to protecting the environment, Ms. Kakabadse Navarro has received the Insignia of the National Order for Merit of the Republic of Ecuador, the Global 500 Award of the United Nations Environment Program, and the Order of the Golden Ark, bestowed by Prince Bernard of The Netherlands.
**Mrs. Graça Machel**  
**President, Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO**

Graça Machel is recognized for her dedication to education in Mozambique and for her leadership in organizations devoted to literacy, the rights of children, families and community. A participant in the armed struggle against colonial rule in Mozambique, Mrs. Machel became Minister of Education and Culture in the nation’s post-independence government. As Minister of Education, she worked to implement universal education for all Mozambicans and made great strides for peace, reconciliation, and national development in her country. As President of the Foundation of Community Development, she has facilitated greater community access to knowledge and technology and has promoted the cause of sustainable human development. Recognizing the particularly devastating effects of war on children, Mrs. Machel became Chairperson of the National Organization of Children of Mozambique and was appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations to chair the UN Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children.

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**Dr. Emil Salim**  
**Chairman, Preparatory Committee for the WSSD  
Chairman, Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation**

Emil Salim served as chairman of the Preparatory Committee for WSSD. He is a member of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Indonesia and, from 1978 to 1993, was Indonesian State Minister for Population and Environment. Dr. Salim currently serves as a member of several international and national committees, including the United Nations High Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development. He is also a member of the National Economic Board, the Economic Expert Team on Debt and Development Issues of the Nonaligned Countries, and the Indonesian Peoples’ Assembly. In addition to serving on the board of trustees for a number of leading Indonesian environmental organizations, including the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation, the Foundation for Sustainable Development and the Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute, Dr. Salim was Co-chairman of the World Commission on Forestry and Sustainable Development. Dr. Salim received his master’s degree and doctorate in economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

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**Mrs. Rigoberta Menchu Tum**  
**President, Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation  
Nobel Peace Laureate**

Rigoberta Menchu Tum is a Guatemalan activist who works to promote the rights of indigenous people worldwide. The child of activists, she was inspired by her parents and continues their struggle for the rights and dignity of indigenous peoples. She dictated her acclaimed autobiography, *I, Rigoberta Menchu* in 1984.

Her book and the campaign she led for social justice brought international attention to the conflict between indigenous people and the military government of Guatemala. In 1992, Rigoberta Menchu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. She used the US$ 1.2 million cash prize to establish the Rigoberta Menchu Tum Foundation to continue the fight for the human rights of the indigenous people. Mrs. Menchu Tum worked hard to support the United Nations declaration of 1993 as the International Year for Indigenous People.

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**Professor M.S. Swaminathan**  
**UNESCO Cousteau Chair in Ecotechnology  
Chairman, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation**

M.S. Swaminathan has been a world leader in sustainable development for the past 45 years and has been acclaimed by TIME magazine as one of the twenty most influential Asians of the 20th century. He has been described by UNEP as the “Father of Economic Ecology”. A plant geneticist by training, Professor Swaminathan’s contributions to the agricultural renaissance of India have led to his being widely referred to as the scientific leader of the green revolution movement. As Secretary of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation and Director General of the International Rice Research Institute, he developed a strong food security system in India. For his work in crop genetics and sustainable agricultural development, he was awarded the first World Food Prize in 1987, the Tyler and Honda Prizes in 1991, the UNEP Sasakawa Award and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award. He served as Independent Chairman of the FAO Council and as President of IUCN and is a member of the Royal Society of London, the US National Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy, and the Italian and Chinese Academies.
The Equator Initiative Partnership

The Equator Initiative is a programme of UNDP, the UN’s global development network, in partnership with BrasilConnects, the Government of Canada, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), IUCN - The World Conservation Union, The Nature Conservancy, Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) and the United Nations Foundation. The Equator Initiative invites other organizations to become involved in its growing partnership.

Equator Initiative Partners

BrasilConnects is an independent, non-profit organization, whose main aim is to preserve, support and raise awareness concerning Brazil’s cultural and environmental resources, connecting the Brazilian population with the world through a wide range of activities.

www.brasilconnects.org

The Government of Canada has a rich history of supporting efforts to protect biodiversity and reduce poverty. As the first industrialized nation to ratify the Convention on Biodiversity, Canada is host to the Permanent Secretariat to the Convention, in Montreal, and is a charter member of the Equator Initiative.


IDRC is a public corporation created by the Government of Canada to help communities in the developing world find solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems through research. Its mandate is to initiate, encourage, support, and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical, and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions.

www.idrc.ca

IUCN - The World Conservation Union was founded in 1948 and brings together 78 states, 112 government agencies, 735 NGOs, 35 affiliates, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

www.iucn.org

The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve the Earth’s diverse array of plants and animals by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Founded in 1951, the Conservancy has worked in a science-based and collaborative way with local communities, government agencies and private businesses to help protect more than 90 million acres in 30 countries.

www.nature.org

Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) is an independent, non-profit organization, whose mission is to act as a catalyst for the production and distribution of films on environment, development, health and human rights issues. Based in the UK, but with a global focus, TVE uses broadcast television and other audio-visual resources - including the internet and radio - as its key platforms. It works above all to promote informed debate, new policies and practical solutions to the growing challenges of human development in the twenty-first century.

www.tve.org

United Nations Development Programme is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

www.undp.org

The UN Foundation was established by Mr. Ted Turner, who chose the United Nations as the vehicle for his global gift because the UN provides the machinery to help find solutions to international challenges, and to deal with pressing concerns facing people everywhere. The Foundation’s mission is to support the goals and objectives of the United Nations and its Charter, in order to promote a more peaceful, prosperous and just world - with special emphasis on the UN's work on behalf of economic, social, environmental and humanitarian causes.

www.unfoundation.org
For the awards ceremony, the Equator Initiative is partnering with ICLEI, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, to present the Equator Prize 2002 Awards Ceremony —

ICLEI is an association of local governments implementing sustainable development. ICLEI’s mission is to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in environmental and sustainable development conditions through cumulative local actions. ICLEI is responsible for facilitating the work of local governments in preparation for the WSSD.

www.iclei.org

The Equator Initiative partnership is dedicated to minimizing negative environmental impacts of the WSSD. UNDP and IUCN, among others, are proud to be a partner in Greening the WSSD. The UNDP delegation is also Carbon Neutral, having purchased a Climate Legacy 2002 Certificate to fund carbon-reducing projects to offset carbon emissions associated with our participation.

Photo: Marcio Ayres