

# eco equity

World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, Issue 1, 26 August, 2002

## Great Expectations

Avid Eco-Equity readers will remember that at the beginning of Week 2 of the Bali PrepComm, the Eco Coalition identified 11 key test cases for Johannesburg: Eleven make-or-break issues that would serve as a litmus test for the summit's success. As the formal sessions of the Summit open, some things have changed, but the basics are all still in play, awaiting the emergence of champions to carry them through to a positive conclusion.

The press and various pundits continue to paint the Summit as a failure before it begins, but we continue to insist that it's not over until it's over and that positive results are still possible. Let's review where things stand:

### Consumption and Production

Adopting a ten year programme to accelerate the shift away from unsustainable patterns of production and consumption remains in the text in brackets, and if these are favorably resolved, would indicate a recognition by governments, especially those in the rich North, that sustainable development is something that requires a major overhaul of the way that industrialised economies use resources.

### Energy

Are governments willing to agree a serious target to stimulate a renewable energy revolution on a global basis? Or will they come up with some mealy-mouthed compromise that gives no real added value?

Are governments willing to agree a serious programme of action on energy access for the world's poor? Or will they only make meaningless, pious noises in that general direction?

Are governments willing to agree language which will force them to finally begin to address perverse subsidies in the energy sector? Or will they once again refuse to deal with this question?

These critical questions will be answered one way or another in the next few days. The nature of the answers will speak volumes about government commitment to address

the fundamental unsustainability of the current model of industrialisation.

### Water

While a target for access to water has been agreed, the governments must also set targets to ensure: i) river, lake and ground water basins are sustainably managed - especially transboundary rivers - to conserve the sources of freshwater, ii) that water is used more efficiently to stretch limited water supplies further to benefit people and nature, iii) the proposed sanitation target is adopted, iv) and that there are financial resources to implement this work. One practical step required is to enhance the mandate and access to funding for the Convention on Wetlands.

The draft Plan of Implementation has rightly focused on the questions of halving the number of people without access to water and sanitation by 2015. Waterborne diseases kill between 3 and 10 million people per year. Clearly, better sanitation services are required to eradicate poverty. However this addresses only half the problem. Equal attention needs to be paid to where this water will come from. ECO believes that sustainable management of the natural sources of water - river basins - and more efficient water use targets are essential to conserve limited water supplies to benefit people and nature.

### Biodiversity

It appears that some progress has been made during the 'Vienna' sessions this weekend on agreeing a target for stopping and reversing biodiversity loss by 2010. We can only hope that this is solidified when the formal negotiations start, and would remind Ministers that this target was already agreed at the CBD negotiations in the Hague in April of this year.

There were also some small steps forward on wetland and watershed protection and restoration at the end of the Bali PrepComm, but no real targets.

Governments have still not agreed to reject 'maximum sustainable yield' in favor of the precautionary approach in fisheries

management. They should do so.

Overall, the oceans text has failed to deliver the bold initiatives required to reverse the depletion of marine resources caused by overexploitation and pollution. What is required is for governments to put maximum effort into the implementation of what has already been agreed.

### Agriculture

The WEHAB paper on agriculture produced since Bali provides useful suggestions on frameworks for action that can help target

*Please turn to page four.*

## Where Is the Declaration?

If you can't find WSSD PrepComm Chairman Emil Salim's "Elements for a Political Declaration" which have recently disappeared from the front page of [www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org), the official Summit website, it may be because it has been determined that this document is obsolete.

Of course, the content of the Political Declaration largely depends on the final fate of the Draft Plan of Implementation, and it is still difficult to anticipate what the final outcome of negotiations on this will be.

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa is taking a very personal interest in the Political Declaration, and is keeping a draft very close to his chest. We understand that Mr Mbeki is holding it out as a carrot (or a stick?) to speed up government delegation discussions and decision making on the Plan of Implementation. We welcome President Mbeki's active participation in the WSSD process, and trust that he will take account of the ideas and suggestions he has been receiving from stakeholders, including the NGOs.

NGOs have maintained throughout the process that if key issues such as corporate accountability and some of the key trade issues could not be resolved in the Plan of Implementation, the Political Declaration could be a vehicle to rescue some of them.

## Fortress WSSD

The summit that is supposed to dismantle the walls between the poor and the rich has so far resulted only in the erection of barricades all over the place in Johannesburg. Restriction of movements around Sandton has been increasing by the hour. And those carrying "Major Group" badges are wasting their time going around in circles around Zone 1 desperately looking for the limited number of entry points where NGO observers are tolerated.

ECO respects the pressure Johannesburg police are under, and understand their responsibility for their eminent hosts. There is no reason, however, to make accredited observers run around in circles unnecessarily. Accredited observers have a job to do inside the conference centre, they are well known from UN officials, and they are not here to organise a riot.

## Meanwhile, in the Real World

### The Apocalypse is Upon us

Whether or not governments meeting here in Johannesburg have a sense of urgency about the issues being discussed, there are certainly millions of people who have. In Europe, having suffered some of the worst flooding in decades, people in countries from Italy to the Czech Republic and eastern Germany are certain that urgent action is needed. In China, as the conference begins, they are facing the rising waters of Lake Dongting, which threaten the homes and livelihoods of several hundred thousand people. In Africa, people are still trying to recover from the floods of Mozambique in 1998 and 1999.

Here in South Africa, almost 15 million people out of a total population of 43.5 million are without electricity and live on less than US \$2 per day.

Almost 13 million people across southern Africa face food shortages and famine. This food crisis has many causes: climate, HIV/AIDS, unsustainable debt, bad governance, and collapsing public services. But a major cause is the failure of agricultural policies. Years of World Bank and IMF designed agricultural sector reforms

have left Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique with chronic food insecurity. These final institutions, far from improving food security, have left poor farmers more vulnerable. Rigid liberalisation policies have failed to lead to development but have exacerbated the exclusion of the poorest from the market whilst further undermining their food security.

Many of the world leaders meeting in Johannesburg are responsible for these policies. The ability of governments to tackle the food crisis is further undermined by crippling debt repayments. In 2002, debt servicing will eat up 23 percent of Zambian government revenue. Malawi spends the same amount servicing its debt as it does on health.

Agricultural policies should be designed in the context of wider national development and poverty reduction strategies, and with the full participation of parliaments, small farmers' representatives and civil society groups. No structural reforms should be carried out without a prior analysis of the likely impact on food security and poverty. In giving future policies support, the World Bank and IMF must start from a consideration of the interests of the poorest farmers. Policy advice should be based on prior and ongoing assessment of the impact of those policies on poverty and food security.

Extreme weather events continue to wreak havoc across the globe. Although it is not possible to directly attribute any one event to climate change, the increase in intensity and frequency of extreme weather events across the globe is consistent with the predictions of climate scientists for a globally warming world. With thousands losing their lives and millions made into homeless refugees due to extreme weather events, the need for action to protect the climate becomes ever more urgent.

The impacts on millions of poor people living in the developing world, who are not primarily responsible for climate change, are harshest within Africa. According to the IPCC, "the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of projected changes because widespread poverty limits adaptation capabilities."

People in Asia are also suffering

catastrophic environmental impacts, for instance brown haze blanketed the area which was described as a major environment hazard. UNEP scientists estimated that the haze could reduce India's winter rice harvest by up to 10%. And they fear "several hundreds of thousands" of premature deaths from haze-related respiratory diseases. The South Asian region judged to be affected includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Asia and the Pacific nations, which include the SIDS, are also vulnerable to rising sea levels from climate change.

The brown cloud clearly speaks to the need to address currently unsustainable patterns of energy consumption in favour of providing access to clean, sustainable renewable energy for billions of poor around the world.

There is a clear indication of the urgent need for governments here at the Earth Summit to agree to take concrete action with targets and timetables. Success or failure here is a matter of life or death for millions across the planet and the environment.

## Freedom of Speech

Enhancing public scrutiny, transparency and democracy is an imperative for sustainable development (though some key paragraphs on these aspects are – strangely – still square bracketed in the draft Plan of Implementation). This includes the right to peaceful protest, free speech, and other civil rights.

Like the rest of WSSD visitors in Johannesburg, ECO has been disturbed by news that 72 landless people were arrested by Johannesburg police for attempting to draw attention – together with many others – to their situation, last Wednesday, and are reportedly still being detained in the margin of the law.

There is distinct sense of unreality at this Summit on the eradication of poverty. But the wealth displayed in Sandton mall should not fool anyone: poverty still exists, and it will continue to exist. Especially if the rich few who make decisions that affect all of us, but primarily the poor, continue to refuse to face them.

# What Happened to Globalisation?

## The WTO Makes Its Move

“Globalisation” was the big 90s buzzword, and it seems impossible now that the word didn’t appear once in Agenda 21. But it would be even more surprising if this Summit failed to address it in 2002 (text on globalisation was lost in the ether as Sunday drew to a close). Or, rather, if it let sustainable development be hijacked by the WTO.

Informal consultations for the Summit over this past weekend have proven that trade and globalisation remain as controversial and critical as they were in Bali – they remain make-or-break issues for the Summit. But the bewildering flurry of non-papers and compromise texts put forward to the contact group on Means of Implementation, Trade and Finance begs questions: Are they simply contributions to a democratic debate among nations concerning contentious issues, or are they actually pre-agreed bottom-lines (that are really defining the terms of the debate)? And, if so, whose positions do they actually reflect? Are the terms and wider implications of the EU – US agreement on trade and finance issues fully understood by all? Does the process reflect the original underlying principles of the Vienna-style setting?

ECO puts it to the G77 that buying into the Chairman’s proposed text for Means of Implementation from the weekend’s informal sessions means capitulating before the negotiations have even begun. No doubt, the latest texts reflects an agreement between the US and the EU that retains bottom-line positions of both parties while allowing scope for window-dressing. G77 countries and other governments must retain the right to set the framework for the Summit’s discussion of trade and globalisation issues, rather than re-arranging deckchairs on the good ship Liberalisation.

ECO believes the final Plan of Implementation must fully acknowledge the negative developmental and environmental impacts of economic globalisation. As one of the most significant challenges for our generation, the process of orienting trade around sustainable development must be fully recognised by the Summit if it’s to live up to its mandate. Recognising a challenge is the first step, tackling it requires agreed goals and measures. Any section on globalisation must further:

Commit governments to apply the precautionary principle as established at Rio (Principle 15)

Reaffirm the authority and autonomy of MEAs, and assert that international environmental rule-making not be subordinated to WTO structures

Commit governments to negotiate an internationally binding framework for corporate accountability and liability

In addition, the Summit agreement has to

get trade right. This means:

Ensuring that countries commit to the elimination of subsidies harmful to the environment or poverty reduction efforts – and outlining steps to deliver on this commitment that dates back to 1992

Strengthening language on special and differential treatment to make commitments more precise and effective

Committing to address the long-term decline in prices of primary commodities

Reaffirming the rights of WTO members to use the full provisions of the TRIPs agreement that provide flexibility to address public health crises

Agreeing targets and timetables to phase out export dumping – particularly export subsidies and export credits.

Ensuring that current text on sustainability impact assessment remains in the text, and that governments support the use of this tool to address trade and sustainability linkages.

As chair of this weekend’s informal consultations – and as host and key player in the G77 group of developing countries – South Africa has a special role to play in ensuring that negotiators address these key trade and globalisation issues in relation to the needs of sustainable development – instead of starting with the ceiling established at Doha and Monterrey. Sustainable development requires that all countries have the power and the flexibility to manage their economies.

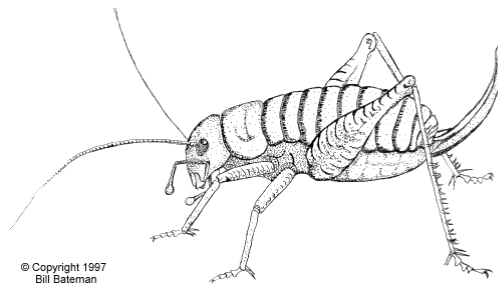
Don’t let the WTO hijack the Joburg Summit!

## Looks Like a Traffic Jam

There are approximately 65,000 people expected to descend on Johannesburg this week and next. As many as 25,000 of them will be accredited as delegates. The Sandton conference center, according to the Joburg fire department, which is in charge in this respect, can hold a maximum of 7,000 delegates and observers. This has put the Secretary General, Mr. Desai, in a bind. He and Zehra Aydin, his ambassador to civil society, recoil at the idea of closing the doors to accredited attendees, but may not have much choice. People will be counted as they arrive and once capacity is reached, that’s it.

The secretariat must respect delegate badges first, and is quietly hoping that not all the delegates turn up at once. Their estimate is that, given the calculus above, the number of NGOs that will be allowed into Sandton at any given time is around 1,500, barely a tenth of the number eligible. Therefore, 1,500 “secondary passes” are being printed and distributed according to an as-yet undetermined formula. The passes are transferable, that is, if you get in, you can then leave the centre and hand your pass to another NGO; it’s numbers they’re concerned with, not personalities.

Eco wishes the secretariat the best of luck.



## Parktown Prawn

● The Vienna-style process, first coined during the Biosafety Protocol negotiations and aimed at ensuring greater participation and transparency during inter-governmental talks, seems to have mutated into bulldozing tactics towards unsustainable development during this weekend’s consultations on the draft Plan of

Implementation. Australia, the same country that chose to announce on Earth Day that it will not ratify the Kyoto climate treaty, was chosen to lead the consultations on Climate. Canada,

the same country that fought a ban on hazardous waste trade in the Basel Convention and, along with the US, stalled the process of negotiations on the Stockholm Treaty on Persistent Organic Pollutants, was chosen to lead the Chemicals consultations.

● Green Oscars awarded!! Congratulations to those companies that have been awarded the premier awards for corporations acting green - the Green Oscars. We are as glad as they are that their special talents for corporate greenwash have 10 years after Rio been recognised.

Arthur Anderson won Best Document Destruction for its systematic shredding of key documents and Enron Best Make Up for pretending to be the world’s 6th largest corporation when it wasn’t. The full list of winners - including a special Type 2 award for McUNICEF - is at [www.earthsummit.biz](http://www.earthsummit.biz)

● Eco has learned that the European Commission will, as early as next Sunday, ask for an increase of 2 billion euros in its investment budget for nuclear power plants. This would come at the expense of badly needed investment in renewable energy sources and represent a remarkably irresponsible use of public funds.

● South African newspapers are reporting that next Saturday’s big march and rally will feature President Thabo Mbeki, Chairman Yassir Arafat and President Fidel Castro.

### *Expectations, from page one.*

increased public expenditure for agriculture and rural development. Any initiative agreed in Joburg must recognise and assert the importance of agriculture for poverty reduction, and must also ensure that sustainable agriculture initiatives focus on institutional constraints and barriers to small-scale and organic production rather than the introduction of genetically-modified organisms.

## SIDS—Small Island Developing States

On the basis of the informal discussions over the weekend, it would appear that just about all of the SIDS language has been resolved reasonably favorably.

With the bracketed text largely removed in the informal sessions, governments need to formally agree these, to recognise the specific needs of SIDS and ensure that the measures promised in the text are implemented.

## Africa

We reaffirm our belief that Africa deserves special attention from the Summit. We welcome the intention behind the Africa chapter and also welcome the proposals which call for improved national governance within the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). However, we share the concerns expressed by many African NGOs and popular organisations over their lack of involvement in the formulation of NEPAD and the recent establishment of the African Union. We also agree with the African NGO Steering Committee in their call for African leaders to include African civil society organisations in all processes for implementation and monitoring of both NEPAD and the African Union. Eco shares the concern of many, that NEPAD reinforces

**Eco-Equity** is published by Consumers International, the Danish 92 Group, Friends of the Earth International, Greenpeace, Northern Alliance for Sustainability, Oxfam International, and Worldwide Fund for Nature.

Editor: Tom Turner

Assistant Editor: Matilda Lee

Tech Savior: Brian Fitzgerald

Also: Sandra Nichols, Jessica Troell, Remi Parmentier, Steve Sawyer, Paul Guibeault, Peter Tabuns, Daniel Mittler, Antonio Hill, Ronnie Hall, Paul Horsman, Sally Nicholson, Marcelo Furtado, Hans Peter Dejgaard, Rasmus Sonderris, Beth Roxas, Lasse Gustavsson.

Eco is posted on several websites including [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org), [earthjustice.org](http://earthjustice.org), [anped.org](http://anped.org). Please send letters to [ecoeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:ecoeditor@yahoo.com).

the unsustainable current trade paradigm rather than providing an alternative to it. Furthermore, Chapter 8 needs to give special priority to the Least Developed Countries in Africa, which have not benefited at all from globalisation.

## Trade and Environment

Governments must recognise that globalised market liberalisation does not lead to equitable, just or environmentally sustainable development. Economies must be managed as a tool to achieve sustainable development. Sustainable development must inform and set limits to WTO rules, and not the other way around.

## Subsidies

The removal of perverse, environmentally harmful subsidies has become even more topical in the three months since the Bali PrepComm, especially following the US farm bill and massive support to domestic production.

Governments are to be congratulated on agreeing the useful language on fisheries subsidies in Bali. There is still a great deal of work to be done here, but it's a start.

The question of seriously addressing the \$US 250-300 billion in subsidies to the fossil fuel and nuclear energy is still on the table.

Agricultural subsidies have become a major feature of the negotiations. Let's see if the EU and the US can find the courage to address their fundamental hypocrisy on this critical issue for developing countries.

## Corporate Accountability

Events in the United States and elsewhere in the three months since Bali only underscore the urgent need for a multilateral framework to curb outrageous corporate excesses. A legally binding framework on corporate accountability (including liability) must be in place no later than 2005.

## Public Participation

The Summit needs to address the weakened role of the state as a result of the ongoing process of globalisation. Sustainable development measures rely on local and national capacity for implementation. However, the institutional framework (Chapter 10) is disappointing in not providing significant means and institutional reforms to increase implementation capacity. NGOs call for capacity building at local, national, regional and international levels regarding good governance, democracy, stronger institutions and popular participation.

A special concern is the need to adopt measures to implement citizen's rights to access to information and participation in decision-making (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration), possibly through regional conventions inspired by the PanEuropean Aarhus Convention. It is surprising, to say the least, that the text on public participation in paragraph 151 is in brackets at the same time that governments seem to want to rely more and more on civil society partners for implementation programmes.

## Freedom of Speech, II

With more than 8,000 security police, the government is attempting to keep protests by poor people out of sight.

Ten years after the first Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg is a microcosm of the growing rift between rich and poor and the failure of the United Nations to acknowledge the importance of eliminating poverty to achieve sustainability.

"Sustainable development means human rights. If people are in jail for having tried to express their views, then we might as well forget about the supposed goals of the summit" said Peter Rosset, co-director of Food First.



## Thirty Years Ago in Eco

Sins of omission rather than commission will prevail at the UN Conference on the Human Environment, according to groups which have gathered to provide an alternative to the official, ineffectual, conference.

Discussion of chemical and biological warfare, of population control, of the exploitation of the resources of underdeveloped nations by developed ones, and of ecocidal American activities in Indochina have been omitted.

The role of political and economic systems in environmental destruction is the primary focus of the alternative groups.

*Eco 1, Stockholm, 6 June 1972*

# seeking attention

a special Eco insert from the groups listed below

## Sex and Violence !

(and other concerns of the  
human race,  
North as well as South)

In this age of publicity and protesting, attention has become the most precious of commodities. Short of using sex appeal or throwing cobblestones, it takes resources to win the ears of the press and decision-makers.

In its formal set-up, the WSSD process has given world-wide civil society some influence on the agenda, if perhaps not on the outcome. But experts, information staff and flights to PrepComs do not come cheap. Unsurprisingly, this has favoured voices from civil society in the North, sometimes speaking on behalf of their colleagues in the South.

This does not imply that North and South have opposite interests. Not only pollution crosses borders. One aspect of globalisation is that the myriad social and economic problems of the South are turning into a major problem of the North, too. So it is for the sake of everyone that civil society in the South should become more involved in global forums. The ECO insert "Seeking Attention" sets out to redress some of this world-wide attention imbalance. The idea springs from the Rio+10 Project, preparing civil society in a vast array of developing countries for the WSSD (see colophon at the bottom overleaf). The views expressed are not produced by efficient lobbying machinery, nor do they respond to a uniform messaging strategy. They are almost as diverse as civil society itself. Hope you can afford to pay attention.



## Will Promises Be Made to be Broken ... Again?

by The Philippine Civil Society  
Counterpart Council for Sustainable  
Development

In most of Asia, a person's word may well be worth more than his signature on a piece of paper. Millions of dollars worth of commerce takes place every day on the basis of verbal commitments and whispered pledges. A merchant who reneges loses face, and can no longer expect the same treatment. At times, the stigma of dodging commitments is passed on to future generations. Such is the value of a promise.

In Rio ten years ago, world leaders gathered and made promises to save our planet. Together, they drafted Agenda 21, and signed it. Although some expressed misgivings about the value and impact of the event, many people around the world rejoiced at the chance that maybe, just maybe, the global environment could be better managed.

Since Rio, the condition of our planet has worsened: environmental degradation continues unabated; oceans, rivers and the atmosphere are even more polluted; species are being lost before they are even discovered-leaving most of the promises from Rio unfulfilled.

Now in Johannesburg, world leaders will come to renew commitments to protecting the environment, and to promise more than what they did in Rio-alleviate poverty, make globalization work for sustainable development, institute better governance, and the list goes on. These pressing issues need immediate solutions.

Why should we believe them this time?

The lack of progress in the preparatory process leading up to the WSSD could point to a gloomy conclusion. But the fact that they will come together with an even bigger number of major stakeholders indicate that we still believe in the proverbial silver lining - that a sustainable world remains possible, no matter what the obstacles. That the investments we are making in our participation here will bring forth promises that will not be broken again. We believe that the world leaders will come to their senses this time around. We have only one planet, we are one

people and whatever we do affects not only us and our neighbors but also future generations. Maybe the signals that we have seen in recent years—droughts, floods, forest fires and haze, spread of HIV/AIDS, widespread famine, terrorism rooted in poverty, and inequity—serve to knock us out of our inaction and intransigence to do what is right.

In Johannesburg, let us not make promises to be broken, or we will lose face not only with ourselves, but also with our children. Worse, we could lose the only planet we have and everything in it that we hold dear.

If only world leaders could learn from Asian merchants about the value of keeping promises...

## "We are creating a broad movement"

### Mozambican workers, peasants and NGOs head together for the WSSD:

Among 83 new emails, Norberto Mahalambe spots one from Manica, a province in central Mozambique.

"Look, they have defined their priorities for the Summit", he says, and prints out the seven pages. Mr. Mahalambe is

from ABIODES, a Mozambican NGO working for organic farming, biodiversity and sustainable development. He is cooperating with a wide range of organizations in preparations for the WSSD. From Manica, they inform him electronically that 26 civil-society representatives have decided to put sustainable agriculture top of their list. "We are receiving a lot of inputs from the provinces, from all kinds of organizations, because this is a people-driven process." The Union of Mozambican Peasants (UNAC) is a major player in this joint effort. The emphasis on farming methods is not surprising, since 80% of Mozambicans live directly off the land. The Union of Mozambican Workers (OTM) has also joined in. "We are creating a broad movement with national coverage," says Mr. Mahalambe.

The work began in early 2001, when LINK-NGO Forum, formed by Mozambican and international civil-society organizations, invited its constituent members to assess the state of sustainable development in the country on the occasion of the WSSD. This led to the creation of a working group. But Norberto Mahalambe recalls that many were skeptical.

"They found that a fancy Summit in Johannesburg was none of their business. Why waste time and energy on it?"

Nevertheless, the working group continued to meet regularly and eventually agreed on the principles and plans for the process. From March to November 2001, the process was extended to faith-based organizations and to those representing 'major groups', as identified in Agenda 21.

The work involved local organizations acting as focal points, setting up a nation-wide network interested in discussing sustainable development, for instance at three seminars attended by 150 representatives. Moreover, there have been advocacy meetings with government officials, cultural activities and extensive media work.

Before leaving his office late at night, Norberto Mahalambe notes that, although much has been accomplished, the process is only about to begin. "In Johannesburg, Mozambique will be represented by at least 35 delegates from civil society organizations. We want to discuss the agro-subsidies in the North that distort world-market prices and hamper African agriculture. We need to discuss how to bring about local economic development that serves to fight poverty. We should demand clear policies to prepare better for the natural disasters that are endemic to Mozambique. And the civil-society network has already begun to discuss our activities in Mozambique after the WSSD."

All Southern NGOs are welcome to seek attention, as this insert aims to give more voice at the Summit to civil society in developing countries. This springs from the Rio+10 Project, facilitated by the Danish 92 Group, working in Africa, Latin America and Asia through a series of national and subregional networks coordinated by the following organizations.

Southern Africa: EMG; Mozambique: ABIODES; Namibia: Desert Research Foundation within the NANGOF NGO Forum; South Africa: ENJF, ENDABA and the WSSD NGO Secretariat. East Africa: EcoNews, Kenya; Zimbabwe: Zero Regional Environmental Organisation; Uganda: The Rio+10 Coalition; Kenya: EcoNews and ELCI; Tanzania: JET; West Africa: Friends of the Earth Togo and networks in 11 countries. Ghana: ICA. South East Asia: WWF-Philippines, alongside WWF in Indonesia (with IPF), Malaysia, Thailand (with NGO COD), Vietnam and national NGO networks. South Asia: CSE India; Nepal: Forum of Environmental Journalists; Bangladesh: Forum for Environmental Journalists; South America and Argentina: Fundación Ecológica Universal; Brazil: Vitae Civilis; Ecuador: Fundación Natura and IUCN Quito; Bolivia: Fundación Tierra; The Amazon: Coordination of Indigenous Organisations in the Amazon including rainforest peoples in Peru, Guyana, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Venezuela, French Guyana, Surinam, and Colombia. Central America and Costa Rica: CICAFOC, supported by UNES and Enlace Sur Sur; Nicaragua: Centro Humboldt; Guatemala: Fundación Solar; El Salvador: UNES.

Signed articles express the authors' and their organizations' views, which are not necessarily shared by all the aforementioned organizations or by the ECO Coalition. Please submit comments and suggestions to: [ecoattention@yahoo.com](mailto:ecoattention@yahoo.com).