

Kick-off discussion note: Sustainable development as an answer to the economic and financial crisis - On behalf of the facilitation team

The 2008 financial crisis deeply impacted world economies and social cohesion. Interrelated resource crises (e.g. oil and food prices) widened its scope and its impacts. Such a combination of economic, resource and social crises clearly stresses the unsustainable path taken by the world today.

Governments and International Organizations tried to tackle the financial and resource crisis through fiscal stimulus, including significant investments in green technologies and infrastructure. The project was to tackle economic, environmental and social crises by implementing development with a strong focus on environmental issues while integrating the social dimension.

Four years later, the world is still faced with a precarious economic situation. Governments have often put green growth on the back-burner: in Europe, for example, they are focusing on austerity (reducing public expenditure and increasing taxes) without integrating sustainability as a key framework to rethink the economy and international relations. In emerging countries, even if the crisis is mainly behind them, without a global deal, the shift to a new sustainable economic model is costly with too much uncertain gains in a competitive world; in the US, growth and employment prospects seem to be improving, but increasing oil prices threaten to dampen the emerging recovery, as indeed they did in 2011.

Voices thus call for a shift towards a new economy. Some call for increased investments in green technologies, the implementation of green fiscal reforms and enhanced environmental innovation with a strong focus on growth. Others call for a more fundamental shift in the debate: moving beyond growth towards a restructuring of our financial and economic system, and a redefinition of the notion of prosperity.

More dialogue between these two perspectives is necessary to enrich the concept of sustainable development and discuss implementation challenges. We urge you to address the following questions:

- What could the contribution of sustainable development be to resolving the economic challenges the world faces?
- To what extent do environmental constraints/damages enter into economic growth already? Will policies integrating environmental costs into economic growth help the transition to a new economy and aggravate impacts on the competitiveness of countries and enterprises?
- How to address inequalities and resource constraints at the same time at national, regional and international? And what are the existing

opportunities in addressing poverty alleviation and environmental improvement?

- What are the first lessons to be learned from current economic and environmental policies targeting a transition towards a new economy?
- How much international coordination do we need to allow this transition?
- How to enlarge the reach of socio-environmental issues in international trade?
- What are the challenges to implementation?

We are looking forward to your insights and contributions,

Prof. Laurence Tubiana (Sciences Po-FRA), Shiqiu Zhang (Beijing University) and Ricardo Abramovay (Universidade de São Paulo - USP)

Comments

[Altmor -](#)

Wed, June 20, 2012

Imagem sobre a Rio + 20 [ver](#)

Attachment(s)

[Rio + 20](#)

[kara j lincoln](#)

Wed, June 20, 2012

sadly many that have evolved in time, have failed to thread our human potential from ug mode, as words/ideals created then another rides on that wave, forget their own self + now we have hormones deciding. my experiences when we try to comprehend/chase a solution, we at times fail to remember we are in our own flesh. so in saying that, let me say this ex;

if you had a bad accident + doctors say nothing else to do, would you try another, then to hear the same, how many more? until you see perhaps they should of said we don't know + don't care to study more. meanwhile you are suffering. this we work with a lot + my friend who is a traditional chinese doctor then takes an overview + sees that we are all pretty much the same, so he fine tunes + offers most efficiently a herbal

formula into a tea. so now discomfort of constipation becomes better, memory is sharper, more energy makes one want to move more, gain more circulation, skin color comes back, appetite gets better, stop throwing up, now gain more nutrition more energy.... this list goes on. doesn't this sound better than hearing doctors discuss your loved one in terms of making a good organ doner. or after they stopped feeding them...

the point is it is not the fault of anyone when real accidents occur, they happen + will continue. so when 1 works hard + another follows on a path trying + can't complete then many redirect for survival. this is kind of where every one is at. meanwhile if we understand our misuse/abuse because of reflecting with many of these real experiences, then we awaken to what really sustains us as a living organism + most prefer to continue to live or have a loved one live.

so for my friend Dr. Yun Wang to tune in to what can be done, it takes good concentration knowing exactly which root/lf/tuber/animal part, etc. can best do what for what fibers, producing what effect, triggerin best for natural functions to efficiently occur. doctors don't learn much about medicine, rather they count on pharmaceutical sales people, etc.+ many do come back to school to learn this alternative medicine as well more sesnitivites with diagnosing + aiding each to understand + do own homework.

so when we see how effective + efficient nature can offer us comfort, even if on our way to dieing, it is still better than to live reaminging life without this comfort.

when we see the efficiency of ecological sustainability to give us local balanced genetic bio-diversity, build conservation services.. we then can together create a `plan as with what we propose in project osic, after using Amazonian + other places as an ex; of what large energy developments have done negatively, + good researchers have put facts simply in perspective for us not to have to reinvent the wheel for energy development. now we can use good science gauges as in agro-ecology, + set the tune on to the sea + work the elements. no longer isolating what sustains us, as in off limits to parks/reserves etc. which when we become aware + have this exchange `boon with the natural world it fuels us, if done right as with wilderness awareness.

the panic + over emotion, not to mention the many addicted to their own adrenalin as in those that play the derivitives, puts/calls as they have no

consciousness, as originally designed to help that small farmer when elements went against him, rather the adrenalin kicks in to the gains that can be made. + now we have this option of a manipulated extended leveraged bank that gives bonuses vs. make up to those that lost, or now go to a local credit union that employees get paid a salary + there to aid those with good credit to self-develop now with awareness of communitys needs + simply coming together with pure intent.

for our survival to aid the balance of human potential to regain stable neru networks, locally each can bring folks into a tapering transition + reflect with those sensitive indigenou stewards that we all are fortunate to still have, that have kept the natural world in tack as much as possible. students coming into their local community can be focus directed, in a structure wher they then become in tune with their center + know as all bring facts of the local ecosystems/subject together with these sensitive folks, all can be fine tuned to fulfill their potential as they gain community support to rethink, make wrongs right, then come back not as a manipulated investor or even one with good intent gone wrong or even the many greedy unaware that made them wealthy by supporting them, simply not knowing. what ever the reason, thru this interpersonal exchange we all take a look within + ask what effects are we leaving locally + beyond + now with students networking we see options to self-align. holding self accountable. + it feels good as our footprint gets smaller + our self-expression is appreciated..

once this truth becomes clear amazing healing takes place as energy that once drained our organs now becomes available. so more are participating in this local community exchange, now not just receiving hands on care, but now not in need as much as well giving back, as each work on own misuse/abuse.

same as this conference, i see so much good yet it is in the ethers, + we propose the project osic to structurally connect or continue to create organized archive building tool, so all can plug in after rethinking. once some one shows reflection of human potential, in micro-seconds nature fuels us to co_evolve if we do our home work, rid our baggage + keep our focus in the present.

with all the scars on this planet, many have barely even realized we had these choices. we don't have to study that hard to diagnose what can be, as Dr, Yun does, but we do have to define that we will accept nothing less than simple comfort for all to be clear with what can be, if we do our home

work. this is the human rights we all can have made available to us, which we are fortunate to do with our virtual tools, as we suggest with project osic to open our understandings, or open to any other structures as in all recycling UN to hold it accountable to be efficient to do this or rid it.

once investors/people see the potential each local community mode of restoration with ecological soundness, protecting the commons as it is worked to bring in supplies locally to neighbors with out. locally to self-sustain + then to share what works, + collectively prioritize reflection with those without again to define how to heal what. now we have people fueled from understanding, along with stopping their misuse/abuse. fueling solutions, creating careers with self-expression to explore + co-evolve with communities restoration where life is prioritized.

not all people/communities have been so fortunate + many die still suffering long before they die. so please take a look at what was missing + what was done, where simple respect was not followed thru + let this be a fueling force, so interpersonally we locally plug in + then cooperatively share locally + students within us all will thrive with sharing our experiences. fueling all to continue to explore, building our path as we each what it into our own opening. wanting to share so all do the same.

this releases a different frequency that has a tendency to not resist, rather fuels us all to co_evolve along with the natural motion of being alive. where words/ideals now become integrated as local community cultural exchanges continue to be created, not just living stories of the past, rather creating upon. this money cannot buy.

[Helene Finidori](#)

Wed, June 06,2012

Hello, I am honored to have submitted a proposal that is now up for the vote of the public. I would like to enquire if it would be possible to slightly modify the title of the proposal as there is no link to an explanatory text.

Currently it is:

New institutions should be created to steward and manage the global commons and adopt commons-based economic models.

The recommendation insists on the cooperative nature of the stewardship. Would it be possible to change the title to:

New institutions should be created to cooperatively steward and manage the global commons and adopt commons-based economic models.

[kara.j.lincoln](#)

Mon, July 02, 2012

Hi Helene,

i think that is better to change what you did, although i still think every local should plug in to their commons + share the support for our co_evolution. to live local is to be aware of the support needed as in prioritizing from the mountain top, having hands on thru out this chain from glacier thru trees/rivers along the way with the proper bio-diversity to maintain good freshwater flow all the way to the sea.

many are fragmented unaware of our natural processes + how it is to our interpersonal advantage to understand our personal obligations as we come together locally + `boon with our natural world + gain the sensitivity required to work the commons, as we change this mode of setting aside wild, rather working it correctly with gauges as i state in agro-ecology starting from the mountain tops in a plan review to the sea. vs. having an institution focus on this locally.

i personally experienced how the marine reserve folks `our oceans came into local community in US + had no facts, nor interest to remove already misinformation/over regulation on those commercial fisherfolks that should of had good science written from all their experiences. as we ask now to create a cooperative amongst them + 1 regulatory board with equal say, vs. as in the marine reserve folks just wanting to top off with another layer of regulation. so it had no common sense + it took up good energy from locals already over worked due to layers of improper regulation.

so we feel it is each local that deserves to understand + plug in to maintain the community to be a sound working one. + these solutions to plug in produce much more then chasing a job, rather gives people interpersonal reflection to create a life + a career happily with their local community. fueling cooperative effort for those unable locally +

afar. looking at sharing a bit differently, then interfering in anothers ability to self-develop.

we appreciate having the opportunity now to edit these Rio + 20 offerings into our forum. it would of been nicer to be accepted so each of you would come + post yourself in appropriate subcategory, or as i asked to guide where best the gest of our project osic in the building could be best directed globally. which we feel UN should still do it. but considering we have not got a response we will continue on + attempt to find international bulk school email lists as well global representatives for communities with no schools. US Ed Dept has given us their`s + we would like to do all together in a focus directed forum.

due to so many in so called develop countries are leaving negative effects knowingly + not, producing poverty in so called undeveloped countries. if we do this review togehter we can better understand, as we take a look at the effects we leave.

if we have taken any of your work in this review + posted it on our forum without your desire, please inform + we will remove it.

i've pushed this project osic as much as i could in these dialogues, if yet to review we appreciate your comment on how best to apply this project ocis if you see it another way or come post + make it happen;

<http://i-come-to-talk-story.3220728.n2.nabble.com/project-osic-open-sch97\ool-doors-into-community-f7559277.html>

thank you, kara j lincoln

[Ian Ardaseer](#)

Thu, July 05,2012

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email lists as well global representatives for communities with no schools. US Ed Dept has given us their's + we would like to do all together in a focus directed forum.>> due to so many in so called develop countries are leaving negative effects> knowingly + not, producing poverty in so called undeveloped countries. if we> do this review together we can better understand, as we take a look at the> effects we leave.>> if we have taken any of your work in this review + posted it on our forum> without your desire, please inform + we will remove it.>> i've pushed this project osic as much as i could in these dialogues, if yet> to review we appreciate your comment on how best to apply this project ocis> if you see it another way or come post + make it happen;>> <http://i-come-to-talk-story.3220728.n2.nabble.com/project-osic-open-sch97ool-doors-into-community-f7559277.html>> [3]>> thank you, kara j lincoln>>> >> >> >> 2 Jul 2012 [read more [4]] [reply [5]]>> To manage your subscriptions, browse to> <http://www.riodialogues.org/user/66043/notifications> [6]> This is an automatic message from Rio+20 [7]>> View original post:> <https://undp.unteamworks.org/mailcomment/redirect/%3C66043.219145.31855...>> [8]>>> [1] <http://www.riodialogues.org/node/219145>> [2] <http://www.riodialogues.org/user/74357>> [3] > <http://i-come-to-talk-story.3220728.n2.nabble.com/project-osic-open-sch97ool-doors-into-community-f7559277.html>> [4] <http://www.riodialogues.org/node/219145#comment-31855>> [5] <http://www.riodialogues.org/comment/reply/219145/31855>> [6] <http://www.riodialogues.org/user/66043/notifications>> [7] <http://www.riodialogues.org>> [8] > <https://undp.unteamworks.org/mailcomment/redirect/%3C66043.219145.31855.1341275931.4c27cda0a33b0e2b6facd4be2ce492d0%40unteamworks.org%3E>>>

[kara j lincoln](#)

Thu, July 05,2012

please tell me if this is an error or explain what you are telling me here. i click on links + get errors.

thank you, kara j lincoln

[Ian Ardaseer](#)

Wed, June 06,2012

Thank u ,Bring the proposal with the words that expresses the benefit of our future as it should be ,so for me its ok any progressive in word or deed is excepted .

Regards :)

From: <notification@unteamworks.org>

Reply-To: <comment@unteamworks.org>

Date: Wed, 6 Jun 2012 14:01:20 -0400

To: fdg fdg <ardaseer@authentic-kopiluwak.pro>

Subject: [Rio+20] Helene Finidori commented on the Forum topic "Kick-off discussion note: Sustainable development as an answer to the economic and financial crisis - On behalf of the facilitation team"

[Stella Joy](#)

Wed, June 06,2012

Please consider this:

S.D is a global defense strategy. Hence it could potentially be legitimately funded by 1% of the defense budgets of all U.N countries or 1% annually by the U.N defense budget.

If S.D could get the needed funding green economies and poverty eradication would naturally follow.

We are talking about the survival of life on Earth after all and it's got to be cheaper in every way than global conflicts and unlimited environmental breakdowns.

Without focusing on, protecting and securing the global fresh water cycle all our work is temporary and in vain. However the opposite is also potentially true.

Our research has been focused on the critical and vital importance of indigenous mixed mountain forests for the protection of life on Earth, through the part they play in the regenerative nature of the global fresh water cycle.

<http://rio20.net/en/propuestas/sustaining-and-maintaining-life-on-earth>

Attachment(s)

[Sustaining and Maintaining Life on Earth- .pdf](#)

[Jean-Philippe PANCRATE](#)

Tue, June 05,2012

Nous sommes définitivement d'accord !!!

vous avez dit que l'' intégration due développement durable est une condition sine qua none crucial pour repenser l'économie et les relations internationales.

Les gens afin de combattre la crise doivent ancrer leurs actions dans un axe durable qui nous permettrait de réfléchir en amont avant d'agir et surtout de peser les conséquences de nos actions. Le MAPEX ; management de projets d'excellence ; méthodologie de projets ancrée dans le développement durable nous permet de donner du sens à nos actions ; surtout du bon sens. Cette méthode s'inscrit dans le champ du développement durable et vise à offrir un outil opérationnel et accessible à tous afin de permettre une réelle intégration du développement durable.

[Ihor Soloviy](#)

Tue, June 05,2012

The contribution of sustainable development to resolving the economic challenges require transformation of the system of global environmental governance and SD governance through the process of the World Environmental Constitution development. The definitive part of the idea of World Environmental Constitution (WEC) <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=1000&nr=27&menu=126> means development of global legal act containing basic norms providing environmental safety and stimulating green economy for sustainable development. Institutional part is oriented towards the World Environmental Organization and a system of other bodies to fulfill the WEC mandate and to balance the power of the WTO. Otherwise the system of domination of purely individualistic economic interests over broad human well-being interests will never be transformed.

[Stella Joy](#)

Sat, June 02,2012

When considering the welfare of life on Earth and all Sustainable Development it is essential to understand the nature of the fresh water cycle and how to protect and maintain it. All sustainability depends upon the long-term sustainability of fresh water. It is therefore in our best interest to become more aware of it and the factors it depends upon for the functioning of its regenerative nature.

Sustaining and Maintaining Life on Earth

Authors: Stella Joy and Tara Joy

www.activeremedy.org.uk

Abstract: The sustenance of the incredible variety of species and biodiversity on planet Earth throughout millennia has been largely dependent on the abundance of water that exists here. Water covers more than three quarters of the Earth's surface but only 3% of it is fresh water. Of this 2% is found in ice caps and glaciers and 1% in underground sources, rivers, streams, lakes and the atmosphere. However due to numerous factors, fresh water has become and is being seriously depleted worldwide. Countries all around the world, including those whose rainfall was, until only recently very high, are experiencing drought. Millions of lives are being lost and many are suffering from severe conditions due to it. Mountain regions cover approximately 25% of the Earths' land surface and source between 60% and 80% of Earths' fresh water. All of Earths rivers have their headwaters and origins in them. They are also known as the 'Water Towers' of the world. They provide critical storage of fresh water in the form of glaciers, ice and snow. Many streams and rivers would cease to flow entirely if their headwaters and watersheds were not fed by the seasonal melting of these snows. Such valuable storage of fresh water is vital for all life on Earth. However nowadays glaciers and mountain snows are retreating, shrinking and thinning rapidly in all regions of world, threatening the fresh water and food supply for all.

Unlike resources such as coal, oil and gas the fresh water system is a renewable and regenerative one. It has the ability of being replenished. Nonetheless this cycle is utterly dependent upon indigenous mountain forests and plants. These forests play a major role in protecting the watersheds, which all rivers depend

upon. However, worldwide too much of these indigenous forests have been cut. Approximately 28% of the world's forests were indigenous mixed mountain forests. Humanity cut it by 75% globally. Approximately 21% of the world's forests were therefore cut and destroyed. This was largely replaced by, monoculture pine plantations, for fast profit. These are lethal to the majority of other plants and local biodiversity. They also do not do the necessary job of precipitation.

Mixed deciduous mountain forests play a vital and crucial role in the hydrological cycle. Due to their massive loss, glaciers and mountain snow cannot be adequately replenished. Temperatures rise as the solar reflector is diminished and thins. This factor is almost invisible and has mostly been disregarded when talking about reasons for 'Global Warming'.

An understanding of mixed forest in mountains and its protection and fast regeneration is vital in achieving any of our goals for long-term sustainability and equity. To protect and regenerate Earth's fresh water cycle these indigenous forests need replanting on a vast scale throughout mountain regions worldwide imminently. Without adequate mixed deciduous forests in mountain regions the fresh water cycle and temperature regulation mechanisms cannot be maintained and if not remedied will break down regardless of all other actions. If all the forests worldwide were saved and regenerated and the mountain regions were ignored they would all die of drought as glaciers and mountain snows disappeared and rivers dried up.

We at Active Remedy Ltd believe that all indigenous mountain forest needs to be protected and that 25% of mountain regions worldwide need replanting with mixed indigenous mountain forest as a matter of urgency for global environmental stability.

We have formulated a method for doing this. It is a combination of several modern and traditional conservation techniques that address the diverse requirements of this challenging task. The principal is to create many community managed forest patches, within close proximity to mountain communities and to link these with green corridors. Thus creating a network by which biodiversity can spread over great distances, in a short period of time and with minimum resource expenditure. The green

corridors would consist of mixed plants, specifically chosen for their environmentally beneficial properties. These corridors could then also provide resources and cottage industry opportunities for local communities. This is a way of working in a supportive manner with local mountain communities, recognising that they play a fundamental role as stewards of natural resources that maintain global stability. This could be a way of joining many diverse groups and communities together in an interconnected endeavour, for the common purpose of safeguarding environmental sustainability. Nowadays many factors need to be seen in relation to one another for us to take appropriate action and bring about truly lasting advantageous results.

Protecting and Sustaining the Global Fresh Water Cycle:

The sustenance of the incredible variety of species and biodiversity on planet Earth throughout millennia has been largely dependent on the abundance of water that exists here. Water covers more than three quarters of the Earth's surface but only 3% of it is fresh water. Of this 2% is found in ice caps and glaciers and 1% in underground sources, rivers, streams, lakes and the atmosphere. For the majority of life to exist fresh water is absolutely essential.

However due to numerous factors fresh water has become and is being seriously depleted worldwide. Countries all around the world, including those whose rainfall was until only recently very high are experiencing drought. Millions of lives are being lost and many are suffering from severe conditions due to it. .

It has been recognized and confirmed that people living with water scarcity is expected to climb from 1.7 billion to 3.2 billion by 2080 (IPCC, 2008). It could also be much higher, depending on the compounding of factors involved in the rate of glacial retreat and breakdown in the global hydrological cycle.

When considering fresh water it is vital to consider mountain regions. They play an extremely crucial and irreplaceable role in the hydrological processes of the planet and in the regional hydrology of all continents (Roots and Glen 1982).

Mountain regions cover approximately 25% of the Earth's land surface and source between 60% and 80% of Earth's fresh water (U.N General Assembly 29/9/05). All of Earth's rivers have their headwaters and origins in them (Viviroli et al. 2007). They are also known as the 'Water Towers' of the world. (Bandyopadhyay 1995). They provide critical storage of fresh water in the form of glaciers, ice and snow, which melts and is released during warm seasons. Many streams and rivers would cease to flow entirely if their headwaters and watersheds were not fed by the seasonal melting of these snows. Such valuable storage of fresh water is vital for all life on Earth (UNCED 1992 Agenda 21). They are also important in the interception of air circulating around the globe, by forcing it upwards where some of it condenses into clouds and returns to earth again as rain and snow.

"Water is essential to human life, and healthy mountain ecosystems are essential to global water supplies. By taking care of the world's mountains, we help to ensure the long-term survival of all that is connected to them, including ourselves"

(Douglas McGuire, head of FAO's Mountain Group).

Mountains and the Regulation of Global Temperatures: Apart from the fundamental and vital part that mountains play in maintaining the regenerative fresh water cycle they play a major part in the regulation of Earth's temperature. Their snow, ice caps and glaciers form a powerful solar reflector, which very much affects the regulation of Earth's overall heat. Nowadays glaciers are retreating, shrinking and thinning in all regions of Earth (UNEP WGMS 2008) and the degradation of permafrost is accelerating. This is very likely to have significant effects on water available for both mountain and downstream communities worldwide (Stern et al. 2006). As they melt and become thinner this function naturally becomes less effective, greatly influencing rising temperatures upon Earth and adding to global warming. This also leads to glacial lake outbursts and land slides, which disrupts the amount and timing of fresh water released to all rivers and lowlands, causing problems with its quality and quantity.

“In the greater Himalayas, a substantial proportion of the annual precipitation falls as snow, particularly at high altitude (above 3000m). In the higher reaches, snowfall builds up from year to year to form glaciers that provide long-term reservoirs of water stored as ice. The high Himalayan and inner Asian ranges have the most highly glaciated areas outside the polar region” (Dyurgerov and Meier 2005).

Nowadays they are not being replenished as fast as they should be. Rapidly retreating glaciers and mountain snows swiftly wastes the supplies of fresh water available and needed for all life. This scenario threatens the fresh water and food supplies for hundreds of millions, if not billions of people, along with all life on Earth (UNEP WGMS 2008). When this ice melts, some of it evaporates thus increasing the quantity of water vapour in the atmosphere.

Water vapour H_2O is a very powerful greenhouse gas, which normally stays in the atmosphere for around nine days. However if it is not brought to Earth through precipitation, it rises into the upper atmosphere and increases the problems of the greenhouse effect and exacerbates Global Warming (Santer 2007). It has also recently been proven that the ice and snow on the high Himalayas regulate the climate for the entire Northern Hemisphere (Zhang Yongze).

Hence wherever we live in the Northern Hemisphere the great glaciers of the Himalayas affect our climate and ecological environments. In a similar manner the Andes affect the climate of the Southern Hemisphere. If this situation continues, it is possible that glaciers may completely disappear from many mountain ranges within the 21st century.

“The 15 000 Himalayan glaciers that create the “Water Tower of Asia” —the largest block of fresh water outside the Polar Ice Caps—have been melting forever. But they are suddenly melting so fast that they are drying up. It will take decades, but at the rate the earth is warming, they may simply disappear” (Schifrin 2008).

Understanding the Science of the Water Cycle: Unlike many resources such as coal, oil and gas the fresh water system is a renewable and regenerative one. It has the ability of being replenished through a combination of natural processes and the passage of time. However it can only be renewed through the process of the water cycle, where water from seas, lakes, rivers, and dams evaporates, forms clouds, and returns to earth through precipitation. This cycle is utterly dependent upon indigenous mountain forests and plants.

“The availability and especially the quality of water are strongly influenced by forests and thus depend on proper forest management” (FAO 2007).

Approximately 28% of all forests on Earth are found in mountain regions. Through their action of precipitation and transpiration they play a crucial role in the creation of rain, snow and ice.

Precipitation is the process by which water molecules H²O in the air form rain and snow and fall to Earth. This occurs in relation to a combination of different factors, particularly when plants and trees are present, especially deciduous species. Deciduous trees such as oak release large amounts of a powerful hydrocarbon, known as isoprene into the atmosphere.

Worldwide, plants release more than 550 million metric tons of the hydrocarbon isoprene into the atmosphere each year (FAO 4 September 2006, Rome). Isoprene breaks down into a compound called dihydroxyepoxide. This is very reactive and forms multitudes of bio-aerosols. These act like a vacuum cleaner of the atmosphere and are an essential factor in cloud formation (F Paulot et al 2009).

It is possible that the formation of clouds at high altitudes would not be possible without them. Even young oak trees produce this chemical and it is worth noting that the oak species is one of the main indigenous trees of the Himalayas. However, because it is slow growing and quite fragile when young, it needs the support of numerous other plants and trees to be able to take root and survive, especially in seriously eroded areas.

Another factor in precipitation is known as ice nucleation, whereby bacteria produced by plants and which live on the bark

and leaves of plants are blown into the atmosphere. These form the nuclei seeds around which ice crystals form. Snow and most rain begin with the formation of ice in clouds. As mountain forests disappear there is less precipitation and transpiration, hence less snow and rain at high altitudes is made, land drains more quickly and soil temperatures rise.

The protective function of healthy mountain forests, full of biodiversity, also provides the ground cover and shade needed to delay snow melt and reduce evaporation from the soil. These actions are vital for the safeguarding of all watersheds, which in turn maintain the stability of all rivers and water tables (*Bishkek, Global Mountain Summit. 2002*). They also play a vital role in ensuring the quality and quantity of rivers and streams by preventing and reducing slope and soil erosion (U.N General Assembly 29/9/05). The root systems of indigenous mountain forests are responsible for both holding loose soils together and in channeling fresh water into the underground aquifers and water tables, so renewing many ground water sources. If they are not present this necessary action cannot take place and springs and wells thousands of kilometers distant from them, dry up and disappear.

The recharging of groundwater resources are closely linked to the renewing cycling of fresh water, through which aquifers and underground sources are periodically replenished. However its regeneration is dependent upon sufficient precipitation. Between 1.5 billion (UNEP 1996) and 3 billion people (UN/WWAP 2003) worldwide are dependent upon groundwater supplies. These forests form a major part of the natural infrastructure, which protect watersheds and all fresh water sources. However it is possible that only 25% of the Earth's primal indigenous mountain forests are still intact (Maggio, Gregory F. and Owen J. Lynch. 1996).

This implies that 75% is missing. This is approximately 21% of the world's forests.

It is an enormous loss and surely adds to the problems of global warming; considering that these forests are the natural

mechanism, which plays a vital role in the making of mountain snows and replenishing glaciers, thereby regenerating the global fresh water cycle. Through the wide mixed variety of plants and trees they would also be producing oxygen and absorbing CO² at high altitudes. Some indigenous mountain plants are very fast growing and have very high oxygen producing capacities. Also it is generally assumed the rise in green house gas is mostly caused by burning oil and gas yet according to the U.N:

“Between 25% and 30% of the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere each year - 1.6 billion tons - is caused by deforestation” (FAO 4 September 2006, Rome).

Mountain cloud forests are particularly valuable for their capture of water that is combed from mists and moving clouds. They are also of immense importance in maintaining a steady supply of fresh water to all the lowlands and downstream areas (Hamilton, L.S. 1996).

The deforestation of high-altitude forests negatively affects watersheds and ecosystems downstream. The health of entire watersheds can depend on preventing environmental degradation in these areas. In South America, the loss of Andean cloud forests has upset the hydrological cycle and exacerbated landslide and flood damage related to El Niño (FAO (2007).

This has serious effects on climatic conditions throughout the entire Southern hemisphere.

If approximately 25% of Earth's land surface is upland mountain regions then that indicates that approximately 75% of Earth's land surface is downstream lowland regions. Whether close or distant all of life on Earth is affected by the health and environmental stability of mountain regions. Even life in the oceans is dependent upon them, as the fresh waters from rivers finally feed into and clean them. Without a steady flow of clean fresh water the oceans become too high in salts and hence too imbalanced to adequately support marine life.

“Healthy mountain ecosystems are the foundation of healthy people, both in the mountains above and in the plains below. To save civilization, there is no greater

urgency today than to regenerate and conserve our mountains. “Their role in regulating our climate and water systems is fundamental to the sustenance of our life on this planet” (Dr Ashok Khosla, Lucerne World Mountain Conference 11/10/2011).

This almost looks like an impossible situation but it is not necessarily so. It becomes plausible if we take action imminently in relation to the vast store of knowledge that we presently have. Undoubtedly we will acquire more in the process but right now we have sufficient knowledge and resources to proceed and potentially succeed. Nature on Earth is comprised of multitudes of interdependent and interconnected ecological systems and life forms. It is incredibly resilient and vastly intelligent. If we can view Nature from this perspective, we have more chances of working in harmony with it and of solving problems related to it and ourselves. We are after all part of this interrelated natural world and have immeasurable intelligence and capacities when our minds are combined in a common focus for the benefit of the whole. All lives are threatened, so it is in everyone's best interest to join forces and become part of the solution. Much can yet be achieved if we take the necessary precautionary actions required to avert and mitigate crisis before they are too overwhelming and unavoidable.

If we can understand what is happening with the vast system that sustains us and why, then we can naturally progress from this knowledge to understanding how to solve it with methods that complement the system, harmonise with it and open up its own strengths and resources, including human ones, to help its recovery. Just as problems are seldom isolated but are interconnected so can solutions be. Therefore fixing one issue can naturally harmonise and produce excellent results for others.

From this knowledge it becomes transparently obvious that to protect, re-balance and increase the natural regenerative system of the fresh water cycle, indigenous mountain forests need both protecting and regenerating as fast as possible worldwide. To help solve the problem of too much water vapour remaining in the upper atmosphere and adding to the greenhouse gas crisis, it is necessary to establish fast growing, high precipitating, indigenous forest plants throughout mountain regions worldwide

as soon as possible. Time is of the essence as mountain areas are very fragile.

They are particularly vulnerable to changing climatic conditions due to their altitude, steep slopes, shallow soils widely varied, extreme climatic conditions, and geological variability. They are one of the world's most sensitive ecosystems (Sonesson and Messerli 2002).

Due to the vast deforestation and non-sustainable monoculture projects, which have occurred on an enormous scale globally, their soils are very depleted and erosion problems are massive. Often monoculture pine is invasive and wipes out other species in an area. It also does not do the necessary job of precipitation at the levels required and needed.

Repairing the Roof of the World: If we consider the Earth as a home that is comprised of many floors and rooms, 'The Roof of the World' would be all of the Earth's mountainous regions. If the roof becomes destabilized, the rest of the house is undoubtedly threatened. We all have some awareness of what happens in a house if the water tank stops working.

The survival of virtually all life upon Earth is utterly dependent upon the services that mountain regions provide. Globally they form an interdependent integrated system and need to be regarded along with fresh water as 'Global Common'.

It is important to recognize that the collaboration with mountain communities is crucial and essential for the effectiveness of this undertaking. It is only by involving and supporting them that an endeavour of this magnitude can be successfully achieved and prove to be long-term sustainable, thereby supporting all life.

Mountain communities have developed conservation practises over long periods of time. These are based on well-founded observations that document the most effective methods to sustain the local resources. They have been passed through the generations even into present times (Ohmagari and Berkes, 1997). Mountain people are the natural stewards of the water sources and mountain resources essential for all the lower lands

of Earth. Therefore they should be encouraged and supported for their services in regenerating and protecting their environment. Without the recognition of the vital part that they play in being the natural caretakers of the mountain forests, they will be forced by poverty to either degrade these resources even further or to migrate. However if these communities are supported, they can provide the very important service of regenerating, safeguarding and preserving the natural ecologies.

It is important to remember that supporting these mountain communities is not simply an act of charity. It is a means by which all lowland communities, including wealthy urban ones can safeguard their own long-term interests. It is also important to note that generally it has not been the grass-root communities that have caused the majority of the environmental degradation that has taken place in these areas. It has always been in the interest of these communities to protect the natural resources, which supported their livelihoods. However now that natural resources have become so scarce, the daily necessities of the local rural communities also threatens them.

“Logging, both illegal and government-sponsored, dam construction in areas of high seismic activity, and inappropriate reforestation programs are responsible for far more damage than that caused by so-called ‘ignorant’ subsistence mountain farmers” (D.Knight 2002)

Supporting and educating rural mountain communities is a fundamental part of the method that we are proposing. However it is important to understand that we also need to be educated and that they have vital ancient traditional knowledge, as well as specific local understanding that we are lacking. This is the time for indigenous and modern knowledge systems to be integrated and for us to form mutually respectful alliances with one another. Uniting, supporting and sharing knowledge is the only way we can possibly deal with and overcome the crisis threatening the well being of all life on Earth.

"Indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines

the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives" (U.N, 2006).

We at Active Remedy Ltd have spent a number of years researching and communicating with many knowledgeable people including those from mountain communities, about the scale of the problems regionally and globally and methods, which could be applied for helping to solve them. From detailed research, it appears to be essential to reforest approximately 25% of Earths mountain regions with indigenous mixed forest plants within the next thirty years and to protect the indigenous mountain forests presently in existence. In order for them to be effective and successful they need to be comprised of many mixed indigenous plants, which enrich and support the local biodiversity. This would conceivably enable the natural ecological and hydrological systems to re-balance themselves and survive indefinitely.

The method that we propose for doing this has been formulated considering both modern and traditional conservation techniques, which have proven themselves to be successful. It could be considered as repairing the 'roof of the world'. It has been created specifically to fit with the requirements and traditions of the different social groups and terrains throughout mountain regions worldwide. We have integrated the methods of sacred groves and green corridors along with Permaculture, forest gardening, companion planting and cottage industry scale cultivation of medicinal plants to create a model that could have the potential to cover all the requirements for the difficult task of Global mountain reforestation. We have termed this method 'The sacred grove and green corridor method for repairing the roof of the World '.

It is important to understand that in proposing this solution and claiming it to be viable and sustainable we do not in any way underestimate the scale and magnitude of the problem we describe here.

Restoring new mountain forests is a very difficult job when the old forests have been severely diminished and when there is very little topsoil remaining, leaving behind arid lands. This also

applies when the remaining soil is too acidic or compacted. To grow a new forest in these conditions, one has to re-establish the complex root structures and canopies, to resemble that of a mature forest. Young trees cannot be expected to grow in bare, exposed land. They are too fragile and vulnerable. They need shelter from the harsh weather conditions such as strong winds, heavy rains and intense sunshine, which are common to mountain regions. There are certain plants, indigenous to all mountain regions of the world, which possess properties that can be utilized to solve many environmental problems (FAO.2001).

Between the rich varieties of species are many plants potentially capable of providing all that is needed for re-establishing indigenous mountain forests fast. Some of these plants are capable of growing in some of the most badly eroded and degraded soils (Dhar, 2002). There are also some, which are capable of cleansing the land by removing toxins. This process is known as phytoremediation. This is a way of using plants to clean up pollution in the environment. Certain plants can help clean up many kinds of pollution including metals, acids, pesticides, and oil. (Mark, 2003). These plants can also help prevent wind, rain, and groundwater from carrying pollution away to other areas (Shimp, et al, 1993).

Amongst these mixed indigenous mountain region plants, there are some, which have strong, fast growing root systems. These are capable of holding together the loose earth, so allowing other, slower growing plants such as oak, to connect their tender roots in with a strong web of roots. This root system helps to prevent land erosion and the loss of moisture by holding the soils together on the slopes. Using a combination of fast growing plants, it could be possible to synthesise a natural forest. This would act like a nursery for the young plants and make it possible to introduce many varieties, so encouraging high levels of biodiversity. These kinds of considerations make it conceivable for young plants to be able to establish themselves and become forests relatively fast. Speed is of the essence and of utter importance in this endeavor. Every time heavy rains fall precious soil is washed away.

Once an area becomes rock, it is no longer possible to introduce plants and all that is left is arid land and desert. Some of the

environmental problems being faced have occurred due to the introduction of foreign plants and monoculture into a given area. Although many foreign plants may have some useful qualities, too often they have proven to be invasive and have wiped out local plants, which are vital for the health of the overall general environment. Therefore, the plants, which have already evolved in local environmental conditions, are the ones that would be the most beneficial and successful for fast land reclamation and regeneration. In this respect mixed indigenous companion plants are vital for a successful outcome

When searching through the traditional methods that the mountain communities have applied to preserve the environment, we came across the tradition of 'Sacred Groves'. These are small, forested areas conserved by the local people, which are intertwined with their traditional, cultural and religious practices. They still exist in many countries around the world (*Hughes and Chandran, 1997*). They have proven themselves to be storehouses of valuable medicinal plants and biodiversity, which have many land and water preserving properties. These groves enhance local environmental and cultural wealth. They are similar to temples but with the main emphasis being on the sacredness of the nature in the grove and not on a building.

It is an ancient conservation method that many mountain communities are familiar with and still adhere to. Because it is still a living tradition from ancient times it has a natural vibrancy and potential (*Gadgil M. and Vartak V.D. 1975*).

The method that we have formulated involves the creation of new sacred groves and the preservation and restoration of existing ones. Numerous new small groves would be created throughout the mountain regions, linking village communities and creating networks across these areas. Each grove could be planted in such a way, as that every village had a five to ten acre grove within its vicinity. By linking new groves with existing ones; the latter already being significantly important for local communities, would mean that these communities would feel more devoted and protective towards the new ones. This would be a way of uniting the old and the new together and would therefore give these groves greater cultural stability. Each village could potentially form a local group to care for, manage and be

stewards of these new groves and be funded to do so. Because this tradition has been global it has the capacity to potentially fit with many different cultures, landscapes and situations.

These newly established groves could range from religious groves of any faith, to simply being naturally beautiful, peaceful and invigorating forest gardens and peace parks. They would generally be community managed and so bring members of local communities together through education and mutual effort. Involving children and students in this could be a very good way of educating them about the benefits of conservation, from a young age. In this way fast, active, community based programs could be initiated and set into motion. It has proven itself to be effective in the past and is still so in present times, in conserving natural environments. Hence it could be highly valuable when forming a workable model for regenerating and preserve indigenous mountain forests and supporting mass biodiversity.

“A scientific understanding of the sacred groves would be significantly important for designing strategies for rehabilitation of degraded landscapes, involving local people’s participation, and training for promotion of traditional and social norms” (Gadgil and Berkes, 1991).

The long-term sustainability of these new sacred groves would be greatly amplified, if created in combination with the cultivation of different kinds of medicinal plants for cottage industry. This cultivation would preferably take place outside of the groves, in designated strips of land linking the individual groves. They could even potentially serve as important green corridors/belts between larger, officially protected areas such as national parks (Hughes and Chandran, 1997). Green corridors and belts have proven to be very effective in the reclamation of severely, environmentally damaged landscapes throughout a number of countries in recent years and have proven to be a way which enables much biodiversity to spread and flourish. (M. Malagnoux, E.H. Sène and N. Atzmon, 2007).

Isolated and fragmented forest systems have proven to be less effective in supporting wildlife and stabilizing soils. This is because isolated patches of biodiversity and local preservation do not have a very large environmental impact on a global scale.

Mixed indigenous plant species could be selected for their environmental restorative and useful properties.

Local communities could cultivate plants that they specifically need for providing medicines, fodder, foods and fiber within these green corridors. These could conceivably become local resources that support the needs of the communities, bringing them means of establishing local co-operative cottage industries and employment. In such a way green economies and gender equality would naturally come about and flourish. The Green Belt Movement' in Kenya founded by Wangari Maathai, has facilitated in the planting of approximately 30 million trees. By planting trees in groupings of 1,000 or more, these green belts have begun to reclaim the ecosystems of Kenya that were rapidly eroding.

There are a few conservation systems that have been developed in the last century, that are inspired by traditional conservation methods. 'Permaculture' and 'Forest Gardening' are two examples of these. Both of these contain methods, which could prove to be very useful for creating and sustaining groves and corridors which fit with the needs and traditions of the local communities. Forest gardening is a food production and land management system based on replicating woodland ecosystems, but substituting some usual forest trees with fruit trees, herbs, medicinal plants and vegetables. Through the knowledge of companion planting, these can be intermixed to grow on mixed levels in the same vicinity. This is similar to and replicates natural forest systems. (Jacke and Toensmeier 2005). Permaculture means permanent agriculture and is a way of observing the dynamics of natural ecosystems. This knowledge can be applied in designing and constructing ecosystems that serve the needs of human populations without degrading the natural environments. Permaculture systems are proving to be successful in every ecosystem, including the tropics, deserts, mountains and oceans (Bill Mollison and Reny Mia Slay, 1991).

CONCLUSION:

“Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage; lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to

prevent environmental degradation” (UNCED, 1992 Principle 15).

One way to support and restore biodiversity is to give local communities the right to protect and manage it. This gives a direct bond and attachment between them and the surrounding environment and can help to secure their support for the project. It would also provide a means of linking mountain communities throughout large areas of mountainous regions and even the world.

“Due to an increasing demographic pressure on the earth’s ecosystems, the demand on mountain resources (e.g. on water) will increase in future and the potential for conflicts over their use will grow. To avoid severe conflicts as well as to conserve and sustainably develop one of the most precious environments on earth, it is crucial to improve the management and protection of mountain ecosystems, to deepen observations as well as to link networks.” (Terrestrial Ecosystem Monitoring Sites)

It is very important that the interaction of different communities, cultures and knowledge systems from around the world takes place. Our ancestors were fully aware that the natural resources that sustained them must be conserved for the sustenance of future generations. This deep connection between protecting the biodiversity and protecting the ancient rituals and traditions has meant that there are still many beautiful examples of both of these in the present day. It has already been recognized that:

“Indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives” (U.N 2006)

The welfare of all species, communities and groups can only be maintained and improved if there is ample fresh water. The

success of this is in every ones best interest. This is a time for diverse communities to work together in an interconnected manner for a common purpose and could be a way whereby many seemingly unrelated governments, organizations and individuals could join together in a concerted effort, to support a common global program for the benefit and greater good of the whole. Nowadays many factors need to be seen in relation to one another for us to take appropriate action and bring about truly lasting advantageous results.

“Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.” (UNCED 1992 Agenda 21, Principle 1)

This work need not be overall expensive. Using a small percentage of the resources we have now, to potentially save the whole for an indefinite span of time could be considered a worthy investment. This is a global long-term defence strategy. 1% of the defence budgets of all countries in the U.N could conceivably cover the expenses. This could be considered as a worthy U.N savings plan when weighed again expenditure related to environmental disasters and conflict. Time should also be factored into concepts of green economy and true sustainability of wealth as it makes a difference whether all is used and wasted within 100 years or lasts for many generations.

One could say that Sustainable Development is in its true nature a global defence strategy. Therefore defence budgets could legitimately pay for it. This would save far more than it ever cost and naturally potentially generate new green economies for many generations. Many viable green economies based on environmental sustainability could come about in time. Sustainable Development is also in itself a way of mitigating disaster. 1% spent wisely now in itself creates wealth far greater than the sum spent over time.

“Those sharing in the benefits of mountain resources should also share in the responsibility for their sustainability” (FAO 1997)

Millions of lives are being lost and many are suffering from severe conditions due to the break down in the global fresh water system and drought related to it. This will become incalculably worst if a globally connected action plan is not implemented. Once the scanty soils in mountain regions have gone and only rock remains it is impossible to plant forests regardless of how much energy is focused upon them. Even now it is a demanding task but still within the realm of possibility. The evolution of nature including humanity has shown itself to be incredibly adaptive and has survived many adverse conditions but we cannot adapt to virtually no fresh water.

Regardless of status or species all life is presently threatened by this same problem and unless solutions are found and applied, life and evolution on planet Earth may come to an abrupt end. Rather than ignoring or running from this threat, as there is ultimately no where to run to, it would be to our best advantage to face it, understand it and use our best intelligence and resources to work on remedying the problems while still conceivably possible.

It is crucial however that it is acted upon without delay.

[Helene Finidori](#)

Tue, June 05, 2012

I came across this today: http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=result.document&RS_LANG=IT&RS_RCN=12662473&q=

I thought you may find it interesting. In particular the messages to policy makers that link the contributions of local community to global scale commons.

[Gray Southon](#)

Mon, May 28, 2012

I would like to discuss the relationship between the economy and the psychosocial world.

During the last few generations the dominant value is that of consumption, which is seen to be the key to human satisfaction. Economic growth is the key to provide jobs and wealth to support that consumption. Integral to this is the advertising industry which develops sophisticated techniques to stimulate the desire for products and services. The success of this industry is essential to drive this consumption and thus to promote growth. This belief in economic growth is quite indiscriminate, with almost any sort of economic activity considered to be of equal value. The principal criteria of value is the satisfaction of the consumer, and thus the money that they are prepared to pay - all of which is continuously manipulated by advertising. The role of advertising is so deeply embedded in society that the majority of our information and entertainment comes through avenues that are supported, and often subtly influenced by it.

This process is substantially a self-perpetuating cycle, and its maintenance is a major political priority, as recession leads to unemployment and discontent. While this process is most developed in the Western countries, it is a pattern that is very attractive to many in the developing countries. Unfortunately, the fact that a basic level of consumption is essential to satisfaction has been used to suppress criticism of this commitment to endless consumption. So while we need to honour the right for everyone to have their basic needs met, we need to fundamentally revise our commitment to consumption beyond those levels.

Much of the discussion of the Green Economy seems to suggest that by changes in technology this economic growth cycle may be 'decoupled' from environmental demand, and be enabled to continue unabated. While technology may well make major contributions, it is unlikely to be a complete solution for two major reasons:

1. the massive reduction in environmental demand will be much more than can be achieved by technology alone.
2. A society centred on the consumption of goods and services will be poorly equipped for the long term challenge of living cooperatively on this planet. Values which are based on regard for others and the environment will be far suited.

It will be necessary, therefore, to address the fundamental personal and community values which drive economic behaviour, as well as the rules and structures that support them. This might be achieved through revitalisation of the more constructive religious values, or by appeal to broader national or global interests, I don't know. It would require a strength of political and community leadership that is not very evident at this stage.

[Helene Finidori](#)

Mon, May 28, 2012

In February 2011, I posted a question to the Systems Thinking World group on LinkedIn. This question was related to a call from the UN Secretary General at Davos, for revolutionary thinking and action, warning for global suicide and time running out... More than a year and 5400 comments later, the thread is still running and no revolutionary sustainability model as been generated. What we have learnt during this discussion, is that there are as many solutions and entry points, worldviews, motivations to sustainability as there are people expressing themselves on the subject or initiatives being developed -this is hardly an exaggeration; and there are many dissensions about the actual framing and prioritization of issues and concerns.

It seems the current definition of Sustainability as the ability to: "meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs"(WECD, 1987) is not unifying enough to get the 'forces for good' to converge and create some action around a shared intention...

The Global Sustainability Panel of the UN which presented its [Resilient People Resilient Planet: A future Worth Choosing](#) report to the Secretary General last January suggested policy frameworks based on new indicators, means for innovation and entrepreneurship, for resilience and empowerment, incentives for long-term investments, adoption of some forms of externality accounting, institutions for increased civil society participation. It also quite clearly states in its vision outline that the answers revolve around choice, influence, participation and action, and calls for a process "able to summon both the arguments and the political will necessary to act for a sustainable future."

So, how can political will be summoned? How can a collective intention for sustainability be generated?

In this perspective, it is interesting to look more closely at sustainability in relation to the concept of commons dear to Nobel Price winning economist Elinor Ostrom and other economists such as James Quilligan who oppose the inevitability of the tragedy of the commons and show how commons can be co-governed through stakeholder and civil society based institutions in effective ways.

Quilligan defines the commons as the collective heritage of humanity, the shared -- natural, genetic, material, intellectual, digital, social and cultural -- resources that we inherit, create and use and transmit to future generations. Vital for our sustenance and livelihood, our individual expression and purpose, our social cohesion, quality of life and well-being, commons also embody the relationships between people, communities and these shared resources.

If we consider commons as assets that must and can be preserved and nurtured -just as private and public assets are currently meant to be-, then we give them some materiality and tangibility as socio-economic objects -even when they are intangible-. And if we adopt a patrimonial approach of replenishment and growth of the commons as the basis for sustainable development and starting point for new economic models, we have a ground for creating new institutions for governing the commons and new kinds of metrics, accounting systems and economic instruments that would help the development of a sustainable economic and financial system and the reconstruction of the relationship between individuals, institutions and the commons. The UN could play a leading role in helping the constitution of civil society / stakeholder governed institutions to steward global commons (commons sector), in complementarity with the nation states (public sector) and the corporate world (private sector).

I am just back from London where I attended a series of seminars by James Quilligan on the emergence of a commons-based economy. Here are the video and transcript of the seminar he

held at the Finance innovation Lab on May 10th: [How would a commons approach shape the future of finance?](#)

A group of commons forwarding organization has drafted recommended [Measures to Shift to a Sustainable Commons Based Global Economy](#) as well as [Measures to Finance that shift](#) for the UN and Rio+20 :

The article here [lists the initiatives that are currently shaping a 'new economy movement' at the edges](#): most can be related to the concept of stewardship of the commons.

Adopting the principles of a commons based economy at the UN level would accelerate the emergence of new practices and behaviors by the mainstream.

I will be posting this as a recommendation under Framing sustainability as the stewardship of the commons (shared assets) and adopting commons-based economic models.

[Ian Ardaseer](#)

Sat, May 26, 2012

Eten en drinken ,geen mens kan zonder en toch is het besef van het vanzelf sprekend in de " ontwikkelde" landen ontstaan het is zo vanzelfsprekend dat het een verwoestend effect heeft op de gezondheid in het algemeen , ik refereer hier naar de " wel vaart ziekte " obesitas.

zoveel handelingen worden er vericht tot wij een sinasappel pellen en eten , om nu dan even op de gezonde toer te gaan

en de directe link te leggen naar Duurzame ontwikkeling en de economische crisis en financiële crisis , door in de minst ontwikkelde landen , de verbouwers, telers, van eten en drinken ,direct te spiegelen naar waar hebzucht toe zal leiden , doormiddel van : video , audio, het tonen van beelden die afkeer oproepen , chaos ,schulden , overconsumptie , smog , verontreiniging , dit is allemaal te herleiden naar het zaaien, laten groeien, bloeien , en plukken

en uiteindelijk consumeren en zo is de cirkel rond.

Juist te veel reguleren door middel van belastingen , internationale wetten, etc dit is ook 1 van de problemen die de regulatie van de financiële crisis juist zal stagneren mocht dit concept tot realisatie komen , de energie zal gescheiden moeten blijven en in kleine stappen met elkaar contact laten maken ,er is geen oplossing mogelijk die door een paar wetten aan te passen het probleem zal verhelpen.

Zoals het gekomen is zou het ook kunnen vergaan , tenzij er druk op word gezet word dan zal de zelf regulatie verstoord en falen , koesteren en beschermen en het zal groeien en nieuw bewustzijn laten bloeien tot het rijp is pas dan zullen de "vruchten" geplukt kunnen worden.

Wat is een boom zonder wortels ?

Laten groeien , aarden de grond in koesteren beschermen hoe beter hoe sneller dit zal groeien , dan zal de "boom" niet uit de grond te trekken zijn , probeer maar eens boom om te duwen !!

Een jonge boom trek je zo uit de grond , afschermen , met alle gereedschappen waarover de UN beschikt , het terug spiegelen naar de "ontwikkelde "

wereld is ook een deel van de zelf regulatie.

Om dit dan ook te kunnen verkopen , daar zijn zoveel mogelijkheden voor , ik noem maar een voorbeeld : aarde grond 10 grams van de plantages boeren in mooi kristal , een deel kunnen verkopen van een nieuwe wereld , die nu groeit en door velen gezocht word, er zijn zoveel mogelijkheden om dit te doen.

De mogelijkheden om dit te vermarkten zijn eindeloos voor zover dit "bestaat" ;)

Regards,

Ian Ferdinand Ardaseer

[Ian Ardaseer](#)

Mon, May 28, 2012

- 1 -Hypothesis: the treatment for the restoration of Earth and progressive growth for each occupant in the present and in the future.

1. a seed plants for fundamental progressive growth where stability and health are central.

Rewrite the history books to "truth" is needed.

The glossing over of atrocities committed in the past and it will translate back and conscience, a positive influence on the future, suppressing, exploit,, will be heard described and conscience.

The "prosperity" that together, robbed, stolen

and plundered and the energy where it is taken, out now in this global disruption.

The taken "outside", by means of laws "safeguarded" worldwide leaving has made it impossible to healthy flow world wide.

"The SQUARE": Borders, laws, to protect the obstacles taken "booty" itself emerged from fear to be robbed.

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disturbed magnetic fields that scrolling the earthquakes by among other satellites (emit a frequency from satellites that affects the magnetic fields contributing to the shift of plates) the wars , the negative messages sent through the media in the world, with all its implications.

That is the reason of gathering here at the RIO + 20 here we come together to find solutions, but how here is my proposal :

We dig depth within this square to agreed implies (LEVEL of CONSCIOUSNESS) at this level can we as liked-minded people for what is currently possible.

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..... _____|*****

Present:

New Foundation/nabije future: _____

Build a healthy future platform: |

The larger squares in which the small

four sides expired: **** *****

"We" = Like-minded in RIO + 20

With kind regards

Ian Ferdinand Ardaseer

[Ana Lucia de Carvalho](#)

Mon, May 21, 2012

I would like to introduce the Zero Waste International Alliance proposal to the UN (attached) , which I think it fits in this discussion.

Attachment(s)

[UN_Resolution_on_Zero_Waste_\[1\].doc](#)

[Claire Tutenuit](#)

Thu, May 24, 2012

Dear all,

Some most advanced large industrial companies have initiated this kind of approach, and adopted the objective to produce zero

unvalued waste within a few years . However, practical experience shows that this requires a lot of organisation, logistics, and innovation - which explains the need to get value out of it. Commitments are therefore a little ahead. Encouraging this kind of approach is however useful.

[Sally Joseph](#)

Wed, May 16,2012

Need to exploit the link between businesses becoming more environmentally sustainable (eg in their processes, adopting appropriate technology, etc) and increased economic productivity. (Happy to supply myriad of references!) Why? Because increased productivity generally leads to increased profitability (at least in the medium to long term).

In the interests of conciseness this concept has been reduced to very simplistic terms.

[deon geldenhuys](#)

Tue, May 15,2012

Unless we see a drastic drop in fossil fuel use and green house gas emissions , we cannot expect food , water or economic security. Natural disasters costing billions in damages will occur more frequently as the planet heats up.

[Leonidas Romero](#)

Tue, May 15,2012

Yo comprendo la urgencia de utilizar racionalmente los recursos; pero me preocupa, que los gobiernos vayan a actuar con una visión estrecha de desarrollo sostenible. Pues es posible que haya desarrollo sustentable pero se mantenga la lógica actual de ricos y pobres. Es decir, si grandes multinacionales se vuelven empresas "verdes" seguiría la riqueza en pocas manos, aunque fueran amigable con el ambiente ¿me explico?

Si iniciativas como Río +20 tratan de plantearse el problema del desarrollo y parece que el desarrollo sostenible es la mejor

opción; habría que irse preguntando de una vez ¿desarrollo sostenible para quién? En este sentido, habría que quedar claros en que desarrollo sostenible per se, no solucionará la pobreza y la desigualdad. Los gobiernos deben fortalecer sus mecanismos de movilidad social.

El desarrollo sostenible es un buen comienzo pero no lo soluciona todo.

[Pincas Jawetz](#)

Sat, May 12, 2012

I just did post comments on this Dialogue on the www.SustainabiliTank.info website under www.sustainabilitank.info/#25322 and gave a few examples to show the importance of the platform unleashed by these RioDialogues. It becomes clear that much our system of administering National economies is based on concepts that show we believed in living in parallel bottles and must now realize that Globalization has broken those bottles and we stand in the midst of this broken glass and call for Mama Earth to save us - but she starts answering by telling us that all these years we disregarded her and we better start on a process of repairing our relations with her.

Please realize I write these thoughts in Vienna, actually on Mother's Day - Saturday, May 12, 2012. First thing we must do is tell her we are ready to throw out the GDP yardstick that the economists class have sold us. We need another yardstick to measure our progress that thinks of growth as fulfillment of our interrelationships with Planet Earth and our recognition of our existence as Wardens of this Planet. A high Priest of this interrelationship must be a UN High Commissioner for Future Generations that we put up in his small office from which he can even review the activities of the UN Secretary General whose job is to make sure that we do not fight each-other as he was empowered to do by the UN Security Council.

The Informal -Informal meetings that are still busy trying to prepare the official intergovernmental outcome document for RIO+20, have brought to New York a large delegation from

Bhutan with the purpose of teaching us that Happiness and Well Being are concepts that can help us cut to size our self-destructive drives for consumption that psychologists have long recognized as anal in nature.

Back in Vienna, in the last few days I had the opportunity to listen to great economists starting to nibble at the edges of their profession when seeing the effects of the ongoing and evolving crises. They still think of “how does one quantify Happiness?” - this by not realizing that it comes from WELL-BEING rather than from anal gratification that is connected to acquiring more and more ... The highlight of these discussions here in Vienna was when I heard that the culprit is in that Economics 101 book that was used by all global economists. So, let us see what we can do to change these books - and I liked to repeat what I said at the end of the 1970s - that it was only in its 8-th edition that the book recognized Energy as an input at equal footing to labor, raw materials, and capital - it seems that SUSTAINABILITY must find its way in these books - NOW!

[Laurence Tubiana](#)

Wed, May 16, 2012

Dear Pincas,

Thank you very much for you message. As you rightly point out, Gross Domestic Product is not a good indicator for well being, sustainability or the level of inequalities. This realization is not new - in fact, it dates back decades. And yet, GDP is still used as the compass of policy making. On the other hand, measuring happiness is a difficult task, and GDP can prove useful for some policy objectives - it is a good indicator of employment variations for instance.

One of the propositions we have formulated and which will be open for a vote in this discussion forum is a commitment by UN Assembly members to adopt one (or a set of) new indicators for well being, which would 'officially' replace GDP.

[Miriam GARCIA](#)

Thu, May 10, 2012

The need for a transition to improve the quality of life for all and that is consistent with the limits of the planet is now posed with the intention to move towards new forms of development that integrate explicit economic, social, ecological and cultural goals. To achieve this civilization shift, it is firstly needed to define the values which correspond to a general interest raised at the level of all human kind and the recognition of the diversity of societies.

Confronting these challenges will require major transformations, which commit all levels of society and can only be possible on a democratic basis. The window of opportunity is narrow.

The condition is to operate a profound paradigm shift and reconsider the overconsumption model, land and resources grabbing by a minority in order to move to sharing societies, based on principles of shared knowledge, frugality and equitable distribution. Greening a simple trade policy and ignoring the social inequalities, the financial, health, social and ecological crises, the complexity interdependencies of ecosystems, would only bring a partial solution, and would be ultimately ineffective. We need an ecological and social transition lean on well-adapted policy on innovation and research and which are not exclusively oriented to private interests.

- Reconcile the pursuit of well-being for all ensuring the preservation and the integrity of the planet in the quest for sustainable societies;
- Extend short production-consumption circuits, particularly in the field of food and energy, and ensure that long distribution patterns which guarantee equitable remuneration for producers and have a low impact on natural resources and the environment;
- Preserve the common goods and allow the user communities to will define the rules for the preservation and the access to essential natural goods for life. All this shall be done out of market since it does not take into account the social demands or environmental constraints;
- Support partnerships between local authorities, including civil society and governments, to allow an efficient, equitable and

responsive to territorial diversity management of natural and cultural resources;

- Ensure a territorial governance at multiple levels, considering that decentralization also implies the recognition of the civil society role;
- Strengthen national policies promoting a greater equality of income, a better redistribution of wealth and a fair remuneration;
- Develop a product service system that promotes the access to knowledge and use for all of consumption goods rather than the overproduction and personal property;
- Institute a set of indicators beyond GDP that allow the raising of awareness, the implementation of concrete policies and binding principles in accordance with vital emergencies that face humanity. Non-exhaustive indicators that measure impacts such as climate change, ecological footprint as a synthesis of several major excess, renewable energy, water, removal of non-renewable resources, desertification, overconsumption of critically endangered resources, poverty and social inequalities, incomes, gender relations, health, education...;
- Submit economic, trade and financial negotiations from international financial institutions to the respect of social and environmental rules established within the United Nations system;
- Adopt a global tax on financial transactions in order to fight against financial speculation, and also search for other innovative financing;
- Eliminate tax havens and offshore finance;
- Enhance business transparency, particularly with respect to transnational corporations, in the tax, social and environmental domains through corporate social responsibility and accountability in a legally binding framework. Also, taking measures to establish an automatic sharing of tax information between countries jurisdictions in which firms operate;

[Laurence Tubiana](#)

Wed, May 16, 2012

Dear Miriam,

Thank you for your contribution. You are right to focus on the need for a comprehensive definition of sustainable development. The complexity of the challenges we face imply that the response cannot be limited to a narrow vision of the green economy and must include social, political, humane, ecological, financial dimensions. In order to come up with precise propositions, would you like to develop further one (or a couple) of your propositions which we can then vote on?

[Paola PAGLIANI](#)

Mon, May 07, 2012

Posted on behalf of [Saif eldein Abdalla Adam Gamous](#)

When we talk about sustainable development we need to comfort our topic and subject to implement our idea as one international family and we need to answer for many question which up rising, I think the first question we need to answer is - what is the risks will be evicted on progress Sustainable development? I think there are many struggle we will face. The most important:

1- civil wars in many countries like Sudan and D.R.C. WEST AND Sahara etc ...

2- corruption among government leaders and and public Administration officer 3- the international financial system in the world bank will be need change to set it very soft and kind with poor country

[Paola PAGLIANI](#)

Mon, May 07, 2012

Posted on Behalf of [Fábio Pedro](#)

O preço da natureza!

Os economistas precisam incluir os serviços ecológicos no PIB de cada país. Os biólogos precisam ensinar os economistas a importância dos serviços ecológicos e os economistas precisam ensinar os biólogos a valorar estes serviços.

Precisamos avançar de forma multidisciplinar!

Por exemplo, no caso de uma commodity (soja ou minério de ferro), se for incluído o preço da floresta suprimida e o tempo que a fauna e a flora levaram para se desenvolverem no local, o preço da commodity fica muito maior, o produto fica mais caro, o consumo cai, porém sem perder a lucratividade do produto. Os produtos devem ficar cada vez mais caros, porque deve-se incluir o custo "natureza" na composição de preço. Precisamos aprender a fazer esta conta e aplicá-la.

[Dirk BOBERG](#)

Thu, May 03, 2012

In light of Ms. Tubiana's questions raised to enrich the concept of sustainable development let me present some points of reflection:

- From my understanding of the current debate on the growth paradigm shift questioning very much the “ecclesiastic” belief in GDP growth being the remedy for major economic ills of today and speaking more of “de-growth” (not to be misunderstood of “negative growth” though) which takes into consideration the world’s finite resource base and the fragile ecology we depend on.
- In light of the current circumstances business as usual in the economic world may not be an option. Prosperity for few people based on ecological destruction combined with social injustice is no foundation for a society which – in line with UNDP’s SHD thinking – should provide “choices” and “opportunities” to people.
- Economic recovery is definitely vital and protecting people's jobs - and creating new ones – is absolutely essential. But we also stand in urgent need of lessening socio-economic disparities and its potential risk of instability and of increasing shared prosperity.
- Prosperity – as defined by the Environmental Economist Tim Jackson for example – goes beyond material concerns and is defined as “quality of lives”, “well-being” and “participation”.
- Under the assumption that “business as usual” continues with all the adverse implications on the environment and natural resources with a scenario that held up the majority of a population in poverty and denying access to basic freedoms, risks of humanitarian emergencies and conflict may increase.
- History has shown that times of great stress, loss and instability lead societies to extreme and illiberal responses.
- With above in mind there may be a need to reform/reinvent the economy, push for related transformational change and to shift to a new and sustaining economy based on new economic thinking and enacted by a new politics. In this connection sustaining people, communities and nature must become the core of economic activity.

- In light of this, the concept of governance requires renewal and a new culture of citizenship (i.e. ecological citizenship) needs to be promoted.
- In the context of Armenia possible entry points (in line with the argumentation above) could be the following (beyond the traditional support in the field of environment addressing Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, Green Economy etc which need to be continued):

- Increased / “aggressive” support to reforms in the field of democratic governance;

- Related institutional/functional capacity building measures

- Support to local economies (addressing economic diversification, rural development, regional disparity)

- In light of UNDP commissioned study on the “Socio-Economic Impact of Climate Change in Armenia (Yerevan 2009) adaptations measures were recommended in the particular context of Armenia (which may respond to some of Laurence Tubiana’s questions) such as:\

- Repair and expansion of poor infrastructure

- Integration of climate change adaptation in current plans for economic development (especially for energy production)

- Planning for low-carbon economy

Furthermore, 10 more specific and urgent adaptation measures were proposed:

- Improvement of water infrastructure

- Promotion of water and energy efficiencies in households, businesses, agriculture production

- Provision of agricultural extension services to help farmers adjust to climate change

- Mandate/encourage improved building designs/codes

- Increase natural disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation capacities (including early warning systems)

[Laurence Tubiana](#)

Wed, May 16,2012

Dear Dirk,

Thank you for your rich and dense reflection. Is there, among your propositions, one that could be developed so that it could be used as the basis for one of the propositions of this group -after vote? In particular, attention must be placed on how to implement it in practice. For instance, both Paola and you have talked about the need for better forms of governance within and among countries. How to initiate this shift in the current world financial crisis context?

[Dirk BOBERG](#)

Fri, May 25,2012

Dear Laurence,

Due to accumulated workload, tight deadlines, combined with re-assignment preparations and official travel I was not able - and may most probably not be able - to respond prior to 15 June. Is this still OK for providing inputs/responses to your question below. If yes, I will be delighted to do so after my return from mission.

Thanks for your understanding

Dirk

Dirk Boberg
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Armenia
Tel: +374-10-566 073 Ext 106

From: notification@unteamworks.org [mailto:notification@unteamworks.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 12:57 PM

To: Dirk Boberg

Subject: [Teamworks] Laurence Tubiana commented on the Forum topic "Kick-off discussion note: Sustainable development as an answer to the economic and financial crisis - On behalf of the facilitation team"

You

[Royston Flude](#)

Wed, May 02,2012

In times of crisis, all the parameters that define 'humanity' are challenged and

It is only through positive premeditated visioning that it is possible to develop

In order to deliver effective and sustainable change, it is necessary to fully un

Good Governance and Social Responsibility facilitate the 'middle ground of balanc

The CMDC-SPOC approach has facilitated disadvantaged people, coming out of trauma

The UNESCO Task Force on Education for the 21st Century concluded that it takes p

? Learning to do (physical intelligence -PQ)

? Learning to live together (emotional intelligence -EQ)

? Learning to know (mental intelligence-IQ)

? Learning to be (spiritual intelligence -SQ)

CMDC-SPOC evidence suggests that Primary Education defines up to 80% of Life Outc

Dr Royston Flude

President

www.cmdc-spoc.org

royston@cmdc-spoc.org

[Laurence Tubiana](#)

Wed, May 16,2012

Dear Royston,

Thank you for your input in the discussion. Education is indeed central in developing capabilities for flourishing and primary education constitutes its foundations. Would you like to formulate a short proposal upon which the group could vote on? Attention must be placed on how to implement the proposal in practice.

[Jonas Haertle](#)

Mon, April 30,2012

As Rio+20 will highlight, critical action is required from all major actors in business, government and society to build the foundation for a sustainable global economy, society and biosphere. In the educational sector, in particular business schools have been at the focus of the debate. Business schools, management-related academic institutions, and universities have

a unique role to train current and future generations of business leaders. However, as a global sector, management education must make considerable change to be at the forefront of innovation and progress for sustainable development.

At Rio+20, the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative will convene the 3rd Global Forum for Responsible Management Education (<http://www.unprme.org/global-forum/index.php>) on 14-15 June 2012 as the official platform for management-related Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). **Outcomes of the discussions at the 3rd Global Forum will hopefully also inform the RioDialogues.**

[Alvar Cidane](#)

Sat, April 21, 2012

Economic growth can only happen within a stable society, and societies can only thrive when they are linked to vibrant ecosystems. Before we became aware of the interconnectedness of global coexistence, nations only cared about their isolated "sustainability". Ignorance was bliss. Today we know better. If we pretend to achieve economic growth by degrading our ecosystem, we are digging a deeper hole therefore significantly reducing the likelihood of ecosystems to become vibrant again.

In terms of sustainable development, all countries are developing, none is developed. All human actions have two likely impacts on the ecosystem: degradation or regeneration. If the global economy obtains 100% of its industrial inputs from nature, then ecological degradation implies reduced economic value for all.

To solve economic crises and eradicate poverty all leaders of the world -public and private, corporate and social, political and cultural- must become bio-literate. That is, to be able to understand and explain the cycle of life of the global ecosystem. Only through this understanding will they be able to positively influence their communities towards the transformation that will help human civilization shift from being ecologically degrading to ecologically regenerative.

(This comment will also be posted on my blog,
[TransformConflict.](#))

[Claire Tutenuit](#)

Tue, May 15, 2012

A key is trust and optimism, that allows to invest in longterm projects. Experience from companies having invested or prepared to invest in decarbonation technologies and processes is that at some point they need to find public support for their customers to be able to afford and choose the low-carbon solution. The role of a public-private dialogue is to reinstate such trust at large scale, at international level and long term. Is this possible? Rio will show!

[Ian Ardaseer](#)

Mon, May 28, 2012

- 1 -Hypothesis: the treatment for the restoration of Earth and progressive growth for each occupant in the present and in the future.

1. a seed plants for fundamental progressive growth where stability and health are central.

Rewrite the history books to "truth" is needed.

The glossing over of atrocities committed in the past and it will translate back and conscience, a positive influence on the future, suppressing, exploit,, will be heard described and conscience.

The "prosperity" that together, robbed, stolen

and plundered and the energy where it is taken, out now in this global disruption.

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"We" = Like-minded in RIO + 20

With kind regards

Ian Ferdinand Ardaseer

Type	forum
Date Created	Thu, April 19,2012
Created By	Laurence Tubiana
Original Space	Sustainable development as an answer to the economic and financial crises
Cross posted in	Sustainable development as an answer to the economic and financial crises
	Alvar Cidane
	Ian Ardaseer
# of Teamworks Views	483
# of Teamworks Recommendations	8
Visibility	All Teamworks Users
Domain of origin	Rio+20