



B R A Z I L 2 0 0 2

THE SUSTAINABILITY THAT WE WANT

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

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Introduction to the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

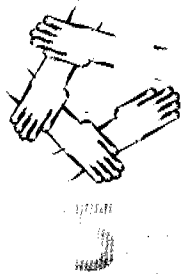
The Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Development would like to thank all those that have contributed to the construction of a common and widespread logic, in the search for a just, environmentally equilibrated society. And would like to extend special thanks to the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

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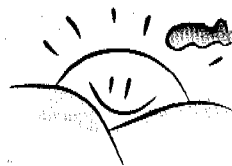


PLATFORM OF BASIC
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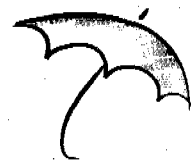
9

AGENDA 21



11

SOCIO-BIODIVERSITY

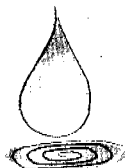


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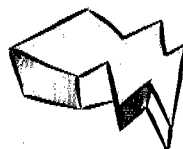
15

FORESTS



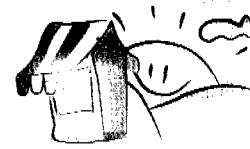
17

WATER



19

ENERGY



21

TRADE AND
ENVIRONMENT

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

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

NATIONAL COORDINATION – OCTOBER OF 2001 THROUGH AUGUST OF 2002

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

PERMANENT ASSEMBLY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS - APEDEMA/RIO GRANDE DO SUL
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MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DAMS (MOVIMENTO DOS ATINGIDOS POR BARRAGENS – MAB)

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PLATFORM OF BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY THAT WE WANT

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

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

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

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

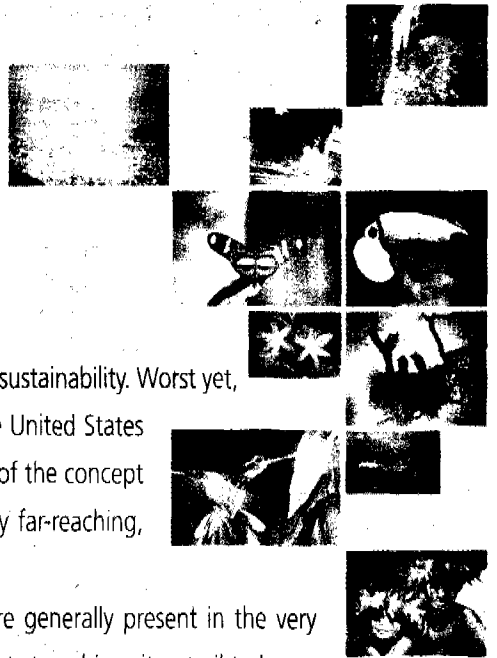
And the deceit goes even further: the idea that everyone can reach these imposed standards is equally disseminated as ideals – as long as determined economic prescriptions are followed –, when, more and more, the so talked about international solidarity for development reveals itself as one more farce.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

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

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

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

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



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

General Principles for the sustainability that we want

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

■ The transition to sustainability requires structural changes in the standards of production and consumption and in the forms of natural resource and land appropriation, having to be at the center of the organization model of society, of policy and of the economy.

■ Sustainability needs to be environmental and social. It is incompatible with the enormous consumption of a minority (that can only remain, for a short term, due to the poverty and misery in which the smashing majority of humanity lives) and with the sub-consumption (socially unsustainable and incompatible with the quality of life). Sustainability requires the building of a Line of Dignity, that allows human beings to live without having to destroy the base material of life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

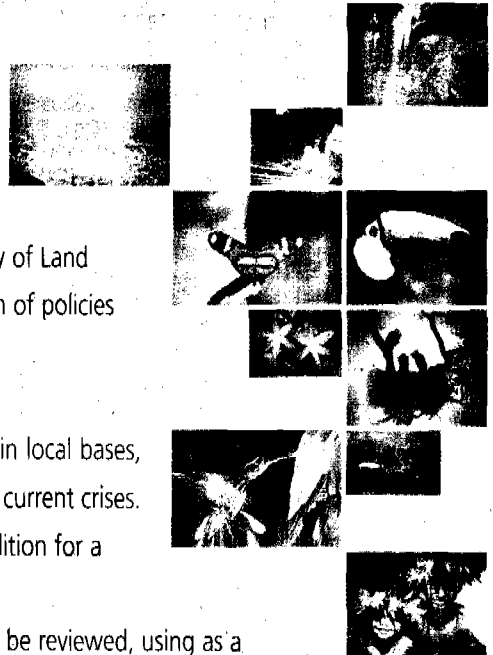
■ The increase in imports destroys the structures of diverse segments of Brazilian industry, exposed to unequal competition with the international production. International access to the domestic market was conceded without any counterpart, and without creating conditions for the restructuring and increase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

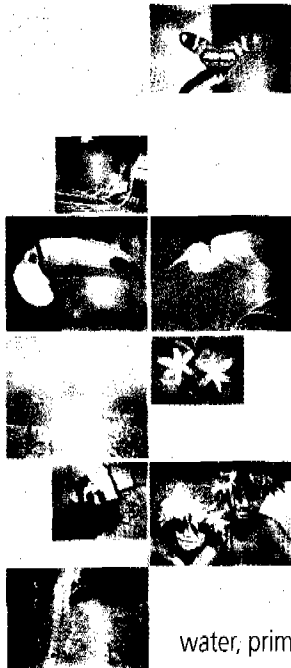
■ The increasing disequilibrium, in demographic and financial terms, between rural and urban spaces is another challenging point in this transition, demanding actions that articulate in a synergic manner rural, urban and border spaces. It is necessary to develop, from the public power to society, a view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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

AGENDA 21

1. Current Challenges

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

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

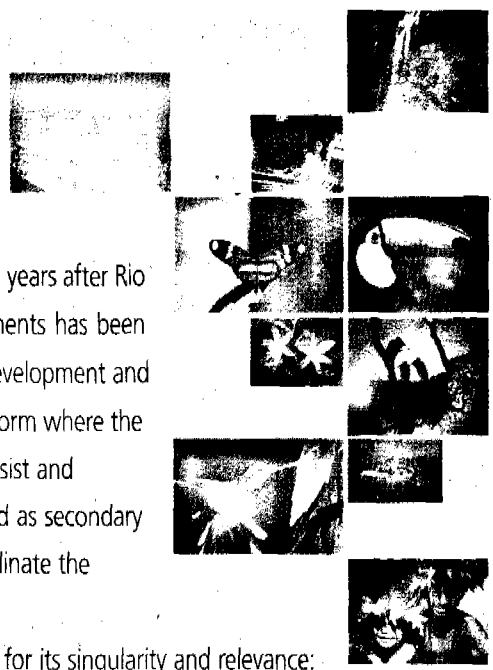
In 1998, in the start up phase of the discussions, opportunities were sought for the Brazilian Agenda 21 to contribute to the elaboration of the national Pluri-annual Budget Plan (PPA). The local Agenda 21 was transformed into a planning instrument for approximately 100 municipalities. This experience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

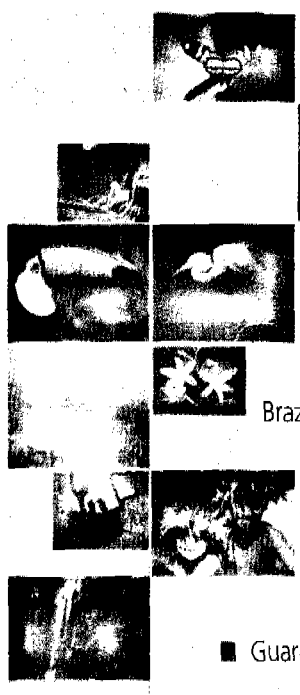
The Agenda 21 is not bound by an international legal agreement – a hard law – which classifies it, to some, as a fragile instrument. Due to the fact that it was not the object of exclusive appropriation by the Federal Government led, in fact, to positive developments, such as making it possible for other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

2. Proposals for sustainability

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

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





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

GT Agenda 21

SOCIO-BIODIVERSITY

1. Current Challenges

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

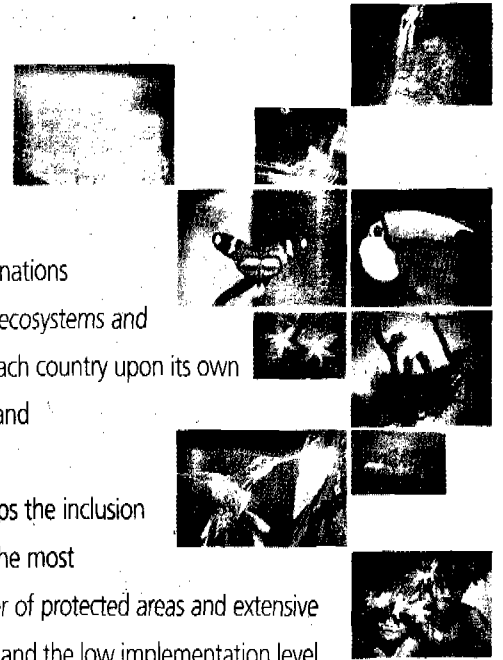
The sparse knowledge with reference to the ecological processes and dynamics of ecosystems is reflected in the decisions on management and use of the Brazilian biodiversity. One of the most significant restrictions for the expansion of sustainable use of biological resources is the poorly defined limit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

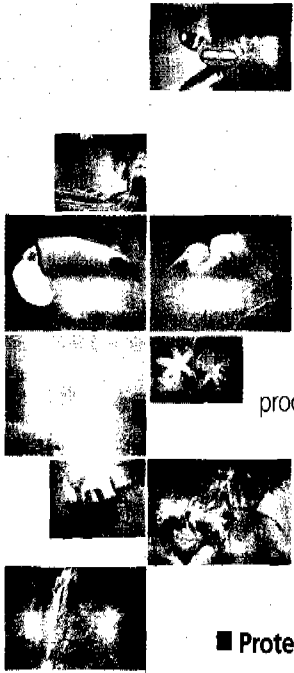
Theoretically, some government sectors (such as, for example, the electric sector) incorporated, into their policies, environmental standards that should orient the rational use of resources and the protection of biodiversity. In practical terms, however, very little is done.

2. Proposals for sustainability

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOCIO-BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

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

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



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

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

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

Proposals for sustainability

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

this sector employed in the recent past are unacceptable, as, for example, the substitution of natural forests.

2. Proposals for sustainability

The advancements:

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



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

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

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

TRADE WORKING GROUP

Integrated vision and participatory management of water resources and ecosystems

Basis for management and conservation

The conservation and management of our environment, including the ecological services such as the water cycle, climate equilibrium, biodiversity and landscape, need to be based in (a) Maintenance of the vitality and capacity of ecological processes and their environmental services; (b) Respecting all living beings and ecosystems; (c) - Considering all uses and values associated with our environment: cultural, religious, historical, economic, social, etc.; (d) Involving people and civil society organizations in decision-making processes and in the adoption of attitudes and practices compatible to the conservation of the environment and freshwater.

In the case of freshwater, management and conservation shall also consider the following: (a) The right to access fresh and potable water; (b) The historical, cultural, religious, social, environmental and landscape values attached to water resources; (c) The need of social justice and equity as a fundamental aspect of sustainability; (d) The need to diminish entropy, and therefore keeping the higher level of integrity of our ecosystems and environmental services, and (e) - The river basin and the basic territorial unit for planning and managing water resources.

Vitae Civilis & River basin multi-stakeholders decision-making committees

In 1991, Law 7663/91 was enacted in the State of São Paulo, establishing the rules and regulations of the Water Resources Policy and of the Integrated System of Management of Water Resources (SIGRH). The principal objective of this Policy is "to ensure that water, a natural resource essential to life, to economic development and to social well-being, can be controlled and used, with satisfactory standards of quality, by its current users and by future generations, in all the territory of São Paulo". There are 20 multi-stakeholders watershed committees. Their mandate includes the establishment of rules and policies for diverse use of water and also land use. They are comprised of representatives of state agencies, local authorities and civil society (from business to NGOs, including neighborhood associations).

Vitae Civilis works for participatory management of the environment, using river basin as the reference unit. Vitae Civilis participates in two of these committees: the High Tietê River basin, covering the São Paulo Metropolitan region and its 17 million inhabitants, and the Ribeira do Iguape River basin, known as Vale do Ribeira, where around 20 % of the national remaining Atlantic forest is found. Vitae Civilis is located in São Lourenço da Serra, the transition zone between the São Paulo and the Vale do Ribeira. The municipality has 100% of its lands under the watershed protection law.

Vitae Civilis projects are also based on the multiple function of land use; multiple uses and values of water; generating income for poor people and rural communities and fostering an environmentally friendly economy. We also seek to disseminate agro-forestry systems techniques; to enhance technical support for sustainable use of medicinal plants and non-timber forest products and to empower local communities; improving sanitation facilities and policies from the public sector, among others.

Project Connection: Citizen action in defense of headwaters.

The establishment of multi-stakeholder river basin committees has create opportunities for participation of NGOs and local communities. However, in order to avoid business as usual, including on decisions related to public policies, there is a need to qualify that participation in water management.

Through seminars and training workshops or event participatory projects, Vitae Civilis works with local communities, educators and leaderships, seeking the enhancement of conscientiousness and practices, individual or collective, appropriate to sustainable use and conservation of water resources and ecosystems. Another main objective is to upgrade and stimulate the participation of civil society groups in the watershed committees.

Three booklets and a video (Water : connecting and mobilizing people) have been produced to be used either by Vitae Civilis and others as tools for raising awareness and mobilizing people for action.

Vitae Civilis and ecosystems integrated approach and participatory projects

Vitae Civilis has been working since 1989 in the Ribeira do Iguape River basin, to both raise opportunities for income generation from and conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants and non-timber forest products. In partnership with researchers of the university of São Paulo, a study was done on the floods and mitigation measures small farmers and rural communities. We also have facilitated local Agendas 21: a proposal for the entire river basin and a community-based Agenda 21 in the Guapiruvu district.

With local partners, Vitae Civilis is also seeking to foster sustainable tourism as a social and economic major activity in the river basin. We work with NGOs and cooperatives towards the dissemination of agro-forestry systems and environmentally sound agriculture. Direct participation in the watershed committee is also part of our work.

Participatory and action oriented studies, in partnership with governmental institutions such as EMLASA and EMAE, were conducted focusing in the improvement of recreational, sanitation and tourism facilities and services in areas around reservoirs or close to and included in state parks. Under the compensation for environmental services project, we have been involved with the public process for the introduction of a water use fee and other mechanisms with economic dimension.



Vitae Civilis – a Brazilian NGO working for a sustainable world.

Local and global concerns for actions and policies towards sustainable development

To build sustainable societies, we have to act on the basis of ethics and values such as social justice, eradication of poverty, equity; diversity and respect of all forms of life, religions, ethnic groups, etc; transparency, accountability and democracy, dialogue, participation and partnership, citizenship and human rights.

Vitae Civilis activities on public policies (local to global) and action oriented research are always associate to current or desired practices, in order to facilitate the existence of demonstrative cases of sustainable development. Therefore, we seek to enhance capacity, knowledge and individual and collective commitments for a sustainable world. These also are the pillars of cognition, consciousness, Citizen participation needed to bring our planet and neighborhoods about change in all dimensions of human life.

Since 1989, Vitae Civilis has been working in areas of Atlantic Forest and Amazon region, to empower local and traditional communities and facilitating social processes that encompass sustainable use and management of the environment. Based in systemic approach and participatory methods, diverse issues are dealt with so as to promote governance, quality of life and environmental health of human development. Such themes are Agenda 21, ecotourism, use and conservation of medicinal plants and non-timber products, compensation for environmental services, biodiversity, river basin and freshwater management, climate change and wealth

Vitae Civilis activities are grounded on income generation and promoting an economy based on environmental sustainability and cooperation; empowerment of local communities and NGOs; strengthening Networks ; demonstrative actions and outreach; problems-solving and action-oriented participatory research; partnership and synergy; linking urban and rural environments and communities; system thinking, and connecting local, national and global challenges.

Our current projects

Vitae Civilis activities are developed through projects and complementary actions, organized in three programs linking local, national and global issues, giving priority to participatory planning and management methods. The main projects are:

- **From forest to home (Da Mata à Casa)** – Conservation and use of medicinal and aomatic plants and non-timber forest products.
- **Fiber - action (Fibração)** – Promoting artisans organization and sustainable management of forest resources used in handicraft
- **Synergy Partnership** – NGOs joint initiative to facilitate communities participatory planning of sustainable lived and use of natural resources in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest regions
- **Connection of watershed protection and citizenship** – Enabling and enhancing civil society participation in multi-stakeholders committees for watershed management
- **Sea way Ecotourism Pole (Caminhos do Mar – Pólo Ecoturístico)** – Sustainable and educational tourism in protected areas close to the São Paulo Metropolitan Region .
- **Ecotourism and Atlantic Forest conservation in the High Ribeira River** – Building capacities, facilitating and empowering local actors in strategic planning and actions of sustainable tourism in a given water river basin.
- **Compensation for environmental services** - Participatory research and public policies related initiatives for the achievement of social benefits and environmental integrity .
- **Agenda 21** – Facilitating, building capacity and empowering local actors and national and regional networks for using Agenda 21 as a participatory tool for their development.
- **Climate Change**– Disseminating views, values and information oriented to support NGOs participation in the climate change regime and related local policies.

