

LEARNING EXCHANGE PROGRAMME: FROM RECOGNITION TO RESULTS

Building on the experiences of the nominated communities, the *Equator Initiative* has launched a comprehensive learning exchange programme that promotes community-to-community interaction and the sharing of ideas and approaches for biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

This learning exchange programme began in 2002 with the invitation of more than 100 representatives from outstanding community projects to participate in the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In Johannesburg, these community representatives shared insights from their own successful experiences. The spirit of inter-community dialogue at the World Summit is the foundation for the *Equator Initiative's* wider strategy of learning.

The *Equator Initiative's* learning exchange programme will foster community-to-community exchange of knowledge and sharing of good practices. For further information on the learning exchange programme please refer to the *Equator Initiative* website www.EquatorInitiative.org.

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION, ADVOCACY AND POLICY IMPACT

The *Equator Initiative* is promoting an extensive outreach programme to inform the world community of the ingenuity and effectiveness of local partnerships throughout

the Equator Belt in addressing the challenges of biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. For example, Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), is producing a 27-part, televised exploration of the most outstanding nominations for the *Equator Prize* as part of their award-winning programme "Hands On."

The *Equator Initiative* is working with the network of nominated community projects and is researching emerging trends to create timely and accessible case studies and policy issue papers focusing on the intersection of biodiversity and poverty.

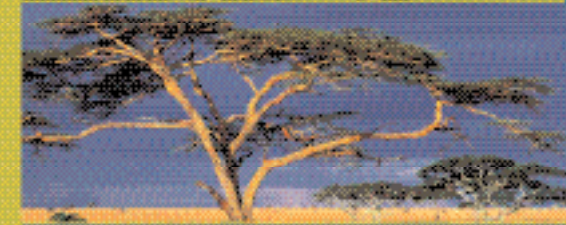
Lessons drawn from a range of outstanding *Equator Initiative* nominations will be used to impact policy at the local, national and global levels and create an enabling environment for the adaptation and transfer of successful practices. This body of knowledge will also be used to disseminate key messages through advocacy campaigns around the world and to advance the *Equator Initiative* movement.

PARTNERS OF THE *EQUATOR INITIATIVE*

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



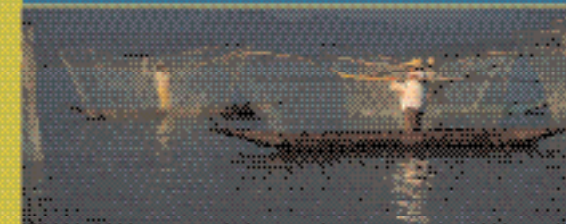
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Equator Initiative

Environmentally Sustainable Development Group
Bureau for Development Policy
United Nations Development Programme
One UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA
Tel: +1 212.906.6206
Fax: +1 212.906.6573
EquatorInitiative@undp.org
www.EquatorInitiative.org

Equator Initiative



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EQUATOR INITIATIVE

The *Equator Initiative* is a worldwide movement to reduce poverty and sustain biodiversity by identifying and rewarding innovative local partnerships, fostering community-to-community learning, and contributing to knowledge generation for advocacy and policy impact. The *Equator Initiative* focuses on the region between 23.5 degrees north and 23.5 degrees south of the Equator as this zone holds the world's greatest concentrations of both human poverty and biological wealth.

The *Equator Initiative* recognizes that communities in the developing world are a vital driving force for sustainable development. Whether for food, medicine or income generation, indigenous and other local groups are creatively and effectively using biological

resources in sustainable ways to improve their livelihoods. The *Equator Initiative* seeks to recognize, support and promote learning from these largely unrecognized innovations.

The *Equator Initiative* addresses many of the issues most fundamental to global sustainable development. The programme offers innovative local solutions to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's five priority areas for the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture, and Biodiversity and ecosystem services. This "WEHAB" framework supports achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of universally adopted benchmarks for effecting significant, measurable improvements in people's lives by 2015. The *Equator Initiative* is addressing these goals by advancing comprehensive solutions to the environmental and livelihood challenges of the developing world, with a focus on poverty reduction and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP AWARDS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The *Equator Prize* honors community projects that represent outstanding efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

For the 2002 award, the *Equator Initiative* Technical Advisory Committee evaluated 420 nominated projects from 77 countries within the Equatorial Belt. Of these, 27 were recommended for final consideration by the Jury. These exemplary projects were judged according to their integration of partnerships, sustainability, innovation, transferability, leadership, community empowerment,



gender equality, social inclusion, and tangible benefits to biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

In August 2002, the Jury awarded six *Equator Prizes* of US\$ 30,000 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Five prizes were given to outstanding community initiatives from throughout the tropics, while one was specifically given to a project associated with a World Heritage Site for successfully integrating conservation and local livelihoods.

The next *Equator Prize* programme is planned for 2004.

EQUATOR PRIZE 2002 JURY

H. E. Oscar Arias Sanchez
Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress
Nobel Peace Laureate

H. R. H. Princess Basma Bint Talal
Royal Hashemite Fund for Human Development, Jordan

Prof. Calestous Juma
Director, Science, Technology and Innovation Program
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
Chancellor, University of Guyana

Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro
President, IUCN – The World Conservation Union

Mrs. Graça Machel
President, Mozambique National Commission
for UNESCO

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

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

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

Biodiversity is "the variability of all organisms from all sources... and the ecological complexes of which they are part... this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems"

Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
www.biodiv.org

