



Brussels Rural Development Briefings

A series of meetings on ACP-EU development issues

Briefing session n. 17 Biodiversity for ACP rural development

10 March 2010 – 8h30 – 13h00

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

Biodata of speakers

Fay Alison Best - ACP Civil Society Forum

Fay Best is a member of the ACP Civil Society Forum. Ms. Best is a Marketing and Public Relations Consultant. As a strategic marketing communications professional with over 13 years management experience working with local and international organizations, she has developed, managed and implemented budgets (financial and sales) taking a strategic management approach to projects, from its corporate social responsibility and new product development, to managing the rebranding and creation of various types of brand associations i.e. corporate, product, employer, heritage brands etc. She has developed strategies for numerous corporate brands including: the Barbados Stock Exchange, the Barbados Water Authority, the Barbados Small Business Development Unit, Dicebed (Barbados), and was responsible for determining the type of market research needed, prepared the surveys, interviewed the respondents and eventually prepared marketing, communications and public relations plan.

Prof. René G.A. Boot – Tropenbos International

In 1984 René Boot graduated from the Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, with an MSc in Biology. In 1990, he successfully defended his PhD thesis at the Utrecht University on the effects of acid rain on the species composition of nutrient-poor heathlands. From 1990 till 1993 he worked as project leader for the Utrecht University in a forestry research and capacity building programme in Guyana. In 1994 he moved to Bolivia to lead a research and development programme, financed by the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation, on sustainable use of the country's tropical rain forests. In 2002, after 14 years of working in South America, he returned to the Netherlands to become Director of Tropenbos International, a Dutch foundation that aims to improve governance and management of tropical rain forests through research, capacity building and dialogue. The foundation is currently working in Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname and Vietnam. Finally, in 2005, he was appointed Adjunct Professor at Utrecht University at the Department of Plant Ecology and Biodiversity. In this position he teaches and supervises PhD students working in the field of sustainable forest management in the tropics.

Jonathan Ensor – Practical Action

Dr Jonathan Ensor is Policy Researcher for the UK international development NGO Practical Action. He specialises in understanding how the impacts of climate change on rural communities can be addressed through adaptation, and has a particular focus on the role of biodiverse agriculture in rural development. He has authored numerous articles and policy briefings on these subjects for Practical Action, and has recently published a book that draws together this thinking, titled 'Understanding Climate Change Adaptation: Lessons from Community Based Approaches'.

Emile A. Frison - Bioversity International

Emile Frison is the Director General of Bioversity International (formerly known as IPGRI) from 2003. He has spent most of his career in international agricultural research for development, starting at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria in 1979. A plant pathologist by training, Dr Frison served as a Senior Scientist with Bioversity, Director of Bioversity's regional office for Europe Director of the organization's International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain in Montpellier, France. As Director General of Bioversity, Dr Frison recently lead the organization, its stakeholders and partners in the formulation of a new strategic vision for Bioversity, in which nutrition and agricultural biodiversity will play an important role in the overall goal of reducing hunger and poverty in a sustainable manner. In the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, he was instrumental in the adoption of the resolution to create a "Cross-cutting initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition" which Bioversity now leads in collaboration with FAO and the CBD Secretariat. As Director General of Bioversity International he also leads the CGIAR System-Wide Genetic Resources Policy Programme (SGRP), is a member of the CGIAR Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC), member of the Board of Directors of Ecoagriculture Partners and also served as Chair of the Alliance Executive of the CGIAR for from 2007-2009. In September 2007, he was appointed as Extraordinary Professor in genetic resources by the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Since February 2008, Dr Frison is Member of the International Advisory Council of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. In March 2009, he was appointed Member of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. He is author and co-author of over 150 scientific publications and is a member of several scientific societies.

Simon Le Grand – DG Development, European Commission

Simon le Grand has been working in the Directorate General for Development since 1999 with a focus on integrating environment in development cooperation. He has been dealing more specifically with the strategy for integrating environment in development cooperation and with the environment budget lines as well as the Environment Thematic Programme (ENRTP). Biodiversity is an integral element of both the environment integration strategy as well as the ENRTP, and in addition the EU biodiversity strategy also includes an action plan on biodiversity in development cooperation. Prior to this, he worked as Economic Advisor in the European Commission Delegations in Papua New Guinea (1991-1996), dealing with Structural Adjustment, Education and STABEX (support for stabilisation of export earnings from cash crops), and in Mozambique (1996-1999) dealing with structural adjustment and health. Before joining the European Commission, Simon le Grand worked for the United Nations Development Programme in Guinea Bissau and Rwanda.

Jean-Claude Jacques - IUCN

Jean-Claude Jacques is a French national who holds a PhD in hydrogeochemistry and a post-graduate diploma in ecology. He held various positions in the French civil service, dealing with forest ecology, hydrobiology and the environmental impact of large infrastructures, before managing a regional environmental service. He then joined the European Commission to assist with the implementation of the tropical forest and environment budgets in Latin America and Asia, before becoming an adviser to the Minister of the Environment of the Ivory Coast as part of the French cooperation. Since June 2001, he has worked for the Pan-European office of the IUCN as head of its Representation to the European Union.

Joseph Kalders - Belgian development Cooperation

Being an agricultural engineer by profession (State University of Ghent, Belgium – 1975), Joseph Kalders is since 2006 working as attaché-advisor with the Belgian development Cooperation at the H/Q in Brussels, desk **International Environment Services and Agricultural Research**, where he is mainly dealing with issues around sustainable development, agricultural research, rural development and biodiversity. In my career I have worked 25 years in several developing countries, mainly in Africa (e.g. Zambia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda), both in the field as well being the Head Development Cooperation at the Belgian Embassy (e.g. Uganda). My professional experience ranges from design and management of irrigation systems, general project design and management, evaluation, negotiations

with different partners of the development cooperation. Lately I'm also engaged in the drafting of strategy papers for the Belgian development Cooperation (such as on GMO's, biofuels, agricultural research, renewable energy ...). I also spend two years as a private consultant, mainly centered around medical projects in Indonesia and China. Jos Kalders is also a founding member of the Belgian NGO PROTOS, an NGO that dedicates itself to participatory and sustainable water management.

Sally Nicholson - WWF

Sally Nicholson is a senior policy officer in the WWF European Policy Office in Brussels working on EU-International Relations, in particular, development cooperation policy. In this role, she focuses on policy analysis and advocacy concerning the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability into EU external policies and actions. This involves working with WWF's global network to support the understanding and the development of advocacy on EU policies and aid from a southern perspective.

Damon Stanwell-Smith - UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Damon Stanwell-Smith is a Senior Programme Officer within the Ecosystem Assessment Programme of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. He plays a central role in developing and implementing UNEP-WCMC's broader activities in biodiversity indicators and assessment, including regional indicator initiatives, national capacity-building and private sector engagement. The role includes coordinating the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP) - the multi-agency international programme mandated by the Convention on Biological Diversity to track the 2010 Biodiversity Target. Previously Mr. Damon has worked for the British Antarctic Survey, gaining a PhD in polar marine ecology; managed the research of an international environmental NGO with field projects in East Africa and SE Asia; and most recently spent the last six years coordinating the EU Habitats Directive marine monitoring programme of Wales as a consultant to the UK government.

Blondeau Talatala - Assemblée Nationale du Cameroun

The Honourable TALATALA Blondeau was awarded degrees by universities in Cameroon, in Montpellier and Paris, France, in the period up to 1997 in the field of rural development. He is an agricultural economist. He worked as an agricultural engineer between 1987 and 2007, alternately as Professor at the Regional College of Agriculture of EBOLOWA in the south of Cameroon, in particular in the field of plant genetics, and as a researcher at the Directorate of Fauna and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Forests in Cameroon, then as the National Director for Cameroon of the International Agency for the Development of Environmental Information in Central Africa. Since July 2007, the Honourable TALATALA Blondeau has been an MP in Cameroon, where he is technical adviser to the network of MPs for the sustainable management of the forested area of the Congo Basin and leader of the "natural capital" study group. At the same time, he is the co-ordinator in Cameroon of the Multi-purpose Network of Information and Communication Support Organisations for Rural Development (UNGC-REPADER), which is currently a partner of the CTA.

He has served as a consultant in the field of biodiversity, including: With the World Conservation Union, for the development of the "Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan for Central Africa in 2000; With the World Bank, for the feasibility study and implementation of the Biodiversity Information System in Cameroon in July 2000.