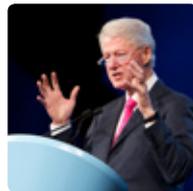


Under the patronage of The President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan



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Eye on Earth Summit Declaration presented to **Rio+20 preparatory meeting**



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Cook islands announces **world's largest marine park at Summit!**

H.E. Henry Puna, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, announced the creation of the world's biggest marine reserve at the Eye on Earth Summit. The reserve, measuring over 1 million square kilometres, covers an area of a size similar to that of Colombia or Egypt.

Despite a population of only 15,000 people, the South Pacific's Cook Islands is among the world's largest countries by

total area: "We do not see ourselves as small states. Rather we, as ocean people, increasingly describe ourselves as large ocean developing states," said Puna. The country's 2.5 million square kilometres make its seas bigger than Algeria, the largest country in Africa and the Arab World, and only slightly smaller than Kazakhstan, the world's ninth-biggest country by land area.

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The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ministry of Environment and Water of the UAE and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) signed the Eye on Earth Summit Declaration which will provide input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.

The Declaration (available at www.eyeonearthsummit.org) focuses on the steps required to ensure that environmental data and information becomes easily accessible to all those who need it, be they technical, regulatory, or educational. In particular, it calls on states to develop



“The Eye on Earth community will now submit this Declaration for consideration by Rio+20, marking the ‘Moment’ that will drive forward the ‘Movement’ of ensuring access to the global pool of environmental and societal data by all those who need it around the world.”

H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak
Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

the legislative tools to fully implement Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (which confers rights of access to environmental information and environmental justice).

At the Closing Ceremony of Eye on Earth Abu Dhabi 2011 Summit, the Eye On Earth Community Declaration was signed by H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General, Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and Co-Chair of the Summit; H.E. Dr Rashid Ahmad bin Fahd, UAE Minister of Environment and Water; and Peter Gilruth, UNEP Director of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) on behalf of the United Nations Environmental Programme’s Executive Director, Achim Steiner.

“To have reached full agreement on the Summit Declaration by all parties and to have secured the endorsement of the UAE Ministry of Environment and Water and the United Nations Environment Programme, highlights all that has been achieved at Eye on Earth over the last four days,” said H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak. “The Eye on Earth community will now submit

this Declaration for consideration by Rio+20, marking the ‘Moment’ that will drive forward the ‘Movement’ of ensuring access to the global pool of environmental and societal data by all those who need it around the world.”

“Eye on Earth has spotlighted the issues but also the opportunities for accelerating and scaling up more intelligent management and access to the wealth of environmental data being generated across the globe,” said Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director. “Today’s Declaration can assist nations, meeting for the Rio+20 Summit in Brazil next June, to chart a course towards a low carbon, resource efficient global Green Economy - one that that can generate growth and jobs, eradicate poverty and propel sustainable development but in a way that keeps humanity’s footprint within planetary boundaries,” he said.



A consensus on the final text of the declaration was reached after open discussions with Civil Society through the UN Major Groups mechanism and a ‘Rio +20 Session’ attended by 16 governmental delegations.

Merely days after its signature, the declaration was submitted to the 2nd Intercessional Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in New York. Through the Declaration, Summit participants agreed to meet again in two years’ time to review progress.

The Cook Islands are a mixture of high-ground, rocky islands and low-lying atolls at risk from rising sea levels, including Manihiki, “one of the most beautiful lagoons in the world.”

Puna explained that the decision to create the world’s largest marine reserve was taken with the full support of both sides of Parliament, all traditional leaders and overwhelming community support. “It was time to act at a scale that is compatible to the size of the ocean that we have stewardship of.” said Puna.

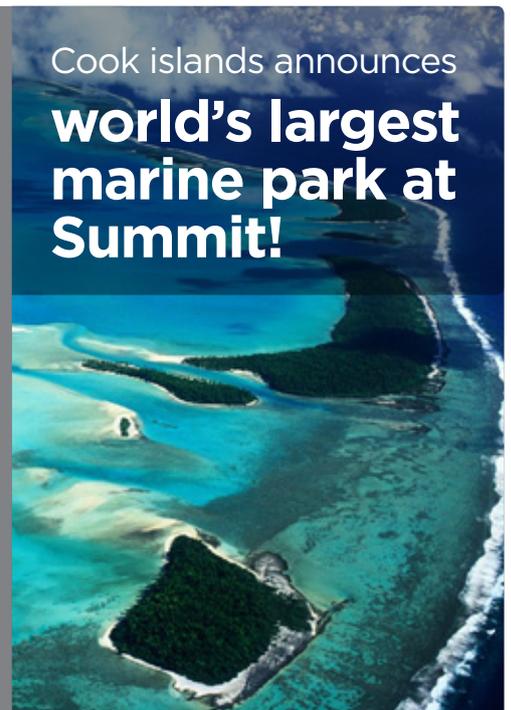
Therein lies the reason the Cook Islands decided to send their Prime Minister to the distant Eye on Earth Summit. The decision to declare the reserve was taken “with very little information at hand. Such information is sparse from within our islands, and regional and global datasets are often costly to access, and spread across myriads of websites, organizations, peoples and places.”

The Cook Islands plans to launch the marine park next August, at the Pacific Leaders’ Forum.

Early investigations show a paucity of information in the Cooks. It is hugely difficult to get beyond the boxes of fishing, environment, shipping, pollution etc. For Puna, the key is to integrate available information. “We need smart information, technology we can afford, that not only gives us the picture of ocean conditions in the past and present, but also provides scenarios for the future, and real time monitoring of ocean uses such as fishing.”

The Cooks decided to create such a large marine park in part as an example to others. Ocean biologists agree that at least 10% of the oceans should be set aside from commercial exploitation to allow oceanic ecosystems to regenerate sustainably. “This leaves about 32.5 million square kilometres to secure – more than 30 more Cook Island marine parks,” said Puna.

Cook islands announces
**world’s largest
marine park at
Summit!**



Eight Special Initiatives adopted at Eye on Earth Summit



Achim Steiner

The Eye on Earth Abu Dhabi 2011 Summit has announced eight Special Initiatives: Eye on Water Security, Eye on Biodiversity, Eye on Oceans: Blue Carbon, Eye on Global Network of Networks, Eye on Disaster Management, Eye on Community Sustainability and Resiliency, Eye on Environmental Education, and Eye on Access for All.

All eight Special Initiatives will be taken forward, most with the financial or otherwise support of organisations that have similar interests and have already expressed their desire to keep the process going with the ambitious but realistic objective to have these issues addressed in a transformative way in the next three to five years.

Four of these initiatives will be supported and coordinated by AGEDI, the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative. They are Eye on Water Security, Eye on Biodiversity, Eye on Oceans: Blue Carbon and Eye on Global Network of Networks

Eye on Water Security

Watersheds and aquifers cross boundaries. Water-related tensions are increasing around the world, and have sometimes broken into conflicts. Water diplomacy is a serious challenge and, for many states, an issue of national security. But being able to talk productively about water predicated a common understanding of the issues at stake. That is currently missing.

It's not that the information doesn't exist. Millions of communities around the world, such as India's village panchayats, collect and process knowledge about their water. At the other extreme, space-borne systems allow unparalleled understanding of large-scale water processes. But the panchayats and the earth observers cannot share their information: global water information standards simply do not exist.



Mohamed Al Madfaei

Providing a forum to establish such standards is the driving idea behind the Eye on Water Special Initiative. By providing a forum for the development of such standards, strengthening links between statistical offices, water management federations and geospatial groups, and establishing a clearinghouse for technical standards and best practice, Eye on Water Security will provide the informal, nurturing environment for members of the Eye on Earth Community to develop and propose suitable solutions.

Eye on Oceans & Blue Carbon

Shallow water ecosystems such as seagrasses and mangroves represent less than 4% of the oceans' surface, but their carbon-capture capacity is breathtaking: easily double that of a forest's. Yet they are under severe pressure. "Everyone wants a sea view," Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, said at the Summit. Mangroves and other seashore ecosystems are being destroyed at an accelerating rate.

Eye on Oceans & Blue Carbon will tackle a number of challenges. The importance of these ecosystems in the fight against climate change has only recently been documented. Consequently, much of the data about these habitats is still fairly broad. Much more work needs to be done to map them, to measure their ability to capture carbon, to track their expansion or their destruction.

Involving local communities is key: they can collect data using handheld devices, and they must become stakeholders in these habitats' preservation. Reaching an international agreement on the relevant standards and methodologies is crucial.



Sylvia Earle

Eye on Biodiversity

Hillsides of cleared land quickly erode in the rain, the nutrients in its land is soon depleted. The land soon loses its ability to support crops. The soil is washed away, revealing the underlying rock. An arid wasteland is often all that remains.

By contrast, forests can remain in the same spot for millennia, until the climate changes. Why? They are host to thousands of different species, stabilising the ecosystem in a million subtle ways. Cropland, by contrast, often hosts just one species. It is fragile, unstable, at the mercy of the first pest or storm. It is the rich tissue of life that makes ecosystems resilient.



Eye on Earth Summit, Day 3, 14 December 2011: Hypothetical with Geoffrey Robertson

It is thus all the more alarming that species are becoming extinct at such a massive rate, despite several global commitments to reverse that trend.

Eye on Biodiversity will increase our ability to understand what makes ecosystems resilient by harnessing existing datasets, creating new data where there are major gaps, and bringing this together in ways that are useful to decision-makers.

Eye on Global Network of Networks

The exponential growth in the data we have and the huge changes in the technologies we use to store, analyse, and visualise data brings new challenges in its wake: how to connect people, data and information together.

The Eye on Global Network of Networks will create communities that will work together to find solutions for an equitable, sustainable future, and inspire a new form of governance built on existing networks to secure the sharing and open access to information. There is an increasing understanding of the need to share information to solve common problems, and we have all the technology we need to do so.

Eye on Disaster Management & Eye on Community, Sustainability Resiliency

The number and severity of major disasters has been rising relentlessly. Disaster-related deaths have nearly doubled in the last decade. The cost of damage to property and infrastructure has risen 15-fold since the 1950s; the cost of insurance payouts even faster. These trends are set to continue, as increasing population and changing climate saps the resilience of natural systems and increases the likelihood of extreme weather events.

Increasing the resilience of human habitats and the ability of communities to recover from disasters is a growing priority. Both objectives require rich, reliable information. There is a huge amount of urban information, but it is often uncoordinated.

Modelling the impact of potential storm surges demands a precise knowledge of the state of the wetlands or dykes that can help break water flows. And after a catastrophe, real-time information about the location and the state of victims and essential infrastructure is crucial to saving lives and delivering help. But it is a scarce commodity, often bedeviled by incompatible standards and inadequate baseline data.

This is not a new issue. Many are working to build global disaster risk and recovery management frameworks. Others are seeking to share experience and best practice about community resiliency. Both need common information platforms and owners to provide access to their data.

Governments, groups and institutions with very different cultures and protocols must be brought to the table in order to share data, agree standards for new technologies, and collaborate to boost capacities in least developed countries.

Creating the necessary conceptual frameworks is the core aim of these two initiatives. Because disasters are usually at their worst in poorer countries, Eye on Disaster Management & Eye on Community Sustainability Resiliency will seek to set up a public-private mechanism to boost their information infrastructure.

Eye on Environmental Education

It is commonly agreed that there are 'three pillars of Sustainable Development' – economic, environmental and social. But these are not integrated. There is no common knowledge management infrastructure for environmental education. Environmental education occupies, at best, a peripheral place in most traditional education systems.

There is thus a general lack of awareness regarding the availability of useful environmental information. Despite the rise in mobile device ownership around the world – there are now over 3 billion active mobile phones in use – access to information and communication technologies in many least developed countries is still severely limited.

Eye on Environmental Education will promote approaches to education that address the complex nature of environmental issues by encouraging a Global Academy to act as a knowledge repository and coordinating unit in four educational arenas: formal, non-formal, through media, and through capacity building. Eight flagship projects, two per education area, will be implemented across six continents as proof of concept.

Eye on Access for All

Sustainable development requires rational, fair and accountable decision-making based on the best information available. This is why principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration requested that everyone be given access to environmental information and gave citizens the right to access to environmental justice.

Twenty years later, there has been good progress in some regions Europe's 1996 Aarhus Convention stands out in this regard. But significant gaps remain in providing access to information. These are legal, regulatory, and technical in nature. It is this latter point that Eye on Access to All seeks to address.

Advances in Information and Communications Technology make it easier for more people to gain access to environmental information. Using social networking strategies and new mobile technologies, civil society can provide strong and effective input to environmental decisions. Eye on Earth gives a chance to gather, agree and move forward.

The initiative will help key stakeholders who play a major role in promoting the implementation of Principle 10 convene on a common platform so as to easily collaborate on awareness raising and capacity building projects for governments and civil society alike. It will develop the tools required to assess legal, institutional and practice gaps and provide expertise for closing those gaps. The metric under which this initiative will be judged is its contribution to significantly improve Principle 10 implementation in dozens of countries over the next five years.

President Bill Clinton: Share and see the difference

Speaking at the Eye on Earth Summit, President Bill Clinton gave a wide-ranging speech.

The Eye on Earth Special Initiatives will ensure the achievements of tangible results to support the case for greater access to environmental and societal data and information for all of those who need it.

The eight Special Initiatives will be taken forward, with the support of organisations that have similar interests. Keeping the Eye on Earth momentum moving forward with the ambitious but realistic objective to addresses specific issues in a transformative way over the next three to five years.

President Clinton said that the mere fact that the Eye on Earth Summit took place in Abu Dhabi is a sign of the huge progress in awareness that has been made. "This is a very good meeting and those of you who are focussed on giving us better data, about how rapidly the oceans are rising, how rapidly the forests are disappearing and other environmental challenges are profoundly important."

President Clinton highlighted how interconnected the world now is and the repercussions of this. "Our borders today look more like fishing nets than brick walls," he said. "We have to decide whether we are going to share the future in a positive way, or through inaction, or short term attention to our own interest at the expense of others" he continued, "I believe that we should choose a path of shared prosperity and shared responsibility. I think it's the only path that works."

President Clinton's speech was studded with enlightening facts based on his experiences gained through his work with the Clinton Foundation around the world.

"I believe that we should choose a path of shared prosperity and shared responsibility. I think it's the only path that works."



His examples ranged across the globe from Iceland's geothermal potential to the Maldives' post-tsunami decision to concentrate its population on 13 islands which grew taller as a result of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. President Clinton stated that we can help the world prepare

for the future, but we need to come together to do it; inequality is damaging to us all. He continued to explain that with more and more people living in cities, dealing with building efficiency is by far the most efficient way of saving massive greenhouse gas emissions.



Summit

- 1755 Participants
- 114 Countries represented
- 67 Speakers
- 4 Days

Youth Programme

- 818 Students
- 24 Schools
- 6 Colleges

Exhibition

- 3946 unique visitors
- 14 Technology Showcase exhibitors
- 10 Innovation Showcase exhibitors
- 23 Exhibitors
- 93 Presentations
- 35 Eye on Earth Theatre Screenings



Day 2 Eye on Earth Summit 2011
Q & A after keynote address: Dr Lamya Fawwas & President Bill Clinton

President Clinton repeatedly drew a link between inequality, instability and conversely prosperity, drawing on multiple examples to show that prosperity will flow from a world that has more common purpose and less inequality. He highlighted the inequality evident in the world today and its consequences. President Clinton pointed out that we live in an interconnected world and that crises are not isolated to one particular country or region and that this brings with it the risk of a level of instability that can lead to paralysis.

He noted the importance of creating sustainable resources, such as energy. The purpose of Eye on Earth, creating greater access to environmental and societal data and information, is an important part of creating a more sustainable way forward.

The message was clear, what really matters is the need for cooperation and accountability across borders. "Pursuing genuinely shared responsibilities instead of this dramatically rising inequality in so much of the world would generate far more prosperity than the current course we are on." The Eye on Earth Summit outcomes are stepping stones in the right direction, with stakeholders from across the globe involved in the implementation of the eight Special Initiatives and the endorsement of the Eye on Earth Summit Declaration. In that respect, the Eye on Earth Summit, whose ambition is to help developing countries reach better decisions through access to greater environmental and societal data and information represents a significant milestone and signals Abu Dhabi's commitment to addressing this important challenge.





Impressions of the Summit: Collaboration provides hope

Speakers at the Eye on Earth Summit discussed the terrible suffering that stalks the world – hunger, repression, the destruction of our closest living relatives, the chimpanzees. Far from painting a picture of doom, however, they gave good grounds for hope.

fertilising the soil. They help retain precious moisture, and provide shade in unrelenting sunlight. “Yields commonly double, or even triple,” Garrity said, without the need for expensive fertilisers, irrigation systems or machinery.

who live in a very different environment from rural Africa. They are the mostly urban poor of the Arab world.

For De Soto, the wave of revolts that became known as the “Arab Spring” do not have their roots in politics, but in misguided government policies that thwart the poor’s entrepreneurial drive. Vegetable-seller Mohammed Bouazizi, who set himself on fire as an act of protest, sparking the revolution in Tunisia, “immolated himself because his livelihood was taken away,” De Soto said. “By confiscating his business assets – his cart and scale, his merchandise – police took away Bouazizi’s ability to feed his family, save, or repay his loans. In short, they took away his future.”



To those who think humanity is doomed to fight nasty wars to capture an ever-decreasing food supply, Dennis Garrity, Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre, gave a powerful presentation.

Agroforestry, the practice of planting trees and food crops together in a field, has already transformed the prospects of millions of farmers in arid regions of Africa, China and elsewhere. The tree species are chosen for their ability to fix nitrogen, thus

By combining various plant species in a system of evergreen agriculture, agroforestry does more than just boost yields. It regenerates degraded land. It can even turn sun-baked, rock-hard laterite back into soft, productive loam.

Across Niger and beyond, a silent revolution is taking shape. Farmers adopt the method not because an aid agency tells them to do it, but because they can see with their own eyes how their neighbours benefited. And the sweetest thing? It costs literally nothing. Agroforestry needs no external inputs.

It even brings benefits to other species. Dr Jane Goodall, who shot to fame through her work with the chimpanzees of the Gombe National Park in Tanzania, became a convert in 1986. “When I first saw Gombe from a small plane, I was shattered by what I saw. I had no idea of the scale of the surrounding deforestation.” The ‘take care’ programme subsequently launched by Dr Goodall’s foundation has used similar agroforestry techniques. The forests around Gombe are growing back.

The people poverty economist Hernando De Soto helps us understand the people



To legalise his small street-cart business, Bouazizi would have needed to take 54 different steps involving a plethora of agencies. It would have taken half a year and cost over 3,000 USD, around a year’s income. In Egypt, it takes 136 steps; in Libya, 69. “These are burdensome, discriminatory and just plain bad laws,” De Soto said.

Not surprisingly, the poor organise their lives extralegally. They draw up quasi-legal documents to assert title to land, conclude a contract, or access a loan. De Soto estimates that the value of extralegal businesses and property in Cairo is 30 times bigger than the value of the companies quoted on the Cairo stock exchange.

But the news is encouraging. De Soto sees signs that bringing secure rights to the poor will be the primary priority of the new regimes ushered in in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt.



In the southern Amazon rainforest, property is just one facet of the challenges faced by the Surui people. Their reserve is continually threatened by illegal logging, Chief Almir Narayamoga Surui told delegates.



Until the late seventies, the Surui fought back with bows and arrows. Now, thanks to a partnership with Google, they have a far more powerful weapon: information. Real-time satellite imagery alerts the Surui to encroaching loggers. Hand-held devices are used to record the carbon-storage capacity of the Surui's forest, allowing them to claim carbon mitigation payments. These, in turn, are used to strengthen the Surui's ability to protect their lands and their way of life.

As Google's Rebecca Moore announced, the tools the Surui used to achieve this are open access tools. Google's powerful

resources are available to anyone on a web-based platform called Earth Engine (earthengine.google.org).



Chief Almir Surui

This partners with data providers around the world to bring Google's hugely efficient geospatial computational tools at the disposal of anyone. Already, Earth Engine is used to monitor deforestation, soil degradation, land use changes and more.

These examples have one thing in common: the power of understanding brought by better data.

Agroforestry's potential went unrecognised for years because those analysing the earth observation satellites pictures failed to spot the acacia trees most commonly used: these lose their leaves in the wet season.

Saving Gombe's chimpanzees meant understanding how and where to give the local human population a stake in their future.

And understanding the plight of the poor in North Africa depends on a careful analysis of the distribution of extra-legal property and businesses.



H.E. Sha Zukang

The Secretary-General of Rio+20 and United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Sha Zukang

"We must, as a priority, enhance the accessibility of data and information," he told the Summit. "For policy to be based on science and facts, data and information must be widely and easily accessible. It must also be in formats usable for decision-making, and in public domains."

Mr. Sha is overseeing the preparations for next June's Rio+20 Summit – the global sustainability summit, sometimes billed as a second Earth Summit. For him, it is imperative to have integrated information. "The UN system has, so far, failed in producing an integrated report on global sustainable development. This must change. If we are serious about following up on Rio+20, then making integrated assessments of global sustainability, as called for by the UN General Assembly, will be indispensable."

"Let this Eye on Earth initiative also be an Eye on the Earth's ecosystems, societies, and economies – in short, an Eye on the Earth's sustainability."



Green accounting,
biodiversity protection,
access to information
and leading by example

it's all linked

A crucial tool to “green” the world’s economy, the World Bank said, is to move to a new way of accounting for national wealth that takes the value of ecosystem services into account. For the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), better control of legal trade and a more effective fight against illegal trade in species is key to protect biodiversity. What links these objectives is the need for accessible, open and rich data – a point repeatedly made by the representatives of the specialist working groups that are developing the Eye on Earth Special Initiatives.

And Rob Swan, the only man to have walked to both the South and North Poles, reminded delegates of the leadership role they must play as individuals to succeed in changing the world.

World Bank on Environmental Data Access

Rachel Kyte, the World Bank’s Vice President of Sustainable Development, was a young activist at the first Earth Summit



Rachel Kyte

in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Back then, it was mostly attended by environment ministers. But today we know that sustainable development involves many other branches of government, from finance to education.

At the Earth Summit in 1992, the debate was about North-South (developed-developing world) financial and technology transfers. The aim was development. Now, it is about green, sustainable, inclusive growth.

“But each of these issues is being redefined by climate change, especially for the vulnerable and poor in developing countries,” said Kyte. The World Bank calculates that climate change is already costing Africa 5% of GDP growth every year. This suggests that financing priorities should change. “Sixty per cent of Africa’s farmers are women, but they only get 5 per cent of the financial credits. Yet they invest these credits far more productively – in seeds, inputs, and their children’s education.”

All of this needs better data. “After 20 years, we in the World Bank have put a value on open, accessible data. We believe in it. We have seen that it is possible to reduce poverty, restore ecosystems and generate extraordinary growth,” Kyte said.

CITES on Data Collection and Access

Hundreds of millions of people around the world harvest wildlife. They depend on the biodiversity for their livelihoods and survival, most particularly in local and indigenous communities. But how do we know that we are harvesting wildlife in a sustainable manner? Who is keeping the data, analysing it, sharing it, and how?

We need indicators to measure the impact of taking species from the wild, to regulate their sustainable use, and to understand how species keep ecosystems healthy. And measuring against these indicators is dependent on up-to-date data, the availability of analytical tools, and providing open and transparent access to data and information.

CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, does this by regulating international trade in close to 35,000 species of plants and animals. Trade is only prohibited for 3% of these species. For the other 97%, trade is regulated in an attempt to be sure it is sustainable.



John Scanlon

But the illegal trade in wildlife is attracting transnational, organised crime because it is so profitable, and so large: up to US\$10 billion per year. The value of rhino horn on the black market, for example, now exceeds the price of gold. And this trade, illegal though it is, is driving some species to extinction.

The consortium which is fighting this scourge, which also includes INTERPOL and the World Bank, is taking the fight against wildlife crime to another level through sharing data, analysis, intelligence, enforcement techniques and resources.

CITES, under whose auspices over 850,000 trade documents a year are drawn up for legal trade, is developing an electronic trade documentation system. This creates an up-to-the minute indicator of biodiversity use. And it helps tackle illegal trade. But capacity is required to use data and information in decision making. Yet, more remains to be done. “Overexploitation through illegal and unsustainable international trade is happening right now at a scale that poses an immediate risk to biodiversity. Responding to this risk has clear agreed global biodiversity benefits, as well as local benefits,” said CITES Secretary-General, John Scanlon at Eye on Earth.



The chairs of the working groups that prepared the Eye on Earth Special Initiatives agreed that technology is progressing so rapidly that soon, for example, there will be sensors almost everywhere where there are people, and beyond. Everyone will be able to become an actor in a global environmental data system. But for this to become a reality, a number of hurdles must still be overcome. The biggest, for several panellists, was the lack of access to information laws, especially in Africa. The tools used to share and analyse data are still far from user friendly. And better metadata for crowdsourced information is essential to make it valuable.

Brazilian Vice-Minister of the Environment

The Brazilian Vice-Minister of the Environment, Dr Aspasia Camargo, agreed. "Data is not information and information is not data. We all know that. Information requires hypothesis, analysis, diagnosis, interpretation and conclusions. Information, is also and above all, an important tool of planning, especially [for] our chaotic unsustainable cities. President Bill Clinton reminded us last June in Sao Paolo that what cannot be measured cannot be managed."



Polar Explorer Rob Swan

Rob Swan, the only man ever to walk to our planet's both poles, gave an extraordinarily inspiring speech that involved such larks as seeing his first exploration ship crushed by ice, how to wash yourself outside when it's -52°C, and what it feels like to have beads of sweat freeze on your skin – under your clothing.

"Young people today, who will be the delegates at this summit in twenty years time, need to be inspired now to take up this issue and recognise its importance. Twenty years ago, I walked under a hole in the ozone layer when walking to the Pole. My eyes changed colour and the skin was burnt from my face. That inspired me to act and I want to use my experience to encourage the next generations to act as well, without having to endure the physical pain I experienced," Rob said.

Rob gave a blunt lesson in what leadership really means. He accompanied the first Emirati woman to Antarctica, and will be taking 10 young women from GCC countries to the South Pole on his next expedition there. "If we invest in information and inspiration, I am hopeful about our future."

Rob promised they wouldn't have to walk there.



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

Be part of the Eye on Earth Community in Rio

We would love to hear from you if you are attending the UNCSO Rio+20. Drop us an email to see how you can converge with us in Rio. Email: eoecommunity@ead.ae

Don't forget you can keep up to date with Eye on Earth in Rio by joining our facebook and twitter accounts.

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