

On Saturday the 15th of September 2012, thousands of citizens around the world attended citizen consultations to express their views of global biodiversity policies and actions. The results will be presented at COP11 in India, October 2012.



Newsletter #6 October 2012

COP 11 has just started and it's now time for decision makers from all over the world to meet and discuss biodiversity issues. World Wide Views on Biodiversity is of course present at the COP to present the project and to tell about the method and the Results Report. The WWViews team will be present at different events at the COP including the Side Event and Special Event for the WWViews project and the UNESCO Event.

This newsletter will focus on WWViews at the COP, an article in Square Brackets about the WWViews and finally more photos and statements from the WWViews meetings.

COP 11

COP 11 is the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity and is held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012. COP 11 includes a high-level ministerial segment that will take place on 17 to 19 October 2012. The high level key issues are Implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020, Biodiversity for Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing. Many Side Events are organized at the COP site. They are thought of as a way to show experiences and informal dialogue among the participants. World Wide Views participates with two Events at the COP, a Side Event at October 17 and a more formal Special Event on October 18.

The COP takes place during the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity to support and promote implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets – one is to create awareness on Biodiversity and mainstream biodiversity at different levels.

To read more about the COP, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets click [here](#) for a link to CBD's web page and for more information on the high level key issues click [here](#).

The Special Event – Presenting World Wide Views on Biodiversity

The Special Event takes place on Thursday October 18, 2012 from 1.00 – 2.45 pm at HICC, Level 1, Room 1.03/1.04. The Special Event is hosted by the Danish Ministry for the Environment, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Japanese Ministry for the Environment. Master of ceremony: Mr. Neil Pratt, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer at the CBD Secretariat. This Event includes a presentation of the project, the method and the results and the video documentary about the WWViews project. Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity will give the welcome introduction while Bjørn Bedsted, Global

Coordinator of WWViews, the Danish Board of Technology will introduce the World Wide Views on Biodiversity project. Several speakers will participate in the event including Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino, Deputy Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Japan on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Ms. Ida Auken, The Danish Minister of Environment and Ms. Javanthi Natarajan, The Indian Minister of Environment & Forest who will talk about lessons learned from World Wide Views on Biodiversity. Finally there is time for questions from the participants to the speakers.

To get more information on the Special Event and speakers at the Event click [here](#) for the Special Event flyer.

The Side Event – Closing the Democratic Gap between Citizens and Global Policymaking

As more and more issues become increasingly global in scale, so does policymaking. In this new reality, the distance between citizens and policymakers increases, thereby diminishing the citizens' sense of ownership in decision-making. This creates a need for new initiatives to bridge the widening democratic gap. World Wide Views on Biodiversity offers unique and detailed insight into ordinary people's views on biodiversity and how to make global policies to deal with it. The Side Event will focus on the results of the project and the future perspectives of citizen participation in global environmental policymaking. The Side Event includes a Panel Debate moderated by David Ainsworth, Information Officer at Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Panel Members are Mr. Bjørn Bedsted, Global Coordinator of WWViews, Ms. Veerle Vanderweerd, UNDP, Mr. Rick Worthington, Professor of Politics, Ms. Cyriaque N. Sendashonga, ICUN, Mr. S. Faizi, Chairman of the Indian Biodiversity Forum, Mr. Suhel al-Janabi, co-manager of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Mr. Jailab Rai, WWViews organizer in Nepal, Mr. Amos Tene, WWViews organizer in Cameroon, and Ms. Valérie Moutoussamy and Ms. Cécile Orodé-Ugwumadu-Aubineau WWViews participants from France. Finally there will be time for questions from the participants to the speakers.

To get more information on the Side Event click [here](#) for the Event flyer.

UNESCO

Bjørn Bedsted, Global Coordinator of WWViews will also present the World Wide Views project at a Side Event organized by UNESCO. The UNESCO Event focus on Education for Sustainable Development: Multiple Perspective approaches to Biodiversity Education and Learning. It takes place Friday October 12 18:15 – 19:45 at Room 1.07 Level 1.

To get more information on the UNECSO Event, please go to [UNESCO's](#) web page.

Results Report

The Results Report is finished and ready to be distributed at the COP. It is also possible to download it at the WWViews web page [here](#). It includes analyses on the results and will be introduced to the Side Event and the Special Event.

The Results Report is also available at CBD's official web page for the meeting documents for the COP as an information document [here](#).

WWViews in Square Brackets

An article about the World Wide Views project and the need for political decision makers to involve citizens in the process of policy making and implementation is written by Malte Timpte, Project Manager WWViews Denmark and will be featured in Square Brackets issue 7, October 2012. Square Brackets is a newsletter for civil society produced jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity [SCBD](#) and the NGO network [CBD](#)

[Alliance](#). The newsletter focuses on biodiversity issues from both policy and practical perspectives and facilitates a dialogue between society stakeholders.

For more information on Square Brackets at CBDs web page [here](#).

Get the article at Square Brackets on page 28 [here](#).

Partner feature

In this last section of the newsletter we have gathered statements and photos from some of the World Wide Views on Biodiversity meetings.



Cameroon: A group photo of all the citizens after the meeting.

Germany: The German WWViews meeting was held at the Museum of Natural History in Berlin. Here the citizens listen to one of the speakers.



Ahmedabad, India: Bridging the gap between the rural and the urban population and getting to understanding each other's views on biodiversity.

Bhubaneswar, India: A view of the participants at the citizens meeting.





Indonesia: The citizens of Indonesia had a Skype session with Cameroon. Here they are greeting the citizens from Cameroon! A diversified group of citizens participated at the WWViews meeting in Indonesia: Javanese, Papuanese and Sumateranese citizens participated along with an organic farmer, a psychologist and students.

Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France: An illustrator did drawings from the meeting in Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.



Congo: The citizens are debating at the tables.

Colorado, USA: There were construction workers and college students, a farmer and teachers, Black, White, Hispanic, and Asian people, and people of many faiths at the meeting. They all came together, took a day out of their lives, to talk and learn and make their voices heard. It was exhilarating.



Uganda: The citizens are debating at the tables.

Saint Lucia: It was remarkable to see the number of young people present at WWViews on Biodiversity in Saint Lucia; of the 86 participants there were 30 people in the age range of 16 – 24 and 29 individuals in the age range 25 – 40.



Chennai, India: Table 10 expresses their Solidarity to the cause!

Toronto, Canada: Group discussion between citizens.



WWViews and Social Media

WWViews on Biodiversity and our partners are using Social Media.

You can find, follow and like us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Youtube](#) and [Flickr](#).

Upcoming

October 2012: Presentation and debate about the project results at COP11 in India.