

WORLD WIDE VIEWS ON Biodiversity >> <<

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



Newsletter #3 September 2012

All the World Wide Views on Biodiversity meetings will take place next week and all the partners are busy preparing the meetings, as you learned in the previous newsletter. In this newsletter we will focus on other things than the preparations and give you another view of the project, by introducing some important views on the WWViews on biodiversity project on different levels. In this newsletter you will get to know more about the citizen deliberation, COP11, Biodiversity challenges for a partner country, the information material is online and a reminder of WWViews and social media.

Marie Louise Jørgensen, Project Manager, The Danish Board of Technology, will let you know why it is important and what you gain by involving citizens in political matters. Bjørn Bedsted, Project Manager, The Danish Board of Technology, will participate in COP11 on behalf of WWViews and he gives a view on what will happen at the COP with the WWViews on biodiversity project. The Danish Board of Technology is the coordinator of WWViews on Biodiversity and is WWViews Denmark. Our partner from St. Vincent has contributed to this newsletter by sharing their concerns and challenges on biodiversity in their country. We can announce that the Information Material for the citizens is now public – more languages to come. Finally we once again want to remind you, that you can follow WWViews on Facebook and Twitter and we have different photos on Flickr.

Citizen deliberation

The World Wide Views on Biodiversity project involve ordinary citizens in policy making processes. The method is inspired by the wish to engage citizens in debates about issues with the aim of giving advice to the politicians. The citizens are opposite the specialist, in a unique position to weigh the pros and cons of political initiatives from moral, social and cultural perspectives. 100 citizens at each meeting get the opportunity to debate and vote on different thematic questions on biodiversity with other citizens, who has the same knowledge from the information material sent to the citizens before the meeting. The results of the votes will reflect how the citizens of the world deal with biodiversity.



See the video with Marie Louise Jørgensen, Project Manager WWViews Denmark. She explains more about the possibilities of citizen deliberation [here](#).

WWViews at COP11

The WWViews project will have representatives at the COP11 on biodiversity in India in October, to present the results from the meetings at a side event and a special event. The side event will focus on the experiences with the World Wide Views method and its potential to become a more integrated part of global governance. At the special event Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity and ministers from some of the participating countries will participate. The WWViews representatives will bring the report with the results from the 34 WWViews meetings and distribute it at the COP.



See the video with Bjørn Bedsted, Project Manager WWViews Denmark. He explains more about WWViews at COP11 [here](#).

Statement from our partner about biodiversity challenges in their country

Biodiversity has a great influence on the society in many countries. Not all citizens and governments realize and act on this or have the resources to do so which has severe consequences for the ecosystems and nature in these countries. We asked our partners at St. Vincent to give a statement on the situation in their country.



Zonia Shallow and Dorinson Douglas, WWViews St. Vincent

“Biodiversity is important to our country because the misuse or overuse of our biological resources does not just disrupt ecosystem functions but it also imposes a cost on society.”

“Most our citizens have limited knowledge or no knowledge at all of the type, distribution and value of the flora and fauna and this leads to misuse and careless destruction of our biodiversity.”

“The various components of biodiversity have enormous importance to all aspects of human life in Saint Vincent, especially food, medicines, industrial and agricultural products, and they also provide the basis for recreation and tourism.”

“Due mainly to a lack of financial resources to support environmental programmes as well as a lack of political commitment to environmental programmes, biodiversity is difficult to sustain in our country.”

[Click here](#) to read the entire statement.

The Information Material

The information Material is now available at the [WWViews webpage](#). The languages online so far is: Arabic, Chinese, Danish, English, French, Hindi, Ilocano – Philippines, Japanese, Nepali, Spanish and Portuguese. The other languages will be online soon.

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

September 15th 2012: Global citizen consultations in all participating countries.

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

**World Wide Views on Biodiversity is a global project from The Danish Board of
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