

WORLD WIDE VIEWS ON Biodiversity >> <<

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 #5 October 2012

This newsletter focus on the 34 WWViews meetings held on September 15. We will let you know how the meetings went, give you news on the results, reveal two events for WWViews at COP11 in India and finally give you statements, interviews and lots of photos from some of the participating countries.

The meeting and the citizens

All the World Wide Views on Biodiversity citizen meetings were successfully held on September 15. 3000 citizens showed up at the 34 meetings in 25 countries over a period of 26 hours, starting in Japan and ending in Arizona, USA. The citizens deliberated on four themes: Introduction to biodiversity, Biodiversity on land, Biodiversity in the sea and Burden and benefit sharing. Some countries also did a national/local theme and discussed important issues concerning their area.

To get to the meetings, the citizens came from various parts of the participating countries

and some had to travel for days. Some citizens came from the mountains and lowlands in Nepal and Bolivia, some travelled three days by different means of transport to reach the venue, they were flown in from remote islands in the Philippines and the rain forest in Brazil, ethnic minorities and people from all parts of China were flown to Beijing and different languages groups in Uganda were represented.

The participants debated and shared their views on biodiversity at the daylong meetings and voted on the same set of questions. At the end of this newsletter you get reactions and photos from the meetings and some of the participants.

Go to the [WWViews web page](#) for more information on the meetings.

The Results

All the results from the participating countries are available at the webpage and it is possible to compare results from countries, regions, developed/developing to the whole world. The results from the 3000 citizens are right now in the process of being analyzed for the results report that will be distributed at COP11. The results carry unique information from the citizens in both developed and developing countries. Some of the following results state an interest and willingness about biodiversity from the participating citizens: Three out of four participating citizens worldwide says that they are “very concerned” about the loss of biodiversity. Over 90 percent of the participating citizens worldwide support the establishment of a legal framework to establish more marine protected areas in international waters.

To see all the results go to the [WWViews web page](#)

WWViews at UN conference on biodiversity

Now there are only a few days to the beginning of the COP 11 in India. Representatives from all parties to the convention will meet to discuss various policy measures to stop the worldwide decline of biodiversity. The World Wide Views will of course be present at the

COP 11. There will be a Special Event on WWViews on October 18th from 1pm – 2.45 pm at HICC, Level 1, Room 1.03/1.04. At the Special Event [Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza](#), CBD Executive Secretary and Ida Auken, Danish Minister for the Environment will attend along with WWViews project managers and citizens from some of the participating countries. The Side Event will take place on October 17th, from 1.15 pm to 2.45 pm at Hall II – Ground Level. There will be a presentation of the results, a short documentary on the project followed by a panel discussion with policy-makers, stakeholders and citizens about the perspectives for using such methods for citizen participation in global, environmental governance.

To get more information on the COP11 go to [CBD's](#) webpage

Partner feature

In this last section of the newsletter we have gathered interviews, statements and photos from some of the participating countries. For more photos visit our [Flickr](#) photo pool.

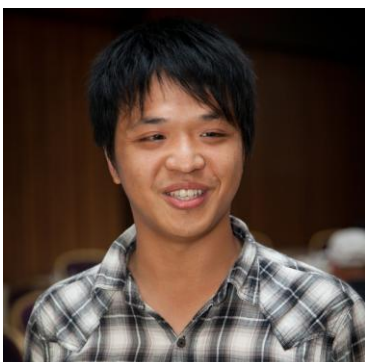


In **Calgary** Canada they made a video with interviews of a group facilitator and several citizens. To see the video click [here](#)

A short summary of four interviews from **China**:

REN Yu-ling, farmer. Comes from the middle part of China (Henan Province), he likes this event very much and feel having learned a lot on biodiversity.

MA Wei-min, English teacher. Comes from Hebei Province next to Beijing, he traveled the whole day to arrive in Beijing though his home is not far compared to other participants. He likes to come again for this kind of activity.



HUANG Wen-han. Comes from Taiwan and is specified in Chinese language and speaks very well Mandarin, he realizes the



importance of biodiversity and notices some commercial activities, for example, the Plantation of areca palm in Taiwan may cause the loose of soil and damage biodiversity.

A middle school student. She lives in Beijing and likes to learn biodiversity and enjoys this event.

Bolivia: Some of the participants took a bus, and then flew; others took at least two or three buses, and some others by boats, buses and flights. Some people travelled for over three days to reach Cochabamba on time. And for others, who lived not too far from the main cities it was a one day trip.



Brazil: Citizens living in areas of different biomes met in Rio. There were people from the Atlantic Forest zone, the Amazon rainforest, the Brazilian savannah and the pampas. They were put together to express their opinions: indigenous people, big and small farmers, fishermen, teachers, big company's engineers and musicians are just a few examples.

Montreal, Canada: Citizens of the culturally diverse city of Montreal were gathered to openly discuss and learn about biodiversity issues in English and French.



Dominican Republic: People traveled from isolated areas like Pedernales, in the border region with Haiti. As an expression of and respect to the diversity of the country, a couple of Haitians living in the DR were able to attend the meeting and express their own views.

Palestine: Almost one third of participants were accommodated in Ramallah before one night of the event (14/9/2012). In some cases a man and his wife or a girl with her dad or brother were invited. This way it was easier and more practical to ensure females' attendance in the event.



Vietnam: Some indigenous people from northern mountainous region as well as north central part of Vietnam joined in the meeting. The invited citizens were mainly farmers, teachers, retirees, local officers and students.

Zambia: There were a variety of participants, for instance there were an engineer, clinical officer, charcoal burner and agricultural officer among others.



Arizona: Participant Rosa Gonzales at the Arizona, USA World Wide Views on Biodiversity site displays her information booklet with hand written notes that she brought to the deliberation. On the right is Professor Netra Chhetri of Arizona State University, the project manager of the Arizona meeting.

Japan: People gathered in Tokyo from various kinds of areas: downtown, suburbs, country sides, mountain area, and sea side area.



WWViews and Social Media

WWViews on Biodiversity and our partners are using Social Media.

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[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#)

Upcoming

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