

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Rio+20: IRD and AIRD join forces

Launch of the first scientific cooperation programme Africa-Brazil-France
to fight desertification in Africa

Press Release | Marseille | 4 June 2012



RIO+20
Conférence des Nations Unies
sur le développement durable

The next United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), will take place in Brazil on 20 and 22 June. At this event, the French *Institut de recherche pour le développement* (IRD), official member of the French

delegation in Rio, and its *Agence inter-établissements de recherche pour le développement* (AIRD), will present, along with their African and Brazilian partners, the first scientific cooperation programme dedicated to the fight against desertification in Africa. IRD researchers will also contribute to scientific discussions, by organizing a dozen side-events during the Conference.

The fight against desertification: the first tripartite scientific cooperation programme Africa-Brazil-France

Forty years after the first United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 will offer the opportunity to report on progress and renew international community commitment to sustainable development. In this context, IRD, AIRD, their African (*Agence panafricaine de la grande muraille verte* - APGMV) and Brazilian (*Centre de gestion et d'études stratégiques* - CGEE et *Conseil national de développement scientifique et technologique* - CNPq) counterparts will promote the fight against desertification in Africa, a continent particularly affected by this global phenomenon (43 % of lands are located in arid and semi-arid areas). During the Rio+20 Conference, they will present the first **tripartite research programme dedicated to the fight against desertification in Africa**. This programme is the result of ongoing cooperation between the partners, originally initiated in Fortaleza (Brazil, ICID +18, August 2010), Mendoza (Argentina, September 2011) and Niamey (Niger, ICID +19, October 2011). In Rio, this research programme will go a step further by introducing concrete actions based on the commitments of the tripartite agreement signed earlier this year in March 2012 at the sixth World Water Forum in Marseille.

This scientific program is an original initiative in that it is a South-South-North cooperation, jointly financed by Brazil, Africa and France. It aims to structure a scientific community comprised of African, Brazilian and French researchers to fight desertification in Africa, build scientific capacities on this continent and strengthen links between science and society, in order to contribute to a sustainable management of arid and semi-arid areas in Africa. The concrete actions of the programme will be presented on 20 June at 11 a.m., during an on-site side event organized on the Brazil pavilion.

A publication committed to the « Great Green Wall »

During Rio+20, AIRD and APGMV will showcase the publication, "Great Green Wall - Capitalization of research results and promotion of local knowledge". Presented in CD-ROM format, the publication aims to capitalize on the main results, experiences, techniques and relevant data obtained through scientific research, from traditional practices and knowledge acquired in these regions over the past fifty years. This book also seeks to put forward recommendations aimed at supporting strategies and programs implemented within the framework of the "Great Green Wall" initiative.

Scientific workshops and presence on the France Pavilion

From 13 to 22 June, IRD researchers will contribute to debates and scientific discussions, by organizing a dozen side-events on various topics¹:

- Sea: between knowledge and assets
- Lake Chad under debate
- Green economy and Agriculture: tools to fight climate change
- Climate sustainability and the development of drylands
- Earth Observation for sustainable development in Southern Countries: application to water and forest resource management
- TASK Territorial approach to global changes: the deployment of scientific knowledge in territorial development and the transition towards green economy
- Biodiversity and sustainable, natural resources
- Oceans and sustainable development
- Water and sustainable development
- Climate and development of drylands
- South Atlantic past, present and future: variability, trends and impacts

Finally, IRD is proud to present the general public with the exhibition, "Ocean and climate, exchanges for life", and will be an official member of the French delegation in Rio.

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Find more information

- Find information about IRD's action in Rio+20, documentary resources available and photographs free for media reproduction in the IRD website's dedicated area: www.ird.fr/rio-20

¹ For more information see enclosed the detailed program.

IRD : Acting with the south

The IRD is a French research organisation that, together with its southern partners, addresses international development issues. To improve sanitary conditions, understanding the evolution of society, preserving the environment and resources are the pillars of its work with a view to achieving the millenium development objectives. As a French science and technology establishment, the IRD is under the joint supervision of the Ministries of Research and Cooperation. It operates internationally from its headquarters in Marseille, and two metropolitan centres of Montpellier and Bondy.

Thanks to its collaborative activities in research, education and innovation, it works in more than fifty countries in Africa, around the Mediterranean, in Asia, Latin America and overseas. Based on interdisciplinarity, the projects conducted jointly handle issues crucial for the South: tropical diseases and civilisation, relationships between health and environment, climate change, water resources, food security, tropical and Mediterranean ecosystems, natural hazards, poverty, vulnerability and social inequality, migration, changes in the labour market...

www.ird.fr

Now embedded within the IRD, the agency for inter-institutional development research is a force of scientific mobilisation that aims to unite the French research organisations and universities to act together with the Southern countries.

www.aird.fr

IRD in Brazil

Thanks to a wide variety of climate, soils, vegetations and populations, Brazil is a privileged field for scientific research. Operating in Brazil for over 50 years, IRD conducts research with local universities and institutions, under partnership agreements signed with the CNPq, FAP and ABC.

The research topics tackled concern climate variability, water resources, biodiversity, forest, traditional agriculture, environment and health. The researches apply to Amazonian environment and, more recently, on Atlantic Ocean.

www.bresil.ird.fr