

Agenda for the MDG Summit 2010 Side Event:

Localizing Millennium Development Goal 7: Key to Success

Columbia University Club • New York, NY USA
September 20, 2010

Hosted by

Earth Institute, Columbia University



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LOCALIZING MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7: A KEY TO SUCCESS

*1:15 pm-2:45 pm Monday, 20th of September 2010
Columbia Club, 15 West 43rd Street, New York*

The ambiguous terminology of MDG 7, “Ensuring Environmental Sustainability”, has made progress towards this goal difficult to assess. As the environment directly affects human health and economic wellbeing, the attainment of environmental sustainability is foundational to the success of all the MDGs. Hosted by the Earth Institute, Columbia University, this side event will share several leading organizations’ experience measuring environmental sustainability. Panelists will outline strategies that link local indicators to MDG7, discuss the contributions that the environment can make towards the other MDGs, and highlight two case studies: the Millennium Village Project’s (MVP) metrics for evaluating, monitoring, and facilitating success in achieving MDG7 targets, and TransLinks, a USAID funded program supporting income growth of the rural poor through conservation and sustainable use of the local natural resources.

Key lessons learned relate to trade-offs associated with establishing a minimum data set, connecting local indicators to regional targets, alternative activities that support the goal but that are not currently tracked, and the creation of locally relevant metrics for MDG7. This event will provide attendees an opportunity to reflect on the current framework and to reassess targets and indicators that address long-term environmental sustainability at different scales.

The side event will also introduce a policy brief by the MVP outlining strategies for assessing local environmental sustainability using examples from the MVP’s 5-years of experience and illustrating how these indicators relate to the regional and global targets of MDG7.

Objectives

- Bring together key decision makers to discuss successes and barriers to making progress in MDG7
- Outline strategies that link local indicators to MDG7
- Increase integration, awareness, and clarity in the relationship between MDG7 and other MDGs - avoiding barriers to MDG 7 success where other MDGs conflict
- In considering challenges associated with new metrics, discuss new pathways for achieving MDG 7 on a global stage

Panelists

Shahid Naeem, Chair of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University and Director of Science of the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC)

Marc Levy, Deputy Director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University

Cheryl Palm, Science Director for the Millennium Village Project, and Senior Research Scientist at the Tropical Agriculture and Rural Environment Program

Hervé Bisseleua, Post Doctoral Fellow and Environmental Research Scientist at Millennium Village Project sites in Mali

Carter Ingram, Lead, Ecosystem Services/Payments for Ecosystem Services at the Wildlife Conservation Society
