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HOTELS FOR PRESS

Accommodation levels in Rio de Janeiro are anticipated to be at full occupancy during the conference. While it is not the responsibility of the United Nations to procure accommodation for the media, it should be noted that the Brazilian national organizing committee for Rio+20 has committed to blocking a minimum of 500 hotel rooms in Rio de Janeiro for media covering the conference. Costs must be covered by the media. For more details, visit: <http://www.rio20.gov.br> For information regarding room availability please contact: Terramar Travel Agency

Emails:
reservas2@terramar.tur.br or
reservas4@terramar.tur.br or
reservas8@terramar.tur.br

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Media representatives must present their approval letter and copy rio20.hotels@itamaraty.gov.br when requesting their accommodations.

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LEAD puts people first at Rio+20

LEAD won the popular vote to present Putting People First: Building Sustainable Cities with Communities at Rio +20. With 20 years' experience delivering world class leadership learning, LEAD outstripped the opposition gaining almost double the votes of their nearest rival.

Putting People First was delivered as part of the SD Learning capacity-building event at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), Rio+20.

"We are honoured to have the opportunity to host a learning event at Rio," said Edward Kellow, Head of Learning and Leadership at LEAD International. "That we received such incredible support for our bid is testament to the reputation of LEAD Fellows for thinking differently and sharing knowledge freely to inspire collaborative community led initiatives around the world."

In a unique course, LEAD revealed how strong community links are crucial to building sustainability in the most highly stressed urban environments. The population of deprived areas is rising fast and is predicted to reach two billion by 2030. LEAD's interactive event focused on some of the most deprived and intensely populated areas in the world, capturing the learning and experience of three outstanding LEAD Fellows who together have over 30 years' experience in the field. "Having worked in some of the poorest cities in the world, it's clear to us that seemingly different

communities can have very similar needs and values," explained LEAD Fellow, Leonardo Martins Dias. "Whether we live in the favelas of Rio, the township of Port Elizabeth or inner city Calgary, we all need to feel part of the city we live in. There is a deep need for people to have a shared sense of identity, history and place. Our experience, working in very different parts of the world, shows that community projects and local leadership are key to growing a sense of citizenship and promoting equality." Focusing on people, the event explored how to make the 'invisible' visible, how to give back to displaced communities a sense of place, and how to enable the type of collaborative decision-making that leads to the creation and ownership of sustainable communities, the building blocks of sustainable cities.

"We know a lot more about sustainability than we did 20 years ago when the first Rio Summit was held and the LEAD Programme was established," said John Lewis, President, LEAD Canada. "We still, however, face many challenges in working towards a more sustainable world and that is why leadership is such a critical element in making progress."

The course was delivered by John Lewis, LEAD Canada, Leonardo Martins Dias, LEAD Europe and Anton de Wit LEAD Southern & Eastern Africa and facilitated by Edward Kellow, Head of Learning and Leadership at LEAD International.

For further media information go to: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&type=700&nr=107&menu=23> or contact Katie Singer on +44 20 79388704/+44 7816094373 or katie@lead.org.

NOTES TO EDITORS

LEAD is the world's largest international non-profit organisation focused on inspiring leadership and change for a sustainable world. LEAD celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2012. To learn more about LEAD go to: www.lead.org

Leonardo Martins Dias, Central Unica das Favelas (CUFA)

Leonardo is a LEAD Europe Fellow. He has over eighteen years' experience of managing multilateral, multicultural and multifunctional projects in Africa, Europe and Latin America. He has a particular interest in social equality development and systems resilience. His project, Extension of Sustainability to Telefónica/O2's supply chain, received an award from the Dow Jones Sustainability Index as an example of world best practice.

Dr Anton de Wit, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Anton is a LEAD Southern and Eastern Africa Fellow. He is an associate of the UK based Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and lecturer in the Department of Geo-sciences at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He is responsible for the under and post-graduate environmental studies and environmental management programmes in this department as well as the supervision of relevant student research. His personal research interests mainly revolve around the issues of social impact assessment, social sustainability and sustainable cities. Anton is furthermore involved in environmental advocacy having developed a series of popular lectures on climate change, which are presented to diverse audiences on an ongoing basis.

John Lewis, Intelligent Futures

John is a LEAD Canada Fellow. He is the President and Founder of Intelligent Futures - a Canadian-based consulting firm committed to creating lasting sustainability solutions that have strategic value. John's approach brings together elements of community engagement, strategic planning, effective communication and capacity-building to make sustainability meaningful for the communities and organisations he works with. John has experience in development planning, policy planning and is a recognised leader in the field of sustainable community planning and citizen engagement.

For his innovative approaches to sustainability, John was identified as one of Calgary's Top 40 Under 40 in 2010 and was selected to an international group of emerging leaders invited to the Global Environmental Governance Forum in Glion, Switzerland in 2009. He was also selected to join a team of planners from across Canada for a Canadian Institute of Planners initiative on climate change adaptation in Nunavut territory in the Canadian Arctic.

Edward Kellow, Head of Learning and Leadership, LEAD International

Edward has over fifteen years' experience of managing learning and development programmes in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. A qualified trainer and facilitator, Edward specialises in designing and delivering creative and innovative events about leadership and sustainable development. Edward has been involved in the delivery of the LEAD Europe Fellowship Programme since 2006. He has led programmes for UNDP, UNEP and developed a series of training courses for young climate leaders for the British Council in Asia, the UK and Latin America. Topics Edward has worked on recently include leadership and climate change, advocacy, stakeholder and community engagement, social enterprise, and partnership working. He has a particular interest in climate change communication and using social media to promote leadership for sustainable development.

The LEAD Fellowship Programme trains emerging leaders to take action on sustainability challenges and helps them to develop the skills to embed sustainability within decision-making. Graduates of the programme are known as LEAD Fellows.

LEAD brings learning in leadership for sustainable development around the world in 12 Member Programmes: Anglophone West Africa; Brazil; Canada; China; the Commonwealth of Independent States; Europe; Francophone West Africa; India; Indonesia; Mexico; Pakistan; Southern & Eastern Africa.

The LEAD Europe Fellowship Programme 2012/13 is currently inviting applications.

INFORMATION

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