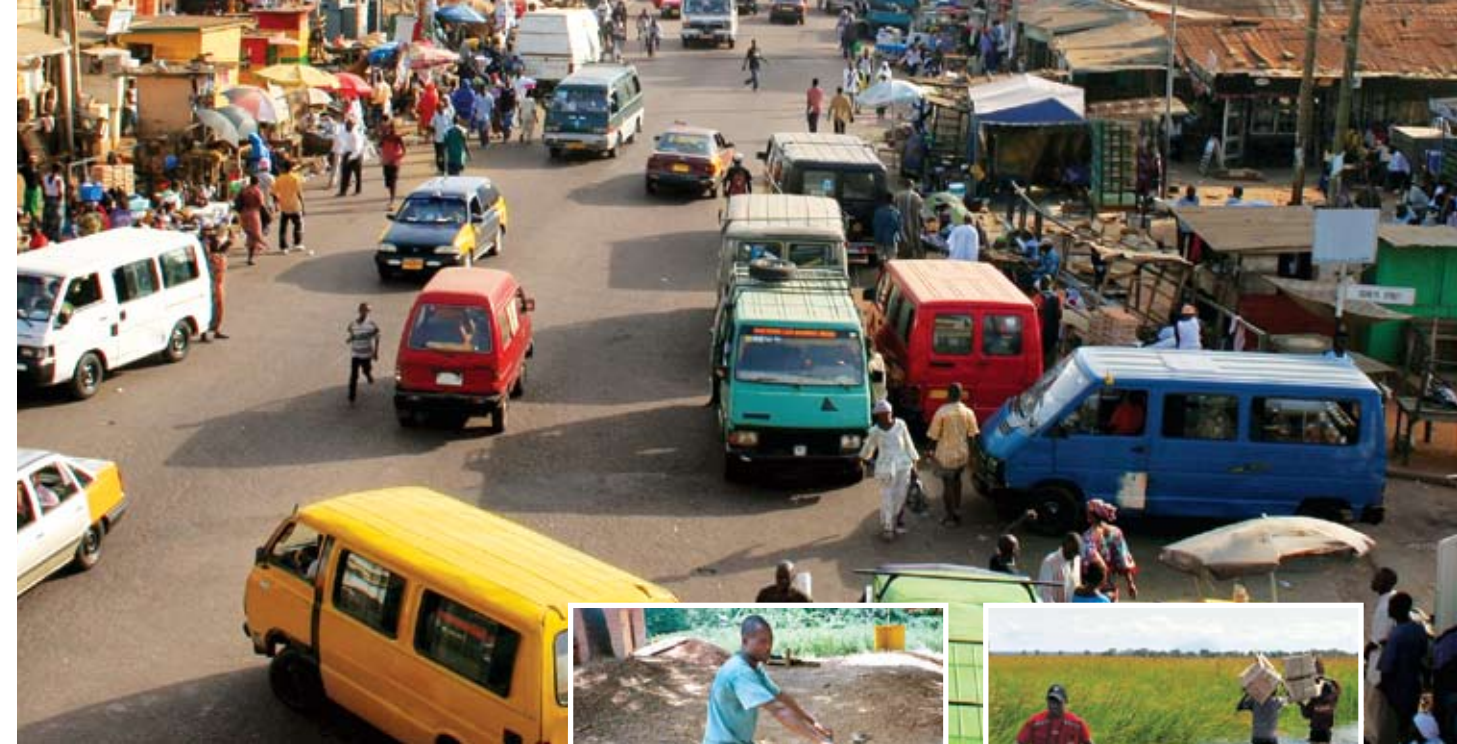


Earth Institute Project Highlights



The Earth Institute is composed of more than 30 research centers and programs. Here are a few more highlights of the many projects we have conducted during the last year.

Visit us online at www.earth.columbia.edu for regular updates on our work.

Science and Religion: Finding Common Ground

Over the last six years, the Earth Institute's Center for the Study of Science and Religion and the Fetzer Institute of Kalamazoo, MI, have held four public symposia on issues requiring both a scientific and a religious perspective. This year, the symposium held a public dialogue on the most pressing of these issues: global sustainability. Scholars, clergy and activists from diverse perspectives met to elaborate a common path toward a sustainable and equitable future.

Millennium Cities Initiative and the Tides Foundation

A landmark challenge gift from the Tides Foundation is helping the Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI), the urban counterpart to the Millennium Villages project, assist several mid-sized cities across sub-Saharan Africa in the promotion of sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The \$1.9 million gift, received in August 2008, will match all gifts made to the MCI on a 1:1 ratio through June 30, 2010. As this report goes to print, we will have matched gifts totaling \$511,025 through the Tides Challenge.

Sustainable Transportation, Land Use, Planning and Governance

The Earth Institute's Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) contributes to the Volvo Research and Educational Foundation's Future Urban Transport program by developing more sustainable transportation systems in cities like Nairobi, Kenya. CSUD works within a wider context to address land use, planning and governance. This work is also financially supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Bamboo Bikes for African Villages

In many rural African communities, economic development and access to health care and education are limited by the fact that villagers can only get so far on foot. Bicycles are an increasingly popular mode of personal and cargo transport, but they can be expensive to import from China and made with cheap steel that does not stand up to the wear of unpaved roads. A project funded by the Earth Institute's Earth Clinic is designing bikes from bamboo, a locally abundant and sustainable resource, and the Millennium Cities Initiative is analyzing the feasibility of producing these bikes at a larger scale.

Joining Forces With the Red Cross

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Earth Institute's International Research Institute for Climate and Society have teamed up to save lives. The annual rate of weather-related disasters, now double the rate of the early 1990s, is increasing, in part, due to climate change. This has dramatic implications for the increasing number of people living in areas vulnerable to storms, droughts, floods and climate-related disease outbreaks. With its climate expertise, IRI is uniquely positioned to engage with the rest of the world on this issue, says Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and IRI's new board chairman.