Innovation for Sustainable Development

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A Planet for Life SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

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Foreword

Foreword propose par PapTalla, non revu par auteurs, non revu par Jim et Katell. Major twenty-first century challenges force us to rethink twentieth-century development paradigms. Rapidly growing urban populations, climate change, and the negative social and environmental effects of current forms of economic growth will oblige us to build a new operational framework for development. As development practitioners, we see innovation as the key to unlocking these apparently irreducible issues and opening the door to new trajectories and transitions.

Rising as a counterpoint to today's challenges, we see deeply transformative and hope-inspiring new models and technologies, such as "green tech," nanotech, and digital computing and communications; these innovations are changing our economies, our relationship to the environment, and our way of living together.

Only creative capacity, flexibility, and a certain audacity can generate the sustainable solutions we need to overcome today's challenges. We believe that the concept of "innovation" needs a more precise definition, the better to assume its central place among tools and action-oriented methods that will drive the post-2015 international development agenda.

To give concrete shape and definition to the concept of innovation, AFD, IDDRI and TERI called on their vast network of renowned experts and scholars from all four corners of the world. In this 2014 edition of A Planet for Life, these authors share their analyses, clarify various perspectives on innovation, and examine thirty years of experiments in sustainable development, drawn from all sectors of the economy. The authors describe experimental tools, institutions and models; however, such inventions may not lend themselves to scaling-up and global dissemination. Our three organizations hold stakes in these experiments, draw on them, and share them on a daily basis with our partners – governments, enterprises, financial institutions, development agencies and research centers – who propose equally if not even more dynamic new models and adaptations in turn.

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We present this volume as part of our effort to think about and build tools for today and for the future, when development will take place in a more open and collaborative fashion. In these analyses, we hope that readers will find ideas to spark their own.