

## PPAF News, April –June 2008

### Partners Against Poverty - Awareness, Agreements, and Actions : Preparations for July event

**Date:** Wednesday, July 16, 2008

**Time:** 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m.  
(If you do not have a UN pass, please arrive at 9:30 a.m. to go through the UN security tent at 46th Street and 1st Avenue.)

**Location:** Conference Room 5, United Nations, New York

**RSVP:** By Friday, June 27, 2008 to David Stillman, PhD, Executive Director, PPAF, [ppafoundation2@gmail.com](mailto:ppafoundation2@gmail.com)

**Materials:** [Invitation](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Background](#)

[Partnership Database Sample](#)

[Partnership Database Template](#)

## Celebrating Madagascar

Madagascar's iconic singing group, Mahaleo, visited New York and performed for an enthusiastic audience on Saturday May 17, 2008. Currently on tour in Europe and North America, Mahaleo attracted ticket-holders from the Malagasy community from California, Texas and Illinois, as well as from major cities of the east coast. The group is now celebrating its 35th year together. The seven members also each have careers that put the humanity of their songs into practice - three are doctors, others head non-governmental organizations (NGOs); one is a sociologist and one has served two terms in the national parliament. [www.mahaleo.com](http://www.mahaleo.com)

PPAF met with Ambassador Zina Andrianarivelo-Razafy and members of Mahaleo at the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the UN and at the concert to discuss collaboration. This would build upon the fame and social concerns of the group and the international linkages and resource mobilization possible through PPAF.

"Madagascar!" is the new permanent exhibit in the historic Lion House of the Bronx Zoo

in New York. It is scheduled to open on June 19, 2008. The Wildlife Conservation Society, headquartered at the zoo, has long-standing relations and programs in Madagascar. The exhibit will focus on the island's unique animal life and great biodiversity.

[www.bronxzoo.com/media/madagascar/](http://www.bronxzoo.com/media/madagascar/)

During the Mahaleo visit to New York, WCS Architect Susan Chin organized a preview and special tour for members of the group, the Ambassador and staff of the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the UN and the Executive Director of PPAF.

For photos, see the Flickr section of our website.

## **Todos Bajo un Mismo Techo - Por un Turismo Dominicano más Competitivo y Sostenible**



Dr. Don Hawkins, George Washington University; William Brands, Deputy Director, USAID/DR; Dr. Duty Greene, Economic Policy Advisor, USAID/DR; Odalis Perez, CTO, DSTA, USAID/DR; and Luis Omar Fernandez, Advisor, DSTA Advisor

The national conference "Todos Bajo un Mismo Techo - Por un Turismo Dominicano más Competitivo y Sostenible" [Everyone under one roof - for a more competitive and sustainable Dominican Tourism] took place from April 18-20, 2008 in Santiago, D.R. Conveners were the Ministry of Tourism, the National Council for Competitiveness and the US Agency for International Development. PPAF was one of 140 organizations participating. more

The Dominican Sustainable Tourism Alliance (DSTA) draws upon the natural, historical and cultural resources and of the country for a more sustainable tourism sector that distributes benefits and contributes to poverty alleviation, economic expansion and the preservation of biological diversity. The purpose is to move beyond "beach tourism" to a model that strengthens small, medium-sized and community-based tourism enterprises and regional tourism clusters. DSTA emphasizes public-private collaboration and outreach to new partners nationally and internationally. USAID funds the project, part of

the Sustainable Tourism Alliance now being established in several countries. For more information on DSTA, you can view their brochure [here](#)

Conference participants reviewed past and current efforts and made plans that committed clusters and participating organizations to actions in the next 100 days and the next three years.

### **PPAF involvement**

Dr. David Stillman was invited to the Conference through the Samana Cluster, and also worked with members of the Monte Plata Cluster. The Samana Cluster is now expanding to include Miches, on the other side of Samana Bay. Stillman, Dr. James Danoff-Burg (Columbia University Center for Environment, Economy, and Society (CEEC)), Frank Minaya and Dr. Dana Minaya (Samana College Research Center) met recently to discuss plans for joint work. CEEC is developing an environmentally-sustainable economic growth program in Miches.

At the Conference, Stillman emphasized the PPAF interest in fish farming to supply local needs, the hotel and tourism industry and potential export. He said, "This area of work is well attuned to the mission of the Conference, and engages participation from many stakeholders." PPAF is also working with Finca TerraAqua, a fish eco-tourism destination in Mont Plata Province.

### **Fish Farming Conference Follow-up**

While in Santiago, Stillman and Scott Wright, an attorney and Board Member of PPAF, met with Maximo Nicolas, President, Richard LeClerc, Vice President and Mercedes Garcia, board member of the Fish Farmers Association (ADOA) to review the status of follow-up to the December 2007 Aquaculture Conference and to agree on next steps in a business plan for financing and investments. PPAF and ADOA are developing a Memorandum of Understanding for joint work. To read more about the December 2007 Aquaculture Conference, please click [here](#)

### **April 2008 - Greenhouse Development, D.R.**

PPAF held discussions in Santiago, D.R., with greenhouse vegetable producers, the Ministry of Agriculture, three public banks and the Dominican Trade Desk on Saturday, April 19. Organized by Arq. Nicolas Guillen, president of En Dominicana Agro Industrial, the meeting included the Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture, representatives of Banco Agricola, Banco Nacional de Fomento de la Vivienda y la Produccion and Corporación de Fomento Industrial, as well as another major producer and a representative of the Dominican Trade Desk, which is a joint effort of the Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana, Inc., the Dominican Government, and Hunts Point Market (New York City). David Stillman and board member Scott Wright represented PPAF.

The meeting was a first step in putting together a program for national and international financing for greenhouses in collaboration with Dominican public sector banks and the Ministry of Agriculture. A memorandum of understanding is being developed to lay the basis for collaboration. This is a further step in PPAF's promotion of "partners against poverty." The aim is to work with agribusiness aimed at increasing productivity and profits as well as jobs and rural development to a wide range of beneficiaries.

Guillen took Stillman and Wright to visit two pilot greenhouses of the project, where 30,000 tomato plants are growing. The vegetables are destined for export to Florida.



Agriculture Ministry, Bankers, Growers, Dominican Trade Desk and PPAF



Tomatoes growing