

*Presenting the first in a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues focusing on specific issues in strategic environmental management, sustainable business practices, and corporate social responsibility...*

## Microfinance

## and the **Environment:**

Setting the Research and Policy Agenda

Philadelphia, PA  
May 5-6, 2006

PRESENTED BY THE WHARTON  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



GREEN MICROFINANCE

**Friday May 5, 2006** (dinner and case presentations)

*East Hall and Colloquium Room, Huntsman Hall, University of Pennsylvania*

**Saturday, May 6, 2006** (roundtable followed by reception)

*Colloquium Hall at Huntsman Hall, University of Pennsylvania*

### A Wharton **IMPACT** Conference

*University of Pennsylvania*

*Co-hosts*

**The Institute for Environmental Studies**

**Wharton Legal Studies and Business Ethics  
Department**

*Participating Sponsors*

**International Finance Corporation**

**International Fund for Agricultural Development**

**Ford Foundation**

*Participating Supporters*

**CGAP**

**The Microcredit Summit Campaign**

## **About the Wharton Environmental Management Program**

Wharton's Environmental Management Program coordinates teaching and research initiatives related to environmental management at Wharton, including the MBA major and undergraduate concentrations in the area, as well as a university minor in Organizations and Environmental Management. The program focuses on the real world of business and the serious tools needed to navigate the turbulent shoals of environmental problems. In short, the program seeks to integrate approaches to:

- *Strategic Environmental Management,*
- *Sustainable Business Practices, and*
- *Corporate Social Responsibility.*

Wharton is committed to maintaining a well-balanced, interdisciplinary program for students who wish to combine tough-minded skills in finance, management and marketing with courses in cost-benefit and risk analysis, insurance, law and public policy. The Environmental Management Program works in close collaboration with the Institute of Environmental Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at Wharton.

## **About the Wharton Roundtables**

The Wharton Environmental Management Program has launched a series of multi-stakeholder roundtable discussions on emerging issues in strategic environmental management, sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility.

***The goal of each roundtable is to convene a sophisticated, interdisciplinary discussion on discrete issues or issue sets that provide fundamental significance to the future of environmental policy, management and regulation.***

The intent is to create a credible forum where representatives of various sectors and stakeholder groups can come together to share their perspectives in a facilitated dialogue in order to frame the research and policy agenda. The Wharton Roundtables will therefore play an important and ongoing agenda-setting role in academic research, regulatory innovation, and corporate best practices.

## **About Green Microfinance (GMf), LLC**

Green Microfinance (GMf), LLC was established in 2002 by environmental and microfinance practitioners. Our mission is to improve the environmental impact of microenterprise. Most people in developing nations work in microenterprises in the informal sector where there are few environmental institutions or regulation. The enormous growth of microfinance has spurred the growth of these microenterprises, without due attention to the environmental impact.

GMf's response is to build environmental management capacity in the microfinance field and amongst microentrepreneurs in developing countries. GMf also disseminates information about environmentally sustainable microfinance to the microfinance and sustainable development communities via its interactive website, [www.greenmicrofinance.org](http://www.greenmicrofinance.org).

As a leader in the field, Green Microfinance has been invited to moderate a panel at the Microcredit Summit 2006 in Halifax on "How MFIs and Their Clients Can Have a Positive Impact on the Environment." The progress made at this Roundtable will be reported at that Summit.

## Event Details

The Environmental Management Program at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and GMf are partnering to present a roundtable discussion on the microfinance, poverty reduction, and the environment. The event will take place at the University of Pennsylvania campus in Philadelphia, PA, beginning with case presentations and a dinner on Friday, May 5, 2006 and continuing on Saturday, May 6, 2006 with the roundtable itself and a closing reception.

The purpose of the roundtable discussion is to provide practitioners, donors, and researchers an opportunity to discuss the opportunities and challenges in the area of microfinance and environmental sustainability. The overarching theme that the roundtable hopes to contribute to is whether microfinance can address environmental problems, and thereby contribute to Millennium Development goal number seven concerning environmental sustainability.

This roundtable will build on the 2004 Microenterprise and the Environment Conference held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, which resulted in the formulation of the *Microenterprise and Environment Guiding Principles*, developed by the conference participants. The set of key principles provide guidance for microenterprise and microfinance initiatives in protecting the environment.

Experts and interested professionals from a variety of perspectives will be in attendance. Most will be “observers” to the Roundtable while a core group of specifically 20-25 invited participants will be “at the table” and participate throughout the facilitated dialogue. Conference attendees who are observers may be invited by the facilitator to participate in questions and answers periods (Q&A) or at other designated times. Each roundtable segment will last for 120 minutes, including, at the discretion of the facilitator, approximately 30 minutes of Q&A.

## Roundtable Themes

<b>Roundtable 1</b>	The increasing availability of microfinance in developing countries where there are few environmental regulations and controls leads to the question: What are the impacts of microenterprise and microfinance on the natural environment?
<b>Roundtable 2</b>	How can MFIs promote both environmental sustainability and poverty reduction? Can MFIs do so without compromising their own financial sustainability?
<b>Roundtable 3</b>	Do donors and investors in microfinance have a responsibility/role for ensuring that their support to microfinance does no harm to the environment? If so, how would this responsibility be implemented?

## *Roundtable Confirmed Participants*

- **Aftab Ahmed**, Senior Manager of Microfinance, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Washington, DC, USA
- **Andrew Bovarnick**, Technical Advisor, Biodiversity, UNDP, New York, NY, USA
- **André Laude**, Industry Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Washington, DC, USA
- **Anton Van Winden**, Sustainability Specialist, Financial Sector, Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO), The Hague, The Netherlands
- **Arnaud Ventura**, Executive Vice-President, PlaNet Finance, Paris, France
- **Bruce Schlein**, Vice President, Environmental Affairs, Citigroup, New York, NY, USA
- **David Myhre**, Program Officer, Ford Foundation, Mexico, D.F.
- **Edward Millard**, Senior Director, Conservation International, Washington, DC, USA
- **Ellen Morris**, Technical Secretariat, Global Village Energy Project (GVEP), Glen Ridge, New Jersey, USA
- **Eric Orts**, Director, Environmental Management Program, The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- **Evelyn Stark**, Financial Services, Microenterprise Development Division, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington, DC, USA
- **Elizabeth Littlefield**, CEO, Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), Washington, DC, USA
- **Henri Dommel**, Rural Finance Technical Advisor, Int'l Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Rome, Italy
- **Joan Hall**, Microfinance Specialist, Green Microfinance, Takoma Park, MD, USA
- **Julie Redfern**, Director, Microfinance, Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), Waterloo, Canada
- **Leonard Mutesasira**, Senior Associate, Green Microfinance, Kampala, Uganda
- **Liam Collins**, Manager of Special Projects, Grameen Foundation USA, Washington, DC, USA
- **Maike Bunse**, Consultant, WISIONS of Sustainability, Wuppertal, Germany
- **Mark Wenner**, Rural Financial Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC, USA
- **Nancy Barry**, President, Women's World Banking (WWB), New York, NY, USA
- **Robert Christen**, Director, The Boulder Microfinance Training Programme, Turin, Italy
- **Sam Daley-Harris**, Director, Microcredit Summit Campaign, Washington, DC, USA
- **Scott Sabin**, Executive Director, Floresta USA, San Diego, CA
- **Sharmila Davra**, Energy Projects Manager, Energy Projects Manager, SEWA, Ahmadabad, India
- **Stan Laskowski**, Executive Director, Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- **Todd Hanson**, Environmental Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Washington, DC, USA
- **Terry Provance**, Executive Director, Oikocredit USA, Washington, DC, USA

## *Timing and Breaks*

The times reflected in the May 6<sup>th</sup> agenda reflect the facilitator's best guess. For the dialogue portions of the event, these should be viewed as rough approximations.

## *Dress*

Business attire is expected to be the norm for the dinner event on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Business casual is appropriate for Saturday's Roundtable.

*For additional information about this event, please contact Adam Saslow at:*

[WhartonGMfRoundtable@greenmicrofinance.org](mailto:WhartonGMfRoundtable@greenmicrofinance.org)

*On-line registration is on Green Microfinance's website:*

[www.greenmicrofinance.org](http://www.greenmicrofinance.org)

# *Microenterprise and Environment*

## **Guiding Principles**

As developed by the participants at the Microenterprise and Environment Conference,  
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, July 2004.

*The environment is a sacred trust. The earth and all its life are interconnected and sacred.*

*Addressing the human spirit is essential. Environmental and human integrity are inextricably linked. Improving inner human quality results in improving the environment.*

*All microenterprises impact the environment. Do no harm. Eliminate or mitigate negative impacts. Seek positive impacts.*

*Protecting the environment is an opportunity. Environmental protection makes good economic sense.*

*Creating financially cost-effective solutions is vital.*

*Each person is responsible. Responsibility means personal ownership and action.*

*Agencies should work with local, national and international governmental agencies to promote sound environmental practices and policies. Agencies should help people understand why the environment is important to their lives. Donors and agencies should model good environmental behavior.*

*Benefits and costs are both short and long term. True costs include environmental costs. Agencies should identify, account for and mitigate environmental costs. Environmental benefits created should be recognized. Costs of creating environmental benefits should not be borne solely by MFIs or clients.*

*Creating partnerships is crucial. Partnership with stakeholders is the key to appropriate environmental protection in development.*

*Participation in project planning and decisions is for everyone. Participation must be inclusive, equal and fair.*



Elizabeth Israel, *Green Microfinance*  
Adam R. Saslow, *Consensus Solutions, Incorporated*

**8:30 a.m. Keynote Address**  
*Speaker TBA*

**Roundtables:** The roundtables will actively engage 20-25 participants; the same people (“invitees”) will participate on each roundtable. The roundtables will last between one to one and a half hours, after which and at the discretion of the facilitator, there will be an opportunity for audience participation in Q&A.

**9:15 a.m. Roundtable #1: The increasing availability of microfinance in developing countries where there are few environmental regulations and controls leads to the question: What are the impacts of microenterprise and microfinance on the natural environment?**

**10:45 a.m. Break**

**11:00 a.m. Roundtable #2: How can MFIs promote both environmental sustainability and poverty reduction? Can MFIs do so without compromising their own financial sustainability?**

**12:45 p.m. Lunch**

**2:00 p.m. Roundtable #3: Do donors and investors in microfinance have a responsibility/role for ensuring that their support to microfinance does no harm to the environment? If so, how would this responsibility be implemented?**

**4:00 p.m. Summary and Synopsis of Next Steps**  
*Todd Hanson, International Finance Corporation (IFC)*  
*Anton Van Winden, The Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) (Pending)*

**4:45 p.m. Conference Closure**  
*Eric Orts, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania*  
*Elizabeth Israel, Green Microfinance*

**5:00 p.m. Adjourn to the Reception**

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## *Hotel Information*

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Conference organizers have reserved a limited number of rooms for Friday and Saturday night at the following hotels: Special rates may be obtained by referencing the “Green Microfinance” group.

### **Crowne Plaza Hotel**

\$139/night

1800 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
1.215.561.7500

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hd/phlcc>

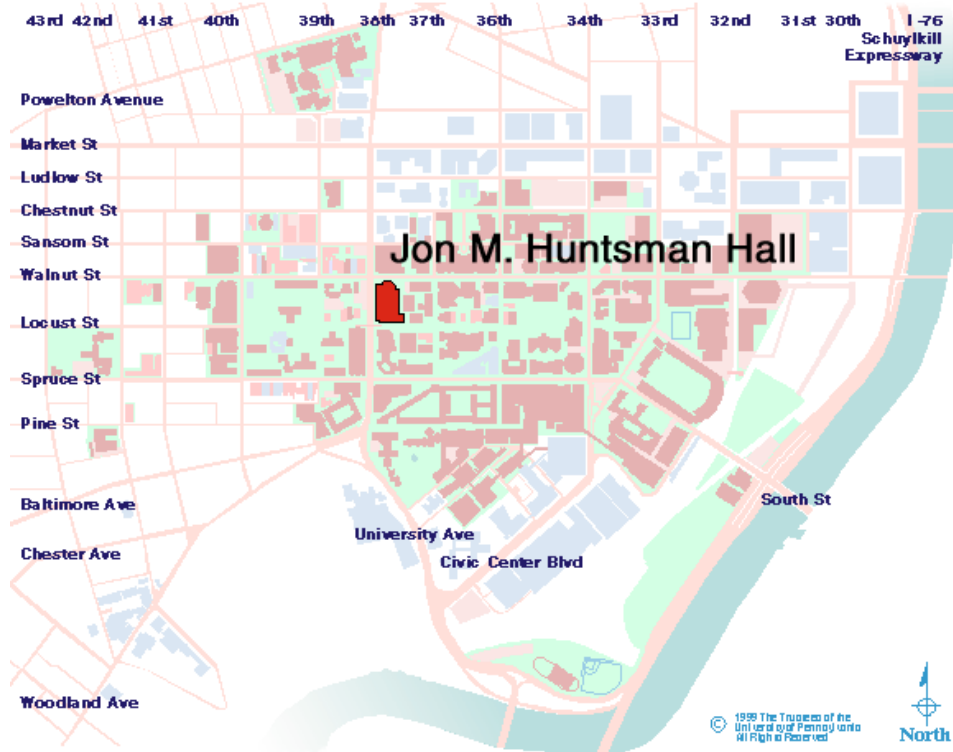
We will try to arrange ground transportation from the Crowne Plaza though the more independent-minded will likely need to take a taxi or some other form of transport to the conference venue as this hotel is about an eight minute drive from Wharton.

If you need additional assistance, please call Consensus Solutions, Incorporated at 404.531.9904.

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## *Venue – Jon M. Huntsman Hall (3730 Walnut Street)*

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## *Registration Form*

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\* Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Registration is required for all conference attendees.**

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## *Cost Information*

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Please  mark your attendance and add costs accordingly.

May 5 and 6 All activities ..... \$295

**--OR--**

May 5 only Dinner and case studies ..... \$95

May 6 only Roundtable w/breakfast, lunch and reception..... \$225

**NOTE:**

- Registration fees are waived for roundtable participants, case study presenters, and Penn/Wharton faculty (check if applicable)
- Students may request a discounted rate of \$125 for roundtable attendance only (very limited availability at discretion of event organizers)

**TOTAL: Amount authorized to charge .....\$**

On-line registration is at [www.greenmicrofinance.org](http://www.greenmicrofinance.org). [Deadline for on-line registration is April 28, 2006.]

If not registering on line, please fax registration to Consensus Solutions at (404) 531-9912.

Make checks out to Consensus Solutions, Inc. [All checks must be postmarked by April 21, 2006.]

Send to: Consensus Solutions, Inc., 90 West Wieuca Road, NE, Suite 222, Atlanta, GA 30342 [Phone (404) 531-9940]

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## *Billing Information*

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### Business Address

Street (line 1) \_\_\_\_\_

Street (line 2) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Country/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### Billing Address (if different)

Street (line 1) \_\_\_\_\_

Street (line 2) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Country/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card

Card (Visa/MC/Discover/AMEX)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date (mo/yr) \_\_\_\_\_

Three Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(located on back of card)

### Check/Bank Transfer (U.S. Accounts Only)

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Address Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

9 Digit ABA Routing No. \_\_\_\_\_

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## *Special Needs*

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1. Do you require assistance in making hotel or other reservations? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_  
How may we contact you? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please note that we will use the credit card information provided earlier to hold your reservation.*
  
2. Do you have special needs at the hotel or venue (handicap assistance or other -- please specify)  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

  
3. Do you have dietary preferences (vegetarian, other) Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

  
4. Will you need financial assistance in order to attend the workshop? (If yes, please explain)  
Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_