

Conference by Dr. Paolo Lugari
Founder and Director of the Las Gaviotas Experimental
Center
Upon receiving the medal award Luis Eduardo Mora
Osejo
at the Special Solemn Session
Of the Colombian Academy of Exact Physical and Natural
Sciences
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Alicia de Mora, esposa del Dr. Luis Eduardo Mora Osejo, condecora al Dr. Paolo Lugari. Foto Alberto Bejarano - ACCEFYN.

First of all, receive a warm greeting from the microworld of Gaviotas, located in the immensity of the Orinoco basin, near nothing and away from everything, where things still have no name as Gabriel García Márquez said.

This is a non-linear project, of transversal thinking. There we went from utopia into topia in other words, from the dreams to reality in the midst of the beauty of extreme difficulty.

Gaviotas is an imperfect but decent community, sustainable, futuristic, creative, happy and with a long healthy life; where human ties count more than an organizational chart. The minicrises lead to an order in movement that supports our coexistence. Hates become biodegradable.

Alan Weisman in his book "Gaviotas, a place to reinvent the world, said: you could not imagine that 40 years later the Gaviotas experiment would become a paradigm of sustainable development."

Gunter Pauli, said: "in Gaviotas they live from the interests of nature without affecting their biological capital in the middle of a biodiverse tropical forest planted of 8000 hectares that allowed the rebirth of a forest."

Edgar Morin, the great teacher of complexity about this experience in his latest book entitled "The Way", said: "It would also be necessary to look for ecological intensification that increases yields using the bioecological

functionalities of ecosystems which would lead to the development of reforestation. it is the case of the Gaviotas ".

Ashok Khosla, former president of the international union for the conservation of nature, said: "There is an exemplary project in Colombia, which is not only self-sustaining, but has managed to convert the savannas of Vichada into tropical forests."

There you feel, think and act with tropical reasonableness, which is the union of the rational with reality. The understanding of our environment, the ability to make connections that never end, to deepen its complexity, allows us to take advantage of it without destroying it, on the contrary, we strengthen its ecological foundations, which is the cause of our permanence in the short, medium and long term. The only dangerous desert is the desert of the imagination.

We look at the equatorial tropics in a different way and making connections that drive us to better styles and living conditions.

Many times we crash with a legal normativity, as also happens in other countries of Latin America, because it does not take into account that "everything is in everything" as Democritus of Abdera the pre-Socratic said. Once, Julio Carrizosa Umaña, undisputed dean of the Colombian environment, creator of national natural parks of great significance and author of the national code of renewable natural resources and the environment, said: "through legal thought, it is difficult to approach the environmental complexity ". Hence the need that they know us, despite our geographical remoteness, for coming closer to these ecosystems, that

despite having the highest primary biological productivity of the Earth, its inhabitants are in a sustainable poverty.

In response to this problem, which is common to the tropical biome, we have had for more than 15 years, a proposal accompanied by achievements, which are related to water, air, food and forests.

Therefore, without wanting to appropriate the truth and without losing the right to contradiction, we have had the audacity to wield a proposal for the sustainability of human life

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Why the previous proposition:

4: The human without appropriate air can live up to 4 minutes.

4: The human being without proper water can live only
4 days

42: The human being without feeding, can live up to 42
days.

B: Forest - if 60% of the land is not covered with forests, with green, with the required plant density, including obviously the plankton of the seas, the dynamics of the fundamental chemistry of the atmosphere cannot be

maintained. currently it is 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and 1% argon and other gases including carbon dioxide, we would soon arrive at a change in the current atmospheric composition that would make human life unviable, since the human being that remains of this century and the next century would not be able to adapt biologically to a new gaseous envelope, as Las Gaviotas Center has been saying in different forums for more than 15 years. It is something more serious than global warming that would only make life uncomfortable with all kinds of disturbances.

On the other hand, to have a planet with 60% of vegetal skin as the humanist Mario Calderón Rivera called it in his book on Gaviotas entitled "Renaissance in the tropics", especially when in 2050 we will exceed 10 billion inhabitants, should be a global purpose that cannot be postponed.

It is something that is within the economic reach of the countries and also the appropriate technology and the required lands are available. That is why the past, present and future is vegetable.

In the last century and in the course of this year, much more difficult tasks have been carried out, among others, the space race and the computer revolution that, despite the astonishment they caused, do not aim to solve the essential problems for the continuity of our existence, as I said in the environmental meeting recently promoted by the Futurable Group.

It is not about saving the planet, because this rocky spheroid will continue to orbit the sun for billions of years, it is about saving humanity and to the other living organisms. After having installed the largest solar hot water in

the world in Medellin, as indicated by the United Nations Environment Information Agency of the United Nations in 1979, we have been carrying out all kinds of experiments and tests until we will have the capacity to design and to build disconnected neighborhoods of the networks of public services of aqueduct, sewerage and energy, surpassing the quality of the service at a cost no greater than that of social interest housing, taking into account for its calculation what it means not to pay the monthly rates for these concepts.

We have called the project Futuralia.

But this project is of permanent thought. We will be open to criticism, to new contributions as we aspire to be protagonists of our future rather than mere spectators.

If the urban regulations allow us to aspire to build, only a first disconnected neighborhood to overcome disbelief and thus continue to dedicate ourselves to creativity, which is our DNA.

These neighborhoods would resemble autonomous ships sailing in the sea of the city. They are science and technology in motion.

We should remember that the pessimists will never change the world and losing hope would be unforgivable.

I do not agree with the idea of those who say that the human race has no future if it does not colonize space.

For me it is an honor to be the first to receive the medal "Luis Eduardo Mora Osejo" recently created by the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences as a tribute to a brilliant mind that dedicated his whole life to biology, promoting an independent science and education that responds to our tropical ecology, overcoming all kinds of barriers.

To finish, I always want to remind all of you that true maturity consists in realizing dreams that is why I invite you to continue dreaming and to realize them in the company of Gaviotas. Thank you so much.

Thank you so much.