Bios prises - vision for new millennium

With globalisation defining the shape and structure of future society the need for a new vision and diachronic values is becoming imperative. Without them, globalisation will not only fail but will also entail serious threats for the continuation of life on our planet. In this urgently needed societal “renaissance” the Olympic spirit plays a key role. Moreover, the co-operation of technology and the arts in the promotion of peace and the bio-environment can serve as a unifying model for a global appreciation of bios. This is the goal and challenge of the Biopolitics International Organisation (BIO).

Ultimately, we hope that the new era will not be merely one in name or number but will be witness to a genuine change in culture whereby the right of future generations to a clean environment is ensured and that diversity on every level - biological, cultural, religious, ethnic - is maintained.

The creation of the Bios Prizes is the best manifestation, so far, of the fundamental inclusivity of the bios ethos and a grassroots mobilization. This award focuses on a unified vision of saving the bio-environment, in which every profession is threaded together in recognition of the value of interdependence to achieve this common goal. The Bios Prizes came into fruition in Paris 1996, when the first was awarded to Jacques Cousteau for his indispensible contribution to humanity through his extensive exploration of and campaigning for our seas.

This year the award ceremony will be hosted by the Director of the historic Hermitage museum in St. Petersburg, Academician Michael Piatrovsky, on September 4th, and four leading figures are due to be awarded Bios Prizes: Mstislav Rostropovich, the famous Russian cellist and conductor; Kitty Kyriacopoulos, Greek industrialist and philanthropist; Dr. Anton Rupert, South African business leader noted for his work in wildlife conservation; and Jakob von Uexkull, the Swedish founder of the Right Living Award. All four Bios Prize recipients are honoured for their outstanding contributions in various ways to uphold the principles of Bios, saving biodiversity, promoting peace, and acknowledging the interdependence of all forms of life (see page 8 and 10-11).

The Bios Prizes should prove to be the culminated in a busy year, during which a branch of the BIO was established in Kiev and conferences were hosted or attended in a variety of cities, from Gijon to New York, from The Vatican to Washington DC, as well as in the BIO’s home city, Athens.

Bios Olympiad

Another major BIO event and a highlight of this year, is a conference at Ancient Olympia on August 20-22, with the theme Bio-Environment - Bio-Culture: Values for the New Millennium. During the conference in Ancient Olympia, the BIO stated its support of the Olympic Idea as an athletic and spiritual ideal. While the Modern Olympic Games’ emphasis has been on physical feats, the BIO thinks that the Olympics scope should be much wider and encompass all aspects of human endeavour where excellence has achieved. The Olympic Games are a unique opportunity to move towards uniting humanity. This Olympic goal, if more fully realized, would provide hope to mobilize the positive energy of anyone who wishes to contribute towards saving Bios.

At Ancient Olympia this year the BIO hopes to make real progress toward the needed enrichment of the Olympic Games and the potential provided by cultural Olympiads. The conference is expected to underscore the desirability for the harmonious coupling of mythological, history and tradition as a basis for new values. A number of prominent speakers from all walks of life - professors, financiers, ambassadors, politicians and church leaders - will explore ways to reaffirm the ancient Olympic Ideal in its birthplace (see page 7).

BIO World Referendum officially launched in India

The BIO World Referendum for saving bios was launched in the regions of South and Southeast Asia in September 1998. The Governor of Haryana, Shri Mahavir Prasad inaugurated the launch, which was attended by a large number of teachers, lawyers, business people, doctors, police personnel, members of the armed forces, artists, musicians, scientists, NGO members, administrators, planners, politicians, etc. It is hoped that this major mobilisation will lead to the necessary awareness and action to safeguard our planet for future generations.

Amazon indigenous community receives Bios Prize for preserving biodiversity

Bios - life - is the most precious possession on our planet. To preserve biodiversity is to guarantee the wealth and beauty of our world and the survival of future generations. But in view of the current environmental abuse, respecting life and living in harmony with the environment is rapidly becoming a foregone concept. The few who have succeeded in safeguarding our natural heritage are making an invaluable contribution to humanity. In recognition of this achievement, the BIO awards a special Bios Prize to an indigenous community in Colombia. This initiative is taking place under the auspices of the Minister of Environment and will be realised in October during the BIO President’s visit to the country (see page 9).

Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, 1998

BIO News

No. 20 - OCTOBER 1999

A newspaper for the preservation of the bio-environment, a shift from an anthropocentric to a biocentric vision

www.holobio.com

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BIO World Referendum officially launched in India

Special guests and the Governor of Haryana, Shri Mahavir Prasad, signing the referendum form.

Mstislav Rostropovich, Bios Prize recipient 1999, with Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis at the Saharev Festival in Athens 1994.

Amazon indigenous community receives Bios Prize for preserving biodiversity

Bios - life - is the most precious possession on our planet. To preserve biodiversity is to guarantee the wealth and beauty of our world and the survival of future generations. But in view of the current environmental abuse, respecting life and living in harmony with the environment is rapidly becoming a foregone concept. The few who have succeeded in safeguarding our natural heritage are making an invaluable contribution to humanity. In recognition of this achievement, the BIO awards a special Bios Prize to an indigenous community in Colombia. This initiative is taking place under the auspices of the Minister of Environment and will be realised in October during the BIO President’s visit to the country (see page 9).

Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, 1998

Millennium of Peace

Can you hear the gong resonate the dawning of the new era?

Can you see the bright stars send messages of light and hope?

Can you feel the breathing of every creature on our planet?

the waves of love
the whispers of life

Can you listen to the beat of your heart embrace us all with warmth

Share the new vision of joy, peace and harmony

Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, 1998
BIO goals

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF BIOS AND THE BIOENVIRONMENT

The bio-environment recognizes no geographical boundaries, no East-West, North-South or developed-developing countries. Bios provides the unifying force for the harmonious existence of all forms of life, leading to a new era of bio-diplomacy.

A WORLD REFERENDUM

to allow for people throughout the world to express their willingness to preserve bios on our planet.

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION ON BIOS RIGHTS

It is important to protect all forms of life by enacting rules that prevent the deterioration of the bio-environment, and ensure the fundamental right to a clean environment and to a better quality of life.

BIO-CULTURE - BIOENVIRONMENT

Two essential dimensions for building new societal values for the next millennium.

PROMOTION OF BIO-EDUCATION

through the International University for the Bio-Environment. The International University for the Bio-Environment was launched in order to reform education world-wide, and promote a biocentric curriculum at every educational level.

ASSESSMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

A diachronic search for new societal values that will channel technological progress in a direction that leads to a better quality of life through the appreciation of the bio-environment.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

in order for more people to realize that progress in the biological sciences relates to their own field of interest. This acknowledgement may lead to new fields of human endeavour, such as bio-legislation, bio-medicine, bio-ethics, bio-arts, bio-linguistics, bio-economics, bio-athletistics, bio-communication, bio-history, bio-education and bio-diplomacy.

ENVIRONMENTAL OLYMPICS AND BIO-PRIZES

The Biopolitics International Organisation has been proposing the introduction of an event called the Olympic Games, a proposal which has recently been incorporated as a United Nations Resolution. In order to promote the bio-assessment of technology and a global bio-culture for the new millennium, the BIO proposes the establishment of international committees in every field of human endeavour, assigned with the responsibility to assess progress in their respective fields. Bios Prizes in every discipline will be awarded every four years, at the time of the Olympic Flame, on the altar of our planet.

BIO represented in 103 COUNTRIES

Africa

Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda

The Americas

Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela

Asia

Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Europe

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, FYROM, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia

Oceania

Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Samoa, Solomon Islands

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BIOPROFILE

October 1999

BIO NEWS

Environmental policy today is based on the concept of sustainability. Although this operates as a first line of defense against environmental degradation, its long-term success is not guaranteed. The flaws can be justified by the absence of a unified vision and of an internationally agreed-upon strategy. The Biopolitics International Organisation (BIO) promotes a biocentric vision and suggests new models and ethics for society. A new strategy which embraces both sustainable development, can expand our horizons of understanding and introduce the necessary criteria for a more just and safe global management.

In this effort, international co-operation is of vital importance. This co-operation should not be limited to the co-ordination of different conservation programmes, but rather consist of a thorough re-evaluation of environmental law. The initiative for the foundation of an International Environmental Court (page 3), aiming at the resolution of international environmental disputes, could not be more timely. For the reversal of negative trends to be effective and for the avoidance of further degradation and catastrophe, environmental legislation has to be universally adopted. Threats to bios do not recognize national borders, political and religious differences. They can be resolved through multilateral co-operation and through bi-diplomacy.

With globalisation defining the shape and structure of future society, the need for a new vision becomes more urgent. Globalisation is taking place without goals and ideals, when it should be based on values that have a meaning for the continuity of bios on our planet and a future for the understanding of our dependence on all forms of life. Without this vision, globalisation will not only fail, but will also pose serious threats to the world. With environmental deterioration becoming a compelling issue of unprecedented importance, international co-operation in the preservation of the bio-environment can provide the necessary unifying dimensions to face the future with a vision of hope and harmony.

The current crisis of values is a great threat, not only to the environment but also to peace. This is why there is a pressing need to use the diachronic ideals of the past to motivate every member of society towards the conservation of the environment. The Olympic Spirit can play a leading role in uniting the forces of culture and technology to instil the appreciation of the aesthetic value of life on our planet. This constitutes the hope and the vision of the Biopolitics International Organisation for the generations to come. Bios Prizes for each specialization, as well as a World Referendum, with the participation of every profession and of every individual is the goal of the BIO for the new millennium. Through a true international “environmental education” each citizen could contribute to the spiritual renaissance of humanity.
New international court for the environment

Is there a need for a body to solve international environmental disputes?

Dr. Rest is aware that states cannot be forced to cooperate in establishing a legal system and a developed mechanism of jurisdiction, judicial control plays a very essential role in the implementation and execution of environmental law, as soon as transboundary or transnational effects and objectives of international environmental protection at stake, national jurisdiction may be insufficient or even fail. He cited, among others, the example of Chernobyl to illustrate his point, and he added that: “These all reflect the general tendency that in cases of transboundary/transnational pollution the injured individual or the community of states, or stakeholders, may have no legal protection or even a limited right to bring an action against a foreign polluter, and specifically against a foreign polluter who has harmed the environment and human health.”

Dr. Rest also maintained that it is highly desirable that in the future the new body is able to include all individuals, as well as states, be addressed by national courts and to offer decisions on conflicts between international and national law. He also states that states cannot be forced to cooperate in establishing a legal system and a developed mechanism for jurisdiction.

The discussions focused on different aspects of the issue and opinions varied. A sample of those different approaches is given here.

In his “Review of existing international judicial mechanisms and treaties for the resolution of international environmental disputes,” Sean D. Murphy, professor at George Washington University, presented his view which proposes that with a little tinkering, existing international and national judicial fora are adequate for the resolution of international environmental disputes and that the creation of a new tribunal is unnecessary and it risks becoming a quango with half of those embroiled in environmental disputes regarding it as a biased body. In addition, he stated that existing fora, by and large, are adequate for the resolution of international environmental disputes, or, with modifications, could be made adequate. In his view, nothing is as fundamental as the idea that they cannot be fixed, it is unlikely that a new tribunal would succeed where others have failed.

Recognising that the international system does not need or want a proliferation of international tribunals covering only a part of areas of international law. What it is needed is one or more dispute resolution fora, capable of handling all these areas of law and administrative work in a just and equitable manner.” Nevertheless, Professor Murphy emphasizes the faith in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Hague, which he classified as an example of ad hoc transnational arbitration. The PCA, establishing a standing court, is an organization with 85 members, and it maintains a list of highly qualified arbitrators. It is able to involve itself in peace-making proceedings.

Recognising that there is now a global environmental crisis that threatens all the major ecosystems of the planet; and recognising that the international community has an obligation, as the stewards of global natural resources, to preserve and protect those resources and all other species from further pollution, contamination and extinction; Recognising that the right to a healthy, pollution-free environment is a fundamental human right; Recognising that there is an urgent need for the establishment of an International Court of the Environment to resolve transnational and international environmental disputes and to preserve global ecosystems; and Recognising that such a court is intended to be complementary to a national and regional compliance, enforcement and judicial systems. It is therefore resolved that:

1. There is an urgent need for the immediate establishment of an International Environmental Court to resolve transnational and international disputes in environmental matters, and thereby to conserve and protect human health, the environment and all species from further degradation and extinction.

2. There is a fundamental human right to a healthy environment that should be protected through the establishment of an International Environmental Court.

3. Until an International Court of the Environment is established with mandatory jurisdiction, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (the Hague) should be the competent judicial institution for the settlement of disputes by using its flexible mechanisms of fact finding/inquiry commissions, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration, according to its set rules of procedures.

4. Until an International Court of the Environment is established, jurisdiction for environemental crimes should fall with the competence of the International Criminal Court, and the ICC should extend the scope of its statute to include crimes against the environment by adopting the approach of the International Law (to need a new RIK) in its draft on State Responsibility.
R

eports prepared in 1998 by the Aus-

tralian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource

Economics (ABARE) and BIS Shrapnel for the Regional Forest Agree-

ment (RFA) show that out of the total volume of logs produced from the clearfelling of Western Australia’s old growth forests, only a tiny fraction ends up as ‘value added’ timber products.

1. Karri

Less than 2% of the total volume of karri logs removed from the forest becomes ‘value added’ timber products. In the year 1996/97, 351,000 m³ of karri logs were produced from public land, almost entirely from clearfelling of old growth forest. Of the 190,000 m³ that remained as ‘value added’ timber, 10% became ‘value added’ sawn timber; 0.04% became ‘value added’ sawn timber. Marri is a magnificent tree and a beautiful timber, but because CALM has a contract to supply Westernmark Bunnings with 680,000 tonnes of chiplogs every year, thousands of old growth marri trees that should be left standing are felled, used for fine wood products, are instead turned into low grade woodwork.

2. Jarrah

In 1996/97, 870,000 m³ of jarrah logs were produced through the logging of about 20,000 ha of public jarrah forest. Of the jarrah logs produced, 16% (90,000 m³) became ‘value added’ timber; 4% (58,000 m³) became structural timber; 22% (125,000 m³) was used as charcoal; Most of the remaining 52% ended up as firewood, sawdust and waste. This means that just 4.5 m³ of ‘value added’ jarrah sawn timber were produced per hectare of jarrah forest logged. Westfarmers Brun-

nings, a leading Australian logging con-

cern, and CALM are now concentrating on developing of international markets for ‘value added’ jarrah, using misleading advertising to sell jarrah as a sustainably produced timber.

3. Marri

In 1996/97, 457,000 m³ of marri logs were produced from clearfelling public old growth karri-marri and jarrah-marri forest. Of this, 99% become woodchips, exported to Japan by Westfarmers Bunnings, and also jarrah-charcoal logs and other low grade com-
mmodity products. For example, about 10,000 m³ per year of first grade jarrah and karri sawn timber are used by railway builders. About 70% of WA roofs are still being constructed using native hardwood; Of the hardwood timber, about 60-70% is used in the roof trusses. Plantation softwood could and should replace all this timber.

Most Western Australians want old growth forests protected and a sustainable timber industry with secure jobs. According to CALM, there is less than 10% of the original old growth forest left. Most of that is available for logging and it is rapidly running out. Most Western Australians believe that the Government should let the timber industry workers do their job and that the remaining old growth forest can be protected. That is why the old growth forest is the best bargaining chip for people involved in the native for-
est timber industry. When it is gone, there will be no options, even fewer jobs, and, based on past experience, little help for workers of communities from the Gov-

ernment or the big timber companies.

As part of the Regional Forest Agree-
mist, the Commonwealth and State Governments promised funds to retain workers and restructure industry. Over the past three years they have already allocated $257.6 million in three states. However, these funds are being ignored by the Western Australia Region-
al Forest Agreement process. Those in charge of the process want people to believe that we cannot have old growth forests as well as jobs. This simply is not true! The Government must help those people and communities who could be affected by the transition to a sustainable timber industry based mainly on planta-
tions.

In their efforts to re-direct the Region-
al Forest Agreement process, campaign-
gers propose:

› The genuine options still available in the South-West must be fully explored.
› These include protection of old growth forest, rapid transfer of most timber pro-
duction to existing plantations, and devel-
opment of local processing of the planta-
tion resource.
› The Government must use the funds promised for structural adjustment to help workers and communities adjust to change. These funds must be used now, while they are available.

Says Beth Schultz, from the Conserva-
tion Council of Western Australia: “WA should transfer wood produc-
tion from old-growth forests to plantations right now, and there is no good reason why we can’t. WA has over 90,000 hectares of softwood plantations. These resources could be used to replace native forest sawlogs starting now. People in the northern hemisphere have been using soft-
wood for millennia because it is readily available - there are industries round the world based entirely on softwood, which can be substituted for hardwood for most purposes. Softwood is often preferable to hardwood because it weight less and is easier to work. Australians, who in the past have used hardwood almost exclu-
sively, are increasingly using softwood.

As the Executive Director of CALM is reported to have told timber merchants, WA will soon have massive volumes of softwood sawlogs coming on stream. We must prepare now to use them to maxi-
mum advantage for W.A.

Those with a vested interest in the con-
tinued logging of WA’s native forests deliberately downplay the size and signifi-
cance of WA’s softwood plantation resource. The current native forest-based timber industry relies almost entirely on old-growth forests and will therefore come to an end in the foreseeable future. Old-growth forest logging is in fact a mining operation, and the commercially exploitable resource is now almost exhausted. Because of the very slow growth rates of WA’s native forest trees, the impacts of deforestation and water-
logging in the jarrah forests and fungal diseases in the karri forests, and the adverse effects of climate change caused by the advanced Greenhouse effect, claims that native forests are a ‘renewable’ source of timber are grossly misleading.

Tree-crops are the only sustainable source of timber and other wood product require-
ments.

Apart from the ethical imperative to protect the remaining old-growth forests, it is obvious they are of much more value to Western Australians than as woodchips, charcoal and sawn timber. Reason and common sense demand that Western Australia begin right now to make a rapid transfer from native forests to existing plantations, which can already supply virtually all our timber needs as South Australia’s plantations have been doing for that State for many years.”
forests in Western Australia

Why do the locals oppose logging

We oppose woodchipping because it destroys the forests we all love. Every day at least three trains, each with at least 20 wagons full of woods chips, pass through Balingup on their way to be exported from Bunbury. This has happened every week of every year since 1976. Over 10 million tonnes of karri and marri trees have been exported as woods chips.

“Clearfelling is the only way to get enough woods chips to satisfy the voracious woodchip industry. Every tree in a forest area is felled, then the logged area is burnt. 1500 to 2500 hectares of karri/marri forest is clearfelled in WA every year. This is mostly old-growth forest. We have only about 125,000 hectares of old-growth karri/marri left, including national parks. We cannot afford to lose anymore.”

“Clearfelling kills up to 90% of the native birds and animals that lived in the clearfelled forest. It destroys their habitat and food supply. In particular it destroys old trees with hollows, which take up to 300 years to develop. Without these, 20 species of native mammals and 31 species of native birds cannot survive. Clearfelling is therefore contributing to the extinction of our unique native birds and animals.

“It is claimed woodchipping provides jobs. Yet it employs only about 2.5% of the forest-based timber industry work force in WA although it gets more than half the logs. It competes with small, efficient, labour-intensive sawmills by taking karri and marri logs they could use.

“Woodchipping takes jobs away from the tourist and berekipping industries, which depend on old-growth forest. Old-growth forests are becoming so rare in the world that they draw tourists from everywhere. It is also claimed woodchipping just uses ‘waste’ left over from the sawn timber industry. This is not true. CALM’s figures show that 85% of the wood produced from clearfelled karri/marri forest ends up as woodchips. Now jarrah/marri forest is left over from the sawn timber industry. This is not true. CALM’s figures show that 85% of the wood produced from clearfelled karri/marri forest ends up as woodchips. Now jarrah/marri forest is clearfelled in WA every year. This is mostly old-growth forest. We have only about 125,000 hectares of old-growth karri/marri left, including national parks. We cannot afford to lose anymore.”

“Clearfelling is therefore contributing to the extinction of our unique native birds and animals.

“Indeed, woodchipping is turning our beautiful, ancient, native forests into immature even-aged regrowth, lacking the huge variety of animal, plant and insect life that has developed over thousands of years.”

Conservation Council of WA, WA Forest Alliance, Wilderness Society (WA)

Western Australians not pleased

Polling company AMR: Quantum Harris conducted 400 telephone interviews from the 29th to the 30th of June 1998 on the subject of old growth forests. This is a summary of their report.

- 79% of respondents disapproved of the logging of old growth forests.
- 83% of respondents disapproved of old growth forest being used for woodchipping.
- 57% of respondents gave the State Government a low rating for providing both credible and reliable information about old growth forests, which is even lower than the logging company Westfarmers Binnings (45%).
- 48% of respondents did not know which company was involved in logging old growth forests in WA. 45% of respondents believed it was Binnings.
- 33% of respondents believed that their view of Westfarmers was not being raised awareness and support the efforts being made to preserve a unique resource of our planet.

The Western Australian 'Regional Forest Agreement'

Despite many concerned people having spoken out against a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process, the Court and Howard governments appear determined to sign an RFA before Christmas. This commitment to destroy half of Western Australia’s remaining old growth forest ignores the wishes of most Western Australians who want to save what little is left. However, until the RFA is signed, they still have a chance of stopping it.

The main problems

- WA has less than 10% of its pre-European old-growth forests left. WA RFA will clearfell and woodchip half of this over the next 20 years.
- From the outset, CALM controlled the process. CALM, an industry body, receives 30% of its income from the sale of logs from old growth forests. This created a conflict of interest that has driven CALM to abort the RFA process.
- Although 76% of Western Australians support logging old growth forests, the RFA process has refused to consider this option. Plantations, the sustainable alternative to logging old growth forests have also been ignored.

Employment and Forests

In 1970, direct employment in the native forest timber industry stood at approximately 4,500 people. In 1997, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and answers to questions in Parliament, direct employment in the native forest timber industry stood at 2,800, which represents less than 3% of the total South West employment. Although the native forest-based timber industry is still an important, albeit declining, employer, companies such as tourism, plantation management, floriculture, agriculture and viticulture make a more significant contribution to the economic profile of the South West.

According to recent reports, there are 1,520 people employed in the plantation-based timber industry. Based on existing resources, employment in the plantation sector could double over the next five years. It has been shown that the full growth potential of the plantation-based industry is being inhibited by an array of financial, political and corporate policies that are designed to favour the native forest timber industry.

Over the last 20 years, tourism has been booming in the South West region and is considered to have enormous growth potential. Tourism employment in the South West currently stands at about 10,000. Nature-based tourism is amongst the fastest growing parts of the industry (30% per annum) and that protecting the region’s remaining old growth forests is vital to provide ‘resource security’ for the tourism industry. The response of the government and the RFA can be summed up as follows: “There is no data for WA which supports the contention that protection of old growth forests will provide quantifiable employment and economic benefits.”

The RFA process continues to provide misleading and incomplete information about employment, and continues to downplay or overlook the employment contribution, needs and opportunities of most forest-using industries in the South West other than logging and mining.

The solutions

- The WA Forest Alliance ‘WAFA PROPOSAL’ is a visionary and positive plan for our forest-dependent industries. It shows how we can have jobs and keep our old growth forests.
- Recently, the Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development conducted an inquiry into the RFA. Its unanimous all-party report recommended that CALM be replaced as the RFA control body. The RFA process be reformed. Conservation groups support these recommendations and urge the government to implement them.

How we were alerted

In a letter calling for international support, an Australian friend of BIO, Janet Graham, describes the destruction of the last 10% of the unique and irreplaceable ancient old growth of forests of Western Australia.

“Our state government and a government body called CALM (Conservation and Land Management) and a very large company called Westfarmers Binnings are determined to destroy the last remaining areas of old growth forest to be logged and clear felled for the next 20 years in what is called a Regional Forest Agreement. The clear felling is carried out in three stages of the forest and no tree is left standing, and what is so devastating is when you see an 800 year old tree felled needlessly and left to rot. Fifty people stood on the stump and there was room for more.”

“Our unique wild life is facing extinction, parrots that mate for life and nest in hollows that have taken 100 years to evolve are losing their habitat trees. Mammals also rely heavily on the hollows of trees and the forest floor that only nature can provide for their survival.

The majority of our trees feed a hungry Japanese market in the form of woods chips and is a very lucrative market. Our State Government is very much aware about the concerns Western Australians have about their continued unsustainable forestry policies that have caused so much concern.”

Despite the incredibly dedicated people living in the forests who have sacrificed their home communities, family and jobs to stop the continued logging and also face prosecution from the law, despite the lobbying to preserve the forests of powered business people and people of all ages, the efforts are falling on deaf ears.

We provide the information sent to us, in order to raise awareness and support the efforts being made to preserve a unique resource of our planet.
Waging war on environmental destruction

Extinction no longer belongs to the distant past. It is becoming a reality. We are endangering the fragile gift of life on our planet. Defense protocols should exist to save life, not destroy it. Environmental abuse is unacceptable. Waging war against it is the main priority in order for civilization to evolve into the future, is leadership with vision that unites and does not divide.

Defense protocols should exist to save life, not destroy it

An organisation like NATO has a key role to play in this context. By evaluating satellite functionalities, it could develop methods for the defense of the environment and of our cultural heritage. It can apply its resources to help save our world from extinction. In fact, NATO has the know-how and the priority to set the environment and security of the world as top priorities. It should gradually transform weapons from vehicles of death to vehicles of protection. It should use the knowledge and experience gained in the last 50 years to preserve the environment and safeguard the rights of future generations.

The technological achievements of today once sounded utopian. Not more than a few decades ago, who could possibly envision that satellites would transform instantaneously transmit information all over the world or that computers would fit in the palm of our hand? By the same token, why can’t we use armoured vehicles to clean up areas affected by nuclear radiation, war planes to drop seeds instead of bombs and destroyers to rid the oceans of toxic waste? The technology and the know-how already exist. Defense budgets need not be reduced. Businesses could profit, economies could flourish, all by focusing on the application of current defense technology in environmental protection. With war, nothing more is achieved than the destruction of life, our most precious possession. We cannot afford to lose any more time. The next swing of the pendulum must be in the direction of hope, light and progress.

The environment constitutes the single most powerful unifying force for the world as a whole. It is a timeless less concept that merits the utmost concern and attention. It recognizes no ideological boundaries, ethnicities or religions. It sees no difference between the “rich” and the “poor,” the healthy and the diseased.

The pursuit of international cooperation through specific programs of action for the protection and survival of life (bios), will enhance understanding among nations and will inevitably lead to international peace and security.

We should all embark on a mission: that of war against environmental destruction. Defense for life should become the new development strategy for the millennium. Employment opportunities will abound, areas of death and destruction will be revived, quality of life will be improved on a global level and our children will not inherit a dying planet. It is our fundamental responsibility to safeguard this new vision.

Speech delivered by the BIO President, Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, at the NATO 50th Anniversary Conference in Athens, March 20, 1999.

Euro-American Women’s Council
Hotel Grande Bretagne, Athens, 4-6 May 1999

During the 4th Annual Conference of the Euro-American Women’s Council, titled “Moving Technology, Energy and Environment (Biopolitics) in the New Millennium,” a round table discussion on “Biopolitics - the Bio-Environmental New Renaissance in Business” was organised by the BIO. The round table was chaired by Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis and featured distinguished supporters and sponsors of the BIO as guest speakers: Belisario Capocci, President of the Hellenic-Italian Chamber of Commerce; John Tear, President of the Hellenic Foreign Trade Board; Dimitris Randopoulos, General Manager of Zeneca Hellas S.A. and President of the Hellenic-Chamber of Commerce; and, Michael Pagidas, General Manager of SC Johnson & Son Hellas S.A. and President of the Union of Chief Executive Officers.

Biotech - Environmental Management - Business Opportunities

The special emphasis of the event was to provide the environment with the core of every business activity, stressing the importance of BioTech, the implementation of environmental management schemes, and the limitless business opportunities the environment offers. The BIO has set as one of its fundamental goals international co-operation in the protection of bios (life) and the bio-environment, and awards prizes as an honour to this cause and to the bio-environment. It is in this aspect that our interest lies. The Olympic Ideal has a double function: a spiritual one, concerning the universe itself, the earth, and an athletic one based on the concept of sportsmanship.

We move on to the implementation of the fundamental spiritual principle of the Olympic Idea: the three basic symbolic messages of the chips which are included in the spirit of the Olympic Games:

1. The prize awarded to the winners of the Recent Olympic Games was an olive wreath. The olive tree is a symbol of the peaceful coexistence not only of humans but also of humans and the environment. This reconciliation is very important and only through it can we achieve peace among the peoples of the world.

2. During the opening ceremony, doves are released to fly to the sky to transfer the message of peace to the world. This message travels faster and higher, towards elevated values of the human bios and is able to touch and unite peoples to transmit the inherent value of the human beings.

3. Olympic Light. During the opening ceremony, the Olympic Flame is lit. This Flame from the holy land of Olympia, mystic and purifying, remains lit day and night throughout the Olympic Games. Like a lighthouse, it spreads the beauty, grandeur and truth of humanity. It is the symbol of the human spirit and points to the importance of cease-fire.

From the above three symbols, I think it is obvious why we believe that the Olympic Ideal can be summarized in the universal value of cease-fire as peace among peoples and as the reconciliation of humans and the environment. The aspects of both the biological and the spiritual view of the BIOS are represented in the personality and achievements of Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis.

In conclusion, with the aid of the remarkable advancement of technology, has succeeded in surpassing the relatively inferior animal kingdom, then we should also deal with our fellow human beings within a unified psychosomatic order and should consider the planet as a habitat to be respected. Then we will have reached the deeper meaning of the ancient Greek spirit and culture and we will have achieved the transition towards the life-giving values of the deep ecology of the ancient Greek philosophers, whose symbolic and ceremonial realization constituted the essence of the Olympic Games in antiquity.

In response, Dr. Vlavianos-Arvanitis thanked the President, the organizing committee and Dr. Thomaidou and added:

At such moments, one is at a loss for words. Only the heartbeat and maybe the light of Greece make sense. I think tonight is a very special evening, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the introduction, which I am not sure I deserve. I would very much like to live up to all the ideals and noble thoughts we have for the future.

As I was returning from a short trip to the Aegean, where I was trying to read and soak up the sun and the sound of each wave that broke on the shore, the words of the Headmaster at my high school came to mind. We were studying Antigone and as we started reading he remarked: “We have ears and do not hear, we have eyes and do not see.” When we completed the analysis of the text and read it over, we realized how wise these words had been.

Unfortunately, as humans in today’s society we have ears and do not hear and we have eyes and do not see. We share the gift of box, we share the great joy and the most precious possession, which, if combined with the light that shines from Olympia, can penetrate our very existence. When we show respect for this gift and feel its unifying force bring us closer to all forms of life, we can acknowledge the great responsibility we have as humans to protect and safeguard it for the generations to come. The responsibility is deep. It is a very Greek and at the same time a very international responsibility. The meaning of “athlos” (achievement) cannot remain restricted to the achievements of the body. It encompasses achievements that come from every effort. It professional can be considered as having a second class employment. The Olympic Spirit with its unifying light, and the values thereof, can unite all peoples. It can radiate as a message of peace and joy, along with the realization of our responsibility to protect the gift of bios on our planet. It can become a beacon of hope that will allow the gift of bios to continue on our planet and grant us immeasurable joy and elevation in the realization of possessing this precious endowment.
Bios Olympiad Conference

Bio-Environment - Bio-Culture / Olympic Values for the New Millennium
International Olympic Academy in Ancient Olympia, August 20-22, 1999

The BIO organised a major conference themed “Bio-Environment-Bio-Culture: Values for the New Millennium” at the International Olympic Academy in Ancient Olympia on August 20-22. The aim of this initiative was to convene leaders and decision-makers to discuss the concept of “cultural Olympiads” within the framework of environmental preservation and appreciation.

The Olympic Games, held in Greece for centuries, constituted important political and cultural events, promoting a unifying vision of peace, kinship and reconciliation. Currently, the Olympics, though a symbol of world peace and hope, award medals only for physical prowess. Modernly, the concept of athletics has become synonymous with sports and feats of the body. Yet we should be reminded that the word athlos, means achievement. Therefore, the term athletics encompasses all possible achievements of humanity, whether physical or intellectual. It is thus imperative that the concept retains its original significance and become redefined on the basis of a new system of values.

Conference participants included a plethora of eminent personalities from the Greek and international community, who addressed the political, technological and cultural challenges and opportunities of our times.

In the quest for these new millennial values, a revival of the ancient Olympic spirit can contribute unity and harmony to the development of every aspect of human endeavour. Knowledge of the past and a diachronic perspective are crucial to the building of a harmonious future. Olympia, a beacon of civilization, can provide the inspiration for the dissemination of an optimistic vision of hope on a global level. The gift of bios on our planet must be maintained, and future generations are entitled to receive a clean environment and a peaceful sharing of bio-culture. Cease-fire is vital in this context, and since its inception in 1985 the BIO has been actively promoting cease-fire during the Olympics as a vehicle for peace. This BIO initiative has also been adopted by the United Nations resolution.

Programme

Conference Sponsors
Hellenic Ministry of Development
Hellenic Ministry of Culture
Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
General Secretariat of Greeks Abroad
Prefecture of Ileia
Local Union of Ileia Municipalities and Communities
Municipality of Ancient Olympia
Municipality of Zacharo
Municipality of Ano Liosia
Aldemanes Hotels - Olympian Village
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OPAP

Opening Ceremony
Dr. Agis Vlavianos-Arvanitis, President and Founder of the BIO and President of the Conference. H.E. the Metropolitan of Ileia Mr. Germanos

Panagiotis Dimitrakopoulos, Prefect of Ileia
Dionysios Baloulous, President, Union of Communities and Municipalities of Ileia, Mayor of Skillounta
Anna Karamanou, Member of the European Parliament
Dimitris Georgakopoulos, MP of Ileia
Vassilis Korkolopoulos, MP of Ileia
Professor Arza Jagangue, Federal Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Bonn-Herzegowina
George Asimos, Mayor of Ancient Olympia
Antonios Teikas, President, Foundation for Olympic and Athletic Education
Anastas Dimitropoulos, President, Organizing Committee
Dimitrios Makrides, President, Olympic Idea Association

Roundtable on regional policy
Olympic values and local administration
Takis Antonakopoulos, Deputy Prefect of Ileia
George Aidonis, Mayor of Ancient Olympia
Haralampos Delgas, Mayor of Allafira
Ioannis Likeris, Mayor of Amaliada
Dimitrios Kagefaris, Mayor of Andivandra
George Spondros, Mayor of Archaia
Stephanos Adas, Mayor of Vatholomio
Constantine Verras, Mayor of Vourasoria
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Athanasios Christopoulos, Mayor of Gastouni
Vassilios Kouris, Mayor of Castro-Kyllini

Aristomenis Kritselis, Mayor of Zacharo
Stephanos Papapantelopoulos, Mayor of Lambeia
Dionysios Bouzalas, Mayor of Larnia
Dimitris Hatzivanis, Mayor of Lechaina
Nikolaos Nikolopoulos, Mayor of Pyna
Gabriel Liatsis, Mayor of Pyrgos
Nikolaos Estathiou, Mayor of Tragnano
Ioannis Pipalis, Mayor of Phagiela
Theodoros Papapili, Mayor of Foioi
Ioannis Papagou, Mayor of Olene
George Varias, President of the Prefecture Council
Angelos Angelopoulos, Member of the Prefecture Council
Constantine Lambros, Member of the Prefecture Council
Vassilis Dikaionalkos, Scientific Consultant, Regional Energy Centre of the Peloponnese
Theology and the bio-environment
God, Creator of all, and the behaviour of humans towards creation. H.E. the Metropolitan of Ileia Mr. Germanos

Bio-diplomacy
Irwam Abidin, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Holy See

Manuel Bonnet, Ambassador of Colombia
Milan Dubcek, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic
David Jacobs, Ambassador of South Africa
Yuryi Sergeyev, Ambassador of Ukraine
Andreas Zaimis, f. General Secretary of Greeks Abroad
George Tsipris, Naval Officer, President of the World Federation of Ileians
Panayiotis Economou, Ambassador, f. General Secretary, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Katy Triizkosta, President, UNESCO Centre for Women and Peace in the Balkans

Andreas Dimitropoulos, President, National Research Centre for Environment and energy technology.

New Technologies
Professor Stamatis Alahiotis, f. General Secretary of Greeks Abroad
Professor Andreas Papagou, University of Patras

Culture and Olympic values. Professor Adamantios Pepelasis, President, Lambrakis Research Foundation

Constitutional rights - evolutionary trends in the coming century. The importance and role of the foundation of the Olympic University. Professor Andreas Dimitropoulos, University of Athens

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Bios Olympiad in St. Petersburg

President of the Conference
Dr. Agni Vardinoyannis-Arvanitis, Founder and President of B.I.O.

Honorary Committee

Antonios Tzikas
President, Foundation for Olympic and Athletic Education, Greece

Yuri Temirkhanov
Director of the Symphony Orchestra of St. Petersburg

Professor Pavel Sarkisov
Rector D.I. Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia

Professor Vladimir Babeshko
Rector, Kuban State University

Organising Committee

Professor Otto Terentiev
Rector, St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers

Professor Alexander Shishkin
St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers

Anatoly Konstantinov
General Secretary, Union of Russian Artists

Speakers
(listed alphabetically by country and name)

Professor Bernard Feltz, Centre for the Philosophy of Science, Institute of Philosophy, Belgium

George Kremils, Head of Judicial and Legislative Affairs, Community Law, European Commission DG XI, Belgium

Mira Agić, GEA Group of Environmental Activities, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Mehmed Cero, Deputy Minister for Physical Planning and Environmental Protection, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Ramiz Mehemedagic, Federal Minister of Physical Planning and Environmental Protection, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Jakov Pahar, President, Management Board, GEA Group of Environmental Activities, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Fahruddin Rizanbegovic, Federal Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Jean Louis Fragonard, President, UNA Congo

Sanjin Dragojevic, Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Jaakko Henttonen, Director, Central and East European Co-operation, Environmental Protection Department Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Eero Palohéimo, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland

Hilkka Pietila, Honorary President, WFUNA, Finland

Dr. Sonja Servomaa, Head of Training, International Programme, Lahti Research and Training Centre, University of Helsinki, Finland

Leena Voutilainen, Project Secretary, Central and East European Co-operation, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Uršula Schleicher, Vice President of the European Parliament, Germany

Professor Udo E. Simonis, Science Centre Berlin, Germany

Bennard Kwami Kuma, Honorary President, WFUNA, Ghana

Constantine Kanonis, Alternate General Manager, Commercial Bank of Greece, Greece

H.E. Dimitris Kypraios, Ambassador of Greece in Moscow, Greece

John Tzen, Minister Plenipotentiary of Economic and Commercial Affairs, Greece Embassy in Belgrade, Greece

Antonios Tzikas, President, Foundation for Olympic and Athletic Education, Greece

Ketty Tzitzikostas, President, UNESCO Centre for Women and Peace in the Balkans, Greece

Fode Lunceny Camara, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Guinea

Ambassador Irawn Ahidin, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to the Holy See, Indonesia

Charles G. Vella, Fondazione Centro S. Raffaele del Monte Tabor, Ufficio Relazioni Sociali, Italy

Dr. Vitalali Gulca, Moldova

Dambur Bir Thapa, Secretary General, United Nations Association of Nepal

Chief Feni Kila, Julius Berger Nigeria PLC, Nigeria

Professor Jan Dobrowolski, Academy of Sciences, Poland

Professor Vladimír A. Babeshko, Rector, Kuban State University, Russia

Professor Henrich Denisov, Vice President, International Academy of Ecology, Man and Nature Protection Sciences

Valery Grishin, I. Director of Press, Russia

Professor S.P. Kapitza, Institute for Atmospheric Physics, Russia

Professor Victor Rogalev, Director, State Hermitage Museum, Russia

Professor Otto Terentiev, Rector, St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, Russia

Dr. Yuri Volken, Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Russia

Professor Genadny A. Yagodin, Rector, International University, Russia

Ambassador Afamasaga Toleafoa, Member of Parliament, Samoa

Professor Seong Chee Tham, B.I.O. Trustee, Singapore

Dr. John Hanks, Executive Director, The Peace Parks Foundation, South Africa

Ambassador Kai Falkman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Professor Rusen Koç, Director of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Political Sciences, Ankara University, Turkey

Dr. Stanislav I. Sokolenko, Chairman of the Board UKRIMPEX Joint Stock Company, Ukraine

Metropolitan of Boston Methodios, USA
We live in an age where the state of a nation’s wealth is evaluated increasingly upon economic factors such as stock market performance and shrinking budget deficits. The booming United States economy will have a budget surplus running into trillions of dollars next year, while even in countries with weaker economies millions of working class people are investing in shares in runaway stock markets. Around the world it seems as if the good times will never end, but for the life forms threatened by this unprecedented spurt of economic growth, the good times ended a long time ago.

The real wealth is life itself

The protection of the environment and of the life that prospers within it are low on the list of priorities for near-sighted decision-makers, demonstrating just how they are missing the point: that the real wealth on our planet is in the sheer breadth, richness and beauty of the plants and animals whose species are quietly reduced every year by our hunger to feed material desires that have grown out of all proportion to our needs.

Real wealth is comprised of the wild birds of Colombia, the hundreds of tribes in the Amazon and the sheer biodiversity that can be enjoyed in even the smallest untainted environment until human arrogance threatens its continuity.

One of the ways propounded by the BIO to preserve this wealth of life on our planet is Genetic Banks, which preserve the genetic material of endangered plant and animal species and thereby protect the enormous wealth and diversity of endemic wildlife. If BIO succeeds in its aims to introduce a more biocentric vision into a planet currently subservient to the existing anthropocentric system, the extent of biodiversity will in the future be a real indicator of wealth on our planet. Saving biodiversity means saving life, something ultimately more important than all the shares in the world put together.

Focus on Biodiversity

Genetic Banks can save the wealth of biodiversity

Zero Emissions Research Initiative congress in Colombia

The BIO President will participate as an honorary speaker at the Vth ZERI (Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives) World Congress and at the First Zero Emissions International Youth Congress which will be held October 11-15, 1999, in Bogota, Colombia. Eminent BIO Trustee and President of the Manizales Chamber of Commerce, Professor Mario Calderon Rivera, is one of the distinguished organisers of this major initiative.

The ZERI concept was designed and started by the Belgian Economist Gunter Pauli, at the United Nations University in Tokyo. It represents a deep change in the linear concept about knowledge virtually applied to development. More than two hundred distinguished guests, scientists, presidents, business people and scholars from around the world, together with more than four thousand students from Colombian and other universities, will participate in the Congress, which will be held in the Colombian Coffee Region, (Caldas, Risalda, Quindio). Its objectives are to study and develop the potential of the Coffee Region, to study pilot projects on Zero Emissions concepts to be used as models of employment generation, poverty decrease, control of pollution and improvement of quality of life, to increase co-operation in research through the creation of a network of research and information, to make ZERI a collective project in a politic-economic order with high social impact in a national and international field, and to look for new elements in biodiversity to add value to and generate new options for sustainable development.

The opening ceremony will feature speakers such as the Secretary General of the UN, the Director General of UNESCO, the Minister of the Environment of Colombia, Professors Keto Mshigeni, Dr. Lester Brown and Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo.
Mstislav Rostropovich

Mstislav Rostropovich has been justly celebrated throughout the world as a cellist, pianist, and conductor. He has created a legacy of performances, recordings and new compositions that will enrich future generations for centuries. Yet this world famous musician said in a speech at the first Bios Prize award ceremony that Jacques Cousteau had taught him music, because he had helped him to hear the rhythm of life.

No less noteworthy are his efforts as a humanitarian and human rights activist. It was his actions in support of human rights that led him and his family from the U.S.S.R. into exile in the West in 1974, where he not only continued, but actually accelerated his humanitarian activities. He supported his beliefs in freedom and human rights and was present at many historic events related to the fall of the Iron Curtain at the beginning of the 1990’s. When the Berlin Wall came down, Rostropovich was there playing his cello in celebration.

When the last tank left Czechoslovakian soil, Rostropovich gave a concert as a token of joy at their liberation. In 1993, Rostropovich directed the National Symphony Orchestra of the United States, in the first orchestral concert ever held on the Red Square.

Rostropovich’s activities have not all been political. The question of adequate health care - particularly for children - has always been near to his heart and he has led groups of musicians in helping to build facilities and equip children’s hospitals in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Numerous other organisations and thousands of patients have been served by his efforts. Rostropovich’s generosity has also helped victims of disasters by giving concerts to provide relief for the victims of the Armenian earthquake of 1988 and of the Chernobyl disaster.

Our souls need nourishing as well as our bodies, and Rostropovich has performed concerts in the tiniest of villages throughout Russia, Japan and other countries. He has contributed his musical prowess to benefit schools of music and ballet, has participated in counteless festivals, and has given numerous performances that benefited everything from master classes that keep children off the street to concerts providing funds for research. These activities are all part of the Rostropovich legacy.

In addition, Rostropovich’s concerts have gone to support the well-being of other species that share our world. The World Wildlife Foundation and CITES have been the recipients of his efforts. Several endangered species - whales, elephants and others - have earned a respite because of his action.

Rostropovich’s musical talents have not only enriched the world’s cultural legacy, but have benefited all on our planet for generations to come.

In our search for societal models, we should try to identify the top of the pyramid of each sector. Those peaks of success, ethic, talent and ingenuity will serve as an inspiration for all. The future can be more positive if we combine the contributions of both technology and the arts. It is this aspect of the Bios Prizes that is celebrated in Mstislav Rostropovich’s award. He stands at the peak of the pyramid of musicians and of the arts in general. With his music and his wonderful inspiration, he has conveyed to the world the message of bios appreciation. As an old friend of the Biopolitics International Organisation, he has participated in the Sakharov Festival and has shown his support of the BIO by engulfing in his music the biocentric ideals that the BIO proposes. Through the harmony of his cello, he reaches out to every member of the universe, to every living creature, as a source of light for the soul. This understanding of the interconnection among all living forms makes Rostropovich a leading member of our society and a distinguished BIO friend.

Women make a major contribution towards saving life. Since women give life, they understand and respect the sacred value of the precious gift of life. They tend to be more sensitive to environmental destruction, as they realise that the continuity of life is threatened. Aggression, destruction and arrogance seem to be the prototypes of success in today’s society. In order to challenge those standards, the concept of profit should change. Profit should mean saving the environment, appreciating life, ensuring good health, giving joy, sharing culture and creating inner wealth. The two pyramids of women and business people can share their own peak and have a common good not only through her business ventures but also through philanthropic sponsorships. She has been a member of the board of College Year in Athens, and is a member of the Presidents’ Club. She is a trustee of the BIO and a significant benefactor and sponsor, who has endorsed the BIO ideals from its very early years.

Kitty Kyriacopoulos is the embodiment of a “Renaissance Woman.” She has succeeded in all spheres of her life and lived up to her humanistic ideals in her business career, her family life and in making positive contributions to the cultural and educational life of her community and to the environment.

Born in Bucharest, Rumania, to one of the prominent families in the Greek community, Kitty Kyriacopoulos and her family came to Greece after World War II. Her father, George Ellipou- los, became the major shareholder of two mining companies, Bauxites Parnasse and Silver and Baryte. She was educated at Mount Holyoke College in the United States, in Physics and Mathematics. When her father passed away in 1970, leaving her as his only heir, she felt ill-prepared to take over the two mining companies. Although the challenge was, as she describes it, “terrifying,” she had been brought up to face challenges, so, having evaluated her strengths and weaknesses, she forged ahead. By using her innate common sense and hard work, she not only managed to keep the companies going but also to gain the confidence of their clients and to expand the activities and the turnover. Although it was unusual in those days for a woman to be running a business, she did not let that intimidate her and instead concentrated all her efforts on doing the job that needed to be done.

From the time she took over the management of both mining companies, Kitty Kyriacopoulos endeavored to set certain procedures that would secure solid foundations for the future of the business and create, above all, a company culture based on family ethical values and traditions. Along with satisfying clients and ensuring financial soundness, she implemented corporate goals that were inspired by certain ethical obligations - to reflect the human factor, to show a sensitivity to the environment and to make a social contribution especially in the area of company operations. Under her leadership of two decades both companies prospered so that when she handed over the management to her son their turnover had increased nine fold that of 1970.

Kitty Kyriacopoulos has been a model for the business world of proving that ethical management that is in harmony with the world and the environment is good business. She has made major contributions to the common good not only through her business ventures but also through philanthropic sponsorships. She has been a member of the board of College Year in Athens, and is a member of the Presidents’ Club. She is a trustee of the BIO and a significant benefactor and sponsor, who has endorsed the BIO ideals from its very early years.
Anton Rupert

Through-out his life, Dr. Anton Rupert has played the role of an “Advocate of Hope.” Both in his business activities and in his work to conserve African wildlife, his philosophy has expressed an optimism and a faith in the world and in mankind. He believes that one can win trust only by showing trust and that while trust may be a risk, to mistrust is an even greater risk and may lead to disaster.

He is the current Chairman of the Peace Parks Foundation which he was instrumental in establishing. While the idea of peace parks is not new, the idea of using them on a large scale not only to conserve threatened wildlife but also as a solution to the underlying economic problems that threaten southern Africa certainly is. Since its inception in 1997, the Peace Parks Foundation has been hugely successful, offering a vision for the future of Africa which will preserve its unique biological diversity and benefit the people of the region economically through the development of ecotourism.

The Peace Parks Foundation is an international partnership which promotes transfrontier wildlife conservation areas – “peace parks“ - environmental tourism and job creation in Southern Africa. At the heart of the problem of preserving wildlife has been widespread poverty which often leaves people with few alternatives but to destroy the very resource base on which their survival depends. Realising this fact, the peace parks have sought to address not only the accelerating loss of biological diversity but also to find solutions to the root causes of rising unemployment and poverty and the invertebrate civil unrest across international boundaries.

Key to the success of the Peace Parks Foundation has been trans-frontier co-operation brought about through years of diplomatic effort by Anton Rupert. Working with the local communities who have traditionally been excluded from all aspects of wildlife management, the peace parks have made sure that people are not forcibly removed from the parks and that the communities are given opportunities to benefit from the parks. The organisational model for peace parks is closer to biosphere reserves (i.e., multiple land use strategies) than to traditional game parks.

Seeing it as a responsibility of today to preserve the natural environment for tomorrow, he has long encouraged and worked for conservation. He was the President of WWF-South Africa and chairman of the Historical Homes of South Africa Limited. He has received numerous awards for his contributions. He founded and is chairman of the Rembrandt Group of Companies which has played an important role in cultural fields, and has been active in social upliftment and the creation of economic opportunities.

Jakob von Uexkull

As a young man, Jakob von Uexkull felt that an effective response was needed to the great challenges now facing humanity. He decided to establish an award which would recognise the efforts of those who were tackling these issues directly with practical solutions to the problems of the pollution of our air, soil and water, the danger of nuclear war, the abuse of basic human rights, the destitution and misery of the poor and the overconsumption and spiritual poverty of the wealthy.

In 1980, he sold his holdings of rare postage stamps, most of his own personal wealth, to endow the Right Livelihood Awards, which are presented in the Swedish Parliament, on the day before the Nobel Prize ceremony. “Right Livelihood” is an ancient concept. It involves taking responsibility for the consequences of our actions and living “rightly” on the earth, not taking more than our fair share of the its resources. Awards are given in areas such as environmental protection and biodiversity, human rights and development, health, education, housing and technology.

Born in Uppsala, Sweden, he also holds German citizenship. He went to school in Sweden and Germany and then won a scholarship to Christ Church Oxford from where he graduated with an honours MA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He has worked as a writer and translator specializing in international and environmental issues, and is a professional philatelist and recognized authority on the postal history of Arabia.

Nominated repeatedly by the German Green Party for the European Parliament elections, he has served as a member of the European Parliament, where he was on the Political Affairs and Science and Technology Committee. He was a member of the Delegation for Relations with the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and of the Baltic Intergroup (1987-89).

Jakob von Uexkull is co-founder (1984) of The Other Economic Summit (TOES) and the founder of The Estonian Renaissance Award (1993). He is a Trustee of The New Economics Foundation (London), a patron of Friends of the Earth International and a member of the Global Commission to Fund the United Nations. He has served on the Board of Greenpeace, Germany, and is currently on the Council of Governance of Transparency International.

As a convinced “possibilist” and “concerned general-
The World of Politics...100 countries

Belgium

President H. Meysman, Member, Court of Justice of the European Communities

Colombia

Dr. F. Villalobos, Economist, Member of Parliament

Estonia

Professor E. Kõli, Tallinn Pedagogical Institute; S. Lõut, President, Estonian Children’s Fund

Ethiopia

Mr. H. M. Louhibi, Judge and Baryte Ores Mining Co.

Finland

Mr. J. Kondo, Actor, Director, J. Kondo, Judge, President, SIRMCE; Professor S. Gersaimov Tsvetkov

France

Professor G. Pontecorvo, Director, Albanian Institute for Nature Conservation; Professor H. Hanquet

Germany

H.E. the Ambassador of Germany Mr. H. M. Loubibi

Greece

Professor R. Martin Saravia, Councillor of the Federal Assembly; Professor S. Gersaimov Tsvetkov

Holland

Dr. A. T. Vleuten, Director, GreenTech Research; Dr. M. Lapka, Senior Scientist, Czech Centre for Social Research and Studies, Cairo University; Dr. Z. Derycke

India

Mr. H. M. Louhibi, Judge and Baryte Ores Mining Co.

Ireland

B. Suzkova-Manaskova, Director, Centre for Environmental Policy and Studies; Dr. J. Kondo

Italy

Dr. F. Villalobos, Economist, Member of Parliament

Japan

Dr. F. Villalobos, Economist, Member of Parliament

Jordan

Professor H. Hanquet

Korea

Professor A. Thorne, Journalist, Chicago University; Professor H. Hanquet

Kenya

Professor A. Thorne, Journalist, Chicago University; Professor H. Hanquet

Lithuania

Professor A. Thorne, Journalist, Chicago University; Professor A. Thorne

Luxembourg

Professor A. Thorne, Journalist, Chicago University; Professor H. Hanquet

Malaysia

Dr. B. Suzkova-Manaskova, Director, Centre for Environmental Policy and Studies; Dr. J. Kondo

Mali

H.E. the Ambassador of Mali Mr. H. M. Louhibi

Mexico

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Netherlands

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New Zealand

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Norway

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Peru

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Romania

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Russia

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Yugoslavia

Mr. H. M. Louhibi, Judge and Baryte Ores Mining Co.
The rich biodiversity of the Danube river has been the focus of four conferences organised by BIOPOLITICS.

Bio-economics
- Environmental Impact Assessment: a Tool for Sustainable Development - Prof. Aksu Redy, Vice-Recto for Scientific and Foreign Affairs, University of Veszprem, Hungary, and Professor Iivan Kiss, Head of the Department of Zoology, University of Veszprem, Hungary.
- Economic’s virtual Environment: True or False Dichotomy? - Valentine Milleniecovic, Adviser to the Minister of Environmental Protection, Republic of Serbia, Yugoslavia.


Bio-education
- Environmental and Legislative Biopolitics Regulations for Environmental Education - Professor Ioannis Tsakalis, Chairman of the Board, "Ukrinform", ISC, Ukraine.
- From a "Soviet" to a Consumer Society - Dr. Jaroslav Sokslikas, Adviser to the Minister of Environmental Protection, Czech Republic.

Bio-legislation
- International Environmental Law - Frits A. Kuijper, Director of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University, Turkey.

Globalization and Biocentric Values
- Globalisation Implications for Environmental Protection - Professor Seong Chee, Director of Multi-Disciplinary Studies, The National University of Singapore.
- Proofing for a World Environment and Development Organisation - Dr. Frank Schneiders, President of the International University, USA, and Professor Udo Simonis, Science Centre Berlin, Germany.

Bio-systems
- International Environmental Law - Frits A. Kuijper, Director of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University, Turkey.

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