



Linking the members of UNEP's Roll of Honour for Environmental Achievement

GLOBAL 500 UPDATES: 2001

Bebe Ajodha 1999 Laureate

One of our 1999 Laureates, Bebe Ajodha, has been awarded the Hummingbird medal, a national award in Trinidad and Tobago, for devoted service and loyalty in the field of environmental preservation. The medal was awarded to him on August 31st, 2000, Trinidad's Independence Day, by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, Bebe Ajodha has taken a position as a Board member of EMA and works on environmental projects at a policy and decision-making level. Bebe Ajodha also took a delegation of students to the Global Environment Convention in Lund, Sweden last June.

Researcher Denied Access to Park in Ghana

Controversy Deepens Over Proposed Construction of Bui Hydropower Dam

By Mike Anane 1998 Global 500 Laureate

Independent researcher and biologist Daniel Bennett of the University of Aberdeen in Great Britain recently arrived in Ghana but was denied permission to enter the Bui National Park, where a 400 Mw hydropower dam is to be constructed. Mr. Nick Ankudey, the Director of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission in Ghana, withdrew his permission for Bennett to conduct further research in the wake of an Internet controversy stemming from a Web site Mr. Bennett created. The Web site openly discusses some of the potential effects the dam will have on the endangered hippos living in the park. "The Director told me that the Bui hydropower dam and related issues are very sensitive and political and that my research and presence in the National Park was no longer in the national interest," Bennett disclosed. "There is nothing sinister about the content of my Web site. I have always emphasized that the area is the least understood natural wilderness in Ghana and (that) more research in the area is required." When asked for his comments on the issue, Mr. Ankudey simply said "I find Mr. Bennett's comments on his Web site unacceptable." When pressed further for an explanation, he stated, "I won't comment further. I have explained it to Mr. Bennett. Go and see him." Mr. Bennett contends that the Commission never provided any further explanation. "All that Mr. Ankudey told me was that he doesn't like my Web site and I cannot go to the Bui National Park as a



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researcher and I cannot even go there as a tourist. I have been coming to this country since 1994 to conduct research with the Wildlife Division. I enjoy working with them, I have fallen in love with this country.... I have no evil intentions, but suddenly no one at the department wants to talk to me, let alone give me permission to go to the national park. This is very strange and I am very sad and greatly disturbed." Reluctantly, Mr. Bennett created a petition but all higher offices recommended he comply with the Wildlife Division. Asked about his next line of action, a tearful Mr. Bennett said, "The Minister has spoken; (the) government supports the Wildlife Division's decision and does not want me to go into the national park to conduct the research. I can't comment on the issue any more, I just have to leave the country." Conservationists locally and internationally denounced the Wildlife Division's decision, which they described variously as "arbitrary, capricious, excessive, and unnecessary." One who preferred anonymity said, "It is ironic that the Wildlife Division in Ghana is preventing an independent researcher from conducting surveys on wildlife in the Bui National Park when the findings of the research will go to benefit the same Wildlife Division and the country."

According to the environmentalist, "In December 1998, the same Director of the Wildlife Division (Ankudey) gave Mr. Bennett approval to publish his work, the contents of which are no different from what is on his Web site. In January 1999, this same Director was full of praises for Bennett's work in the National Park, which he described as 'excellent and useful to the Wildlife Division.' The Director went on to say that Mr. Bennett and his group 'will continue to receive the division's unflinching support for future projects.'" Bennett originally conceived of and conducted the project because research on the animals of Bui National Park was scarce. "I am the only foreigner to have shown a non-commercial interest in the Bui Park in all 30 years of its existence. Our work there represents the only scientific report on the area published since the 1960s," he explained. Mr. Bennett has been conducting his research with the Ghana Wildlife Division since 1994. Between May and August 1997, he led a multinational team of 41 people surveying the diverse communities of animal groups found there. Mr. Bennett's Web Sites can be found at the following addresses: <http://hippo.50megs.com> <http://mampam.com>. Jesse Phelps was a contributor to this article.

Wild Animal Rescue Foundation Laureate Would Like to Hear From Other Laureates

Leonie Madgwick Vejjajiva 1994 Laureate

Leonie Madgwick Vejjajiva is one of our 1994 Global 500 laureates who is running a



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Wild Animal Rescue Foundation in Thailand, rescuing primarily monkeys. Leonie would like to hear from laureates with similar goals. In addition, Leonie has offered to provide a place to stay for any laureates who might be in Thailand and need accommodations. Leonie also offers advice on Southeast Asian fauna and can help others to establish similar wildlife rescue operations. Leonie can be reached by mail at Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand, 235 Sukhumvit 31, Bangkok 10110, Thailand; by telephone at (662) 25855640, (662) 6620898; or by email at warft@loxinfo.co.th or war@war-thai.org.

Yasuda Marine & Fire Corporation Launches New Environmental Web Site

Once again, Mr. Goto (1999 Laureate) and his Yasuda Marine & Fire Corporation have risen to the challenge of educating people all over the world about environmental issues.

Yasuda Marine & Fire Corporation has launched an exciting new Web site, which features an animated cartoon for children, teachers and parents. The cartoon emphasizes environmental conservation and it is hoped that children all over the world will get a chance to see it.

Yasuda's site is part of INPAKU, a Japanese Internet fair enabling individuals, governments and corporations alike to establish a Web site to showcase interesting events and information. INPAKU will be open to all visitors and those who wish to post until December 3, 2001.

The Husavik Whale Centre -

Tipping the Scales in Favor of Whales

Global 500 Laureates have taken action emanating from their love of this natural wonder that we call Earth and their vision of man's role in its ecosystems. Asbjorn Björgvinsson is just such a visionary. Asbjorn became a Global 500 Laureate in 2000 for his work in Iceland promoting whale watching as an economically more profitable venture than whaling.

Mr. Björgvinsson has purchased a large building, located at Husavik Harbor, and is renovating and remodeling it to serve as his new Husavik Whale Centre. When



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Asbjorn bought it, the roof was leaking, the windows were broken and the house had not seen a fresh coat of paint in 30 years, but he saw what the old house could be—he saw the Husavik Whale Centre. While still in the process of renovation, the Husavik Whale Centre will ultimately house a virtual school of whale history and information on how our lack of environmental consciousness wreaks havoc on the natural world. An entire area will be devoted to viewing and comparing the polluted and unpolluted beach so that visitors can grasp the gravity of mankind's impact. Ultimately, it is Asbjorn's dream to convince the people of Iceland that it is more beneficial, more profitable, to reduce the whaling industry and increase the whale watching industry. To that end, Asbjorn has been collecting data from ten companies on the number of tourists who went whale watching last summer. His data reflects that in the year 2000, over 44,000 tourists went whale watching from nine different locations around Iceland, up from 1999 by about 20%. Asbjorn has calculated the total economic value of whale watching to the country of Iceland at approximately \$13,437,500 U.S. for the year 2000. That value impressed the Icelandic government so much that it is reconsidering its plans to resume whaling in the near future.

In July of 2000 Asbjorn guided the President of Iceland and his wife on their first whale watching tour. They sighted one sei whale and five minke whales. The minke whale is the most frequently sighted. Others commonly seen are humpback whales, sei whales, fin whales, blue whales, and toothed whales, including Orca and large numbers of white beaked dolphins and harbor porpoise. Sightings of blue whales off the West Coast rose to an impressive 93% of all whale watching trips. The fact that the Icelandic government is rethinking their intentions to resume whaling is nothing short of miraculous. Asbjorn Björgvinsson and his relentless work to realize a vision of these magnificent animals being economically more viable as living, breathing beings, has tipped the scales for Icelandic whales. It is this kind of action, born of the heart, that will ultimately tip the scales in favor of planet Earth.

A Letter from Sheila Siddle

It is taking a long time for life to get back to normal after returning from Australia.

Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage was chosen as a Global 500 Laureate, so Dave and I journeyed to Adelaide to receive this most prestigious Certificate as part of World Environment Day, celebrated on June 5th.

We arrived in Adelaide the evening of June 2nd, tired and suffering from Jet Lag, but we were met and immediately made welcome. We were escorted to a lovely hotel—



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The Stanford Plaza—in a new, environmentally friendly gas-powered motor car. It was cold in Adelaide but on entering the hotel, we were presented with lovely warm zip-up jackets with the World Environment Badge emblazoned on. We were also given a backpack and lots of paperwork explaining what we were about to embark on. Our hosts had thought of everything!!

Saturday the 3rd of June was the start of five days packed with a variety of new and wonderful experiences. There were no hitches the whole time but I felt sorry for our hosts trying to make sure that the Laureates were on the right buses at the right time and that no one got lost. They really had to work hard at this!

We came back to Zambia filled with new resolve—and so many new ideas. In our upcoming Education Centre, we will concentrate on teaching children about sharing the planet and allowing all creatures to live in harmony together.

Also in June, tragedy struck and I lost my secretary, Mrs. Maggie Katolo. I have worked with Maggie for the past ten years and shall miss her dreadfully. She was a friend as well as a very good secretary.

When we arrived home, a film crew from Australia, LJM Productions, and director Lesley Hammond, had arrived. Then, from New Zealand came Donna Malan, Cheryl Cameron and Darren McDonald, who had brought us a new guest, Buddy, from New Zealand in December last year. Obviously, they were interested in Buddy—so while they were here we tried to integrate the twelve youngsters with Buddy, Buffy, Diana and Masya. At first we thought it had worked, but then the screaming and shouting started.

The main cause of the trouble seemed to be Buffy. Every time any of the young ones got near to Buddy and tried to make friends with him, she got very angry and chased them. The biggest baby of the lot was the one I thought would be the most adventurous—that was Alfie. He was such a scaredy-cat that he went and hid in an anthill and Lorraine and some of the men had to go in looking for him and carry him out. Needless to say, we put them all back into their own enclosures and will try again another day....

When we first let Buddy and Buffy into the fourteen-acre enclosure with Masya and Diana it was quite a funny performance. Buffy has a funny habit of covering her mouth with her hand. This huge hand covers most of the bottom half of her face—her eyes seem to get extra large and she points with her other hand at whatever it is that is worrying her. All the time she is making this soft "ah-ah-ah-ah" noise. When we opened the door into the enclosure, she did all of this performance and kept looking at us and pointing out to the trees or the fence or the grass. She went to the



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open door and stuck her head out and, in seeming amazement, she looked away to the trees (hand still over mouth) then back into the cage. She kept pointing at us and then at the open door as if asking us to take a good look. She kept this up for well over half an hour with Buddy keeping just behind her all the time.

After a good half hour she gingerly put her foot outside, then the other one, then took her hand off her mouth for a few seconds while she pointed with both hands at the fence and trees in turn. Then she quickly got back into the cage, got hold of Buddy and almost threw him out of the door then followed him. They both stood upright on their two legs holding onto each other, seeming to stand still for ages before slowly walking off (still with a tight hold on each other) towards the trees. The look on their faces had Lorraine and I nearly in tears—It seemed at the same time to be one of awe, amazement, anxiety and fear.

On Saturday, July 1st, Dave fell and badly hurt his hip. We had to wait to go to the hospital and he is very lucky that nothing is broken, but his hip is very badly bruised and only time and rest will get it better.

In July, a chimp named Maggie had a baby girl. We did not name her, since Maggie already has two dead babies and we wanted to see how she got on with this one. Well, she did not. She did everything she should not have done. She took it by one arm and slung it round her neck and she threw it on the floor when she had something else to do, like eating. Then she started putting it on the floor and covering it with grass. The only thing she did right was let it drink milk from her.

We took the baby away. Dave darted Maggie with an anaesthetic and the Baby was brought home on the evening of August 4th. We named her "Miracle", as it was amazing she lived.

Miracle is sleeping with Dave and I and demanding a bottle every two hours through the day and night. When it first came home we weighed her—she was 1kg, 800g. She is gaining weight about 250g per week. She is lovely and is beginning to make happy little sounds when she sees us. Changing and washing are things I could do without—fortunately nowadays we have disposable nappies, but such a price!

In August, Dr. Nick de Souza arrived from the Central African Republic with two male chimpanzees: Barbie, seven years old and Noel, eight years old. Karl Ammann had been fighting to get these two chimps away from the C.A.R. for a long time and World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) had worked hard to get permission to move them. Dr. Nick de Souza is a veterinarian based in Nairobi, Kenya with WSPA. He went to the C.A.R. and after long and arduous negotiations finally managed to get a release.



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Lorraine and Ian were on leave in February last year when they got an urgent message to pick a chimp (Junior) from Lusaka. This year was the same. They had just started their leave when I had to contact Ian to 'please' go to Lusaka to meet Dr. de Souza and the two new chimps. We could not get a plane to take them and their boxes were too big for the small charter plane from Chingola.

Barbie had been chained by the neck outside a restaurant for a few years. Fortunately he had been given lots of scraps of food by the visitors so he is not in a bad condition. Noel had been in what Nick described as a desolate zoo, in a very small cage for a few years. His fur is a bit sparse and in not very good condition. He is bit lean, but on the whole does not look too bad. Apparently the zoo had very few visitors and the animals not much food. Neither chimp had had contact with other chimps for quite a few years. When they arrived, we had to get them out of their separate boxes and into adjoining runs. They were both very nervous and I think Noel was very scared seeing the other chimp—he cried and tried to hide. Barbie was apprehensive but relaxed much more quickly.

Nick could only stay for a few days and we wanted him to see if his charges were going to settle in together. For this reason we opened the door between their runs much sooner than we would normally have done. I was amazed when Noel rushed through the opening and embraced Barbie. They really get on well together and it is so good seeing these two being happy together. The one thing all our workmen remark on is their enthusiasm for any type of food we put in front of them, although bread and milk seem to be their favourites at the moment.

We have a female chimp called Noel and a female chimp called Barbie. We knew the two new ones' names could be a problem. Nick said that neither of them seemed to know their names so we have changed them to BOBBY and NICK. Bobby sounds close enough to Barbie and Nick remembers the vet who had so much trouble getting them here.

Apparently two days after we left for Australia, my Hippo, Billy, forced her way into my kitchen. No one was around to stop her so she had a good time going through the vegetable basket and the bread bin and generally trashing the whole place. Fortunately she did not break any furniture (only the door) and she was out of the kitchen by the time people got up to go in there in the morning.

Since our getting home, she has been a perfect pest. She has learned that the electric fence, which is supposed to stop her getting into the garden, does not give her a shock if she uses her teeth to break the contacts. She is now insisting on sleeping most of the morning outside the back kitchen door. About eleven o'clock she lazily



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wanders round to her area near the little pool and waits for her bottles of milk. We think she is worried about the fishermen in the river. They are very active at the moment and have been using dynamite to kill the fish. For this reason she does not seem to go to the river very often and demands food from us all the time.

We have tried desperately to involve the Police in the problem of the fishermen, but they do not seem to have either money or vehicles. I have given them money to get them out here but it does not do much good. We sometimes feel that we are banging our heads against a brick wall. We must persevere because at present the Kafue River, Zambia's second major water supply, is being badly damaged. The headwaters are thirty-eight miles upriver from us and we know at this time there are thirteen fish traps right across the river. They are so big that the water on one side is, in some cases, two feet higher than the water on the other. The fish do not stand a chance and neither does anything else.

We are trying to employ three Game and/or Fish Rangers who might be able to help with our problems. However, our Game Department is going through a changeover from Government to Private and so it might take some time.

I need to get through to so many people to say "thank you" for all that was done for us, and all that we learned. I would like to let these people know that we want to be in touch, involved, and stay friends. We met so many good people while away. I have a terrible guilt complex because this has taken so long. If this gets through, at least I know we can try to keep in touch.

Sheila Siddle
Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage Trust
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From LA PRESSE in North America **PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK**

Jean-Dominic Lévesque-René

June 24, 2001

Le 5 juin 2001, Jean-Dominic Lévesque-René, qui va avoir dix-huit ans dans deux mois, a reçu à Turin, en Italie, le prix Global 500, catégorie «Jeunes», attribué chaque année par le Programme des Nations unies pour l'environnement. Jean-Do est revenu chez lui, à L'Île-Bizard, avec une superbe casquette noire et argent de la



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Juventus, l'équipe de soccer de Turin, et un impressionnant diplôme, rédigé dans les cinq ou six principales langues des Nations unies. Le parchemin reconnaît son rôle important dans la conservation et

l'amélioration de l'environnement, en particulier dans la lutte contre les pesticides et herbicides chimiques contenant du 2-4-D, un produit reconnu comme hautement cancérigène.

À onze ans, Jean-Do sortait vainqueur d'une chimiothérapie contre un cancer, le lymphome malin non hodgkinien. Depuis le premier diagnostic de son mal, le 11 février 1994, il en a constamment cherché les causes et s'est consacré à la lutte contre la pollution chimique agricole et pour la protection et la salubrité de l'environnement. La Presse souligne la reconnaissance planétaire de la croisade de Jean-Dominic Lévesque-René contre les polluants chimiques et le nomme la Personnalité de la semaine.

Le prix Global 500 n'est pas le premier honneur que Jean-Do a reçu pour sa campagne écologique. En 1995, il avait 12 ans quand il a reçu le prix Terry-Fox, de la station ontarienne YTV. La même année, il est nommé membre de l'Ordre des Jeunes Canadiens. En 1996, Environnement Canada lui remet son prix environnement-santé. En 1998, le gouvernement du Québec crée le prix Phénix de l'environnement. Jean-Do en est le premier lauréat dans la catégorie jeunesse.

À douze ans, alors qu'il vient tout juste de vaincre le cancer, il travaille comme camelot de La Presse dans sa municipalité de L'Île-Bizard. Cette année-là, il est présenté au prince Charles, à Rideau Hall. L'année suivante, le gouverneur général Roméo Leblanc le présente à la reine Élisabeth II. Mais il est aussi de toutes les manifestations d'écologistes, il pose des questions aux maires sur l'épandage de produits toxiques dans les parcs. Pierre Bourque et d'autres élus doivent reconnaître les erreurs de leurs municipalités. «Depuis l'an dernier, on ne répand plus de produits toxiques à L'Île-Bizard comme quand j'avais deux ans, explique Jean-Dominic. Au premier épandage sur notre pelouse, j'avais des maux de tête, mal à l'estomac, et le pire, je saignais souvent du nez. À la seconde application d'herbicide, ça a recommencé.» Il se souvient parfaitement du jour où les médecins de l'hôpital Sainte-Justine lui ont annoncé qu'il avait un cancer: «C'était le 11 février 1994. Ils m'avaient fait des biopsies sur les ganglions. Le médecin m'a dit : on va te guérir. Et le lendemain, j'avais ma première séance de chimiothérapie.» Avec 33 autres enfants en Amérique du Nord, il fait partie d'un protocole de recherche. Le traitement dure 51 semaines. «J'ai été le seul à m'en sortir, dit Jean-Dominic.»

Cinquante et une semaines de traitement, c'est une année scolaire, mais ce sont aussi des problèmes de mémoire à court terme. «L'écriture, le papier, sont devenus



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ma seconde mémoire. J'ai rattrapé tout en deux ans. Pendant ma maladie, j'avais beaucoup lu. Pas des romans d'amour, il n'y a pas d'action. J'ai lu des livres sur les deux guerres mondiales, et de la science fiction. Je visualisais des tactiques de combat, pour attaquer ma maladie. Je combattais les mauvaises cellules avec un sous-marin d'attaque à propulsion nucléaire.» Sa stratégie a porté fruit. «En plus, à Sainte-Justine, j'avais fait afficher une carte du Québec. Et chaque jeune cancéreux devait piquer son épingle sur son village, sa ville. On s'est aperçu que le plus grand nombre venait de la banlieue et des campagnes.» À dix et onze ans, Jean-Dominic fait des statistiques. «Un enfant sur 200 à L'Île-Bizard a un cancer. Il y en a un sur 400 au Québec et un sur 5900 au Canada. Mais jusqu'en 1995, le Bureau de santé publique ne voulait pas faire ce genre d'études.»

Jean-Do va terminer son secondaire. Toujours à L'Île-Bizard, entre papa, un ancien fourreur recyclé comme technicien en aérospatiale, maman qui est accompagnatrice d'enfants à problèmes à l'école primaire de Hampstead, et Julie, la petite soeur de quinze ans qui est artiste peintre en devenir. Jean-Do veut être ingénieur en aérospatiale. «Je veux travailler à faire changer le carburant des avions. C'est la deuxième source de pollution sur la planète, après les pesticides.» Il a du pain sur la planche, et, dans l'immédiat, un travail de plongeur dans un restaurant près de chez lui.

Message from Kruti Parekh, Environmental Magician and 1999 Laureate

Hello, I am Kruti Parekh. I have ADOPTED A SCHOOL IN MUMBAI, INDIA . THE SCHOOL'S NAME IS SHARDA MANDIR HIGH SCHOOL . IT'S STRENGTH IS 1000 STUDENTS WHO COME FROM THE SLUM AREA. THESE CHILDREN ARE VERY POOR . MY SOURCE OF INCOME IS MY MAGIC SHOWS & WHAT EVER I EARN FROM THAT I DONATE IT TO THIS SCHOOL . I AM PLANNING TO MAKE IT AN ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL . I TAKE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOPS IN THIS SCHOOL FOR THE AWARENESS MESSAGE TO SPREAD IN THE SLUM AREAS THROUGH THESE CHILDREN . WITH THE HELP OF THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY I AM PLANNING TO BEAUTIFY THE APPROACH ROAD TO THE SCHOOL. I WISH TO KNOW about & SET UP THE PAPER RECYCLING PROCESS IN THE SCHOOL SO THEY CAN USE RECYCLED PAPER & KEEP RECYCLING IT .ENVIRONMENTALLY YOURS KRUTI PAREKH.

Pioneering Sea Turtle Recovery Plan Agreed for South East Asia and the Indian Ocean



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Nations Back Comprehensive Conservation Programme for Endangered Sea Turtles

Bonn/Nairobi, 28 June 2001

A life-line has been thrown to endangered turtles in the Indian Ocean and the waters of South East Asia. Countries in the region have for the first time agreed to a wide-ranging plan to conserve six key species at risk from over harvesting for meat and their eggs, destruction of nests and feeding areas and accidental by catch in fishing operations. Under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species - an international treaty linked to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - countries have agreed to 24 programmes and 105 specific projects designed to reverse the decline of loggerhead, olive ridley, green, hawksbill, leatherback and flatback turtles throughout the vast region. Douglas Hykle, Deputy Executive Secretary at the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), said the turtle conservation programme was a vital new development for saving these culturally and ecologically important species. "Having existed on Earth for millions of years, sea turtles are an important component of the marine ecosystem, and serve as indicators of the health of the environment in which they live. Their aesthetic appeal draws conservationists and tourists from around the world to nesting beaches throughout the region, generating income for local communities," he said. All is not well though. Levels of harvest are frequently unsustainable, and have led in some cases to dramatic crashes in turtle numbers. The Memorandum of Understanding on turtle conservation marks an important milestone in efforts to reverse the declining fortunes of these important marine creatures. "The measures to be taken focus on reducing threats, conserving critical habitat, exchanging scientific information, increasing public awareness and participation, promoting regional cooperation and finding funding for implementing this vital conservation work," said Mr Hykle. A number of major conservation projects for marine turtles are now already underway or are in the pipeline including ones in India, Pakistan and Iran. Long-term monitoring programmes are well-established in Australia and South Africa. Many countries are working with non governmental organizations such as local and international wildlife groups. In Malaysia, a husband and wife team have rescued over a quarter of a million turtle eggs, allowing tens of thousands of hatchlings to return to the wild. Dr Chan Eng Heng and her husband Liew Hock Clark, who are based at the Sea Turtle Research Unit in University College, Terengganu, have bought the eggs off collectors and then allow them to incubate naturally. The pair, who were awarded with a UNEP Global 500 award on World Environment Day earlier this month, estimate that over 250,000 eggs have been saved by their project at Malaysia's Redang Chagar Hutang beach. Similar egg rescue schemes are being piloted elsewhere in Malaysia by the Malaysian Department of Fisheries and the World Wide Fund for Nature. "This is an example of the kind of pioneering work the nations that have signed up to the new CMS conservation agreement might consider



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extending to their countries," said Mr Hykle. Notes To Editors: The comprehensive plan for conserving turtles of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia was agreed in Manila from 20-23 June 2001. Held under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Conference on the conservation and management of marine turtles of the Indian Ocean and SE-Asia brought together delegates from 21 bordering States. The Honourable Heherson T. Alvarez, Secretary of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources opened the event. Once plentiful throughout the region, many of the six species of sea turtles found there have become seriously depleted due to excessive harvesting, destruction of nesting and feeding habitats, and accidental taking in fisheries operations. Those 6 marine turtles species include the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the Flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*). Eight countries immediately signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the CMS, and others are expected to do so after review by the responsible government authorities. The MoU, which has a potential membership of at least 40 countries, will come into effect on 1 September 2001. The conference approved a proposal to establish a small secretariat to help co-ordinate activities under the MoU. The office is to be housed with an existing UNEP regional office in Bangkok, and is expected to be operational early next year. The Governments of the United States and Australia, as well as UNEP have all pledged financial support towards the cost of establishing and running the secretariat.

For further information please contact:

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species, Martin Luther King. Str. 8 Bonn 53175, Germany Tel: 49 228 815 Fax: 49 228 815 2409 e-mail: cms@cms.unep.de or Colin Limpus, CMS Scientific Council's sea turtle expert, Conservation Strategy Branch, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Tel: 61 732277718 Mobile: 61 438210001 Fax: 61 7 32276386 e-mail: col.limpus@env.qld.gov.au or Nick Nuttall, Media Officer at UNEP, Tel:254 2 623084 Mobile: 254 733 632755 e-mail: nick.nuttall@unep.org

Jean Dominic Levesque Rene (2001 Laureate)

A PESTICIDE AWARENESS DAY ON THE HILL...

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2001 3PM TO 8PM ROOM 200 WEST
BLOCK PARLIAMENT HILL We intend to celebrate the Supreme Court decision regarding pesticides and municipal by-laws. We are planning a "Pesticides



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Awareness Day" on Parliament Hill, to give citizens groups, environmental organizations and public health organizations the opportunity to share with the public, Parliamentarians and government officials their knowledge and experience on pesticide use reduction, by way of displays and exhibits. As you know, the amendments to the Pest Control Products Act have not yet been introduced and this event would also serve as a reminder to the Government of the need for new legislation. **THE EVENT WILL END WITH BRIEF PRESENTATIONS BY THE FOLLOWING INVITED SPEAKERS:**

- Amendments to the Pest Control Products Act: THE HON. ALLAN ROCK, Minister of Health. (invited)
- The implications of the Supreme Court decision: JACK LAYTON, President Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (invited)
- The future of organic farming: ROD MACRAE PhD. (invited)
- Advocacy and children's health: JEAN-DOMINIC LÉVESQUE-RENÉ. (confirmed)
- Human health impacts of pesticides: DR. WARREN BELL (Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment). (invited)

M. CLIFFORD LINCOLN M.P. (Lac St-Louis) will be the Master of Ceremony for the evening. Come celebrate with interested parliamentarians ! Feel free to distribute this invitation to friends and colleagues. Please let me know by returning the enclosed response form as soon as possible. We sincerely hope you will be able to join us for this day of celebration. See you on the Hill ! CHARLES CACCIA M.P. (DAVENPORT) & ANNIE BÉRUBÉ, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT PARLIAMENTARY CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ROOM 448-N HOUSE OF COMMONS OTTAWA PHONE: (613) 992-2632 FAX: (613) 995-8202 EMAIL: caccic0@parl.gc.ca

UN in Kenya Condemns Atrocities Committed in the United States and Expresses Grief and Sympathy for Victims Families

Nairobi, 12 September 2001

In the name of the United Nations family in Kenya, Klaus Toepfer, UN Under Secretary General and Director General of the UN Office at Nairobi, today condemned the terrorist atrocities that have taken place in the United States. He also offered his deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the victims of the disastrous events which centred on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on Tuesday. Mr Toepfer said: "These terrorist attacks in the United States have shocked the world, they have shocked me and they have shocked UN staff here in Kenya. These acts of barbarism occurred on American soil but they were in fact an attack on civilisation, democracy and freedom everywhere". Our hearts and prayers go out to the innocent victims and families who have suffered from these atrocities. Our thoughts are also with the doctors, nurses, firemen and women and members of



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the emergency services who have been dealing with the appalling consequences of these attacks. Our prayers are also with George Bush, the US President, and his government," he said. "Those terrorists responsible must be caught and brought to trial to answer for these crimes against humanity," added Mr Toepfer. He said the attacks in New York and Washington had brought back vivid and heart-rending memories of the carnage caused in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam on 7 August three years ago. Terrorist bombs were aimed at the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killing 224 people and injuring 4,000 more. "We here in Kenya have direct experience of the misery and grief caused by acts of thoughtless, cowardly, terrorist aggression. In the wake of those attacks in 1998, we at the UN created a Garden of Remembrance and a Peace Pole was erected to serve as a reminder to future generations. But also to serve as beacons of hope so that soon the world can live as one in peace and harmony," said Mr Toepfer. Tomorrow (Thursday) heads and staff of the 23 UN agencies in Kenya and other members of the local and international community will be gathering for a ceremony in the garden which is located in the centre of the UN in Gigiri. The gathering, which will take place at 10.30am, will show solidarity with the American people and sympathy for the families and victims of the attacks. For more information please contact Tore J. Brevik, Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Nairobi, on Tel: 623292, E-mail: tore.brevik@unep.org or Peter Mwaura, Information officer UNIC, on Tel: 624560, E-mail: peter.mwaura@unep.org

Inauguration of a Children's Meeting Place at the United Nations, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Opening Ceremony of the Children's Meeting Place will be the 19th of September. Around 300 children from all walks of life - blind children, children with aids, children from the slum areas, street children and children from more well-to-do families - will join for the inauguration. They will bring their ideas, visions and hopes for a better world to their Meeting Place at the United Nations in Nairobi.

The inauguration was planned to be in conjunction with the Children's Top Meeting (General Assembly Special Session on Children - UNGASS) at the United Nations in New York. A "News-Bridge" was planned for between children at the two United Nations. With help of video conference and Internet children would tell one another over the Globe; - What are the leaders of the world saying in their meetings for the revision of the Convention of the Rights of the Child? - What is important for the Children's Meeting Place? **11th of September 2001 changed a lot in the world. The UN in New York was evacuated after the terror attack. The Top Meeting for Children at the United Nations, New York, is postponed.** "Our



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Meeting Place is so important. More important than we understand!" Children who prepare for the inauguration of their Meeting Place at the UN, Nairobi speak with low and profound voices. Suddenly their mission is more important than ever. "It is so dark. Many are so afraid. We must meet for light". The Children's Meeting Place will be a place for hope and visions for the future. 300 children from 5 African countries and Nordic Municipalities prepare for the inauguration of a Children's Meeting Place at the United Nations, Nairobi 19-20 of September. Guests of Honor and Speakers are: Ambassador Ms. Inga Clevby-Bjork, Swedish Embassy, UNEP Exec. Dir. Klaus Toepfer, Habitat Deputy Dec. Dir. Mr. Daniel Biau and UNICEF Chief Programme Communication and Participation Ms. Denise Shepard-Johnson. UNEP Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has authorized Globetree, a Swedish NGO, to inaugurate and run a Children's Meeting Place at the United Nations grounds in Nairobi, Kenya. The Children's Meeting Place will bring together on a regular basis, children from various parts of Kenya and the world to learn about the work of the United Nations and discuss their visions for and contributions to our environment.

The idea of a Children's Meeting Place The idea of a Children's Meeting Place emerged when Kajsa Dahlstrom, President of Globetree, was invited to lead the Opening Ceremony of the 18th Session of the Commission on Human Settlements in February this year. <http://www.unchs.org/kids> I walked in the beautiful area of the United Nations and I reflected on the UN and children: * It's important to have a place at the United Nations where children can learn about the UN, share their visions and discuss their future. * So many leaders of the world come to the UN and make decisions for the future. It's equally important for leaders to meet children and be reminded that children will carry the result of decisions. **A Tree for the Rights of the Child and Agenda 21** A tree has been dedicated by UNEP to be the Children's Meeting Place. The inauguration will be around the Tree and children will also give name to their tree. After the opening ceremony the children will work out a program for their Meeting Place and how to care for it. **Messengers for further assignments – Future Vessel in Stockholm Globe Arena** The children joining around the Tree will continue their work for a Global Meeting Place when they get back home. They will be messengers for others in their village and city districts. Some of the children will bring the result of their work to the next International Future Vessel – Roots and Space - at the Globe Arena in Stockholm. This event will be in conjunction with World Environment Day (1-6th of June 2002) and we expect around 3000 participants. **Children's Top Meeting in New York – in the future...** The sky is dark over New York. Humanity is reminded of the fragility of life. The Children's Top Meeting will be sometime in the future. Hopefully very soon. The Children's Meeting Place will be a flickering light in the darkness. - My deep wish and hope is that the Children's Meeting Place will remind leaders from around the world to involve children in their decision making and be inspired by



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their creative solutions for a better world. Globetree is very happy that UNEP in Nairobi has been giving this opportunity to set the sails for the children of the world. Kajsa Dahlström President Globetree For Questions please phone +46 8 6523527 or for direct contact with Nairobi on the cellular phone +254 72-328964

GLOBETREE – www.globetree.org Globetree was founded in 1982. With children in the centre, Globetree works on a scientific base using creativity as key tools to mobilize and support children and their teachers in their efforts to improve life and the living environment. The base for the work of the Globetree is the two UN-resolutions – The Rights of the Child and Agenda 21. Globetree was appointed to ECOSOC-status in 1999 and was awarded with UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honour in year 2000 – the first Swedish NGO and one of 49 international child- and youth organizations. "What we do today is the children's future"

Jean Dominic's speech for the Global Forum For Children's Environmental Health

Hi everybody finally my Washington speech, It is important to let you know that the main issue at this Global Forum concerning Children's environmental Health was about pesticides and high toxic contaminants in every day life. All the country have share that even if you live in occidental countries children are at risk to become sick because of pollution like (air, water, pesticides, lead, contaminants ect.) It was so important to meet and learn from these scientists, politicians, medical doctors and specialists in epidimology, oncology also people like you who fight in there own community concern for a better environment. I took some of Aisha and Brother's speech in Torino to conclude my speech. What they said in there speech was so important and clear that there message must travel all over this planet and I was not shy to use it and share with all the participants in Washington. I hope all of you are OK, The Pesticide awareness Day on Parliement Hill in Ottawa on Sept. 25th was a success. I spoke at the Committee round table in the afternoon telling my concerns and worries about cosmetic use of pesticides. In the evening I was invited to speak publicaly and I presented my Global 500 speech. There was citizens from different part of Canada attending this event. A lot of Parlimentarians came and were sensibilize on pesticides dangers. It was a beautiful day ! I think always about all of you and I just want to tell you that I met 2 beautiful persons from Philippines who fight to protect children with cancer and to prevent kids not having cancer. They are supported by one of our's, Madame Senator Leviste-Legarde. I was so happy to ear from her by these 2 persons. Thank you, Sincerely, Jean-Dominic Lévesque-René

Speech: Plenary session September 10 th 2001 Washington DC



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MY NAME IS JEAN-DOMINIC LÉVESQUE-RENÉ, I AM 17 YEARS OLD. TODAY, I WANT TO SHARE A PART OF MY LIFE AND EXPERIENCE WITH YOU. A LOT CAN BE DONE IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S HEALTH. BACK IN 1994 WHEN I WAS ONLY TEN YEARS OLD AND FIGHTING TO SURVIVE MY OWN CANCER, I NEVER IMAGINE, AT THE TIME, THAT ONE DAY I WOULD BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. MY OWN BATTLE FOR A PESTICIDE-FREE ENVIRONMENT REALLY STARTED IN THE CANCER WARD OF ST.JUSTINE'S HOSPITAL IN MONTREAL. WHILE UNDERGOING CHEMOTHERAPY, I DISCOVERED THAT I WAS NOT ALONE.....THAT THERE WERE OTHER KIDS FROM MY HOMETOWN WHO WERE ALSO IN THE CANCER WARD. I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW THAT I LIVE IN ILE-BIZARD, A SUBURB ABOUT 20 KM WEST OF MONTREAL.IT'S DIFFERENT FROM MOST CITIES BECAUSE 50 % OF THE LANDMASS CONSIST OF GOLF COURSES, WHICH USE A PRODIGIOUS AMOUNT OF PESTICIDES TO KEEP THE FAIRWAYS GREEN. WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL, I STARTED TO RECALL THAT I WAS ALWAYS SICK EVEN AS A LITTLE KID. I REMEMBER BEING WISKED AWAY IN AN AMBULANCE WHEN I WAS ABOUT TWO YEARS OLD - FOR A NOSE BLEED THAT WOULD NOT STOP. I KEPT RETURNING BACK TO THE HOSPITAL OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR THE SAME SYMPTOMS. THE DOCTORS WERE NEVER ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME. IT WAS ONLY WHEN I DEVELOPED A RASH AFTER PLAYING ON OUR LAWN WHICH HAD BEEN TREATED WITH PESTICIDES THAT MY PARENTS WERE TOLD BY THE DERMATOLOGIST TO STOP USING PESTICIDES. MY SYMPTOMS DISAPPEARED..... BY COINCIDENCE WHILE UNDERGOING CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT, I STUMBLED UPON A PAMPHLET OF A LITTLE KID PLAYING IN A PARK PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY. I DISCOVERED THAT MY FORM OF CANCER WAS LINKED TO THE USE OF THE MOST COMMON HERBICIDE IN NORTH AMERICA, 2,4-D. IT WAS WRITTEN SO SIMPLY THAT I UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT MEANT - MY CANCER WAS LINKED TO PESTICIDE EXPOSURE. IT BECAME CLEAR TO ME, I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO..... I WENT TO CITY HALL AND ASKED THE MAYOR TO BAN PESTICIDES IN MY HOMETOWN. YOU SEE, I THOUGHT THAT IF I JUST SHOWED THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THE PAMPHLET FROM THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY - IT WOULD MAKE THINGS RIGHTI WAS WRONG.....I SOON DISCOVERED THAT SOME ADULTS JUST DON'T TAKE KID'S SERIOUSLY. I ORGANIZED A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF CITY HALL CALLING FOR A BAN ON PESTICIDES BUT CITY COUNCIL STILL WOULD NOT BE SWAYED.....SO, ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, I WOULD ATTEND CITY COUNCIL - ASKING THE MAYOR TO BAN PESTICIDES..... AND EVERY MONTH THE MAYOR TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS NO PROOF THAT PESTICIDES CAUSE CANCER. IT WOULD BE MANY YEARS LATER THAT WE WOULD DISCOVER THAT CHILDREN IN ILE-BIZARD DO HAVE A HIGHER RATE OF CANCER, THAT IS, TEN TIMES THE NATIONAL RATE..... I MUST CONFESS THAT THERE WERE TIMES THAT I WAS DISCOURAGED..... BUT I ALWAYS FOUND INSPIRATION FROM MY BIGGEST



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SUPPORTERS..... KIDS LIKE ME WHO WERE STUCK IN CANCER WARD. THEY ALWAYS BELIEVED IN ME AND ENCOURAGED ME. I BEGAN WRITING LETTERS AND TESTIFYING BEFORE VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES. I CIRCULATED PETITIONS, I MADE TELEVISION AND RADIO APPEARANCES, EVEN MEET WITH PRINCE CHARLES. JUST RECENTLY, I PRESENTED A MEMORANDUM BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS. AND I PARTICIPATED ON THE VERY FIRST FORUM ON CHILDREN AND THEIR HEALTH BY THE NORTH AMERICAN COOPERATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT. FOR SEVEN YEARS, I HAVE BEEN CAMPAIGNING ACROSS CANADA TO BAN COSMETIC USE OF PESTICIDES AND GRADUALLY THE MESSAGE CALLING FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT HAS GAINED MORE AND MORE WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE.....EVEN THE CITY COUNCIL IN MY HOMETOWN HAS VOTED FOR A TOTAL PESTICIDE BAN. COSMETIC USE OF PESTICIDES ON OUR LAWN AND GARDENS IS HARMFUL BUT IT IS ESPECIALLY DETRIMENTAL TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY - THE CHILDREN. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I WAS NOT SICK FOR NOTHING....I WAS NOT HAPPY THAT I HAD CANCER BUT MY CANCER TAUGHT ME TO BE LIKE A SOLDIER AND TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD. SOMETHING CAN BE DONE FOR CHILDREN AND EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IN MY COUNTRY, CANADA THERE ARE MORE AND MORE CITIZENS IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY ASKING TO BAN COSMETIC USE OF PESTICIDES. THESE PEOPLE WORK HARD AND MORE AND MORE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE LEGISLATING SEVERE RESTRICTIONS AND SOME ARE BANNING TOTALY THEIR USE. I AM REMINDED OF WORDS OF RACHEL CARSON: " THE MORE CLEARLY WE CAN FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON THE WONDERS AND REALITIES OF THE UNIVERSE ABOUT US, THE LESS TASTE WE SHALL HAVE FOR DESTRUCTION ". IN CONCLUSION, I JUST WANT TO ADD, THIS WORD TO YOU," I AM PROUD TO SHARE WITH YOU THAT I AM A LAUREATE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME GLOBAL 500 FORUM. "AS A LAUREATE AND MEMBER AND A STRONG PARTICIPANT, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO REPRESENT THIS GLOBAL 500 FORUM AND TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS WORLD WIDE PROGRAMME. GLOBAL 500 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM WAS CREATED IN 1992 AT THE EARTH SUMMIT IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL. THIS FORUM HELP LAUREATES TO SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. THE FORUM INCLUDES INDIVIDUALS WORKING ALONE OR ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE INITIATIVE AND COURAGE PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTES AWARENESS. GLOBAL 500 FORUM ALSO PROVIDES SUPERLATIVE ROLE MODELS TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE MOST IMPORTANT, SUPPORTS AND INITIATES LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES THAT STIMULATE BROADER COMMUNITY ACTION. GLOBAL 500 FORUM IS A LARGE AND DIVERSIFIED FAMILY LINKED BY A COMMON GOAL. THIS FAMILY COMMITMENT IS FUELED BY THE



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SAME PASSION. THIS PASSION MOVES FROM LIFE THREATENING ILLNESS TO THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE, FROM INVESTIGATION TO CONSERVATION OF LIFE ON EARTH. THE GLOBAL 500 FORUM PROGRAMME IS AN EMBODIMENT OF THAT PASSION. GLOBAL 500 FORUM IS A OUSTANDING STIMULATOR IN SUPPORTING A NETWORKING SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION FOR ALL LAUREATES AND MEMBERS WHO WORK TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPECIALY YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT ! THANK YOU ! JEAN-DOMINIC LÉVESQUE-RENÉ

My wishes to all conservation people Regards from Anne Mearns - South Africa - laurette - 1998.

I am still involved in activities in the environment and nature. -tree planting - Community development projects -environmental education to teachers - underprivileged areas - -conservation of wetlands - establish conservancies at important wetlands - wetland survey from 1998 - 2001 counted 101 wetlands, marshes, pans, dams and streams. - want to have wetland in these areas of Benoni declared a RAMSAR site Bird life at these areas are unique Plant life beautiful Biggest frog - the bullfrog endemic to these areas. I need the support from the Global 500 Forum. Regards Anne Mearns South Africa. My e-mail address is a.mearns@freemail.absa.co.za Address: A. Mearns P.O.Box 13562 Northmead 1511 Gauteng South Africa Tel/Fax : 2711 965 1027

Regards from Anne Mearns - South Africa - laurette - 1998.

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Bird life at these areas are unique
Plant life beautiful
Biggest frog - the bullfrog endemic to these areas.
I need the support from the Global 500 Forum.

Regards



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Anne Mearns
South Africa.
My e-mail address is
amearns@worldonline.co.za
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P.O.Box 13562
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Gauteng
South Africa
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1027

Conservation Volunteers- Australia 2000 Laureate

Congratulations to Conservation Volunteers - Australia **One Million Volunteer Days!** Conservation Volunteers Australia has reached an impressive milestone completing 1 million volunteer days. Congratulations to all CVA volunteers! This milestone is testimony to the commitment of CVA volunteers and to the successful partnerships CVA creates with partner agencies, businesses and government.

World Conservation Program CVA will soon be releasing the 2002 calendar for World Conservation Program which offers Australians the opportunity to volunteer on conservation projects in more than 14 overseas destinations. Countries include USA, Mexico, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Italy and Ireland. If you would like to receive more information on World Conservation Program email info@conservationvolunteers.com.au or Freecall 1800 032 501. For more information contact the CVA Privacy Officer - Conservation Volunteers Australia PO Box 423 BALLARAT VIC 3353 AUSTRALIA Phone - 03 5333 1483 Email - privacy@conservationvolunteers.com.au

Happy Holiday and Best of Health for 2002 (Robert Glenn Ketchum)

My work in Alaska continues with the release of my newest Aperture book. "Rivers of Life: Southwest Alaska, The Last Great Salmon Fisher". Most people are unfamiliar with the spectacular tundra environment, so I hope you can find the time to view the book and enjoy this rich and vibrant habitat of fish, bear, caribou and moose. Good health to you and those you love throughout the new year and thank you for your



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support and friendship.

Robert

RÉSUMÉ OF ACTIVITIES OF CARLOS DE PRADA SINCE RECEIVING THE GLOBAL 500 (2000 Laureate)

It was a great honor for me to receive the award, not only for what the prize represents, but for the marvelous people it allowed me to know in Adelaide. Sometimes someone is so stuck in a routine, sometimes so very stuck in their work that they believe nobody understands the work that they are developing, and paradoxically I say this someone whose work can have immediate public repercussions, as a journalist. This especially occurs when you try to maintain a line independent of the political powers and economic powers and have to tolerate, with frequency, varying grades of pressure.

That is why it was such a great surprise for me to learn that the work I had realized over so many years was deserving of international recognition. Receiving the award has given me a great strength in especially delicate moments, now that my commitment to the defense of the environment has generated foes at very high levels, and I can assure you that my support in this situation has otherwise been very little. Many times behind the destruction of the environment there are economic and political interests which are doubtfully legitimate. Maybe they are the urban interests that want to destroy protected zones; maybe they are the interests of large construction or hydroelectric companies that want to build unnecessary dams on rivers of great natural value; perhaps they are the chemical companies that want to hide the grave health effects of their own toxics... and, believe me, when a journalist reveals the traumas that lay behind these things, they don't like to hear it, and they try to shut it up. Since receiving The Global 500, I have continued making these same revelations, but with greater moral strength. I have continued suffering pressures, but with the knowledge that I have greater support. And that, is a great help. The most controversial topics at this moment in Spain, and those with which I have occupied myself, apart from the usual topics of nuclear energy, chemical contamination, the possible health effects of cellular phones and high-tension electric lines, forest fires, construction projects in natural areas, genetically modified foods, the appearance of toxins in food, etc...

Have been topics like the National Hydroelectric Plan that the Spanish government wants to push forward and that would call for the construction of more than 100 new dams and a diversion of water so great that it could destroy the delta of the



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most abundant river in Spain.

Obviously The Global 500 has strengthened me in this struggle and made my work much more pleasing, but I shouldn't neglect to divulge the marvels of the countryside, the fauna and the flora of this excellent country that, in spite of everything, is Spain. I am in love with the country in which I was born. I recognize the beauty of other places on the planet, be they the Rocky Mountains, the Alps, the Andes, the Amazon... or the beautiful countrysides which I visited with my dear friends Marilyn Mossley, with Elizabeth Guilbaud... and with all the dear friends that I made in the South of Australia when I visited there to receive the award. But for me there is something special in the magical woods of northern Spain, in the fascinating seas of Doñana, in the flight of the imperial eagles, in the howls of the wolves of Zamora. I must recognize that I am crazied by the beauty of the mountains of the Pirineo, of the Sierra de Guadarrama, Gredos, or the lofty Sierra Nevadas, close to the historic city of Granada. I am a Quixote of the environment and I hope to have the strength to continue being so for a long time. Thank you for the support that The Global 500 has given me in all of this. I have never pursued anything without forgetting my childhood dreams of someday becoming someone who did something, however small, to preserve the crystal pureness of the waters, the temporal magic of the forests, the freedom brought on by the eagle's flight...

Thank you Global 500 friends, and thank you to all on our planet who share this spirit.

CARLOS DE PRADA

Christmas greetings from Asbjorn Bjorgvinsson, Husavik, Iceland.

Dear friends.

Just a short note from Husavik where snow and ice is covering the ground and daylight is only for 3-4 hours, still we have a lot of Christmas lights all over town brightening up our life and the fantastic Northern Lights above every night...

The New Whale Centre is on it's way..... With your support and good will I hope to be able to open next May.

I hope to see you her next year or at least to hear from you again soon.

My very best wishes to you all for Christmas and hope you all will find happiness and good fortune in the New Year

Yours truly,

Abbi



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The Husavik Whale Centre.
Iceland.

Seasons Greetings Teoh Cheng Hai (Former Vice President of the Global 500 Forum).

Hello friends in G500,

Greetings!!

Wishing you Merry Xmas and a Happy and Sustainable New Year !!

With 2001 almost over, I hope you have had a good year. It has been a fairly busy one for me; even though I am supposed to have 'retired'. I continue to be involved as a honorary advisor to WWF Malaysia on land use and forest conservation. I have also been a resource person for the Asian Productivity Organisation to promote Green Productivity which is a APO' s approach to increase productivity and promote environmental protection at the same time. I have just returned from Manila to conduct a training workshop on GP. I have also been in contact with the 2 new laureates from Malaysia - YAWA and Chan and Liew.

Sincerely,
Cheng Hai