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Global 500 2004 Updates

EUROTURTLE FLIES HIGH (Medasset 1987 Laureate)

EuroTurtle, Europe's first educational website for the conservation and biology of sea turtles, welcomed in the New Year with the news of more than 134,000 visitors, an average of 369 per day, and over 1,370,000 hits on the website during 2003.

These are impressive statistics for the ongoing joint project between MEDASSET ? The Mediterranean Association to Save the Sea Turtles, Exeter University and King's College (Taunton), UK. Since its creation in 1993 EuroTurtle has expanded its environmental education scope, integrating an interactive and innovative style with high quality graphics, a virtual reality game, photographs, data, work sheets and diagrams. The content is regularly updated, and the site has received a number of awards. It has been recommended and selected by several international educational institutions, and the European Union sponsored SchoolNet website voted it one of the top six environmental educational websites in Europe.

EuroTurtle is making a real contribution towards the knowledge about sea turtles globally and their survival, with a special focus on the Mediterranean region. MEDASSET is committed to the websites continued improvement, enabling students from around the world to discover the fascination of this flagship species, inviting them to become a part of the fight for wildlife conservation. We look forward to welcoming further visitors in 2004! MEDASSET

International Conference on Children's Health and Environment

Dear all,

Time is there to register for the 3rd International conference on children's health and environment in London, United Kingdom. This conference will continue where the 2nd conference in Washington in September 2001 was broken off. We hope to receive many participants working in children's environmental health. For registration look at the website: www.pinche.hvdgm.nl/pinche_conferences.html for more information see attached programme. Hope to see you in London at the



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end of March! Greetings, Peter van den Hazel conference organiser International Network On Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)

Dear all,

A quick note on my return from the very successful Costa Rica 24th Symposium, where over 1,000 people attended. Dimitri's Mediterranean Meeting went well, but it was sad that there was no one at the meeting from the North African or Eastern Mediterranean countries, despite the fact that I was told money had been available to subsidise travel. It was decided that after the 2005 Symposium in Savanna, Georgia, USA, the 2006 Symposium will be held here in the Mediterranean in Athens, Greece. Let's hope we can make it a real Pan-Mediterranean occasion!

Best wishes, *Lily*
Lily Venizelos

New "crew" member on board MEDASSET (1987 Laureate)

Dear Colleagues,

Since the beginning of May Vassilis Kouroutos BSc is working for MEDASSET, coordinating our various activities and programmes. He will also be responsible for the maintenance and update of our EuroTurtle and Greek web sites. Vassilis is a well known Greek marine biologist specialised in the Monk Seal, his 20 year experience and involvement in environment related issues, will I'm sure make a significant contribution to our Sea Turtle conservation work. His previous activities include: · Founder, President and Director of the "Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal" (MoM). · Representative and Project Manager of IFAW's (International Fund for Animal Welfare) Monk Seal conservation programs in Greece. · Municipality of Alonissos consultant on issues related with the management of the National Marine Park of Alonissos N. Sporades (NMPA), and to the establishment, promotion and implementation of conservation strategies. · Program manager of the ecotourism and nature conservation programs carried out by the 25m-ecotourist boat of which he was the owner and licensed Captain. · Scientific advisor and active member of the Organising Committee for the Symposia 'Religion, Science & the Environment' under the auspices of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of the Christian Orthodox Church. His experience of conservation and applied management of protected areas and his



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experience with ecotourism will assist in our campaigns for the creation, promotion and implementation of strategies for the sustainable development of Marine Parks and Protected Areas around the Mediterranean. For many years he has been working with public awareness campaigns, and his skills will help us to implement and expand our Environmental Education Programmes. His knowledge of marine research expeditions will help expand MEDASSET's research programmes and will extend the horizon of our collaboration with NGO's, Universities and other organisations. I would like to welcome Vassilis "on board" MEDASSET and to wish him every success.

Lily Venizelos President

Joint Effort to Celebrate World Environment Day 2004

4th June 2004 - Yayasan Anak Warisan Alam

YAWA and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia will jointly celebrate World Environment Day 2004 with children from the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, HUKM. A Mural Painting activity and launching of interactive website www.myonlyplanet.org will take place at Dewan Kuliah 2 of the Hospital in Bandar Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur. Official opening is at 9am by the UNDP Regional Representative for Malaysia, represented by Mr Rajan Velumail. Among the guest volunteers are professional artists and volunteers from Friends of HUKM, doctors, nurses families and YAWA members who will join in the mural painting on canvas with the theme 'Save the Seas Around Us'. 2004 is the year of the seas and the oceans by UNEP with the theme: 'Wanted! Seas & Oceans - Dead or Alive'. HUKM & YAWA is initiating to raise the spirit of volunteerism in young people to care for the environment through ART. Mural paintings by children during YAWA activities has shown a great release of anxiety for children to express feelings, to care, to share, to love and in many instances, to cope with hard situation. A joint effort between HUKM and Yayasan Anak Warisan Alam to explore the minds and talents of children in painting to allow them to express their concerns for the environment around them. This event is sponsored by the Chancery of UKM. The Chancery supports any innovation that introduces 'Art Therapy' in rehabilitation programmes. The artwork will be exhibited at the hospital and at UNEP TUNZA Children's conference in New London, USA, that will be attended by 5 young representatives for Malaysia in July 2004. YAWA is launching its interactive website, www.myonlyplanet.org where section of 'Art Therapy - through Nature' will be dedicated to the children of HUKM. World Environment Day is an annual event that hopes to bring more and more people to be aware of the environment. Ultimately leading them to take



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positive action to prevent further degradation. Caring for nature is a form of art and therapeutic, too. HUKM & YAWA hope that the community at large, parents, education authorities, Government agencies, corporate and individuals are able to develop their social responsibilities toward the vulnerability of children with special needs and the environment. Any proceeds from this event will go to establishing HUKM Art Therapy centre & for YAWA - TUNZA team to go to the USA. YAWA is an NGO dedicated to changing young lives to care for the environment. In 2001, YAWA received the United Nations Environmental Award, Global 500 for its environmental achievement in the youth category – making it the first Malaysian youth organization to receive this prestigious award. Other YAWA activities to appreciate the importance of the seas are;

School holiday programmes. 21-25 September, Eco-volunteer Training Certificate, a programme for youth in collaboration with Royal Malaysian Navy. Training will take place on board training ship Fajar Samudera sailing from Lumut to Langkawi. 12-15 December, YAWA 5th International Children's Conference on the Environment, theme 'Save the Seas Around Us', for children age 10-16.

For further information, please contact; Azmil Ikram – Eco-Youth Coordinator 603 7727 5592 or hand phone 012 234 8529

Paul Montenegro (1990 Laureate) To Receive Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award)

News

We received the message that Raul Montenegro is receiving the Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award). The notice arrived to Raul last week from India, where the International Jury had its meeting. This morning the Jury announced the recipients in a press conference in Hyderabad (India). As the news arrived from international agencies, we are now free to communicate this news and congratulate Raul Montenegro with this prize. His message to us today was as follows: OEI will receive the award in the Swedish Parliament the 9th December 2004. Other two recipients are Bianca Jagger from Nicaragua, and Memorial from Russia. As a member of INCHEs, it's also a recognition for INCHEs. I'm quite happy. This award will help a lot in our struggle. Raul Montenegro raulmont@satlink.com



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Focus on Your World Countdown to Close of UNEP International Photographic Competition on the Environment

Nairobi 15 October, 2004 – With just days to go before the close of the world's biggest environmental photo competition, professionals and amateurs alike are today being urged to unclip their dust caps and load up their cameras to win the top \$20,000 prize. Separate cash prizes will be won in the youth and children sections as part of the fourth International Photographic Competition on the Environment sponsored once again by Canon Inc. The competition, called "Focus on Your World" and centered on the theme "Celebrating Diversity," is open to all nationalities and ages. The deadline, originally 24 October, is being extended into November in order to give everyone a chance to take part. Also supporting the competition are JAL (Japan Airlines), TIME Magazine, National Geographic Society, and Earth Report/Television Trust for the Environment. A Gold Prize of \$20,000 will be awarded to the winner of the General category, which is open to applicants aged 25 years or over. There are also separate categories and cash prizes for "Youth" and "Children". Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director, said: "The previous three competitions have proved highly successful, generating huge interest within the photographic world and significant public awareness of environmental issues globally. We are again extremely grateful to Canon for its sponsorship and those companies and organizations who will be promoting this important event." Fujio Mitarai, president and CEO of Canon Inc., said: "Our corporate philosophy is kyosei, which means living and working together for the common good. In accordance with this philosophy, we believe that a harmonious coexistence with nature and the environment is essential for society to achieve sustainable development. I hope that the photographers participating in this competition, through the images they have captured, will be able to share the kyosei philosophy ideal with the world." The fourth competition has, as in the previous ones, secured the full support of the United Nations family through the United Nations Department of Public Information and more than 20 agencies who are members of the United Nations Communications Group. To restore Planet Earth, its people, wildlife and ecosystems back to health requires sound science, assessments and policies, suggested Mr Toepfer. "But it also requires an unleashing of the human spirit with its capacity for compassion, fairness and respect. Images have, since primitive times, been sources of inspiration and contemplation able to reveal the joy and tragedy of our place in the world," he added. "I hope the pictures submitted for the fourth competition will, like those from the previous ones, help catalyze the political and social changes needed to reach our goals and targets on issues from water and sanitation to wildlife, waste and poverty reduction. I hope they will also delight and illuminate, while bringing to the notice of the global public new names and a new generation of talented photographers," he said. **Notes to Editors** The UNEP International



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Photographic Competition on the Environment 2004-2005 will be awarding Gold, Silver and Bronze prizes in each of the General, Youth and Children's categories.

The Youth category is open to young people aged 15 to 24 years old. The Children's category is open to anyone aged 14 or younger. The new competition will not distinguish between different technologies, with analog and digital submissions judged side by side. The distinguished panel of judges, headed by Takeyoshi Tanuma of Japan, will include Sebastião Salgado of Brazil, Raghu Rai of India, and Susan Meiselas from the U.S.A., all world famous photographers.

Full details of the competition's rules and regulations; information on how to submit photographs in both hard and electronic formats and an application form can be read and downloaded at www.unep-photo.com

KENYA'S SUSTAINABLE ECO-TOURISM THEME PARK SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARD (2001 Laureate)

Smithsonian Magazine and the Travelers Conservation Foundation have named Ngomongo Villages in Kenya as one of three finalists for the prestigious 2004 Fourth Annual Sustainable Tourism Award - the SUSTY for Conservation. Chosen from more than 100 nominations received from around the world, Ngomongo Villages has been honoured for two years running as a finalist for this international award. Dr. Frederick Gikandi (2001 Laureate) is a unique environmentalist who for the past 13 years reclaimed a large and neglected quarry, designated to be used as a refuse dump site in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa. The result is Ngomongo Villages, a well-known sustainable eco-tourism theme park devoted to showcasing and celebrating the original ways of life of the rural peoples of Kenya. Dr. Gikandi, who is a medical doctor, voluntarily undertook the task of rehabilitating the quarry by planting four acres of 80 different indigenous trees and by raising environmental awareness through a campaign involving the local population. When the area was completely re-afforested, he invited 10 different tribesmen to reproduce their rural homes in the small clearings of the new forest. Ngomongo Villages is now a thriving tourist destination in Kenya, and serves as a model for other urban and non-urban communities that are affected by degraded and polluted lands. Through the Sustainable Tourism Awards, Smithsonian Magazine and the Travelers Conservation Foundation are working together to honour members of the travel and tourism industry that are committed to protecting our natural environment and its cultural treasures. To learn more about Ngomongo Villages, you can visit their web site at: www.ngomongo.com. Dr. Frederick Gikandi Ngomongo Environmental &



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Poverty Alleviation Initiative P.O. Box 88478 Mombasa, Kenya Tel: (254-11) 221 057 Fax: (254-11) 222 393 E-mail: gikandi@wanachi.com Kind regards, Elisabeth

About JEA - The Ecological Youth of Angola

Juventude Ecológica Angolana (JEA), or JEA - The Ecological Youth of Angola, is the largest Not-For-Profit environmental Non-Government Organisation in Angola. It was founded on 11 May 1991, aimed at promoting environmental conservation, as well as the implementation of sustainable development in the country, through the involvement and participation of young people in environmental education and active learning processes and activities. JEA is committed to contribute to the Angolan Government efforts for the protection of the environment and implementation of the sustainable development in the country, taking into account the critical environmental issues affecting young people and their communities. JEA is made up of more than 5,000 conservation volunteers and environmental educators based in 8 (eight) of the 18 (eighteen) country's provinces, namely Benguela, Cabinda, Namibe, Malanje, Huíla, Kwanza Sul, Cunene and Luanda, the national headquarters. JEA's programme of work addresses different environmental issues facing the country, such as poverty; water, sanitation and human settlements; biodiversity loss; soil erosion and deforestation; drought and desertification; coastal and marine environments; urban solid waste; and lack of people's sensitivity, education and information about environmental issues around them. To this end, JEA develops programmes and projects such as communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), capacity building, database management, clean up and waste recycling campaigns, research and environmental assessment, tree planting, reforestation and restoration of fragile ecosystems from the impacts of the natural disasters droughts and floods and vulnerability for the environmental changes. JEA supported the foundation of 'Maiombe' Network, which is the 'umbrella' network for all civil society organisations working in Angola in environmental conservation field. JEA holds the leadership of 'Maiombe' Network, as president, with the vision to promote the capacity of already existing environmental groups and the born of other new. (Maiombe is the name of the greatest Angolan forest, based in north Cabinda province). In June 2002, JEA was recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by receiving the UNEP Global 500 Youth Environmental Award (<http://www.global500.org>). Since then, JEA has developed working partnerships in environmental education and capacity building field with a number of international institutions dealing with civil society and environmental issues. It was recently accredited by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as an Observer Member (NGO) at the sessions of



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the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and Global Civil Society Forum. The following are the intergovernmental institutions to which JEA is holding Observer and Consultative Status: GEF - Global Environment Facility (<http://www.gefweb.org>), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC.int](http://unfccc.int)), UN Convention to Combat Desertification ([UNFCCC.int](http://unfccc.int)) and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Additionally, JEA has promoted partnerships with the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([NEPAD.org](http://nepad.org)), IUCN - The World Conservation Union ([IUCN.org](http://iucn.org)), the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA), the SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC-REEP), among other institutions and projects. Curiously, more than 75% of JEA's annual budget is allocated from resources provided by some 'environmentally friendly' or committed business corporations, even from the oil sector. However, JEA knows what to do with the differentiation between the source of its funding support and its objectives and action programmes. What JEA is doing now is to guide and support those business corporations for promoting policies and projects targeting the general public and concerned communities regarding the so-called Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). As an outcome, these practices have influenced the elaboration of environmentally friendly policies and decisions by the business corporations, although a considerable number of them are still polluting the environment and using the country's natural resource unsustainably.

Environmental Summit for Children to Coincide with the 2005 World Fair to be held in Toyota City (1999 Laureate)

This year's Environmental Summit for Children is planned to coincide with the 2005 "World's Fair" (EXPO 2005) in Aichi, Japan. (Children from the Summit will be visiting the Fair.) The theme of EXPO 2005 is "Nature's Wisdom." Here is the write-up from the Children's World Summit web site: EXPO 2005 will be the first world's fair of the 21st century and will be held from March 25 through September 25, 2005 in a 173-ha stretch of hills in the eastern part of Nagoya (Nagakute Town, Toyota City (1999 Laureate) and Seto City). With "Nature's Wisdom" as the main theme, the EXPO will be a forum to discuss solutions to the global issues that humanity faces in the 21st century. Thanks Marilyn



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Warm regards from Abbi, Husavik, Iceland (2000 Laureate)

Dear Laureates,

I am still working harder than ever trying to convince my Government and Parliament to leave all future plans for ongoing whaling. There is still a lot of work ahead before they will be convinced to back off... But I am optimistic as always. Whale watching is growing stronger every year, Icelands new Whale Watching Association, (the one I managed to establish last year) is working strongly with me, as does the Tourist Industry Association. At the current moment I am working on a new exhibition in my museum. The new exhibition is going to be dedicated to the protection of the Arctic Oceans. Its working name is: "Ocean Odyssey" (Follow the Gulf Stream). It will cover around 450 square feet and will focus on whale and Ocean biology in general, weaving the two together. We are taking an active stand by informing tourists and the Icelandic public about the various threats opposing the life in Arctic region, hoping to encourage my guests to learn more and ask questions about our environment. I will send you a full report on this at a later time. I will also use the New Global 500 Message Centre to give others a chance to look at my plans. Yours truly Abbi Husavik, Iceland. p.s. This morning I had to dig my way out of my house and then walk up to my waist in snow and then dig my self into the the Whale Museum. It has been snowing and snowing and daylight was only for 2.5 hours yesterday. Still we have a lot of lights and can go skiing in the mountain above Husavik during the next few months.

Promoting Innovation to Improve Lives in Developing Nations : New Report for U.N. Stresses Science and Technology for Economic Growth by Calestous Juma (1993 Laureate)

Cambridge, MA – Developing nations should focus on harnessing the power of technological innovation to grow their economies and improve the lives of their people, asserts a newly released report by experts prepared for the United Nations.



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The report, titled *Innovation: Applying Knowledge in Development*, was prepared by the Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation of the United Nations Millennium Project commissioned by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. It outlines key areas for urgent national and international policy action to accelerate substantive economic and social progress in developing countries, even within the next five years. "There is an urgent need for developing countries to pursue those public policies that begin to tap the tremendous benefits promised by science, technology and innovation," said Calestous Juma, Task Force coordinator and professor of the practice of international development at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "Now is the time to plant the seeds of change – in education, government and the private sector – that can begin moving developing countries forward." The Task Force recommendations aim at implementing the Millennium Development Goals adopted by all governments in 2000. They include:

- Strengthening the ways in which governments use science and technology advice to inform development policy and implementation;
- Putting institutions of higher learning such as universities to the service of community development;
- Designing infrastructure projects as a foundation for technological innovation.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Task Force is comprised of 18 representatives from academia, the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and UN agencies. The Task Force was coordinated by Juma (who also co-authored the report) and Lee Yee Cheong, president of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations. Speaking to the Task Force recommendations, Juma said, "Traditional wisdom continues to emphasize the role of primary education in development. While this foundation is necessary, it is poor substitute for strong commitment to higher education in science, technology and engineering as a source of economic development." Addressing the issue of business development, Juma said, "The capacity of the public sector to meet the needs of the poor is being exceeded around the world. The time has come to complement its role with a strong emphasis on business development as the engine of growth. The role of the public sector is to promote entrepreneurship; not to supplant or suppress it." Regarding public sector change, Juma stated, "Economic advice will continue to play an important role in guiding policy makers on development matters. But in a knowledge-based economy, leaders will need to turn more and more to science and technology advisors. This is inevitable in a world marked by rapid technological change and science advisors will soon become a necessary part of presidential and executive offices, including the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General." The Millennium Development Goals, backed by a political mandate agreed upon by the leaders of all UN member states, have become the international standard of reference for measuring improvements in the human condition in developing countries. The report reinforces measures already being adopted by governments around the world. Canada has created the office of the National Science Advisor to the Prime Minister;



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the Irish government has appointed a Chief Science Adviser to the Prime Minister; the government in Jamaica has devised a formal program aimed at boosting student interest in science and technology; and India has announced plans to set up a scientific advisory council to advise the Prime Minister. The Science, Technology and Innovation Task Force is one of ten task forces established by the UN Millennium Project. For three years the project has worked to recommend strategies to reach UN Goals of reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by 2015. The recommendations for accomplishing these goals are contained in a report, Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals, to be submitted to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Jan. 17, 2005. Calestous Juma is professor of the practice of international development and director of the Science, Technology, and Globalization Project at the Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. He is a former executive secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and served as founding director of the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi and currently serves on the President's National Economic and Social Council of Kenya. Juma has won several international awards for his work on sustainable development. Calestous Juma calestous_juma@harvard.edu

World Environment Day 2005

About World Environment Day 2005 World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The World Environment Day theme selected for 2005 is Green Cities and the slogan is Plan for the Planet! The main international celebrations of the World Environment Day 2005 will be held in San Francisco, California, USA, and UNEP is honoured that the City of San Francisco will be hosting this important United Nations day. Our agenda is to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future. World Environment Day is a people's event with colourful activities such as street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essays and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, as well as recycling and clean-up campaigns. For more information please go to: [http://www.unep.org/wed/2005/english/About WED 2005/index.asp](http://www.unep.org/wed/2005/english/About_WED_2005/index.asp)



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Everybody OK on Chumbe Island (2000 Laureate)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your many enquiries about possible effects on Chumbe Island, of the catastrophic Tsunami that caused havoc all around the Indian Ocean. Fortunately, Chumbe was not affected. We only noticed a very unusual temporary extremely strong current on Sunday afternoon. Chumbe is a raised fossil coral rock island, ca. 3 mtr above sea level, and located off the West coast of Zanzibar Island, therefore sheltered and relatively less vulnerable to such events. The Tsunami did hit the East coasts of Zanzibar and Tanzania though, causing loss of life at beaches in Dar es Salaam where at least 10 people drowned, and damage to beach properties in Zanzibar. There have been no reports yet of missing fishing boats, but these would take more time to be recorded. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the communities that suffered catastrophic loss of lives, properties and livelihoods around our common waters, the Indian Ocean. Thank you again for your concern,
Best Regards, Sibylle