

mental award into one prize to a 'grassroots' environmentalist in each of the six inhabited continents, a major yearly or biennial *individual* award for environmental attainment and leadership is an important need — if possible on a par with, or ahead of, the Nobel Peace Prize (for which a leading environmentalist has recently been nominated on the basis of the urgency of Mankind being at peace with his environment). It has been affirmed that this is something which the Foundation could handle, through its confidential Awards Committee, given only the necessary funds and an *ad hoc* office. An endowment of US \$10 millions or Sw.Frs 14 millions would suffice for this and meanwhile satisfy other of the above needs from income.

(g) Means of convening working groups of leading specialists to pronounce quite freely on major environmental threats and advise WCB (*see* 4, 5, and (c) above) concomitantly. (There has been talk of an attractive lakeside estate near Geneva.)

(h) Sponsorship without financial commitment of appropriate conferences such as the projected *series* of International Conferences on Waste Minimization and Clean Technology, of which the first was held successfully in Geneva, Switzerland, early in 1989.

(i) Perfection by Dr Robert G. Bailey, USDA Forest Service, of his multicoloured Ecoregions Map of the Continents of which a first, encouraged attempt was distributed with his 'Explanatory Supplement' published in *Environmental Conservation* (Vol. 16, No. 4, pp. 307–9, 1989).

Further projects are under consideration, including urgent research proposals, a major World Heritage Series of volumes, a World Wilderness Alliance, establishment of a biennial award for demonstrated environmental concern and concomitant action by a multinational corporation, a foundation or other mechanism to help journalists and other media-mongers to stress environmental matters, and fostering the establishment of associated foundations etc. in other parts of the world.*

OPERATION AND NEEDS

With ever-mounting costs and taxes (though the Foundation itself is non-profit and tax-exempt), and problems *inter alia* of currency exchange, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the Secretariat privately

— despite assistance from the Journal's Publisher and intermittent help from the United Nations, the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, and other sources. Consequently funds are needed to help defray essential office etc. expenses — including those of three telephones (one primarily a fax) and heavy postage, subscriptions, purchases of reference works and other equipment, extra pages of the Journal, useful reprinting and entertaining, and necessary travel when sanctioned by the Board. In addition, some financing is now desired for payment of further casual assistance, attendance at conferences and meetings, and reimbursement of services etc. paid for in maintaining and supplying the Secretariat.

With the running costs already largely accounted for, and in the absence of any institutional overheads and taxes other than those that continue to be paid privately, the Foundation constitutes what has been called a uniquely economical vehicle for support of the environmental /conservational movement — whether generally or through specific projects which can be put in train as soon as or soon after funds become available. Many needs have already been indicated: to accomplish them contributions are warmly welcomed and individually acknowledged, and can be received in any negotiable currency by cheque made out to the Foundation for Environmental Conservation, c/o Mr Heinz Christen, Pictet & Cie Banquiers, 29 Boulevard Georges-Favon, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland, or sent to the undersigned.

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* These include the International Vernadsky Foundation, established in 1988 and centred on the USSR, of which the President is one of the 10 Founders. It is now absorbed in the Vernadsky International Centre for Biosphere Studies, which has recently been established, *inter alia* at our urging, in the USSR Academy of Science's Institute of Soil Science and Photosynthesis at Pushchino near Moscow, USSR. They also include the (Indian) National Environmental Conservation Association, of which the President is a life Member and a Member of the Advisory Board, and the collaborating International Society of Naturalists (INSONA), of which the President is an elected Fellow and Patron.

Ecology and 'Ecostasis'

Ecology is a science — an objective discipline. Societies* and Journals, university Departments and professorial Chairs, are now specifically devoted to it practically world-wide. As an objective science, ecology is not directly involved with human ethics, morals, or behaviour. (Of course, ecologists may be ethical or moral, behaving well or otherwise; but those are matters of personal predilections.) Ecology is not to be equated with Nature and other conservation, although in the minds of many laymen today the terms seem to have become almost synonymous. This confusion may have practical advantages, in so far as people wishing to keep the air pure and the countryside green, are willing to spend effort and even money towards those ends. So, in a way, it pays ecologists to be seen as conservationists, even if they are in fact studying some esoteric ecological problem — such as the competition of two kinds of tapeworm in a common gut. However, playing on this terminological confusion is not strictly honest.

We therefore suggest that scientists, at least, consider using the word 'ecostasis' for conservation business, and retain the term 'ecology' — along with entomology,

palaeontology, and all the other sciences — as a field of objective study. Conservationists and adherents of Green parties etc. could then devote themselves to 'ecostatic' activities and be referred to as 'ecostasists', using basic ecological methods and data when needed, so that the vital meanings involved would be thereby clarified and conserved for the benefit of all.

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* Such as the British Ecological Society, which was founded in the Spring of 1913. This pioneering society's *Journal of Ecology* is now in its 78th volume.