



WORLDLY
HOPES,
DREAMS,
GOALS

DEBT-FOR-EQUITY SWAPS

ANTI-HATE LAWS

FEMINISM

INFLATION

CONSERVATION

ENVIRONMENTALISM

HUMANISM

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FACT SHEET

WORLD CONSERVATION BANK

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WHO: Michael Sweatman, international banker and member of the Executive Committee of the 4th World Wilderness Congress, and the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation (IWLF), sponsor of the 4th World Wilderness Congress.

4th WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS WORLDWIDE CONSERVATION

WHAT: World Conservation Bank. Implementation of an international conservation banking programme will be discussed by major international business and banking speakers including James Baker III, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury; Mr. David Rockefeller; Mr. G. Arthur Brown, Assoc. Administrator of UNDP; Dr. Nyle C. Brady, Deputy Asst. Administrator, U.S. AID; Dr. Mansour Khalid, Vice-chairman, World Commission on Environment and Development, Sudan; Mr. William Ruckelshaus, Commissioner, WCED, USA; and Mr. Michael Sweatman.

WHERE: The international conservation banking program, as called for in Our Common Future, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, and the plan for the World Conservation Bank will be formally presented and discussed during the 4th World Wilderness Congress in Denver and Estes Park, Colorado, September 11-18, 1987.

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 13, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., "Financing Conservation," at the 4th World Wilderness Congress International Forum in Denver, and Monday-Friday, Sept. 14-18, 1:30-3:30 at Caucus Sessions of the 4th World Wilderness Congress Convention of Delegates in Estes Park.

WHY: "In order to marshal and support investments in conservation projects and national conservation strategies that enhance the resource base for development, serious consideration should be given to the development of a special international banking programme... Such a special conservation banking programme or facility could provide loans and facilitate joint financing arrangements for the development and protection of critical habitats and ecosystems, including those of international significance, supplementing efforts by bilateral aid agencies, multilateral financial institutions, and commercial banks." Our Common Future, the report of the WCED.

"Generally, the less developed a nation, the more that nation relies on its natural resource base to support itself. As pressures on resources increase (through growing populations, expanding export programs, etc.), countries become less capable of feeding themselves, placing increasing reliance on import and aid programmes. Better management of resources and improved productivity in the agricultural sector would have beneficial effects on the underlying economies of many developing nations," notes Michael Sweatman, founder of the World Conservation Bank program.

"The World Resources Institute taskforce report on tropical rainforests calls for \$8 billion over the next 5 years for conservation projects. The anti-desertification programme adopted by the United Nations calls for \$4.5 billion per year for conservation projects." It would not be too far fetched to estimate a price tag of some \$100 billion U.S.

(More Over) September 11-18, 1987, Colorado, USA A Project of the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation

over the next decade when all aspects of environmental rehabilitation, conservation and development are considered. To place this gigantic sum into perspective, it represents an estimate of what the industrial countries may save in one year if the price of oil remains below \$15 a barrel for that year," says Michael Sweatman.

The World Conservation Bank would finance, directly and through syndicated and co-financing arrangements: The preparation, development and implementation of national conservation strategies by developing country governments; The acquisition/lease of environmentally important land for preservation of biological diversity and watersheds; The management and conservation of selected areas. And plans for the WCB propose that it act as intermediary between certain developing countries and multilateral or private banks to transfer a specific debt to the WCB, thus substituting an existing "doubtful" debt in the bank's books for a new loan to the WCB. In return for having been relieved of its debt obligation, the debtor country would transfer to the WCB natural resource assets of "equivalent value." Or, developing country debts under foreign assistance programs, which have little hope of repayment, could be retained in-country and applied toward conservation, reforestation or rural agricultural programs through the WCB.

The connection between healthy economies and healthy environments is gaining widespread recognition and is becoming a major agenda item at the end of the 20th century. "It should be clear that the development prospects of a country are intimately tied to its natural resource base," Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, James Baker III, said recently. "Here, I do not mean minerals and fossil fuels, but rather soil, water and a range of renewable resources based on plant and animal life. Fragile natural systems produce these resources and must be carefully managed. If they are not, economic growth may not be sustained or may become extremely expensive, as many countries, both developed and developing, are now learning."

Michael Sweatman is available for interviews, as are many of the other speakers listed above, at the 4th World Wilderness Congress, in Denver and Estes Park, Colorado, September 11-18, 1987.

Was It the World Wilderness Conference or the Economic Development Conference?

by Bill Devall

My ticket said "Fourth World Wilderness Congress" but I thought I was in the wrong meeting when I walked into Currihan Hall in Denver. David Rockefeller, former Chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, was speaking on the need for economic analysis statements as part of the environmental impact statement (EIS) process. He said that many important development projects have been delayed or rejected by the power of environmentalists using the EIS process.

During the three days in Denver and the following week at the YMCA Center in Estes Park, Colorado, I heard dozens of speakers call for "sustainable economic development" as the most important factor in conservation during the remainder of this century. Over 750 delegates representing government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 62 nations listened to bankers, politicians, conservation



Thomas McMillan (Environmental Minister, Canada); Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway); and Maurice Strong (Canada) at World Wilderness Congress. Photo by David Cross.