
THE GLOBAL FORUM

for Environmental Education



**Global Network of
Teachers and Students**

volume 5, number 1, November 1994

The Global Forum for Environmental Education is the official publication of **Caretakers of the Environment International**. The International Board consists of president Arjen Wals, Netherlands; vice-president: Ana Aranda, Spain; secretary: Joke Wals, Netherlands; treasurer: Ed Radatz, USA; director/networking Fatima Matos Almeida, Portugal; director/communications: Isabel Abrams, USA; 1994 conference board representative, Raymond Jowett, Scotland. 1995 conference board representative, Ludmilla Polozova, Russia.

Colofon

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Los participantes de las conferencias anuales reciben **"The Forum"** el primer año, junto con la cuota de inscripción

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Editorial.

The editorial board would like to apologize for the late arrival of this issue. We hope to be more on time with the next issue, which will appear in March 1995. The third issue will appear just prior to the conference in Murmansk. We did make this issue 4 pages longer than the regular 16. We hope you will enjoy reading it.

We would like to invite you to join us in Murmansk. You will find the information necessary on page 10. If you need financial support for the trip to Murmansk, you can contact the secretary, Joke Wals(address, see colofon). She will send you a letter of recommendation, or suggest ways of getting subsidized.

We are certain that after reading the report and the recommendations from the Aberdeen-conference you will be enthusiastic to visit the Murmansk conference, which will be situated in a beautiful region.

Caretakers of the Environment as an organization has developed through the years. Schools have come and gone during the 8 past conferences. We would like to check who are the "Caretakers of the Environment" at this moment. We ask you to fill out the questionnaire enclosed in this issue, and to send it back to us. Fatima Matos Almeida, director networking, will gather the material, and send it back to you. It will give you a host of material with which you can contact schools abroad working on the same themes of environmental education as you are.

Jan Apotheker, chief editor.

Editorial.

A la junta de editorial le gustaría excusarse por la llegada mástarde de este número. Esperamos estar más en tiempo con el número próximo, que apareceremos en Marzo 1995. El tercer número aparecerá justo antes de la conferencia en Murmansk. Hicimos este número 4 páginas más largo del regular 16. Esperamos que lo goce de lectura.

Nos gustaría invitar Ud. juntarnos en Murmansk. Encontrará la información necesario en página 10. Si necesita sustento financiero para el viaje a Murmansk, puede contactar al secretario, Joke Wals (dirección, vea colofón) Le mandará una carta de recomendación, o sugiere que maneras de obtener sustento financiero.

Somos ciertos que después que lectura el informe y las recomendaciones del Conferencia de Aberdeen Ud. serán entusiasta a visite la conferencia de Murmansk, que será situado en una región hermosa.

Caretakers of the Environment como una organización ha desarrollado por los años. Escuelas tienen venir y fueron durante las 8 conferencias pasadas. Nos gustaría verificar que somos los "Caretakers of the Environment" en este momento. Le preguntamos llenar por el adjunto de cuestionario en este número, y vuelvanoslo. Fatima Matos Almeida, director de red, recogerá el material, y se lo vuelve. Le dará un anfitrión de material con que puede contactar escuelas extranjero trabajando en el mismo tipo de educación ambiente como está.

Jan Apotheker, redactor de jefe.

The 1994 Caretakers Conference Aberdeen, Scotland, 13 - 18 June " Sustainability "

Raymond Jowett

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Abstract: The president of the 1994 conference, Raymond Jowett, describes the background of the conference. He explains why certain choices were made, and describes the main theme of the conference, Sustainability. He stresses the importance of Caretakers as a network-organization.

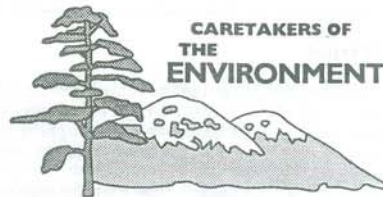


Resumen: El presidente de la 1994 conferencia, Raymond Jowett, describe el fondo de la conferencia. Explica porque se hicieron ciertas selecciones, y describen el tema principal de la conferencia, "Sustainability". Recalca la importancia de 'Caretakers' como una organizacion.

Introduction

The 1994 Caretakers conference was held in Aberdeen, Scotland at the now traditional Caretakers conference time of mid-June. The conference was organized by Dyce Academy. Dyce is a comprehensive secondary school with a long history of involvement in the development of environmental education. The school was one of the original members of Caretakers in 1987 and has participated in every annual conference so far. Students and teachers at the school have gained a great deal from this experience so having the opportunity to organize the 1994 conference was our chance to contribute to the development of the Caretakers network. This was an exciting and unique opportunity which we were delighted to have had.

The task of organizing the conference began two



The logo of the 1994 conference.

years in advance and was certainly a major challenge for the school! The first big decision to be taken by the organizing team was the selection of a theme. Eventually we settled on Sustainability. There were two main reasons for this choice.

The first reason was that the biggest challenge facing the human race today is finding sustainable ways of living to help ensure that the future is secure for future generations and for the environment itself. It therefore seemed appropriate that a Caretakers conference should contribute towards finding a solution to this challenge.

The second reason was that the term Sustainability means different things to different people, the conference would provide an opportunity to clarify understanding about what Sustainability really means. An international gathering of teachers and students would provide the opportunity to share differ-



Scene from the conference.

ent perspectives and understandings

Sustainability then was a choice of topic which offered lots of potential for a Caretakers conference. There were many other decisions to be made and problems to be overcome in the conference planning process but as organizers we believed that the choice of a challenging and relevant theme was the most critical and important of all. A good theme would, we hoped, ensure a relevant and meaningful conference.

Over 200 students and teachers from all corners of the globe came to Aberdeen for the conference. They brought with them their own perceptions and understandings of what Sustainability

The exhibition was a unique collection of school work from around the world and was attracted the attention of both the media and the general public of Aberdeen who came in large numbers to see the exhibition on an open evening.

The conference program

The major aim in planning the conference program was to ensure that all delegates would have the maximum opportunity to contribute and to facilitate interaction amongst delegates. We also wanted to ensure that the conference would have targets and that it would generate conclusions. The following structure for the conference was designed to try to ensure that these objectives would be met.



display from Aberdeen

meant. The countries represented at the conference were - Russia, Sweden, the Netherlands, Portugal, the USA, Spain, India, Ireland, Peru, Northern Ireland, Ethiopia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Israel, Indonesia, Ghana and Scotland. The conference was therefore a truly international event and included delegates from many types of environment and culture.

Preparation for the conference

Prior to coming to Aberdeen each delegation was asked to prepare itself by undertaking a project on some aspect of Sustainability in their home environment. The results of these investigations were presented as a major exhibition at the conference. The diversity of the research and the imaginative nature of the exhibits made this the focal point of the conference. The exhibition certainly made us all aware of our common purpose and also of the myriad of environmental issues which face us. It also provided a valuable resource for the work of the conference.

Delegates were organized into small working groups. Each group consisting of between 12 and 15 delegates from different delegations. The groups were led by a local teacher and two senior students from Dyce Academy who had been trained for the purpose. These groups worked together for most of the week. This ensured that everyone had the chance to learn from fellow delegates from different backgrounds. Once the ice was broken these groups worked very effectively.

Prior to starting the groupwork the conference was addressed on the first day by the well known British environmental campaigner Jonathan Porritt. He raised awareness of what Sustainability really means and the challenges that achieving sustainability poses. He also left the conference under no illusions about the task it had undertaken!

The next stage of the program involved the working groups spending three days working intensively together. The conference planning committee had set the groups a series of key questions about Sustainability and each group was asked to consider these questions in three different contexts. The three contexts were: -

- a) the urban environment
- b) the managed environment
- c) the wild environment

The groups explored these contexts by taking part in a series of fieldwork activities at various locations in the Aberdeen area. For this part of the conference program we had the co-operation of over thirty different organizations. These in-

cluded: industry, local authorities, conservation organizations, business, agriculture, land owners and many others. Each of these organizations had willingly contributed to the conference program by developing a fieldwork activity using their facilities or premises.

Each of the working groups visited three or four different sites during this part of the program. Wherever possible the activities were designed to be practical. In some cases delegates found themselves involved in exciting and unexpected situations. For example five of the sixteen working groups took part in a simulation of an oil spill on a National Nature Reserve. The delegates had to take on the role of the various agencies which would be involved if a real disaster took place. This simulation was planned to be so realistic that some delegates spent more than half of the day believing they were involved in a real emergency!



Excursion to an Electric Power Station

Other fieldwork activities included considerations of the following topics - waste management, urban planning and traffic management, agriculture and food production, consumer habits, power generation, fishing in the North Sea, forestry, ecological housing and many more! The conference organizing team were delighted at the willingness of so many organizations to get involved in the conference program and by the open and honest way in which they prepared the fieldwork activities. This wide involvement of outside agencies also provided Caretakers with an opportunity to spread its field of influence.

During the fieldwork the working groups were asked to consider key questions about Sustainability in relation to the activity under consideration. These included :

- What human needs does the activity fulfil?
- Does the activity consider the needs of other living things?
- Is the activity ecologically or economically sustainable?
- Does the activity have any hidden environmental costs?

The key questions were also considered in relation to 5 Guidelines for Sustainability which have been published by the Government environmental agency Scottish Natural Heritage. The full details of the key questions and of these 5 guidelines will be published in the conference report later this year.

Following the fieldwork component of the conference program delegates began the task of coming up with answers to the key questions and making suggestions as to how we can achieve a sustainable future for the generations to come and for the Earth itself. This was a difficult task and to help get the ideas flowing Caretakers Honorary President Professor Chris Baines addressed the conference on the second last day. He gave us some clues about what will be required if we are to ensure a sustainable future.

The task of generating ideas was then left to the student delegates while the teachers attended seminars on environmental education and the future of Caretakers. On the final afternoon of the conference the students recommendations were presented to the conference. This was the most memorable part of the conference program

since the conclusions turned out to be not only very meaningful and highly relevant but they were presented in an entertaining yet extremely serious style.

Eight student groups came up with eight very different presentations but running through all of them was a very clear understanding of what sustainability is about and why we must act now to do something about it. Again full details of the recommendations will be given in the detailed conference report but the following are good examples of the products of the conference.

- Governments and individuals should take practical measures to reduce the impact of people on the environment e.g. by encouraging the development of energy efficient housing and good public transport, perhaps via the tax system.

- Population control must be tackled. Consumption by people in the rich countries should be reduced. Over population and over consumption are 2 huge problems for the environment. Perhaps the best way to tackle these is by removing the trade barriers which exist between North and South.
- *Children should be educated to view the environment in a positive way so that they come to love and respect it. Too often the environment generates feelings of pessimism.*
- All pupils should receive real environmental education since we can only live in a sustainable way if we are well informed of the consequences of environmental ignorance.

If the students who attended the conference have gone home and acted on their own recommendation then the 1994 Caretakers conference will have been successful. Better still if some of those students can get into positions as decision makers of the future then the future for the environment will certainly be more sustainable.

The conference program also included several social events which provided more informal opportunities for delegates to learn about each other. The now traditional multi-cultural music evening was a lot of fun as was the chance to pick up the skills required to become an accomplished Scottish country dancer! An evening with Earth Education guru Steve Van Matre raised was a very stimulating and provocative event.

The Caretakers conference also attracted the interest of Grampian Television, one of Scotland's largest TV companies. They filmed a special studio debate program about Sustainability on one evening during the conference. The delegates formed the audience for this program which has been broadcast twice since the conference. This shows the power and influence which Caretakers can have.

The closing dinner was addressed by the Chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage (one of our major sponsors), Magnus Magnusson. Magnus is also a well known broadcaster and writer in Britain and he had attended the presentation of recommendations on the final afternoon. He was clearly impressed by what he had heard but was careful to remind us in his closing address that closing the conference was only really a starting point. What happens next is what really matters, those who attended the conference have to pro-

duce results on returning home. Caretakers can help to change the world but this depends on a lot happening between conferences. We must ask ourselves if we are doing our bit to ensure that this happens.

If you were in Aberdeen what have you done since you were there?

What next?

The conference report will be finished soon and distributed to all who attended. It will also be sent to all of the organizations and individuals who were involved in the conference program and in sponsoring the conference.

A conference video has been produced and will shortly be available for distribution. This film very effectively captures the flavor and spirit of the conference. Delegates will receive details about this film soon.

Many friendships between individuals and school were developed in Aberdeen. Caretakers after all is a network and a growing network of organizations and individuals throughout the world. Hopefully many of the connections will develop and flourish. Will any schools for example develop joint projects as a result of the conference? Perhaps some new national branches of caretakers will develop?

In 1995 the conference moves even nearer to the North Pole than Scotland when it will be held in the Russian city of Murmansk. That will certainly be an exciting event but let us all make sure that we have something new to report before we go there. Caretakers has to move on and be increasingly active between conferences if we are to achieve our objectives.

Final thoughts

As stated at the start of this article organizing the 1994 conference was a challenge which we enjoyed. There were many obstacles and problems to overcome but now that its almost all over (report still to be finished!) we are convinced that it was all worthwhile. In the end the success of any conference depends on the people who attend. Those who attended this conference made it work. We achieved our target of producing meaningful conclusions and did this by providing the opportunities for delegates to work together. We are grateful to all of the delegates for participating so fully in all aspects of the conference.

Our experience of the Caretakers network has only been positive, the opportunities are there for the network to become stronger and to diversify, it is up to all of us as members of this unique organization to ensure that this happens.

Caretakers of the Environment, 8th International Conference, 13-18 June 1994, Aberdeen, Scotland

Recommendations for a sustainable earth

Dyce Academy, Riverview Drive, Dyce, Aberdeen, AB2 0NF, Scotland

Telephone - 0224 725118 Fax - 0224 772571



Education

All members of society should be educated about the earth's environmental problems, and should be made aware of how they can help to solve them.

Advertising

All retailers should be encouraged to utilise their space to promote environmentally friendly products.

Prices of environmentally friendly products should be reduced to make the public keener to buy them. Despite the temporary drop in profits it would cost the earth far less.

The public should be converted to using environmentally friendly products using persuasion techniques as opposed to coercion.

Waste (energy)

Society should do their utmost to conserve energy at every opportunity. Do not waste vital resources such as oil, water and timber.

Wherever possible, alternative sources of energy should be found. Countries should use non-polluting energy resources such as wind energy, and solar power in preference to fossil fuels.

Waste (fishing and farming)

Over-production is a problem which can be solved by the realisation that maximum production is not always best. Quality, in some cases, is more important than quantity. Also, farmers should be encouraged to farm using organic methods which use less chemicals.

Waste (recycle)

Universally, people should recycle every material possible eg glass, paper. This can be achieved by the cooperation of the world's governments. More facilities need to be made available for recycling to take place.

Educación

Todos socios de sociedad tienen que educar sobre la tierra's problemas ambiente, y tienen que hacer enterado de cómo pueden ayudar solucionarlos.

Publicidad

Todo tenderos tiene que animar usar su espacio fomentar ambientemente productos amistosos. Precios de ambientemente productos amistosos tienen que reducir hacer el público más agudo comprarlos. A pesar de la gota temporal en lo beneficia costaría la tierra far less menos. El público tiene que convertir usar ambientemente productos amistosos usartécnicas de persuadir como opuesto a coerción.

Desechos (energía)

Sociedad tiene que hacer su sumo conservar energía en cada oportunidad. No gaste recursos vitales tal como óleo, agua y madera. Dondequiera que posible, fuentes alternativas de energía tienen que encontrar. Países tienen que usar recursos non-ensuciables de energía tal como energía de viento, y poder solar en preferencia a combustibles de fósil.

Desechos (pesca y agricultura)

Sobreproducción es un problema que puede ser resolver para la idea que producción máxima no está siempre mejor. Calidad, en algunos casos es muy importante que cualidad. También, labradores tienen que animar cultivar emplear métodos orgánicos que emplean menos reactivo

Desechos (recicle)

Universalmente, personas tienen que reciclar cada material posible por ejemplo vidrio, papel. Éste puede ser lograr para la cooperación de los gobiernos del mundo. Más facilidades necesitan poner a disposición disponible para

Recreation

Everybody has a right to enjoy the world's natural beauty. However, this does not give them the right to misuse it in any way. If people take care of these places, future generations will have the privilege to appreciate them too.

Joint responsibility

Despite political and religious differences between countries and continents, the earth is something which concerns everybody regardless of race, creed and colour. To prevent further destruction of the world and its resources, everyone must cooperate, compromise and care. These actions will contribute to a sustainable lifestyle for all the world.

Fashion

The trends of today determine many people's lifestyles. Over-consumption is an extensive problem which is caused by contemporary fashions. Everybody should make a conscious effort to minimise consumption by changing or adapting their lifestyle.

reciclar tener lugar.

Recreación

Todo el mundo tiene un correcto gozar del mundo's hermosura natural. Sin embargo, éste no los da el correcto maltratarlo en algun modo. Si personas cuidan de cuidado de estos lugares, futuros generaciones tendrán el privilegio apreciarles también.

Responsabilidad de juntura

A pesar de políticas y diferencias religiosas entre países y continentes, la tierra está algo que concierne todo el mundo a pesar de de raza, credo y color. Impedir destrucción más del mundo y sus recursos, cada uno tiene que cooperar, comprometa y cuidado. Estas acciones contribuirán a un estilo de vida sustentable para todo el mundo.

Moda

Las tendencias de hoy determinan muchos personas nivel de vida. Sobreconsumo es un problema extenso que es causado para modas de contemporáneo. Todo el mundo tiene que hacer un esfuerzo consciente a consumo de hacer mínimo para el cambiar o el adaptar su estilo de vida.

Note: The conference song

GIVE EARTH A CHANCE

Chorus:

All we are saying
Is give earth a chance

All the things that we buy
Let's just stop and ask why
That manufacturers just don't say
That friendly products are the way

Chorus

Maximum is not the best
Organic farming produces less
Fertilizers mean over production
We've got to stop this world's destruction

Chorus

Look just, under your nose
There is beauty that lives and grows
Learn to appreciate your surroundings
Don't be responsible for their squanderings

Chorus

All the countries should come together
Resources are not here forever
Fishers, farmers, let's be wise
We just have to compromise

Chorus

Use your head, use your waste
Deal with the problems that we face

Keep today to use tomorrow
Mend, transform, reuse and borrow

Chorus

We should not use oil and gas
As they won't forever last
Sun, wind, tides and manure
Are a better source for sure

Chorus

Development is a funny word
It is really quite absurd
We show, concern, sorrow and shame
But should we look west, to find the blame

Chorus

Everyone should pass the word
About the things that we have heard
Use persuasion instead of force
You'll get better results of course

Chorus

The biggest problem we can see
Is everyone thinking 'me, me, me'
We need to give the world a break
You have to give as well as take
Education is the way
To solve the problems of today

As we are saying
Is when there's care there's a cure (2x)

The Arctic Region & Ecology



IX International Caretakers of the Environment Conference 12-18 June 1995



Murmansk - Russia
Ecological Centre - Podstanitsky, I
Phone: 4-36-37
Fax: (Norway) -- 47 78 910 064 or -- (815) 4-36-71

Caretakers of the Environment International
Caretakers of the Environment International (CEI) is a global network of secondary school teachers and students who are actively engaged in environmental issues and environmental education. The network organizes annual conferences about specific environmental issues. While students investigate the issues at stake and look for ways to help resolve them, teachers look for ways to integrate them into their regular teaching. Over 1000 teachers and students from over 56 countries have attended past CEI conferences. National branches of CEI have formally been established in Canada, Ireland, India, Portugal, the Netherlands and the United States. CEI also has its own periodical 'The Global Forum for Environmental Education' which appears three times a year.

Location

The 1995 annual conference will be held in Murmansk, Russia.

Murmansk is the largest city in the world within the Polar Circle with a population of about half a million people. The city is located on the eastern shore of the Kola Bay, 50 km from the coast of the Barents Sea. Cold summer with an average temperature of +9...+12 °C is characteristic for the area because of the influence of the Sea. In June snowfalls and frosty days are quite possible as well as the temperature of +20°C.

The most distinctive feature of Murmansk is Polar day in summer and Polar night in winter. Murmansk is the main port in the North of Russia possessing a powerful icebreaking fleet. The city has been long called the Northern Gates to the Arctic Region as far as the Northern Sea Route starts here. Murmansk is the city of traditional marine trades: sailors, fishermen. Now it has become the city of marine geologists and geophysicists when oil and gas deposits were discovered.

Thanks to its favourable geographical situation Murmansk is the crossroad of maritime trading ways and cultural and scientific exchanges.

The conference will be held in the city and its suburbs, and it will provide good possibilities for exploring the arctic environment.

1995 Conference theme

The theme chosen for the 1995 conference is 'Arctic Ecology and the Environment'.

The Arctic region is the area with the Northern Arctic Ocean as a dominating factor on the climate, creating extremely severe conditions. The Arctic ecosystems are extremely fragile. They are characterised by a poor ability of self-purification because of low temperatures and a short period of biochemical activity of micro-organisms. The natural systems of the Arctic region exist under extremely hard climatic conditions with poor resources of food warmth and light. They actually are on the very verge of mere surviving. So further industrial stress may provoke serious changes processes in nature. It means that the Arctic area can be considered an indicator of the global state of the environment. The Kola Peninsula is an ideal place to investigate the problem being the most industrialized and urbanized region in the Transpolar region. The economical activity here include mining industry, nuclear power stations, oil and gas extraction in the Barents Sea. We hope that the delegates come to understand all the problems of the area and will become acquainted with new nature protection projects developed for the Barents area. The environmental security of the whole of Europe, not just the Arctic regions, will depend

on the successful application of these projects. **Registration**

Aims of the conference

- To share successful environmental education projects from around the globe.
- To provide every member possibility to investigate the environmental problems of the Arctic regions in connection with the industrial use of the Barents Sea and intensive stress on the environment.
- To improve environmental awareness and understanding of the interrelation between nature and society not only on the regional but international level.
- To work out recommendations for protecting and reconstructing ecosystems, providing safe conditions for living and a stable development of the economy.

Conference program

The programme of the conference includes discussions and experimental work in the city as well as in the countryside. The main events will be held in Russian and English. A major factor determining the success of the conference will be cooperation between the delegates. We expect that the spirit of the cooperation and the dialogue will dominate at the conference in order to achieve the aims of the conference.

The participants will have frequent opportunities to share experiences in the field of environmental education.



A range of social and leisure events are planned in the evenings.

We hope you will learn something new of Russian and local culture and that we shall learn something of yours!

The conference is arranged for upper secondary school teachers and students. Every school may send 2 teachers and 2 students. The projects on different subjects of the conference from the participants are expected. Each school should submit a description of their current environmental education project. Those selected will be informed in January 1995.

Conference fee will be \$ 175,- + Caretakers International Membership fee, \$ 25,- teacher, \$ 15,- students (includes three issues of the Global Forum for Environmental Education).

**1995 THE ARCTIC REGION & ECOLOGY
CONFERENCE
MURMANSK RUSSIA**

Registration form

Please copy!

NAME OF SCHOOL/INSTITUTION _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

FAXNUMBER _____

NAMES OF DELEGATES

Teachers _____

Students _____

PROJECT PROPOSAL/OUTLINE
(please use a separate sheet if necessary)

WHICH LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK

(please tick)

ENGLISH

SPANISH

OTHER

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 31 DECEMBER
1994 TO:

Natalia Karpenko

Creative activity of the Youth and Ecological
Centre

Podstanitsky, 1

Murmansk

Russia

or fax to : --47-78-910064

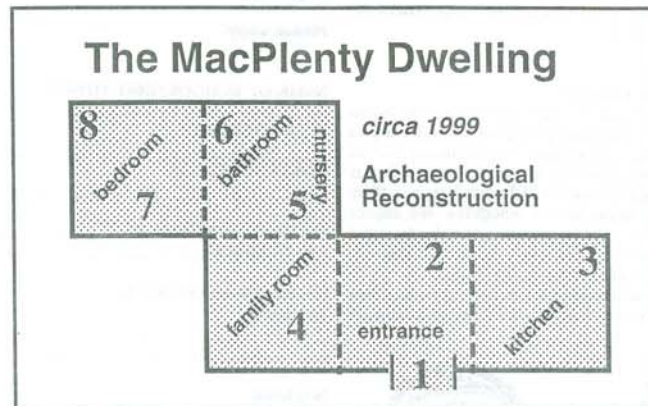
'Thou shalt not waste' **A travelling exhibition about the problem of solid household waste and its solutions.**

**Yael Wagner-Ofer, Regional Director of Environmental Programs and
Education Municipality of Ramat Gan, Israel.**

Abstract: In the article a description is given of an exhibition in the year 2009. The exhibition shows the way we, people of 1994 are destroying our environment. It shows us where we are going wrong.



Resumen: En el artículo se da una descripción de una exhibición en el año 2009. La exhibición muestra el modo nosotros, gente de 1994 destruye nuestro ambiente. Nos muestra donde vamos mal.



The floor plan of the MacPlenty Family Dwelling

Introduction

This article takes us well into the next millennium. Archeologists have excavated an old family dwelling from the year 1999. They have investigated why the people at the end of the 20th century did not survive. They have set up an exhibition of this dwelling. The goal of the exhibition is to teach us, the Society of Plenty, about our part in creating the problem, and about our responsibility to start working toward a solution. If we are to prevent an ecological disaster, now is the time!

Welcome to the home of the MacPlenty Family, or more precisely; to the ruins of their home, which collapsed in 1999 under mountains of garbage, during the Plasto-lithic Era.

The MacPlenty Family fell victim to the habits of over-consumption, common to the modern Society of Plenty. These habits include buying small things in big, tempting packages, which are immediately added to the massive trash piles.

The disaster which befell the Plasto-lithic people could have been prevented if only the members of the Throwaway Culture had been educated about the environmental destruction caused by excessive household waste.

A walk through the rooms of the excavated house will show us the items of trash behind, and as one reads the signs posted throughout the house, one realizes that there is a better way.

At the Edge of the Abyss

Hello - Shalom - and Welcome!

We're at the entrance of the home of the MacPlenty Family, who met the fate of millions of other families of their time, known today as 'The Plasto-lithic Age'. That era ended in disaster, when the majority of the human race was buried under huge piles of household garbage and trash. The disaster took place, it seems, as the result of an increase in the population, industrial development and a culture of overconsumption. Scientists estimate that the excavated house which has been reconstructed here probably collapsed in the year 1999. Although it is a rare historical finding, you are permitted - and even encouraged - to touch some of the artifacts exhibited. Let's go inside and learn a little about the life-style and mentality of the people of that distant era, so that we can understand what brought about their destruction.

Market Mania

In the Plasto-lithic Age, people were caught up in a buying frenzy. Each time they went to the supermarket, they'd buy far more than they needed, just so 'it would be there'. In order to encourage this frenzy, products were packaged in tempting colors; the packages taking up much more volume than required for the product itself, and sold at a higher price than necessary. With all this excess packaging, it took only a few items to fill an entire grocery cart. The proud consumers would then wrap up these overly-packaged products even more, loading their purchases into plastic bags - rather than take advantage of reusable shopping baskets. Since the plastic bags were free, many shoppers used doubles 'so the bag won't tear'. This reasoning seems odd, since the loaded plastic bags were merely loaded into cardboard cartons to be taken out to the car! As you can see, the packages have outlasted their owners! Let's move on to the kitchen to see why ...

Re-Use It or Lose It!

Note the shocking phenomenon: packages, packages, packages. Some of them can be found in the trashcan - together with the product itself, since the recommended date for purchase had already expired by the time the family was ready to use the product. True, goods need to be packaged in order to maintain freshness and to show information - such as the ingredients and products expiration date. But that doesn't mean that one needs to use packaging which harms the environment. In the Plasto-lithic Age, each person 'produced' an average of 1 1/2 kilos of garbage a day, which took up the space of 4 1/2 liters. In one year, each person alone supplied

a minimum of one-half ton of garbage. In total, Israel produced 2.8 million tons of garbage in one year! It's hard to imagine such an amount - it would fill the national football stadium and reach a height of 2 kilometers! It's no wonder then, that the Plasto-lithic people were buried under mountains of garbage. What a shame, since the disaster would have been avoidable, had those people taken a few simple steps to help themselves: Limiting consumption; Re-using and recycling. That's all it would have taken to save the Plasto-lithic people, including the unfortunate MacPlenty family.

The 'Wreck' Room

This is the room where the MacPlenty's spent most of their free time, entertaining themselves and their friends and neighbors. Here's where they consumed a lot of that extra food they bought. According to our anthropologists, many of the people of that age had a strange swelling in the stomach area, apparently caused by overconsumption of food. The beverage cans, plastic food packages and candy wrappers were thrown into the same trashcan: a fatal error! During the recycling process many raw materials can be produced from trash. But to do this one must sort the trash in order to separate the paper, plastic, tin, glass, aluminium, metal and organic garbage. Recycling conserves natural resources, raw materials, sources of energy and the amount of land required for garbage dumps. Recycling minimizes the amount of toxic waste which harms the atmosphere, thus saving money and helping to sustain the planet Earth for all its inhabitants and the generations to come.

The Plastic Peril

Most of the toys the MacPlenty children played with were made of plastic, as were the disposable pens and other disposable items, all part of the 'Throwaway Culture'. Plastic is a synthetic material, a by-product of oil, and it takes hundreds of years to decompose naturally. Using recycling methods, however, plastic can serve as a substitute for wood and other raw materials. There are even plastics which are said to be biodegradable and less harmful to the environment, although this subject is still being debated. The disposable diapers used by the MacPlenty babies are one more example of the Throwaway Culture. They're made out of paper and plastic. In the first 30 months of life, one baby uses approximately 6,000 disposable diapers. We were all babies once, and the arithmetic's easy: just multiply the billions of people on earth by 6,000 and you'll find out how many disposable diapers there are lying on trash heaps! According to the biblical proverb, a person should live 120 years - but a disposable diaper will live for 500! And as long as we're talking about diapers, let's take a look in

the bathroom.

From Issues to Tissues

While the MacPlenty Family always looked crisp, clean and laundered; their laundry was polluting the environment. In order to keep their powdered laundry detergent nice and dry, the Plasto-lithic people kept the powder in its plastic container, always discarding it when the detergent was gone. Those plastic containers then came to rest at the garbage dump. Here you see a few of those excess containers, evidently left in the bathroom because the trashcans were too full to hold them. Others believe that the containers were kept here with the intention of reusing them, although those good intentions were never carried out. And each time the MacPlenty's went to market, they came home with more detergent in containers which were bigger, brighter and more wasteful. Today, we find it hard to understand why the MacPlenty's didn't just do the simplest thing, by buying the product in its container the first time, and then using the same container to keep more economical refill packages after that. Of course we all know that refills are less expensive and a lot lighter to carry home. Why didn't the MacPlenty's think of that? Even back in the ancient 1990's, liquid detergents and fabric softeners were available in refill packages. The only bright spot in this room is the toilet paper - which was made from recycled paper. On that happy note, let's move on to the bedroom.

No Rest for the Wicked

Hard to believe, isn't it? Look at that pile of Sunday papers the MacPlenty's read - or at least bought each weekend, hoping to read. The newspapers, of course, are made of paper, which is made from trees. And trees are the lungs which let the Earth breathe. We all know that paper should be recycled. If all the newspapers published on one Sunday were to be recycled, the Plasto-lithic people could have saved a half million trees! Now take a look at the bed. Granted in the Plasto-lithic days, the most comfortable beds were made with metal springs. But today, the iron in those bedsprings is setting here rusting, and once it's buried in the ground it releases toxic metallic poisons into the land and ground water. The batteries used by the family, and the way they were discarded, was flawed from the start. In this country in the 1990's, Israelis used 60 million batteries per year. Since these batteries produced toxic waste, they should have been thrown into a separate waste container. A medium-sized battery contains one gram of mercury, which can pollute one million liters of water once it gets into the ground water! Even in the ancient Plasto-lithic Age, rechargeable batteries were available at any appliance store. It's hard to understand why the Plasto-lithic people chose to spend more money on disposable batteries - destroying the environment in the process!

Until We Meet Again?

The sad case of the MacPlenty Family could have been prevented. If only they had thought a little about what they were buying and how they were using and discarding those goods, they might have lived to a ripe old age. Instead the MacPlenty's, just like their neighbors, their government, and the other citizens of the world, preferred to ignore the problem: They went on wasting energy and resources - living in false comfort while they were poisoning the environment. It seems that nobody thought they would meet such a terrible end - or maybe they just didn't think at all! We, on the other hand, still have hope. If we pay just a little more attention to the way we use our resources, we can sustain and preserve the environment and enjoy it, too. With a little bit of effort, what happened to the MacPlenty's won't happen to us.



The author, Mrs Yael Wagner-Ofer at the Aberdeen Caretakers conference.



The art of sustainability
Some poetical thoughts of our environment

**1993-1994, Group L44, Sintermeertencollege,
Heerlen, Holland**

What is the biggest challenge of the century?
The people, their origin, development and even their next generations are totally dependent on the environment. In the old centuries trees, animals and plants were important icons for religions and nations. But when the centuries passed by, people were losing the respect for trees, plants and animals. People these days view them more as material things. But they don't realize that if a forest or some sort of animal is exterminated, you can't go back: it's gone, forever! People don't seem to realize what the environment is, or what it means to us, and what is more important: people don't seem to realize what the environment will be or will become in future.

All over the whole world there is just a handful of people who are really doing something and who really seem to care, like Greenpeace and

WWF. But you can hear people say: 'Those idiots, why bother? Get away from that nuclear ship, get out of your rubber speedboats and go home and watch television! Let us ignore that they are stuffing Antarctica with toxic waste barrels'.

But these people who are saying this ain't human and they don't realize that a few generations from now you can walk nowhere in peace through a green forest, see how the penguins catch their fish, how a seal brings her baby on earth or how the crocodiles survive in the tropical rainforest. The last few years some t.v.-commercials show how the forests in Brazil disappear and how the seals are slaughtered in the sea. But the people keep on saying: 'Oooh, how terrible' and switch to another channel. That's why all the nations and governments should come together and do something because it's possible and we know it is. But maybe, it will cost a little bit more money and we have sat in a little bit more.

So this is the biggest challenge of this century, to survive the next one.

Dick Gebuys

Bram de Wever Sustainability

Sustainability,
we heard a lot about, last months.

It is something about environment,
because lot of people have got enough of it.

All this pollution has got to be put an end to.
If not, all the nature in the world disappears for
all of you.

The beautiful tropical forests of the days before,
no longer give us romantical dreams,
they only seem to produce furniture, luxury,
wealth.

Some of us say: 'Don't worry,
it's over the day after tomorrow!'
They get their kicks on that idea,
forgetting our reality of today.

We're going on to pollute nature,
in polluting our earth.
By accident someone tries to prevent this.

This year we did a project on environment,
to prevent worse,
to help to prevent a real environmental disaster.
Because we want to deal life with our children,
to hand them the earth,
so that they can go on living
for a long time, but especially in a happy way.

Tim Beckers Untitled

Come with me, into the wood,
to the animals, the trees, the plants, the
atmosphere.
Come with me, into our nature,
it's something everybody loves.
Come on, now that it is still possible,
to the beasts, the oaks, the green, the taste
of freedom,
everyone has to come with us,
and fight for the things so pure,
fight for the rights of nature.

*Note from the editor: Dick Gebuys teaches
Dutch at Sintermeerten secondary school.
Throughout this issue you can find environmental
poetry that has been created by his
students.*

Amateur Horticulturists Association (AHA) launches Resource Centre Project,

by John Yuniwo Musa
P.O. Box 5182, Bamenda, Cameroon, West Africa

Abstract. In this article the author describes the situation in Cameroon, with regard to environmental problems. He describes one particular organization, the Amateur Horticulturists Association. He requests help for one of the projects, in the form of books, videos etc.



En este artículo el autor describe la situación en Cameroon, con respecto a problemas ambiente. Describe una organización particular, el Aficionado Botánico Asociación. Pide ayuda por uno de los proyectos, en la forma de libros, videos etc.

Like the rest of the world, Cameroon has her share of environmental problems, some of which are life-threatening. With the creation of the Ministry of the Environment and Forests in 1992, Cameroonians are increasingly becoming more conscious of environmental issues. In collaboration with the mass media, this ministry is sensitizing the public on the dangers of environmental degradation.

However, the government cannot be expected to do everything alone in a nation where the economic crunch has resulted in salary cuts and massive lay-offs in a bid to keep the government afloat. To worsen matters the CFA Franc, which is the currency used in Cameroon, recently suffered a major devaluation resulting in untold hardship for many Cameroonians particularly the economically disadvantaged. Consequently, the government has less means at its disposal for the effective implementation of the national action plan for the environment on which it is presently working. This is based on the assumption that foreign donors do not assist in the implementation of this program.

The major environmental problems here include deforestation, loss of species, solid waste disposal, destruction of watersheds, water quality, soil erosion and the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in some areas. With this situation, a number of Non-Governmental Organizations have come into existence to join hands with the government in efforts aimed at the abatement of these problems. Some of these organizations are teaching the population agroforestry methods, soil conservation techniques, watershed protection and management, while some are providing organic alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The role of these NGO's is quite vital and greatly comple-

ments the governments efforts. This is, like in the case of the government, greatly limited by the resources available to these organizations for this very important work.

The Amateur Horticulturists Association (AHA) is a not-for-profit NGO founded in Bamenda for the promotion of organic horticulture and for tackling some of these environmental problems through a participatory approach. AHA raises tree seedlings for various purposes and tries fruit, vegetable and medicinal plants from around the world besides other activities. Bottles constitute a significant part of solid waste and AHA is recycling some of these bottles by cutting them for use as drinking glasses, flower jars and other household utensils.

Identifying ignorance as one of the major causes of environmental irresponsibility, AHA launched a resource centre project sometime late last year. This centre is meant to be an information source for horticultural, environmental, sustainable development, appropriate technology and related topics for use by the inhabitants of Bamenda who do not have such a facility as yet. Since the project was launched, book donations have been trickling in and it is hoped that by January 1995 the doors of this centre will be opened to the public. Back-up equipment such as photocopier, audio/video equipment, xerox machine, slide projector etc.; would be needed to render this centre really operational. It is hoped that with the creation of this centre, the present level of environmental awareness would be raised. This would mean half the solution to the current trend of environmental degradation.

In May 1994 AHA also launched a newsletter, Horticulture & Environment (HE) as a voice for addressing some of these issues. HE will be

circulated in educational institutions and other groups involved in environmental work around the country. Interested individuals with a concern for the environment and sustainable development will also be welcome to copies. However, this can only be made possible as the means are available.

AHA is appealing, through this medium, for material support towards the realization of the resource centre project. Books, videos, posters or old equipment that could be 'recycled' to AHA

would be gladly welcome.

Any assistance for the production of Horticulture & Environment would be equally welcome. AHA also wishes to thank these organizations and individuals who have already contributed some materials towards this project.

Requests for further information and contributions could be channeled to:

The Coordinator, AHA, P.O. Box 5182, Bamenda, Cameroon, West Africa.

Joris Broekmans **Never mind**

I don't mind the dust in my backyard,
the cigarettes in my body,
the steam of my cars.
I don't mind the water of my washes,
the fat of my meatloaf,
the sound of my CD's.
I don't mind the leaf of my trees,
the trouble in my soil,
the taste of our water.
I don't mind the colour of the raindrops,
the outlook of the woods,
the future of our planet.
I really don't mind living.

Just let me drive my wheels,
let me dump my stuff,
let me spoil my nature,
let me be free,
and forget to live.

Armand Wachelder **The Beast**

Once upon a time in the east,
there was this big, grey and ugly beast.
It had an abnoxious smell,
that everybody knew very well.
He liked to see things get wrecked,
and to make sure everything went ok; he checked.
He came out of his cave once a year,
at that time everyone lived in fear.
Then he went to a woody place,
where he destroyed every species and race.
This beast is on everybody's mind
and is known as 'mankind'.

Marcel Meessen **Blame**

Durability or tenableness
it's all need for
the prolong of our time
that we will have from Mother Earth
and that we're trying from all sides
to let go on and on
beyond all limits.
Untill now the environment is
still getting faster and faster
backwards
and it does interest us
sometimes
nothing
really nothing at all.

Oil has been dumped in the sea,
we're cutting down all the old, tropical forests.

This is actually all wrong.
But can you tell the poor countries
with the poor people
that they have to let
this little bit of income
fall down?

Indeed: who are the instigators
of all these matters,
against which
we all properly
want to turn as to?
who do consume

.....
Then, who should
feel the blame?

Editor's note: See page 14

Environmental Briefs

'The earth as a holiday resort'
A new textbook for today's and tomorrow's in
the tourist industry
Stichting Milieu Educatie,
P.O. box 13030,
3507 LA Utrecht, The Netherlands
phone: 31/30/802444
fax: 31/30/801345

An introduction to tourism and the environment

In a business sector, in which professionalism and improving quality are important trends, tourism managers need to be versatile. An increasingly important aspect of this is caring for the environment. Interest in the environmental impact of this flourishing business sector has been growing for some time. This is based on the realization that environmental quality is an important asset to tourism and that the tourist industry must be able to provide transport, accommodation and leisure in healthy and pleasant surroundings.

The book "The earth as a holiday resort" takes an optimistic point of view. It shows how tourism affects the environment and describes ways in which adverse effects can be avoided or limited. It is written for today's and tomorrow's managers. It aims to provide insight into the relationship between tourism and to offer practical assistance to those who will be concerned with environmental considerations in (later) professional life.

As a result, the structure of the book is such that the relationship between the tourist industry and its immediate surroundings as well as the community and the locality, is central. How can the tourist industry and those involved at local and regional levels participate in the development of a tourism model in which environmental protection is also represented? How can businesses ensure that environmental concern is built into their business practice? These were the two most important questions that the authors wished to address. Therefore the book is full of suggestions and has examples of "sustainable tourism" all over Europe.

"The earth as a holiday resort" is written by: SME/Institute for Environmental Communication and the Netherlands Institute of Tourism and Transport Studies, and can be obtained at the above mentioned address, c/o Mr. B. Taverne.

Malk Onink **Raping world**

At a time in our school in Heerlen
We all had the problem of the teacher's
addiction
Projects of environment reigned every
day and made us down
We felt really disordered by the time that
we went home

but the teacher continued and we began
to see
that environmental problems are disasters
to be
something must be done there is no time
to lay it down
these problems are much bigger than
the problems of our own

I can't live with the thoughts that we kill
our own world
I can't live with the thoughts that it will
be on short terms

Then when we began to gather environmental
information
Cleaning the environment was my biggest
imagination
it was my number one dream repairing
nature as it was
with all the friends that I had made in
nature class

I can't live with the thoughts that we kill
our own world
I can't live with the thoughts that it will
be on short terms

Covetousness and dictatorship takes
possession
Of the humans who do not care about
environmental pressure
But after years of screaming and shouting
it became quite clear
That fortunately we live in a system
where it can be heard.

Caretakers of the
d. d. Valk Bour
2352 ID Lei
The Netherlands
Tel/fax : +31

Environmental Briefs

Education and Communication for Sustainability in Africa

by Philip George, Greenfield House,
Guiting Power, Cheltenham GL54 5TZ,
UK

Education and Communication for Sustainability in Africa, ECoSA

A survey of Environmental Education across Africa coordinated by the International Centre for Conservation Education and funded by the Directorate-General for Development of the European Union

One of the greatest challenges facing Africa today is to find effective means of addressing urgent environmental and developmental issues. Education and training are fundamental to this process. They are essential components in developing the skills, knowledge and values required for building a sustainable society. However, lack of information on the current state of environmental education in Africa has led to major difficulties in identifying specific education and training needs and coordinating international assistance.

The *Education and Communication for Sustainability in Africa* programme - **ECoSA** - is drawing on the combined skills and experience of education specialists and practitioners to undertake the most comprehensive assessment of environmental education needs ever carried out in Africa. Coordinated by ICCE and funded by the European Union, the ECoSA programme is designed to assist in the promotion of environmental education across the continent and to help ensure the most effective use of available resources in the future.

ICCE

The ECoSA programme was initiated by ICCE and is being coordinated from the Centre's office in the UK. ICCE has played a leading role in promoting environmental education worldwide for more than a decade. Conservation activities in numerous developing countries have been supported through its training programmes, education resources and wide ranging expertise

and the Centre can draw on a unique network of contacts to assist with the survey.

Partners in ECoSA

The European Union's Directorate General for Development, keen to determine future priorities in the field of environmental education in Africa, has fully funded the ECoSA programme. IUCN - The World Conservation Union has offered support in the form of access to its own extensive network of contacts in the Africa region.

The aims of ECoSA

ECoSA aims to build a picture of environmental education wherever and however it takes place. Through a combination of questionnaires, an Africa-based workshop, verification visits and in-depth case studies by national researchers, the programme will produce a survey report analysing existing environmental education programmes and highlighting success stories which may be adapted for use elsewhere; and a user-friendly database of survey results including contacts and programme summaries. ECoSA will go on to make recommendations for specific follow-up projects, and proposals for priority actions for consideration by the European Union for future funding.

The ECoSA team would like to hear from anyone working in the environmental or education fields, government or non-government, who can contribute.

Further information:

If you would like further information please contact:

Paul Vare, ECoSA Programme Director, Greenfield House, Guiting Power, Cheltenham GL54 5TZ.
Telephone: 0451 850777. Fax: 0451 850705.
Email: ecosa@icce.demon.co.uk



Globe



Scope

Earth Care News

9 Express Building, Forjett Hill, Tardeo,
Bombay 400 026, India

Earth Care group is an environmental Organisation. We work actively in the field of environment education.

Earth Care News is a quarterly Newsletter published by Earth Care Group which carries articles on various aspects of Environment Education in the form of write-ups, activity sheets, facts, poems, etc. By way of this Newsletter we hope to provide a common platform of interaction for teachers, students and individuals on topics related to the environment.



The Caretakers of the Environment International

Directory of Resources in Environmental Education

We need your help!

Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and send it back to us.

Who are the Caretakers?

Every year more and more people join the network of Caretakers of the Environment. While some familiar faces keep showing up in the conferences, but.....

How many are we?

How many are still working on Environmental education?

Where are they working now?

How did their projects develop?

Who are the target groups and partners involved?

We would like to answer these and other questions.

Maybe the enclosed questionnaire will help. Please fill it out and send it back to us as soon as possible.

Feel free to add any comments or improvements.

The collected data will be edited in the near future.

It depends on everyone.

It depends on **YOU**



This is the way to establish contact with other schools all over the world. If you fill out the questionnaire we will send you the the total results.

Fatima Matos Almeida.