

BIOSPHERE DAY*

On behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Conservation with its affiliated World Council For The Biosphere, and of others who have lent their support in various ways[#], I proposed, on 21 September 1991, before a distinguished gathering assembled for the purpose at the headquarters of the Foundation, that the same day on the calendar annually henceforth be solemnly observed and duly celebrated throughout the World as 'Biosphere Day'. The *significance* of the chosen date is that it heralds in the somewhat variable Autumnal Equinox of equal division of night and day in our Planet's Northern Hemisphere, and similarly the Spring Equinox in the Southern Hemisphere, while the *objective* of the proposal is the quite vital need to remind the world, which means effectively all humanity everywhere, regularly each and every year, of the fragility of our only life-support, with the consequent necessity of safeguarding it looming as our foremost human imperative.

The Biosphere is that favoured layer of our planet's periphery (solid, liquid, and gaseous) in which any form of life exists naturally. It is our sole home and living heritage whose protection should indeed be our first human concern. Energized in virtual eternity by the Sun, The Biosphere is assuredly our only life-support — as the world is at last beginning to realize, while concomitantly recognizing the immense implications of this most basic fact. It is also the only proven venue of organized life in our Universe, hence multiplying our already enormous and noble responsibilities to safeguard it in every possible way. Consequently this is not just another of the 'war-cries used by the environmental movement', but is the the quintessential imperative if our world is to survive.

The recognition and celebration of Biosphere Day shall, above all, demonstrate the firm resolve of participants to spread fundamental information world-wide concerning The Biosphere and how to preserve and foster it. This we all have to do and activate to the utmost limits of our various capacities, while adjuring others to follow suit. Particularly must we aim at effectively fostering among our fellow humans — men and women, and rich and poor alike — the will and absolute resolve to place, in everybody's thinking and acting, the welfare of The Biosphere before all selfish or factional considerations. Our motto and guiding principle should henceforth be: 'Every Day A Biosphere Day'[§]. For it is The Biosphere which is so gravely threatened by human overpopulation and profligacy — not the inert and more solid Planet Earth.

It is our conclusive belief that such resolve to save The Biosphere, and reorientation of our lives accordingly, will be necessary if our world as we know and cherish it is to survive. Consequently an effective means of attaining this most fundamental objective would be through the emergence of a predominant category of humans based on this resolve and concomitant practice.

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The Foundation for Environmental Conservation
&
The World Council For The Biosphere

* Following the incipient 'Declaration' on page 199 of the preceding (18th) volume of *Environmental Conservation*.

Including most notably the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the International Society for Tropical Ecology, in addition to the chosen 6 on p. 200 of the preceding volume of *Environmental Conservation*.

§ See, for example, INSONA's telling sticker reproduced on page 22 of our Spring issue.