

First Recipient of the Richard Evans Schultes Award

Dr Calvin R. Sperling, of the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory at the US Department of Agriculture, has been named as the first recipient of the annual Richard Evans Schultes Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of ethnobotany. The award honours the name of Harvard Professor Emeritus and Emeritus Director of the Botanical Museum of Harvard University, Richard Evans Schultes, co-Author (with Robert F. Raufaff) of *The Healing Forest: Medicinal and Toxic Plants of the Northwest Amazonia*, the sole or joint Author of many other noted works, who is widely recognized as 'the Father of Ethnobotany' — a title bestowed on him by Prince Philip of the UK when he presented Schultes with the Gold Medal of the World Wildlife Fund. 'Calvin Sperling', said Schultes, 'is one of the foremost ethnobotanists today, due to his consistent excellence in field research and to his extensive work to conserve biological diversity and improve crop plants world-wide.'

Sperling, a former student of Schultes' at Harvard, was recognized for his comprehensive work as a field ethnobotanist in the preservation of genetic resources and the ethnobotany of economic plants. 'Although [other] excellent candidates were nominated. Sperling was the unanimous choice of the international [selection] committee,' stated Dr Michael Balick, Curator of Economic

Botany and Director of the New York Botanical Garden's Institute of Economic Botany.

The first annual Richard Evans Schultes Award for outstanding contributions to the field of ethnobotany or to indigenous peoples' issues related to ethnobotany, was presented for 1993 at the 34th meeting of the Society for Economic Botany on June 25 at the Fairchild Tropical Garden in Florida. The Schultes Award features a \$5,000 cash prize donated by Conservation International, a non-profit organization that supports the conservation of biological diversity world-wide.

The Healing Forest Conservancy, sponsor and administrator of the Schultes Award, was founded in 1989 by Shaman Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Northern California-based company focused on the discovery and development of novel pharmaceuticals from higher plants. The Conservancy is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the conservation of tropical forests and to the welfare of tropical forest peoples.*

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* See also the preceding item in this issue. — Ed.

History of the Environmental Movement and Environmental Conservation

The National Documentation Centre for Environmental and Cultural Studies (CEDEC), based in the French Alps, is an NGO that was founded in 1987 with the goal of managing an extensive environmental library and bookstore focussing on environmental conservation and the pertinent natural sciences. Functioning as a network for members and subscribers to the magazine and catalogue *La Bibliothèque Naturaliste*, CEDEC promotes reflection on Nature, politics, and 'popular ecology' as well as on ecology relating to human health.

Since 1989, our Centre has undertaken the preparation of an international reference book entitled *World History of the Environmental Movement and the Protection of Nature* (covering environmental issues, institutions, and NGOs, Green parties, etc.). This work owes its origins to a conviction that without an understanding of history, and without due awareness of our own cultural origins, there cannot be much future for the environmental movement as an effective force in an overcrowded world. There is, therefore, a need to investigate, as Lynn White put it in 1966, 'The historical roots of our ecological crisis', these are in fact 'the roots of the future'.

The importance of the history of environmental conservation is still underestimated in Europe: from cultural, juridical, and institutional, standpoints, very much needs to be done, as also in the recording of key events. At a time when environmental issues are discussed on a global scale, there is, as yet, no at-all-adequate reference work. The world history which we are preparing, while ambitious, is realizable with sufficient help. In particular we are looking for documentation, collaborators, and financial support prior to publication.

We are seeking:

1. Information: local or national histories, chronologies, bibliographies, case studies, reports, and any docu-

ment on the environmental movement from its beginning to the present day. We need *precise dates* (day, month, and year) of landmark events in every country: major congresses and conferences, creation of effective institutions and organizations, juridical and institutional measures, demonstrations, protest campaigns, boycotts, sit-ins, land-use conflicts, pollution and other ecological disasters, results of elections where 'green' candidates have participated, outstanding books, ecodevelopment and reforestation projects, and precise dates of the deaths of well-known personalities.

We ask all people who are actively in environmental protection and management, especially from developing countries, to send us any appropriate material. We are interested in all activities, both governmental and non-governmental, as long as they were of significance in raising public awareness of environmental problems or advances. In particular, we ask for support from the members and associates of IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and of the European Association for Environmental History (Mannheim, Germany), as similarly from other continents.

Although we have written to many NGOs in developing countries, we have not received precise information from the majority of states in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

- 2. French-speaking collaborators** who are able to analyse and summarize books and magazines in English or other languages, in order to establish historical chronologies. This is basically voluntary work, except in special cases.
- 3. Collaborators abroad**, who are able to draw up chronological accounts of environment-related events in their countries or to complete our provisional chronologies (in any language).

4. Financial support in order to pursue this unprecedented work. We have been encouraged already by a number of well-known French and international personalities who are now members of our International Committee.

There are numerous national chronologies of the environmental movement which have been revised and translated already: of Switzerland, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, East Europe, India, Japan, Israel, Tibet, Malaysia, Philippines... and on such organizations as Greenpeace, to be followed by others. This environmental history is a research project with international dimensions. Accordingly, we want to cover the great variety, the depth, and

the long-standing activities, of environmental organizations, and demonstrate the importance of their role as precursors and stimulants of institutional measures for the environment of Humankind and Nature and particularly the present unification of Europe.

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Sustainability of Siberian Forests

Siberia's vast forests are not only one of the world's last great frontiers: they are a natural heritage of truly global importance. For Russia, they are a potential cornerstone of a workable economy; for the world as a whole, they are a key tool in the maintenance of a stable climate and a healthy Biosphere.

On 9 March 1992, IIASA signed an agreement with the Russian Academy of Sciences and their Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources for a major, multi-year project on 'Forest Resources, Environment, and Socio-economic Development of Siberia'. The objectives of the project are to:

- analyse the state of Siberia's forests and develop databases on forest ecosystems and ecocomplexes from the Urals to the Pacific;
- assess the biospheric role of Siberia's forest ecosystems and ecocomplexes, especially in regard to global warming and biodiversity;
- identify strategies that will increase their contribution to sustainable socio-economic development of Siberia; and
- carry out a detailed case-study of the Ust-ilimsk region.

Siberia has five million square kilometres of forested area — an area roughly two-thirds the size of the continental United States. These forests constitute some 19% of the world's forested area and contain about 17% of the world's standing timber. Within that timber is an estimated 40,000 million tons of carbon — nearly half the amount sequestered in the forests of the Amazon Basin.

Challenges for Improvement

The changes in the former Soviet Union offer unprecedented opportunities and risks for the development of Siberia's environment, forest resources, and forest industries. In spite of its timber and mineral wealth, the region suffers from weaker economic development than other parts of Russia and a high incidence of social problems. Healthy forests and forest industries could improve the economic and social vitality of Siberia and the environmental well-being of the entire world.

Considerable effort has gone into setting up an elaborate project network. The study will involve dozens of researchers throughout Russia as well as collaborators in the USA, Canada, Japan, Finland, Sweden, and other countries. Two core research teams will be set up, one at IIASA led by the undersigned, and the other in Moscow under Alexander Isaev, Director of the Centre for Ecological and Forest Productivity Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Following initial set-up work and a preliminary analysis of available data, work began last autumn to develop two sets of databases, one of them on resources and ecology, and the other on industry, infrastructure, and socio-economic factors. In 1993, work is beginning on studies of forest resources, markets, industry, and infrastructure — also on regional and global ecological factors and socio-economic aspects. Some of the studies will focus on forests' non-wood benefits, ranging from wildlife habitat and recreation to the protection of local and global climate.

The last stages of work will be integrated analyses of the subsidiary studies leading to policy recommendations for sustainable development. Current practices are anything but sustainable, and research by IIASA's Forest Resources Project indicates that, if they continue, some of Siberia's forests could be mined out in from 40 to 50 years.

Vast Areas and Changes Involved

Historically, Siberia's forest industry has been characterized by massive industrial developments. In setting up the Ust-ilimsk combine some 20 years ago, The Soviet authorities built a new town and airport, a railway line connecting the development to the Baikal-Amur railroad, and one of the largest hydroelectric power-plants in Russia, with a capacity of four million kilowatts and a reservoir of 2,000 square kilometres. The combine was assigned a wood catchment area of 36,000 square kilometres — almost the size of Switzerland.

Restructuring the Siberian forest industry will be difficult and expensive, for at present the industry is characterized by obsolete technology, low productivity, and products of low quality. In addition, much of it is located far from major world markets. But in any case recommendations regarding possible industrial strategies — what to produce, how, and for whom — will be consistent with the broader goal of environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

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* The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) is an interdisciplinary, nongovernmental research institution sponsored by a consortium of National Member Organizations in 15 nations. The Institute conducts international and interdisciplinary scientific studies to provide timely and relevant information and options, addressing critical issues of global environmental, economic, and social, changes for the benefit of the public, the scientific community, and national and international institutions.