Dear Marilyn,

At least once a year we have the chance to exchange signs of life. Actually we stay in our country house in Germany. We had a White Christmas and the visit of friends from Thailand - they enjoyed the snow very much. I am retired from the public service, but I have my personally forest activities: on my ground here I observe the behaving of 22 tree species. I have much contact with IUFRO in Vienna and EFI in Jonsuu (Finland) Together with IUFRO we are elaborating a multiple language forest dictionary. I very often think of our meeting in Kuala Lumpur. My health is rather well since I have a pacemaker and on December 2nd I had my 80th anniversary. I hope you are in good health too and that you must work not too hard. We in invite to visit us at your convenience here in Germany or in Luxembourg. I hope that we will stay in touch. Meanwhile we send you SEASON' S GREETINGS and Best Wishes

Warmly Inge and Pierre

Globetree (2000 Laureates) Newsletter for January

Latest news from Globetree
News from Kajsa who just returned from Kenya

Dear Friends,

I’m back from Kenya since a week. I get many questions about the situation and what I experienced in Kenya. The situation is indeed very tense. I walked the streets of Nairobi. No traffic. Shops closed for a week. Nairobi is normally a very busy city with heavy traffic and endless traffic jams. When I left a demonstration was announced for the second time and it was called off in the last minute. I remember the election 5 years ago. The results came the day after election and we celebrated the first announcement of the president: Free Primary School Education for all! Now we watched the TV to get the results. It was very even between the two main candidates. Odinga was a little ahead of Kibaki. The day after no result. Two days and no result. The third day the result came and Kibaki was sworn in as president.
People sitting in the TV room at YMCA had an immediate reaction. – It will be problem in Kenya! And yes, there are problems. Moses N’dungu, leading the work of Children’s Garden, Jane Ruva of Baby Hope Centre for abandoned babies and Jane Ramu teaching deaf and blind children are our close friends in Nairobi. They all share their difficulties and horrors. 1. News from Moses Moses sent a sms some days ago telling of his sister who was on the bus to Nairobi from Kisii. The bus was stopped and all men killed. Woman and children were left. Moses reported to police Headquarters. Today I got the news from Moses there is a refugee camp in Kisii for the victims. His sister is there now. Many more children have knocked on the gate to the Children’s Garden. Their parents (mostly mothers) cannot support them now when they cannot keep their small business. Moses need help to support the newcomers. I met Moses nephew who had to flee from Eldoret. His house was destroyed. He was in Nairobi to start a new life for his family. Children’s Garden is in Kawangare and a lot of violence has taken place there. For a long time no one went outside. Today (Thursday 17 Jan) Moses reports Kawangare is more calm. Kibera is still a violent place. 2. News from Jane Ruva When I visited Jane she was on the phone talking to her relatives. Their house was also destroyed and they were on the move to a safe place. One of the children forgot his shoes. Jane told him he will get new shoes. Just go now! Jane is a head teacher and she tells me on the phone today says many schools have few children. Her school has many children as her school is in a protected area. 3. News from Jane Ramu Jane Ramu has her house near Kibera where a lot of violence is taking place. People have climbed the fence to her place in search of food and drinks. She and her family managed to cool the ones coming telling them they had no food but offered them water to drink. Jane lives near a supermarket but they dared not go there. The supermarket was attacked and I could see the broken windows. – When you walk with a bag of food it will be stolen. The school start was postponed for one week because of the tensions. Still today her pupils have not come and the entire school have very few pupils coming. 4. News from Homa Bay The former mayor of Homa Bay Dr. Peter Agullo tells me it’s a very difficult situation there. The food is scarce and the food they find is now very expensive. By Monday we will know how the situation will look, Dr. Agullo says. 5. General info about Kenya situation The Speaker of Parliament is elected and is from the ODM party (Orange Democratic Movement) The President is from the PNU party (Party of National Unity) ODM has many more seats in the Parliament. So – conflicts will remain at the top level. Police are all over Nairobi and Moses told me today (Thursday 17) 6 persons were shot in the demonstration. Kenya is suffering a lot now when people don’t dare go out, shops are closed and the tourists have left the country. With no income life is difficult. 6. Christmas at Children’s Garden Christmas at the Children’s Garden – Thank you!!! Over 200 children and visitors came together to celebrate Christmas at Children’s Garden. Christmas became a wonderful celebration! It turned out be “the stillness before the storm” (as
we say in Sweden). Thanks Ann Bergerlind for your initiative to the fund rising! We got 14.650 SEK which was enough to buy goats, food, presents and over 100 pairs of shoes to the children of Children’s Garden and support others in need. The celebration started the 24th and continued the 25th. The extra food was enough for some more days! Thanks also Moses, Sylvia, Jane, Hanna, Boyd and many, many more! All of you worked wonderfully together to give the children a nice Christmas!

We had a lot of fun! We danced, sang, played together. Many Swedes came and all joined for a Lucia procession. One of the goats joined the Lucia and was nicely decorated but he refused to sing. A special Shoe Song and dance was composed by Robert Wawesh and his brother. It was performed by all children on the basket field before they received their shoes. This is my second Christmas Celebration at Children’s Garden. For me this year became special because Jackson Gacegi was released from the Youth Prison in Mombasa after 1 year and 8 months. His special wish was to come to Children’s Garden and get carpenter education. Jackson had a tough time in prison and the Christmas in Children’s Garden marked a change of his life. All of you are welcome to join Christmas in Children’s Garden this new year!

Children’s Garden is a place for all! 7. Partnership between cities in Uganda/Kenya and Sweden Globetree has supported the start of partnership between 10 cities/municipalities in Uganda, Kenya and Sweden. The first travel was to take place in January when delegations from the 5 cities in Sweden were invited to Uganda and Kenya. This travel has been postponed to March. Instead, hopefully the 5 Uganda/Kenya delegations will come to Sweden in February and make the first acquaintance. 8. World Championship in Cooperation (WorldCiC) 2-6 June, in Kampala, Uganda The WorldCiC Event is now more important than ever before! The world needs to focus on cooperation and now we will focus on having young participants from Kenya together with their mayors. We will make sure we have children and young persons from different areas of Kenya and invite them to share their visions and views on their future. The preparations for the WorldCiC is on in Kampala in close cooperation with four other cities; Entebbe, Mukono, Jinja and Busia. Kajsa, the president of Globetree, spent 8 days in Uganda to listen and learn about the preparations in the five cities. Please see the invitation, program and preparations on the Globetree Website! We hope MANY from around the world will join the WorldCiC and show the way! We need a mobilisation of the ideas and the new ways of the young ones! It’s obvious that many of the old ways don’t work. The time of confrontation and taking power is over! Children and young people have shown the new way at the WorldCiC in Stockholm 2006. Many will come together again in Kampala and remind the world of the new way – which is the way of Cooperation. We invite leaders, teachers and many others to come to Kampala and learn from the children! 9. WorldCiC 7 June 2008 at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) After the WorldCiC program in Kampala and Entebbe a large delegation of participants will gather at the Children’s Meeting Place.
at UNEP, Nairobi (Kenya). The children will convey their commitments and visions to the United Nations and the messages will later be brought to UNEP Children’s Conference in Stavanger, Norway 17 – 21 June. **10. Preparations for WorldCiC 2010 and 2012** Already there are preparations for the WorldCiC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2010 and in Masai land, Simanjiro, Tanzania 2012. In this moment Research Engineer Mr. Jacky Foo is in Kuala Lumpur and will meet with the Malaysian organisers on behalf of the Globetree. Ms. Helena Edvinsson and Ms. Marta Velander, Globetree, have recently returned from Simanjiro district where the planning for WorldCiC in 2012 already is going on. **11. Welcome to join** The movement for a change is already in motion and children show the way! Welcome to join the World Championship in Cooperation! **12. If you can, please help** Please help us support those in immediate need in Kenya!

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**Laureates Write to New Australian Prime Minister**

Not long after Mr Kevin Rudd became Australia’s latest Prime Minister resulting from the November 2007 Federal election, 27 UNEP Global 500 Laureates wrote to him on the topic of climate change and tropical forests, prior to the vital Bali UNFCCC meeting. The final paragraphs in that letter stated: “We urge your Government to make full use of the opportunity provided by the upcoming meeting in Bali, to sign the Kyoto Protocol and to work with developing countries, as part of broader negotiations, to develop a binding agreement under the UNFCCC that includes ‘avoided deforestation’ in the global framework to combat climate change into the future. In light of these impending negotiations, there is an urgent need to identify the world’s foremost priority areas of high carbon density to be included and preserved under ‘avoided deforestation’ arrangements. We urge Australia to lend its support the creation of such a priority list. In addition, it is our view that this list should form part of a legally binding agreement, perhaps as a Protocol to the UNFCCC or to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to further strengthen the protective status of the priority areas and to leverage international funding and global cooperation towards their long term protection. We also encourage you to investigate the synergies between these and other conventions to further enhance global cooperation on this important issue. The individual and organisational UNEP Global 500 Laureates below would like to offer our support for your Government’s continued efforts to combat global climate change, and we stand ready to assist you in any way we can”. At the Bali meeting, Prime Minister Rudd gained a standing ovation when he announced that Australia would ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Subsequently, the Australian delegation, led by the Minister for Climate Change & Water, Senator Penny Wong, played a crucial role in ensuring that “avoided deforestation” would become a key part of any post-Kyoto arrangements, firmly ensconced in the much heralded “Bali Road Map”.

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Many thanks to all the Laureates that took part in this important and successful project. Verna Simpson

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Pigstyle to Palace by Mei Ng (2000 Laureate)

Prince Charles invited the Shaanxi Green Mothers to Clarence House in London last month and congratulated them for their efforts in promoting biogas to rural village households in the drought-plagued region of China. **Topic of their discussion is on energy revolution.** The Shaanxi Mothers won the Ashden Awards, an international sustainable energy award that recognizes outstanding efforts in promoting appropriate technology and sustainable energy in the developing countries. Friends of the Earth (HK) Director Mei Ng who nominated the Green Mothers to the award was a long term ally and project partner. Since 1995, the partners have launched the biogas project later renamed as the “Sunflower Project”.

The energy revolution that the Shaanxi Mothers are promoting in rural villages in Dali, Mizhi, Baota and Yan’an counties take place in the pigsties, toilets and kitchens. With donation from Hong Kong charitable foundations and individuals appealed by Friends of the Earth (HK), the pig-waste-into-energy demonstration projects have benefited over 1294 households in rural villages in the Shaanxi Province, Western China in 2004-05. An average donation of $3000 - $4000 RMB would help one rural village household to retrofit its pigsty, toilet and kitchen. Building underground wells, piping animal and human wastes to the closed anaerobic digesters and transfer the methane gas to the kitchens, the Shaanxi Green Mothers aided by local university agricultural experts, have convinced village folks, local government and donors. A three-partite financing with contribution from donors, local government and the village households has catalyzed a quiet green energy revolution to take root on Yellow Earth in Northwest Shaanxi which is endangered by soil erosion and deforestation. **Ecological and social benefits include:** minimize animal waste pollution, reduce logging, deforestation and soil erosion, provide alternative fuel from coal burning, promote organic fertilizer recovered from methane residue and liberate village women from the daily chore of firewood gathering. **Welcome to the era of DIY environmentalism.** From women power to green power, from reliance to self-help, from choice-less to alternatives, from loggers to become eco angels, the Shaanxi Green Mothers have showcased an outstanding lesson on sustainable development. With additional donation, the Shaanxi Mothers hope to expand the pig-waste-into energy project to more rural villages; to capacity build village women to become biogas technicians to service...
regular maintenance and to extend the biogas demonstration to rural primary schools in the local community. **Poverty relief brings ecological relief.** With savings on fuel costs plus reduced health cost from coal burning and time saved from firewood gathering, the quality of life for village folks would be improved significantly. Mothers have more time to spend with their children. Indoor air quality improvement could enhance rural health and lifespan. Monetary saving from buying coal and fertilizer could pay for school fees. Prince Charles agreed that biogas is the appropriate technology to solve the energy shortage in developing countries. Shaanxi Mothers have provided a shinning example. Local solution for local problem by the local people is the appropriate response to local sustainable development. **What can city folks do?** Lend support by sponsoring a biogas demonstration in the village household. Donating $2000 RMB with matching funding from local government and village household, you can help improve the quality of life of millions in the rural villages and the quality of the environment. The Shaanxi Green Mothers have volunteered time and care to empower fellow village women and they deserve respect and support. **Support the green energy revolution in the pigties, toilets and kitchens. Empower rural folks to actualize their aspiration in self-sustainability.** End For more details of the “Sunflower Project” visit FoE (HK)’s website [www.foe.org.hk](http://www.foe.org.hk) [foehk@foe.org.hk](mailto:foehk@foe.org.hk)

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**Update from Mei Ng (2000 Laureate)**

China Project Outline (updated Feb 21, 2008)  
(1) Green Youth Empowerment------"Green Pathfinders Forum” launched in Guangdong.....Green Vision—Green Career—Green Venture—Green Future.....it’s about green leadership capacity building. Hopefully will expand to other parts of China (pollution hotspots and eco-vulnerable zones). (2) Village Women Empowerment------“Sunflower Village Biogas Promotion” launched since 2005, turning women power to green power, turning pig-waste-into-biogas, advocating carbon-debt-free village economy..... Over 1648 households installed biogas since 2000, 748 households since 2005, 360 households in 2007.....more to help...in 2008 (3) Dongjiang River Source demo “Eco-Compensation Model Community”-----Dongjiang River supplies drinking water to Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and other counties in Guangdong. Source region restricts crop farming and pig rearing to avoid pesticide and animal waste pollution. In another words, upstream poverty villagers sacrifice economic development for the benefit of down-stream rich cities such as Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Eco-compensation model aims to facilitate up-stream and down-stream eco-partnership on forestation, eco-tourism and river source protection. This is a new initiative for 2008-2012.
Project developed by Gert Roland Fischer (1989 Laureate)
Gert Roland Fischer is a agronomist and the rainforest Atlantic Jungle expert and searcher. 1 - Environmental projects in course: 1-1 - Projeto Caixa d'água -

In 1979, Gert buy 500.000 m2 mountainous deforested land in the Guaramirim municipally, Estate of Santa Catarina, South Brazil. These autochthonous forest would destroyed and with him the water resources. To recover the natural resources - land, forest and water resources, Gert invited lumber mills to restore the environment. During long 25 Years Gert implemented environmental techniques and the results would very very strong. Today, we can see again a biodiversity like hundreds Years ago. The rise growers are very happy to use newly the water resources in his rice hydroponics planting areas. Gert look now over partners that support de sustainability of these protected new jungle. To preserve de autochthonous forest, a lot of money is needed. Contact us : gfischer.joi@terra.com.br
“Environmental Champion” Khadijah Abdul Rahman (2001 Laureate), to Serve As Olympic Torchbearer

I am just so thrilled to share with you that I’ve been selected the Malaysian leg Olympics Torchbearer, as an environmental champion. I’ll be running from between the Shangrila Hotel and KLCC, though only 250 m but its the honour to be declared the 'Olympics Torchbearer' that is just so wonderful! Warmly Khadijah

Raul Montenegro awarded "Hero of the Month" by Better World Links, the Web page based in Germany (www.betterworldlinks.org)

Cordoba (Argentina) and Berlin (Germany), March 31st, 2008. - Alternative Nobel prize Raul Montenegro was awarded "Hero of the Month" by Better World Links, the Web page based in Germany (www.betterworldlinks.org) Better World Links is "one of the most comprehensive and important set of links for NGOs and citizens on the Web" and "the largest collection of non-commercial internet links on social and political issues". Better World Links it's "the leading website of its kind in the world". Dr. Raul Montenegro, who is president of FUNAM (Environment Defense Foundation) and professor of Evolutionary Biology at the National University of Cordoba is an environmental activist and academic of Argentina. During most of 40 years he has been fighting against pollution, pesticides, nuclear energy, ecosystem’s destruction, biodiversity loss and other relevant issues. He jointly works with indigenous communities, groups of poor citizens and grassroots, both in Argentina and abroad. In 2004 he received the Alternative Nobel Prize at the Swedish Parliament (Right Livelihood Award). In 1989 he received the Global 500 Award from United Nations in Brussels (Belgium), and the Nuclear Free Future Award in 1998 (Salzburg, Austria). Dr. Raul Montenegro recently won a hard battle against governmental officials and organizers of the 2008 International Argentina Rally. One of their circuits was planned over the Parque San Martin natural reserve in the city of Cordoba (Argentina). After introducing a claim at the court of justice FUNAM obtained a successful answer from the Judge, Victoria Bertossi de Lorenzatti. Such success pushed both governmental agencies and organizers of the automobile Rally to move the location of the circuit outside the natural reserve. Previous "Hero of the Month" were Hans-Peter Durr (Germany), Dennis Kucinich (USA), Percy and Luise Schmeiser (Canada), Aung San Suu Kyi (Burma) and Mordechai Vanunu (Israel).

BETTER WORLD LINKS. According to Better World Links "the Hero of the Month initiative was established for disseminating the work of people who make a difference. For the month of March Better World Links choose Raul Montenegro, a winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize. In disseminating his achievements we are
contributing to the building of a better and more sustainable world”. Better World Links is a site free of advertising that offers 35,000 hand-picked English-language links on 22 main topics under the following headings: General Info, Peace, Human Rights, Environment, Sustainability, Social Justice, One World, Politics, Democracy, Conflict Regions, Military/Weapons, Economy, Globalization, Education, Religions, Women, Men, Youth, Health, Culture, Urgent Actions and News/Media. According to Better World Links their Web site "it is an ideal tool for committed citizens, of great help in finding one’s way among the profusion of information on the internet, in making optimum use of the resources available on the web and thus saving time. More than this, it’s a networking forum for the peace, human rights, environmental, women’s, democracy, spiritual and social movements in all countries. A new database solution permits each topic to be easily brought up to date and new topics to be added in reaction to current developments”. Better World Links functions like a “Wikipedia for Links”. Visitors to the website can directly suggest new links. People who are particularly interested, like experts and activists, can easily help improve and expand the collection as moderators with editing authority. "Better World Links" was awarded the Comenius Quality Seal and the site is currently visited by approximately 1000 users per day. www.betterworldlinks.org "Link it, use it, tell others, and contribute”.

Khadijah Abdul Rahman-Sinclair (2001 Laureate) Chosen as Malaysian Torchbearer
Congratulations to Khadkijah Abdul Rahman-Sinclair, founder of YAWA (http://www.yawa.org/). She was chosen as the Malaysian Eco-Champion torchbearer for the summer Olympics.

James McGilligan, Manager of Barli Institute for Rural Women (1992) Honored by the Queen of England

Dear Friends,

Very humbly we are pleased to share with you today's news from "Barli "Institute that with the grace of God, Jimmy has been conferred OBE (Officers of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order) by The British QUEEN
on the occasion of the Celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday. "McGilligan, James, For services to social causes and the use of alternative energy in rural communities in India. His name was nominated by British Deputy High Commission from Mumbai, Mrs. Vicki Treadel who had visited the Institute last year and really noticed what is happening here "... Janak McGilligan Barli Institute janak@barli.org

Medasset (1987 Laureate) Sea Turtle Project Launches in Patok, Albania

Sea Turtle Project Launches in Patok, Albania This week has seen the successful launch of the newest project to grace Albania’s shores: Monitoring and Conservation of Important Sea Turtle Feeding Grounds in the Patok Area of Albania. Developed by MEDASSET in collaboration with ECAT-Tirana and the University of Tirana with generous funding by UNDP-GEF/SGP and UNEP/MAP’s RAC/SPA and endorsed by the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration; the project aims to unravel some of the mysteries of sea turtles foraging areas in Patok and within the Mediterranean. Principle Researcher and Sea Turtle Specialist, Dr. Michael White was warmly welcomed by the Patok Fisherman community to the area which will be his home for the next four months. Working closely with Prof. Idriz Haxhiu from the University of Tirana and local NGO-ECAT, the project has started with a splash with the tagging and release of 14 loggerhead (Caretta caretta) and one juvenile green turtle (Chelonia mydas). One hundred biology students from the University of Tirana visited Patok for workshops and demonstration of sea turtle tagging. Generating considerable local media attention, TV crews have interviewed Dr. White and captured the on-field learning of local students. The environmental education programme, led by ECAT, will incorporate awareness material and GIS components to help build knowledge, improve the protection and management of coastal biodiversity and inform policy. The success of the launch is a positive sign for the continuation of the project until November this year and for the recommencement for the next two seasons. With so little known about foraging areas in the Mediterranean, this project hopes to engage a diverse range of people on the protection of sea turtles and the importance of conserving precious coastal areas.

Botany in Bulgaria by Professor Anitra Thorhaug (1987 Laureate)
Botany in Bulgaria  To many botanists Bulgaria is the least known and least traveled portion of the “new Europe”. The Republic of Bulgaria (110,980 km²) is part of the Balkan chain of mountains. Bulgaria is bounded by Balkan nations of Macedonia and Serbia to the West, Romania along its northern border which is the Danube river, the Black Sea on the east coastline, and Turkey and Greece beyond another set of mountains on Bulgaria’s southern border. Thus, it is simultaneously almost a Mediterranean country (only a few hundred miles from the Mediterranean sea, it receives weather patterns from the Mediterranean), a Black Sea nation, and a Danubian nation as well as having extensive Balkan mountains. The southern and western portions are forested (Fig 1 and 2). The average elevation is about 480 m. The Balkan Mountains cross the country from the north-western corner to the Black Sea and form the watershed between the Danube River and the Aegean Sea. The northern side of the Balkan Mountains slopes gradually to the Danube River to form the northern Danubian Plateau. Transitional plains lie to the south of the mountains and are an important agricultural region. The Rhodope Mountains, which form the boundary with Greece on the south, rise to the country’s highest point, Musala Peak, at 2925 m. The mountains contain a large number of ecosystems. The Black Sea coastal areas range from marsh lands in the north to wide beaches with a sloping shelf which create a marine benthic habitat. (Note that extensive pollution beyond the control of Bulgaria occurs both in the Black Sea, where it is at the receiving end of circulation from turkey, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania as well as down from the Danube draining 9 nations into Bulgarian Danubian waters). The principal river draining Bulgaria is the Danube. Several other rivers, including the Iskur and the Yantra, flow into the Danube. The Maritsa River flows east to Greece and Turkey across the Thracian Plain. Other important rivers are the Kamchiya, which empties into the Black Sea, and the Struma and Mesta, which flow south to the Aegean Sea. Most of Bulgaria has a continental climate, with cold winters and hot summers. The climate in general is more severe than in other European areas of the same latitudes, although a Mediterranean climate, with dry summers and mild, humid winters, prevails in the valley of the south-western Rhodope Mountains. Climate can be defined as average January temperatures range from 2°C near the Black Sea to -17°C in central Bulgaria. July temperatures range between 16°C and 27°C. The average rainfall is about 630 mm per year, ranging from a low of about 190 mm in the north-east, to a high of about 1900 mm in the Rila Mountains. The wettest period is early summer in most of the country and autumn or winter in the southern valleys. Snowfall is generally light except in the mountains. Protected areas are generally forests or marshes. They include about 10% of the land area in 753 protected reserves. There are 16 biosphere reserves and 5 RAMSAR sites. The known number of higher plants is said to be 3,572 (FAO, 2008). Forests cover 3,625,000 ha of which 267,000 are primary, 2,028,000 ha are modified natural, 992,000 ha are semi-natural and 41,000 are plantations. This is an increase since independence in 1989
(FAO, 2005). A large and rich region of agricultural productivity lies in the valleys between the mountains and in the delta of the Danube. This area has been in cultivation for at least 9 thousand years (Thracian and pre-Thracian cultures). The many nations who have dominated Bulgaria have prized exports from these soils (Greek, Roman, Turkish, USSR). Presently tobacco, fruits and vegetables are chiefly grown. A high value export product is the attar of the Bulgarian rose (Rosa damascena and Rosa alba) grown in valleys in central Bulgaria, which is not a native variety, but was imported several centuries ago to service the Western European perfume business. I was fortunate to witness the late May rose production with many miles of central Bulgaria in full bloom. The forest products are largely exported lumber with no value added. This is deeply troubling since the limited forests are protected by various reserves. The outstanding institution with ongoing botanical research is the Academy of Sciences, Institute of Botany in the capital Sofia. Universities also do some botanical research beyond their teaching and most notably are the Universities of Sofia, of Plovdiv, of Soumen, and of Stara Zagora. The Institute of Botany maintains field facilities in the Western Rhodope Mountains, and near Dolni Lozen village. The fields in which the Institute of Botany does research in the following areas: Flora and florogenesis, Phytocoenology and Ecology, and Applied Botany (medicinal plants, regeneration of rare and endangered species, pollution effects on plants). They also have extensive collections of plant fossils, bryological, and mycological, and vascular plants. Note that fossil pollen is a paleo-specialty. There have been a series of botanical investigations at the Institute of Botany since its inception in 1947 when it merged with the Royal Institute for Science and Sofia Botanical Gardens. The staff is 100 persons with 47 Ph.D.’s. The Institute of Botany has produced “The Flora of the Republic of Bulgaria” in 11 volumes, “The Fungi of Bulgaria” (1991) in 4 volumes, “Synopsis of Flowering Plants of Bulgaria” (1980) “Guide to Mosses in Bulgaria” (1992), “Synopsis of Plant Communities in Bulgaria” (1995), “Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms in Bulgaria” (1998), “Cenozoic Plants of Bulgaria” (Eocene to Pliocene) (2005), “Atlas of Bulgarian Endemic Plants” (2006) and various proceedings of botanical conferences as well as other publications. The journal Phytologia Balcanica (since 1975) deals with taxonomy and biosystematics, chorology, floristics, evolution, phytocoenology, paleobotany, palynology, plant anatomy, embryology, ecology, chemistry of medicinal and aromatic plants. The mean number of annual publications is 52. Obviously since Bulgaria is involved in the botanical research of the European Union and NATO there are cooperative programs with these nations for mapping (as in Natura 2000) and in CORINE, in the UNESCO MAB programs, the EU Danubian and Balkan Flora programs. Also there are FAO and UNEP cooperative programs ongoing, as well as a Black Sea Association of Institutes. The European Initiative for Euro + Med Plant Base, Periodic Review of Bulgarian Biosphere Reserves, National Grassland Inventory Project, European native seed Conservation Network, Conservation and
Sustainable use of Biodiversity in Strandzha Mountain (UNESCO_MAB), Transboundary Cooperation Bulgaria-Greece (PHARE), European Pollen Bank, Evolution of Climate in the Neogene (NECLIME), Mapping of the Flora of Europe (Finland) are international cooperative projects undertaken by the Institute of Botany. This is one in a series of national botanical profiles conceived by the International Outreach Committee of the Botanical society of America to educate botanists about efforts internationally in Botany. The map below shows the ecological zones, as shown on the FAO global map of ecological zones produced as part of the FRA 2000. Please refer to FRA Working Paper 20 for further information on the Global Ecological Zone map. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Map source: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000, base map: ESRI Forest cover map. The above map is an extract from the Global Forest Cover map produced as part of FRA 2000. Please refer to FRA Working Paper 19 for a background to the production of the map. Botany in Bulgaria By Anitra Thorhaug Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.
Message from Idelisa Bonnelly de Calventi (1988 Laureate)

Since 1988 when I was honored with Global 500 I have never stopped working for the development of our Marine Mammal Sanctuary (SMMRD), the most important reproduction area for the Western North Atlantic humpback whales and the conservation of this species. Our Sanctuary is now covering the three important humpback reproductive area. I has been enlarged to cover 19,438 miles squared. On December 2007 a Sister Sanctuary Agreement was signed between our SMMRD and NOAA Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Massachusetts to protect endangered whales at both ends of their annual migration. Two marine protected area 1,500 miles apart to provide conservation programs (research, education, eco-tourism and management) for the same populations of humpback whales, and contribute to the rehabilitation of North Atlantic whales.

Greetings From Vilmar Rebia (1999 Global 500 Laureate)

Dearest Marilyn,

I am happy to receive an email from the Global the 500. I continue here in Brazil, fighting as ever for the formation and the mobilization of our citizenship (especially now) so our society can make better choices from a high carbon society high to a sustainable society of low
carbon. Although my difficulty with English, whenever I can I divulge the existence of Global the 500 and its importance. You and all your most sincere team deserve our congratulations for much that has made for our Planet.

Hugs and Ecological Fraternity Vilmar

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Robert Redford (1987 Laureates) on today's lawsuit to save our Redrock Wilderness

ALERT: NRDC files suit to block the sale of Utah’s Redrock wilderness to oil companies.

The courtroom fight to save our natural heritage from Bush and Cheney’s final land grab begins today. We need your support to wage and win this fight for our environmental future. Please donate now Dear marilyn, This morning I appeared at a Congressional press conference to announce that NRDC is filing suit to block the giveaway of 110,000 acres of Utah's Redrock wilderness to oil and gas companies. This disastrous auction is scheduled to take place in just two days -- on December 19th -- as a parting gift from the Bush-Cheney Administration to their friends in the oil and gas industries. Please donate now to help us wage this courtroom battle and win back the unspoiled Redrock wilderness for the American people. At stake are world-renowned vistas near Canyonlands and Arches National Parks, as well as near the Dinosaur National Monument. Even parts of Desolation Canyon, which have been proposed for national park status, will be on the auction block. The highest bidders will earn the right to turn vast tracts of pristine wilderness into industrial wastelands. You and I must stop them -- and this NRDC lawsuit is our last, best chance to do so. Please make an immediate tax-deductible emergency donation to join our fight in federal court. I don't have to tell you how terrific NRDC's track record has been over the past eight difficult years. Thanks to your support, we've repeatedly staved off the Bush Administration's relentless drive to drill in some of our nation's last wild places. But it's all on the line right
now. We simply can't stand by and let them plunder our natural heritage during Bush's final hours in office. They are racing to complete these land deals before Inauguration Day -- which would make the Redrock sales difficult to reverse. That's why NRDC is responding swiftly and decisively in court. And it's why we are counting on you to give whatever you can -- now when it matters most. Once it's drilled and destroyed, our Redrock wilderness can never be restored. Please give what you can now so that this natural treasure never goes on the auction block. Thank you. Sincerely, Robert Redford Trustee Natural Resources Defense Council

P.S. With only two days left until the auction -- and one month until Inauguration Day -- NRDC will be working through the holidays to fight this case in court. There's no bigger environmental gift you can give this holiday season than a donation to help us save the Redrock wilderness. Please give an online tax-deductible gift right now, so that NRDC can wage this fight over the next 30 critical days. Thank you.