

have the legal right to play their essential role in the development and enforcement of (international) environmental law.

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Important Prospect

CLUB DE BRUXELLES CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT: PRIORITY INVESTMENTS IN EUROPE, TO TAKE PLACE IN THE PALAIS DES CONGRES, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, DURING 6 & 7 FEBRUARY 1992

The Club de Bruxelles is organizing a major conference to be held in the Palais des Congrès, Brussels, on the key investments that must be made in order to improve and protect the environment between now and the year 2000. This follows the conference of June 1990 entitled 'Europe and the Environment: the Challenge of the 1990s'. The upcoming Conference has been conceived with a practical focus — to facilitate, in concrete terms, due discussion amongst Community, national, and regional, officials, along with industrial leaders and ecological groups.

This Conference will comprise 8 debates, each lasting an hour-and-a-half, on the following topics:

- 1) The options open to the Community and Europe (for example the green tax)
- 2) The international context and the priorities of the East
- 3) Key investments in the water sector (management and purification)
- 4) Energy: the options, techniques, and safety
- 5) Farmers: polluters or protectors of the environment?
- 6) Waste management: packaging and recycling
- 7) Transport: cars, 'green' lorries, and combined transport
- 8) R&D: Community programmes, projects, and financing, of Research and Development.

This Conference will bring together thirty speakers from the highest level of industry, government, and the EC. All the debates will be interpreted simultaneously in five languages (French, English, German, Spanish, and Italian).

A 180-pages' study on European environmental politics, reserved for participants only, will be sent to them two weeks before the Conference. Further information may be obtained from:

CLUB DE BRUXELLES
 10 rue du Collège Saint-Michel
 B-1150 Brussels, Belgium
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 Fax: 322 770 6671.

Important Prospect

FOURTH WORLD CONGRESS ON NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS, TO BE HELD IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA, DURING 10-21 FEBRUARY 1992

Every ten years, the community of the outfits and individuals that are concerned about protected areas meets to discuss the major issues that face them. Some 6,000 major protected areas have now been established in over 120 nations and covering a total land area (not including marine sites) approximately equal to that of India. But protected areas everywhere are under increasing pressures for alternative uses.

The goal of the Congress, which is expected to attract some 1,500 participants from all over the world, is to promote the effective management of the world's natural habitats, so that they can make an optimal contribution to sustaining society. The Congress will include plenary sessions, symposia, and 49 workshops addressing major topics of concern to those involved in protected areas. The Congress is expected to result in numerous publications, an action plan for the coming decade, an investment portfolio for consideration by major donor agencies, and a 'Caracas Action Plan'. The latter will be designed for submission to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

As with the previous such Congresses, IUCN is the organizer in close collaboration with the host government (as represented by Venezuela's Ministry of Environment). Co-sponsors include the governments of The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, USA, Germany, and UK, the World Wide Fund for Nature, The Nature Conservancy of the United States, the US National Parks Service, the Canadian Ministry of Environment, the MacArthur Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNESCO, and FAO.

While the three previous Congresses primarily involved the professionals directly concerned with protected areas, the IVth Congress also aims to reach out to, and influence, the numerous other sectors of society that have links to protected areas. These include those who depend on the genes, species, and ecosystem, services provided by protected habitats (indigenous people, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and pharmaceutical and other interests) as well as those who require wildlands for other purposes (water, timber, wilderness, tourism, etc.).

As financial support for protected areas is a major concern of the Congress, numerous donor agencies have been invited to participate. A major effort is being made to involve the private sector as well, including nongovernmental conservation organizations, indigenous peoples' groups, relevant industries, and local resource managers. Economists, architects, and land-use planners, also are being invited, so as to enhance the flow of ideas between professionals concerned with protected-area management and those concerned with wider conservation interests.

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