

'Only One Earth' and 'Crystal Drop' Awards go to UNEP Executive Director

On the fifteenth anniversary of that historic Conference,* the 'Only One Earth' Award was presented to Mostafa Kamal Tolba, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): for his distinguished leadership in carrying out the goals and objectives of the Stockholm Conference; for his tireless endeavours as an 'environmental diplomat' to maintain the global consensus on environmental protection; for his initiative and clear sense of timing in connection with the Mediterranean, desertification, and, most recently, the international ozone agreement held as a first step and a dramatic success for UNEP; for his 'outreach strategy' exemplified by the World Industry Conference on Environment and Management with its long-term agenda for follow-up action; and for his continuing mission of helping the world to develop the capacity for making necessary choices for the care and maintenance of a small planet—our 'Only One Earth'.

The above wording is largely that of the presenting agency, the René Dubos Centre for Human Environments Inc.,

* The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.—Ed.

100 East 85th Street, New York, NY 10028, USA. In addition the Crystal Drop Award of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) was presented to Dr Tolba on 30 May 1988 at the Sixth IWRA World Congress on Water Resources, held in Ottawa, Canada, as a mark of recognition for the achievements of UNEP in the field of environmental aspects of Water Resources Management.

Receiving the Crystal Drop Award, Dr Tolba expressed his gratitude for this recognition of the accomplishments of UNEP. He praised the joint efforts of staff under the guidance of UNEP's Assistant Executive Director Dr Genady Golubev towards this achievement, and paid special tribute to the perseverance and dedication of the late Dr Laszlo David towards the establishment of UNEP's programme for environmentally-sound management of inland waters (EMINWA) and development of the Zambezi Action Plan.

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Kenyan Wins Getty Conservation Prize

Perez M. Olindo, Director of Kenya's Department of Wildlife Conservation and Management, is the 1988 recipient of the \$50,000 J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize. He was selected, by the international jury that awards the annual prize, in recognition of his national and international contributions to wildlife conservation. In addition, this award also recognizes the significant accomplishments of Kenya in conserving its natural resources.

Olindo, aged 50, is regarded as one of the fathers of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). He headed the Kenyan delegation to the 1973 Washington conference where the final text of the Convention was negotiated and adopted, based in large part on a draft submitted by the Government of Kenya. Nearly 100 nations now participate in this unprecedented cooperative effort to control international trade in wildlife.

Kenya and Olindo have continued to play a leading role in CITES. Until 1987, Kenya represented the African region on the CITES Standing Committee, which oversees implementation of the treaty. Olindo is currently Chairman of the CITES African Elephant Working Group—a special committee created last year to halt the illegal ivory trade that is decimating Africa's elephants. 'Kenya is honoured that the prestigious prize is going to one of our own', said George Muhoho, Kenya's Minister of Tourism and Wildlife. 'It is welcome affirmation of our long-standing commitment to eliminate poaching and to work with CITES and [with] other governments to end the illegal ivory trade.'

Olindo was Director of Kenya's National Parks from 1966 to 1976, when he was the first African national to hold such a job (which was one of the first of its kind in any African country). He is a graduate in Zoology and Wildlife Management of Michigan State University, where he later received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Then in February 1987, after he had worked for 11 years with other Kenyan ministries and as a consultant to several international conservation organizations, Kenya's President appointed him to head the country's wildlife department.

In this capacity, Olindo faces the enormous task of preserving Kenya's legacy of wildlife—the backbone of the country's lucrative tourist industry—at a time when widespread poaching is threatening some species with extinction. He oversees Kenya's innovative Rhino Management Plan which, through a system of rhino sanctuaries, has finally stemmed the decline of the country's Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) population, which fell from some 18,000 to 500 in less than two decades.

Kenya's Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), a favourite of camera-toting tourists, face similar disaster due to rampant poaching, particularly in Tsavo National Park. The country has lost 83% of its Elephants since 1973. This crisis is not unique to Kenya, however; scientists estimate that, in the last nine years, Elephant populations in the 'crescent' of nations ranging from Sudan to Mozambique have plunged from 751,500 to 222,600—the decline being largely due to victims of the world's insatiable appetite for ivory and the greed of those who traffic in illegal ivory.

'The safeguarding of Africa's wildlife, which is so vital to the country's ecological and economic future, requires the leadership of governments like [that of] Kenya and the dedication of wildlife managers like Dr Perez Olindo', said WWF-US President William K. Reilly. 'WWF is proud to present this award to a man with such experience, integrity, courage, and conviction.'

Created by the late J. Paul Getty in 1974 and continued by his son, Gordon, the \$50,000 J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize is the largest award given for outstanding achievement in the conservation of wildlife, and has been called the 'Nobel Prize of Conservation.' The winner of each year's prize is selected by the aforementioned international jury which is composed of prominent conservationists.

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