

The Protection of Nature as an Instrument for Peace

The Role of the Media

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Abstract

Our planet is only a tiny spot in the universe, but we keep dividing it up into even smaller sections. Despite years of effort, we have not been able to discover life in any other known galaxy, yet, today, a view of the Earth from space indicates a dying planet. The environment and life – *bios* – are threatened, and nothing can be more urgent than saving this precious gift. The joy of possessing bios is a unifying force that can lead to a brighter future. International cooperation in environmental protection and in the preservation of all forms of life can be a powerful incentive for all nations to come together in peace.

Winning the battle against the destruction of nature requires a renaissance of values. We need to avoid the mistakes of the past and create a society that respects and protects all living beings. *Bio-diplomacy* – international cooperation in environmental protection – promotes the protection of nature as an instrument for peace. It is a concept launched by the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) in 1985, focusing on the interdependence of all forms of life and calling upon civic leaders, decision-makers, and every concerned citizen to engage in a collective endeavour in defence of the environment. For world peace to succeed, current attitudes in international affairs need to be re-evaluated. Respect for human rights and multi-cultural societies, the protection of biodiversity and resources, and the appreciation of our natural and cultural heritage, can enhance quality of life and strengthen efforts for freedom and peace.

The role of the media is crucial in the formation of a mature global policy for environmental preservation. The media can actively support initiatives to maintain biological and cultural diversity, and urge diplomatic channels to shift from a fragmented, competitive vision to one of unity and interdependence. Furthermore the media can play an important role in promoting “biocentric” concepts and values, by encouraging environmental preservation and cooperation across national and regional borders, thus further stimulating interest in the positive dimensions concerning nature and bios, in order to improve international relations and attain the goal of world peace.