

These individuals (and the secretariat in general) would serve an organizing, coordinating, and catalytic, role through writing, speaking, broadcasting, and where feasible travelling in order to undertake on-the-spot organizing and educating. An interesting idea might be to have a member of the secretariat on each continent, who would communicate frequently with the others but meet them less frequently, to attempt to make the Campaign as urgently world-wide as possible on a limited budget.

The members of the Secretariat should be dedicated to the idea of the Campaign, as well as bright, infectiously enthusiastic, and relatively young. One can expect some ambition in such people, which in the right spirit can be all-to-the good. That ambition will be tempered by dedication and experience, and if necessary by supervision by and regular contact with the scholars who conceived the Campaign.

The environmental movement as it is commonly thought of is little more than two decades old; yet some aver that it is slowing down and losing its momentum. Perhaps it is time to innovate a little—the World Campaign for The Biosphere is an innovation. Let its implementation not be a reversion to conservative methods of old. Biswas & Biswas (1982) believe there is a need for 'specialized generalists'—now might be a good time to find a few potential generalists, and the Campaign a good basis from which to start training them.

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#### Richard St Barbe Baker and The Men of the Trees

The Men of the Trees is a forestry society which was founded in Africa in 1922, among the tribesmen of Kenya in order to save their land from the deterioration and barrenness which was resulting from the thoughtless destruction of forests. From this grew the idea of a world-wide association that would pledge itself to the cause of trees, whether these be grown for timber, for ornament, for fruit, or for shade. The society's aims are to prevent unnecessary destruction of the world's natural beauty and resources through indiscriminate felling, and to encourage the growing, of trees; for the life and well-being of Mankind depend to a considerable extent on maintaining a good sylvan economy.

In 1924 the Society was formed officially in Great Britain, and it was represented at the first world Forestry Congress in Rome in 1926. In 1929 it was established in Palestine and, as a result of a world forestry tour, it

became a world-wide Society in 1932. Today the Society of the Men of the Trees provides a means of universal cooperation in stemming the oncoming tide of destruction, and in reclaiming the waste places of the Earth by large-scale reforestation. Richard St Barbe Baker, the founder, realized that those who passionately love trees must love their own country, and unstintingly devote themselves to its welfare. Tree-planting is, in fact, a touchstone of true citizenship, for, in planting, Man is ever safeguarding the future.

Our illustrious founder, than whom few can have done more to improve the world, used to say that softwood plantations impoverish the soil and bird-life, and thus harm agriculture. He was certain that clear-felling was not economic except under unusual circumstances. The ideal system is one which will keep the land constantly covered with a forest consisting of uneven-aged trees of various species. What is gained by clear-felling is too often gained at the expense of the future, for it entails the cutting of many small trees which would have eventually grown into profit. We should aim not merely at quantity, but rather at quality. It has been proved by long experience that it pays to work for quality. That means more frequent fellings and a bigger wages' bill, but in the end it will prove to be more economical. Labour-saving does not, in this case, lead towards economy. Growing for quality means the employment of highly-trained foresters, who themselves become responsible for felling and do not leave the work to casual labourers.

#### *The Men of the Trees as a World-wide Network*

Where are the Men of the Trees and what do they do? During the first thirty-four years of their existence, the Men of the Trees saved for posterity many trees and woodlands, besides influencing large-scale reforestation in Britain and elsewhere. Thanks to a nine-years' struggle to raise the necessary money to rescue California Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) from the lumbermen, the finest groves of them were saved. This resulted from the efforts of members of the Men of the Trees, the Society of American Foresters, and others. In the years following, further groups joined in the struggle—patriotic women's groups, etc. Friends of Nature in the USA is affiliated with the Men of the Trees. Thanks to the Men of the Trees in New Zealand, a School of Forestry was established and the Pioneer Park at Rain-cliff was given to the nation.

In 1954, a special ecological trip across the Sahara was led by St Barbe Baker accompanied by two members of the Men of the Trees, and in 1964 he and members travelled around the Sahara, visiting all the states fringing the desert. The Sahara Reclamation programme was soon established and the northern states led the way with planting. As far away as Manitoba, Canada, ten million trees were planted in a save-the-soil move, again urged by St Barbe, and branches of the Men of the Trees were established in Hong Kong, Jersey, Malta, and eventually in Australia (in 1980). So it is that now there are branches scattered practically throughout the world, and indeed the World Forestry Charter stemmed from the Men of the Trees.

In all the places where it can, the Society assists governments and/or forestry services in the dissemination of educational articles through the press, provides lectures in schools, publishes journal papers and pamphlets, produces films for public exhibition, and, also through lectures and talks, endeavours to mould public opinion so that people everywhere will cooperate with

their governments in passing wise laws for the protection and preservation of their forests, which are so vitally important to the health, wealth, and well-being, of almost every country. Every citizen can make his or her individual contribution through the Men of the Trees. This is behind the motto, TWAHAMWE, which means ALL TOGETHER. The planting of a tree, while in itself a practical deed, is also the symbol of a far-reaching ideal. Indeed the tree on the badge of the Society is an eloquent symbol of unity and a promise of fruitfulness.

*Richard St Barbe Baker*

Until the moment of his death on 9 June 1982, at the age of 92, this remarkable man was still pouring out ideas which could benefit Mankind and all life on Earth. He was in Saskatoon, Canada, at his old University, discussing the establishment of a school of what he called 'Deep Ecology', when he died; but his message had been unchanging for 60 years—we must plant more trees. He established conferences, he lectured, broadcast, wrote, and was featured in films. He was invited by Government leaders to discuss planting programmes—he travelled throughout the world to take the message of the trees. In 1966 the Millennium Guild of New York bestowed upon him the MRL Freshel Prize for his publication *Sahara Conquest*, as the book of the year most likely to advance the cause of humanitarianism. In 1972 he received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the University

Richard StBarbe Baker considered that the declaration of the Australian Year of the Tree in 1982 made it the most wonderful year of his life. Why? For a long time he had gently pressed this idea until it was actually launched on World Environment Day, 5 June 1982.\* This gives the citizens of Australia the opportunity to 'green' their country. He believed that Australia leads the way for the rest of the world in establishing large-scale tree-planting programmes—and already the 'Year of' has become the 'Decade of', and now seems destined to develop into the 'Campaign for Greening Australia'—again much as happened with The Biosphere in the columns of *Environmental Conservation*. St Barbe believed that, through the concerted action of people in every country planting trees, a common meeting-ground for all men and women everywhere would be provided. He dreamed of the whole Earth being made green again—healed and made whole through the efforts of all Mankind.

As we see him in the accompanying photograph† characteristically 'recharging my batteries' (as he used to say) by hugging one of his beloved trees—in Brisbane, Australia, in September 1981, when well over 90 years old—we are reminded of his account, in the Autumn 1981 issue of *Environmental Conservation*, of 'The Story of the First Chipko-hug People, as told to The Man of Trees'. There seems indeed no limit to what can be done, even in our overcrowded world, by people who really care.

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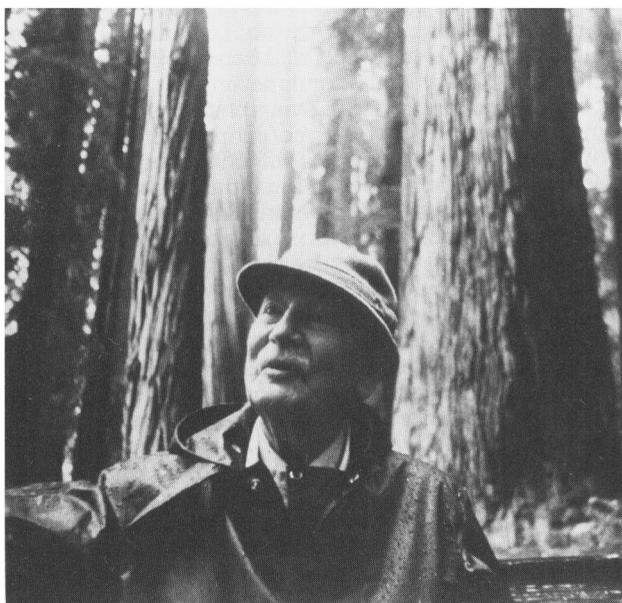


Fig. 1. *Richard St Barbe Baker among his beloved Redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens) in California again, near the end of his happily productive life. Photo: Randall Stemler.*

of Saskatchewan. In the year 1973 he was declared the Conservation Man of the Year—his contributions to the cause of conservation being considered the greatest by the Friends of Nature. In 1978 he received the OBE from Queen Elizabeth II of England. He was an Honorary Life Fellow of the Institute of Arts and Letters, Geneva; but, infinitely more important, he was an inspiration to uncountable numbers of people all over the world.

### Henderson Island Threatened

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office is thought to be seriously considering granting the request of an American entrepreneur who wants to destroy or at least seriously modify Henderson Island, which falls within their jurisdiction and constitutes a unique and highly interesting small island microcosm. It has endemic birds, plants, land-snails, insects, a spider, and probably other arthropods. We feel that this is a serious threat which should be brought to the attention of conservationists, so that they can make their opinions known to the British authorities who will decide whether this threatened desecration will be permitted.

Henderson (or Elizabeth) Island is an uninhabited elevated coral atoll in the South Pacific Ocean (Lat. 24°

\* Interestingly enough the very day of declaration of the World Campaign for The Biosphere (cf. *Environmental Conservation*, vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 91–2, 1982), with which The Men of The Trees should be closely allied.—Ed.

† Most unfortunately lost by our erstwhile printers, so that the replacement on the left had to be obtained from Lake Tekapo, New Zealand, through the kind offices of Mrs Catriona St Barbe Baker, Mrs Patricia Prater, and Mr Graeme Murray, JP.—Ed.