



Dr. (Mrs) P.L. Ahujarai,
Scientist 'SD'

तार :

Telegram : PARYAVARAN,
NEW DELHI

दूरभाष :

Telephone :

टेलिक्स :

Telex : W-66185 DOE IN

भारत सरकार

पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

पर्यावरण भवन, सी. जी. ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,
PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX

लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003
LODI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

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Dated the 30th August, 1989.

Dear Dr. Swaminathan,

Kindly find enclosed the revised outline prepared on the basis of discussions held on 27.7.1989 in the fourth meeting of Core Committee on National Conservation Strategy for your kind perusal.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

P. Ahujarai

(P.L. Ahujarai)

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan,
11, Ratna Nagar,
Teynampet,
Madras - 600 018.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY OF INDIA

PROPOSED OUTLINE

I. PERSPECTIVE

- i) Preamble
- ii) Our Environment Today.
- iii) Global Change and its likely impact (including economic and ecological aspects).
- iv) Critical issues for Nineties and beyond-Basic Human needs, carrying capacity, urbanisation (Megacities), Sociological Changes and Possibilities for resolution of Conflicts.
- v) Framework of Action - Sustainable growth vis-a-vis sustainable consumption.

II. PRINCIPLES

- i) The conceptual background.
- ii) The goals of sustainable development.
- iii) The processes of sustainable development.
- iv) Economics, Ethics and Equity.
- v) Education and Communication - Access to information and awareness at various levels.
- vi) Building a Conservation Society and reinforcement of traditional systems of conservation.

III. THE BIOSPHERE AND THE GEOSPHERE

- i) Population - Human and Animal.
- ii) Urban - Rural divide.
- iii) Resource Consumption Patterns.
- iv) Energy Issues.
- v) Women and Sustainable Development.
- vi) Learning from traditional wisdom - Role of tribal populations.
- vii) Meeting the minimum needs of the ecologically and socially handicapped section of the population.
- viii) Social and ecological ethos of development.
- ix) Disaster Management.

IV. COMPONENTS OF ACTION PLAN

- i) Sustainable resource Development.
- ii) Sustainable Development of Forest Lands.
- iii) Sustainable Development of Farm Lands.
- iv) Sustainable Development of Montane Ecosystems.
- v) Sustainable Development of Arid Lands.
- vi) Sustainable Development of Wetlands.

- vii) Sustainable Development of Islands.
- viii) Sustainable Development of Coastal Zones.
- ix) Sustainable Development of Grass Lands.
- x) Managing the Local Commons.
- xi) Managing the National Commons : Mineral resources surface and ground water etc.

V. POLLUTION CONTROL

- i) Air Pollution : Automobiles/Industries/Thermal Power Plants.
- ii) Water Pollution : Sewage, industries, agricultural run off etc.
- iii) Pollution of Land :
 - (a) Uncontrolled utilisation of chemicals (insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers).
 - (b) Management of wastes from various sources (Domestic/Industrial).
- iv) Noise Pollution : Automobiles/loud speakers/aircrafts/social customs.
- v) Management of hazardous substances.

VI. TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- i) Assessment, Policy and Planning.
- ii) Environmental Economics and Developmental Ecology.
- iii) Institution Building.
- iv) Technologies for Sustainable Development.
- v) Services for Sustainable Development.
- vi) Public policies for Sustainable Development -Integrating the dimension of sustainability in all research and development programmes.
- vii) Conservation Strategies for land, water, flora, fauna and atmosphere.
- viii) Developing Human Potential (Health, Nutrition, Education).
- ix) Infrastructure Development.

VII. CONVERTING STRATEGY INTO ACTION

- i) Local Action : Micro level tools, role of NGOs, professionals, politicians and general public.
- ii) State Level Action.
- iii) Inter-State Cooperation.
- iv) National Action.
- v) International Cooperation.

VIII. THE NINETIES : A CRITICAL DECADE

- i) Threats to our ecological security and their implications for national security and food and nutrition security, threshold values.

- ii) Responses at various levels including Political, Professional and Public to reverse the onward march to permanent disaster.
- iii) Towards a Non-Aggression Pact with Nature-
 - (a) Charter for Land.
 - (b) Charter for Water.
 - (c) Charter for the Conservation of Biological Diversity.
 - (d) Charter for the Atmosphere.
 - (e) Working for an era of sustainable and equitable development.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CORE
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY
HELD ON 27.7.1989.

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Present :

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Dr. M.S. Swaminathan |Chariman |
| 2. | Prof. M.G.K. Menon | Invitee |
| 3. | Shri Maheshwar Dayal | Invitee |
| 4. | Shri Mahesh Prasad | Invitee |
| 5. | Dr. D.R. Bhumbra | ... Member |
| 6. | Dr. S.N. Dwivedi | ... " |
| 7. | Dr. T.N. Khoshoo | ... " |
| 8. | Dr. Ashok Khosla | " |
| 9. | Prof. P.K. Das | ... " |
| 10. | Shri Thomas Mathew | ... " |
| 11. | Dr. Kapila Vatsayayan | ... " |
| 12. | Dr. B.K. Roy Burman | ... " |
| 13. | Mrs. Dilnavaz S. Variava | ... " |
| 14. | Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma | ... " |
| 15. | Prof. Virendra Kumar | ... " |
| 16. | Prof. R.S. Ganapathy | ... Invitee |
| 17. | Smt. Sumi Krishna Chauhan | ... Invitee |
| 18. | Shri Dilip K. Biswas | ... Member-Secretary |

The following officers of the Ministry also attended the meeting :-

1. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Project Director, Central Ganga Authority
2. Dr. (Mrs.) P.L. Ahuja Rai

The Chairman welcomed the Invitees and Members. On behalf of the Committee, he expressed appreciation for the deep interest taken and cooperation extended by Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan, former Secretary (E&F) in the deliberations of the Committee. He welcomed both Prof. M.G.K. Menon and Shri Mahesh Prasad. He congratulated Shri Mahesh Prasad on his appointment as the Environment Secretary and said that if environment goes wrong, nothing else can go right.

The Chairman apprised the invitees of the genesis of the Committee, its objectives, work done so far and the plan of work in the coming months. He informed that a draft discussion paper is proposed to be prepared by November, 1989.

During the general discussions, Prof. M.G.K. Menon suggested that the National Conservation Strategy should essentially deal with significant elements of conservation that deserve priority attention. To this end, the Conservation Strategy should be a succinct document which could be supported by a detailed document or a series of documents in respect of different sectors. Stressing the need for environmental policy at the national level, he suggested that the Committee may prepare a Policy Statement which could be submitted for the consideration of the National Development Council. In this context, he referred to the Science Policy Resolution and Technology Policy Statement.

Shri Mahesh Prasad, observed that the Strategy should not be merely a declaration of intent but it should have practical relevance. He felt that the Strategy should outline a set of ground rules with concrete ideas regarding such programmes/plans that should be taken up within a set time frame.

Dr. (Mrs.) Kapila Vatsyayan suggested that the Conservation Strategy should include a preambular section on definition of development vis-a-vis progress.

Shri Maheshwar Dayal presented his views regarding the approach that needs to be taken in the Energy Sector with particular reference to Non-conventional Energy Sources.

Several other members and invitees offered their views regarding the approach to be taken for preparing of the Conservation Strategy. The following decisions emerged from the discussions :-

- (i) While the exercise of preparing a detailed document or series of documents for different sectors will take time, it will be useful to prepare a draft Environmental Policy Statement by November 1989.
- (ii) A small Drafting Group may be set up to prepare the Draft Statement based on the inputs that are already available which could be substantiated by additional inputs at a later stage. The Drafting Group will be headed by Dr. T.N. Khoshoo and it will consist of the following Members :-
 - (1) Dr.S.N. Dwivedi
 - (2) Dr. Ashok Khosla
 - (3) Dr. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma
 - (4) Shri Thomas Mathew
 - (5) Smt. Sumi Krishna Chauhan
 - (6) Shri D.K. Biswas

It was also decided that Smt. Sumi Krishna Chauhan may be employed as a Consultant for helping in preparation of the Policy Statement and Conservation Strategy Document. The Ministry of Environment & Forests was requested to settle the terms of the Consultancy with her so that she can work whole time on the work of the Committee from August 1 to October 31, 1989.

Item I Confirmation of minutes of the third meeting.

The minutes of the third meeting were confirmed along with the comments received from Dr. B.K. Roy Burman.

Item II Follow up of issues arising out of the Third Meeting.

The Committee took note of the follow-up actions arising out of the third meeting. The Committee was informed that a Workshop on Energy and Environment will be organised by The Tata Energy Research Institute at the India International Centre during 4-5 August, 1989. Another Workshop on Measurement of Sustainability is to be held during 4-6 September, 1989 at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Bombay. The Chairman informed the Members that Dr. Robert Presscott Allen, and Dr. (Mrs.) Christine Presscott Allen who have been closely associated with the drafting of the World Conservation Strategy, have agreed to participate in the Workshop and also spend two weeks in India during September 1989 for providing their inputs which will be very useful. He expressed the gratitude of the Committee to I.D.R.C. for making their visit possible.

Item III Proposed outline on the National Conservation Strategy.

The Chairman informed the Committee that out of the 700 organisations/individuals which were addressed, more than 100 responses have already been received and still more are expected. While referring to the comments and suggestions that have so far been received, he observed that these will provide useful inputs for the formulation of the Strategy. He also felt that such a process of interaction is a necessary pre-requisite in the exercise undertaken. With these remarks, the Chairman

sought the views of the Members regarding the modifications required to finalise the Outline. The suggestions made by the Members include the following :-

- (1) The preambular Section on 'Perspective' should stress the need for development with due cognisance of the ecological concerns. While dealing with global change and its likely impact, it is necessary to mention about economic aspects along with ecological ones. The concepts of sustainable growth vis-a-vis sustainable consumption should be brought out in the Framework of Action. The problems relating to megacities, basic human needs, sociological changes and possibilities for resolution of conflicts should also be mentioned.
- (2) The section on 'Principles' should deal with ecological ground rules for meeting the basic human needs and objectives of sustainable development. The aspects relating to harmonisation and ethics of development should be mentioned while dealing with the issue of equity. Access to information is an important aspect that needs to be dealt in the sub-section on Education and Communication. While referring to the need for building a Conservation Strategy it may also be worthwhile to stress upon the need for reinforcing the conservation oriented traditions.

(3) The Section entitled 'Man, the Biosphere and the Geosphere' may be renamed as 'The Biosphere' and the Geosphere. The aspects relating to resource allocation, life styles and their ramifications, and disaster management may also be included in the Section.

(4) The Section on 'Components of Action Plan' may include the following changes :-

- (a) Mountain Eco-systems may be titled as Montane Ecosystems.
- (b) Sustainable Development of coastal zones may be treated as a separate item because of its importance.
- (c) Grass lands and ground water may also be included as additional items in the Components of Action Plan.

(5).A separate Section on 'Pollution Control' may be included in the Outline. This Section will need to deal with aspects relating to pollution of air, water and land, hazardous substances and such other issues.

(6) In the Section on 'Converting Strategy into Action', it may be useful to identify the actors and specific roles that need to be played by them.

(7) Emerging challenges, threshold values and empowering the people are the among the other issues that could be included in the Outline.

While thanking the Members for their suggestions, the Chairman requested them to give their specific inputs in writing with respect to the issues that need to be incorporated in the draft Environment Policy Statement. In view of the urgency in the

matter, the members were requested to send their inputs at the earliest so that these could be used by the Drafting Group and subsequently for the preparation of the detailed documents.

Item IV Background Note on 'Defining Measuring and Monitoring Sustainability

A note as prepared by Dr. Kirit Parikh was placed before the Committee. The Committee noted that this note will be used as a Discussion Paper for the forthcoming Workshop during September 4-6, 1989.

Items V & VI Bulletin on National Conservation Strategy and Proposal of Prof. R.S. Ganapathy.

The Committee decided that the matter relating to publication of a Bulletin on National Conservation Strategy will be taken up at a later stage.

It was also decided to postpone the proposal for holding a Seminar on Environmental Issues in Professional Education as suggested by Prof. Ganapathy.

Item VII Interim Report of the Sub-group on Endogenous Management and Conservation.

Dr. B.K. Roy Burman presented the Interim Report of his Sub-group. As suggested by him, it was agreed that the Sub-group may interact with 3-4 knowledgeable persons outside the Membership of the Sub-group so as to elicit their views. It was also decided that the Sub-group will give its final report by September 1989, so that this input will be available in the drafting of the Environment Policy Statement.

Item VIII Other Items

The following papers prepared by the Members were presented and discussed :-

- (i) WOMEN'S EDUCATION : EMPOWERING WOMEN TO CONTRI- BUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT;
- (ii) STRATEGY : ENVIRONMENT, AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Dilnavaz Variava and Prof. Virendra Kumar outlined the salient features of these papers.

Mrs. Variava stressed the role of women in the conservation of our natural assets. Prof. Virendra Kumar pleaded for a restoration of the old values of education where there was no dichotomy between human beings and the rest of the living and non-living world.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Dilnavaz Variava and Prof. Virendra Kumar for their contributions which could be integrated in a comprehensive paper by the Sub-Group on Environmental Education. He also requested the other Members to feel free to send any paper /references that could be used for preparing the Policy Statement and Strategy Documents.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on October 6, 1989.

As there was no other item in the Agenda, the meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the Chair.