

Appendix B

Environmental and Energy Study Institute Recommendations for Improved Resource and Environmental Management In The Third World

Recommendation 1: Long-term Assistance to Africa

Recommendation 2: Establish New AID Natural Resources Policy and Bureau

Recommendation 3: Strengthen Developing Country Environmental Authorities

Recommendation 4: Build Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations

Recommendation 5: Improve Environmental and Related Development Research and Development

Recommendation 6: Enhance Environmental and Related Development Training

Recommendation 7: Strengthen Peace Corps' Environmental Focus

Recommendation 8: Focus Multilateral Development Bank Attention on Resource Issues

Recommendation 9: Expand P.L. 480 Program to Include Conservation of Biological Diversity

Recommendation 10: Review Options for Using Foreign Debt to Encourage Sustainable Development

Recommendation 11: Review International Natural Resource Programs in U.S. Agencies

Recommendation 12: Incorporate Natural Resource Assessments Into Project Cost/Benefit Analysis

Recommendation 13: Support the United Nations Environment Program

¹ Excerpted from: A Congressional Agenda for Improved Resource and Environmental Management in the Third World: Helping Developing Countries Help Themselves, prepared by a Task Force of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (Washington, DC: EESI, October 1985).

Recommendation 5: Improve Environmental and Related Development Research and Development

Congress should direct the Agency for International Development, in cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences or other appropriate institution, to review and make recommendations for improving the transfer of environmental and related development R&D appropriate to the needs of the developing world.

Background

Successful development requires planners and development leaders in the developing countries to consider ecological constraints and opportunities and incorporate sound resource management in project planning and implementation. To do so, they must have sufficient information and knowledge of research and development efforts in environmental and natural resources sciences, management and technology related to development, and this information and knowledge must be relevant and appropriate to their needs. In addition, they must have their own R&D capability to design and carry out sound projects.

It is uncertain how many developing country personnel have such knowledge or R&D capability.

It also is uncertain the degree to which U.S.-generated R&D is relevant to the needs of the developing world, or the degree to which relevant R&D is being transferred in such a way to be useful.

Though uncertain, the situation does not look promising. Until it is improved, the drive for successful development will be hampered.

Needed Congressional Action

Congress should require the Agency for International Development to undertake a study of the R&D situation and recommend needed improvements. Section 118 of the Foreign Assistance Act should be amended by adding, after subsection (d), the following new subsection:

(e) In order to effectively carry out the provisions described in subsections (a) and (b), the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, in cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences or other appropriate institution, shall undertake a study to review and make recommendations for improving (1) existing means through which the United States transfers new knowledge on environmental, natural resource, and related development issues and technologies to developing countries, (2) the applicability and relevance of U.S. R&D programs to meeting the goals of sound natural resource management and environmentally sustainable development in developing countries, (3) current levels of knowledge and R&D in the developing countries in this area and (4) the transfer of such knowledge and R&D among developing countries themselves.

The reports of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations could elaborate the purpose of the study with language such as the following:

The proposed study should be undertaken by an expert U.S. panel drawn from scientists and development specialists knowledgeable and experienced in environmental, natural resource and related development issues. The panel would

have an advisory group of experts from the international science, technology, and development community. The U.S. panel would review the ways in which the United States assists developing countries in the development of environmentally sustainable policies and programs and the appropriateness and relevance of U.S. R&D to their needs in this area. The panel will assess current efforts and make recommendations for improvement. It will be necessary for the panel to identify and evaluate current R&D efforts regarding environmental and natural resources problems and technologies related to sustainable development currently being undertaken by universities, government agencies, foundations and other private organizations in the United States, as well as R&D efforts being carried out in the developing countries themselves with and without U.S. assistance.

This study should build on an earlier report prepared by the National Research Council at the request of the State Department for the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development concerning the contribution of U.S. scientific and technological resources to developing country needs. Focusing on environmental, natural resources, and related development issues, the proposed study should review subsequent R&D efforts in priority areas and additional ways in which the United States is attempting to meet needs in this field. It should also review ways in which developing countries are cooperating in transferring environmental R&D information and technologies among themselves and how the United States can assist in this process.

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