

EARTH LIFE NEWS



KORUP PROTECTED! • £440,000 ODA GRANT • "EXTINCT" RHINO REDISCOVERED
SECRET SMOKER AND SKELETON STAFF JOIN CAMPAIGN • THE GREEN DESIGNER
CAPTAIN COUSTEAU'S UFO • THE GREEN TOURIST • CHERNOBYL-ON-RHINE

Earthlife at the Design Centre

Opened by Environment Minister William Waldegrave, the Green Designer exhibition provided a unique shop window for the environment business.



"It's very refreshing to work for an energetic, committed organisation which is receptive to new ideas and convinced that design can work for them." So says Keren House of The Partners, the design practice which has helped give Earthlife's growing range of products such a distinctive edge. Many of these products were on display at the Green Designer exhibition (see pages 42-43), which ran for several months at the Design Centre, before transferring to Scotland.

On 24 October, Earthlife used the Design Centre to launch its Rainforest Resource Pack (see page 55). Devised, compiled and edited by Earthlife's Director of Education, Roger Hammond, and Assistant Director of Education Niall Marriott, the Pack meets the new General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) national criteria. The Pack was designed by Keren House and Karen Wilks of The Partners.

A Niall Marriott and Roger Hammond produced the Pack...

B... while Allan Wishart and Martha McGowan organised the press launch.

C Phil Agland and Lisa Silcock talk to Lucio Silva, a Venezuelan film-maker. Lisa's latest 'Letter from Cameroon' can be found on pages 30-31.

D Brian Johnson discusses the next steps with Max Nicholson. Max, a founder of the World Wildlife Fund and for many years Director-General of the Nature Conservancy, was profiled in Earthlife News 5, pages 57-58. Brian, who has been helping to set up Earthlife Canada, gives a progress report on pages 15-16.

Green-Net

"To provide the Green movement, in the widest sense, with the sort of communications capability normally available only to governments, the military or multinationals."

That is the way Mitra sums up his mission in developing Green-Net, a new Earthlife non-profit subsidiary. "Green-Net is a communications and information exchange service tailored specifically for the Green movement," he explains. "It is being made available to all groups that are working for positive change on this planet through action on environmental, economic, spiritual or peace issues, whether globally or locally."

Green-Net has already won praise from existing users. "One big advantage for us," say Greenpeace, "has been the access to on-line databases. We try as much as possible to use the news media as a voice of environmental consciousness and conscience, and as a tool for applying political pressure. To be able to monitor UPI, AP and *Washington Post* stories as they happen is a keenly useful ability for us. When we're battling the

multi-million dollar publicity machines of government or big business, this kind of capability is priceless."

Green-Net also works closely with other computer networks and databases, including Poptel (UK), Inderdoc (international), Unet (UK), Econet (USA), and PeaceNet (USA). *New Internationalist* magazine is one user which has exploited this inter-connectedness. "I had, in fact, been using Econet through Green-Net to collect some of the information used in various parts of the magazine," said one of the magazine's editorial staff. "Indeed, using Green-Net was invaluable all round to get a sense of what was going on in this field. I hope we can encourage others to use it."

With the International Youth Exchange, meanwhile, a programme has been launched to link together young people across as many cultural barriers as possible. It is based on

conference phone-calls, followed up by computer exchanges over Green-Net. Part of the project's purpose is to enable young people to learn that they can play an effective part in improving their environment.

"Green-Net has been particularly important because of the need to respond speedily to the urgent threats confronting the tribal groups on whose behalf we campaign," say Survival International. And all agree that the system is astonishingly simple to use. "Using Green-Net, we are learning how communications networks can enhance our daily operations," said one user at Earthlife. "It changes the way you work. I was surprised how easy Green-Net is to use."

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