

global environmental problem we face in the world, with its loss of genetic resources and its possible impact on climate change; to address a problem [that] is deteriorating and [that] foresters, for a variety of reasons and not necessarily their own fault, are clearly incapable of handling alone. The meeting will be very important, to get some new, far-reaching ideas from the mixture there of politicians, foresters, agriculturalists, industrialists, experts in climate and energy questions, and representatives of NGOs [Non-Governmental Organizations]. The NGOs need to be buttoned in more than they are at the moment, because there isn't a forestry department in the world that can raise either the human or the financial resources to do what they are supposed to. Unless we have the people, the concerned citizens, working with us, we haven't got a hope in hell of succeeding.

"Unpopularly, I believe that a major problem we face is that there is more appreciation of this situation in development aid agencies, the World Bank and regional development banks than among the developing countries themselves. This is primarily because the forestry profession in the developing countries has not been able to translate the problem beyond cubic metres of wood into questions of jobs, health, energy savings, foreign exchange and all the things that forestry and deforestation mean. The transfer of concern from external institutions into the countries themselves is the biggest hurdle that we face—and the Bellagio meeting will be a key part of tackling that hurdle."