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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: ENVIRONMENT

Progress made towards sustainable and environmentally sound development

Addendum

Report submitted by the World Food Programme

* A/44/150.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WFP POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES PURSUANT TO UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 42/186 AND 42/187

INTRODUCTION

1. While meeting our material needs, we must respect the resources on which we most fundamentally depend: soil, water and air. If we disrespect these resources today, the earth may not meet our children's needs tomorrow. To allow for future generations requires that we preserve our remaining resources, and that we heal or rehabilitate resources that have been treated carelessly in the past. To do these things systematically is to follow a path of "environmentally sustainable development."
2. Instead of preserving its environmental resources, however, humanity is practically everywhere doing them damage. Timber companies and expanding populations are deforesting vast areas, imperilling the people, wildlife and soils that depend on trees for survival. People in desperate need of a place to grow food are moving onto fragile hillsides, stripping land of its cover and letting soils wash away. Excess carbon dioxide is beginning to raise the earth's temperature, a process that could disrupt global agriculture and flood coastal areas with the melt from polar icecaps. Chlorofluorocarbons from spray cans and refrigerators break down the ozone layer, threatening to change the world's weather in unpredictable ways. Other chemicals contaminate the water that people drink or use to grow food.
3. Taken together, these forces threaten a world of erratic rains, devastating floods, deteriorating soils and water, vanishing forests and increasing poverty. Development of this sort is clearly not "sustainable."
4. In recent years, the United Nations system has acknowledged these dangers in a series of meetings and documents. In April 1987, for example, the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) issued its final report, "Our Common Future". Subsequently, the United Nations Environment Programme released its "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond". In December 1987, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed both of these documents and called upon all United Nations bodies to search for more environmentally sustainable patterns of development (Resolutions 42/186 and 42/187, 11 December 1987).
5. General Assembly Resolution 42/187 requested United Nations agencies to report during 1989 on work being done in the area of sustainable development. In June 1988, the World Food Programme was also asked by its Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to prepare such a report. The present document is submitted in response to these requests.

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WFP ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Scope of WFP activities

6. Some of WFP's most visible efforts are in response to emergencies such as floods, droughts or crop failures. In many cases, these emergencies result from unsustainable patterns of development. For example, excessive cutting of a watershed's trees can reduce the land's capacity to retain water. When rains are scarce, soils may quickly dry out and crops may fail. When rains are heavy, on the other hand, water may rush off denuded slopes to flood areas downstream. In either sort of emergency, WFP may end up temporarily feeding people who cannot survive on their devastated land.

7. Emergency operations primarily confront the symptoms of unsustainability. In the development projects it supports, WFP goes beyond this to address some of the causes of the problem. By mobilizing labour through food-for-work schemes, WFP helps see that trees and fodder grasses are planted, hillsides are terraced, soil bunds and irrigation systems are built, and so on. The intention is to increase the long-term ability of land to provide people and their animals with the basic means of existence: food, fuelwood, fodder, shelter, water and cash. In principle, this is the path of sustainable development.

8. Some WFP activities straddle the boundary between emergencies and development operations. For example, in dealing with refugees and displaced persons, WFP tries to take account of both the initial emergency (the need to keep people from starving) and longer-term issues (the need to ensure a sustainable pattern of development for refugees and their hosts). To cite but one case, the use of food as a development resource in Tanzania over the period 1972-82 helped settle 100,000 refugees in what are now self-reliant communities. Strategies for addressing this issue are considered further in document WFP/CFA: 27/P/7, "Review of protracted emergency operations for refugees and displaced persons".

9. Given the environmental orientation of this report, a conservative view has been taken of which activities can specifically be said to further environmentally sustainable development. For example, WFP's substantial work in the areas of education and health has been excluded. All such work should lead to more productive populations, and may therefore promote sustainable development. The links between these projects and environmental sustainability are, however, relatively indirect and long-term. The emphasis here is on the kinds of activities that have a more direct impact on the land: forestry, agricultural productivity (including crop production and irrigation schemes), physical conservation works and rangeland management.

10. Even by this narrower definition, WFP now assists 157 projects with components intended to promote environmentally sustainable development. The total life-of-project value of these components is 1,431 million dollars (see Table 1 below). Since the projects being considered last on average just over four years, including extensions, WFP is now disbursing resources worth about 350 million dollars annually in support of environmentally sustainable development. WFP and the World Bank are currently the world's largest providers of development assistance for these purposes.

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Table 1. Current WFP activities in the area of environmentally sustainable development, by region (life-of-project WFP costs of sustainability components only, in millions of dollars, at 1 January 1989)

	Total WFP	East & Southern Africa	West & Central Africa	Med.& Middle East	Asia & Pacific	Latin America & Carib.
Forestry	635.8	85.7	80.7	87.9	350.8	30.7
Agricultural productivity	472.5	49.1	121.3	81.2	148.2	72.7
Physical conservation works	279.5	34.4	39.9	47.3	125.0	32.9
Rangeland management	43.5	7.5	6.1	22.6	6.5	0.8
Total	1,431.3	176.7	248.0	239.0	630.5	137.1

11. The scope of these components is extremely broad, covering activities such as the following:

- Forestry includes natural forest rehabilitation, agroforestry, community woodlots, government plantations to produce fuelwood and poles, conservation forests to stabilize hillsides, planting of fruit trees on land unsuitable for annual crops, dune stabilization, etc.
- Agricultural productivity includes irrigation, soil improvement, land preparation in resettlement areas, training of farmers in sustainable agricultural techniques such as the use of organic fertilizers, rehabilitation of export crops, etc.
- Physical conservation works cover various structures for conservation of soils and water, including soil and rock bunds, hillside terraces, cutoff drains, check dams, etc.
- Rangeland management includes planting of fodder grasses, protection of pastures, destocking and restocking of herds in line with carrying capacity of the land, support to pasture management associations, etc.

12. Project components like these have been supported by WFP since its establishment. Beginning in 1964, for example, a watershed management project in Turkey (WFP project No. 099) built soil conservation structures, introduced high-yield forage and established fruit tree plantations. Similar projects have by now been carried out in dozens in countries. To encourage a wide range of forestry activities, WFP by 1976 had already given support to 50 projects in 33 countries; this work has since been even further expanded. Through the years, WFP has provided periodic reports on these activities, for example, "WFP assistance for forestry activities and their relation to agriculture and food production" (September 1976); "Report of the Executive Director on food aid for soil conservation and watershed management" (October 1984).

13. Increasingly, WFP is trying to combine components like these in an integrated way at both the micro level (on individual farms) and at the macro level (in entire watersheds). A current example of micro-level action is project Guatemala 2587, which seeks to help 25,000 small farmers in eroded highland areas to improve their land. An integrated package of measures will be applied to each farm, including soil and water conservation (stone bunds, vegetative barriers and water harvesting), improved agriculture (through composting, improved grain drying and storage) and tree-growing (linear plantations and spot planting). Similar activities are being supported in other projects such as El Salvador 3097.

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14. A number of WFP's activities in China illustrate the potential for more macro-level planning. For example, project China 3225 deals with an entire watershed in integrated fashion. Hillside crop land is terraced to reduce soil loss and increase productivity. Additional areas are reclaimed for farming through soil-saving dams. These measures allow people to convert steeper slopes from unproductive annual crops to fodder and fruit tree plantations. Fodder legumes are planted on communal pastures. The steepest slopes are stabilized with new trees and shrubbery. By upgrading every category of land in complementary ways, the project makes production from the watershed as a whole more environmentally sustainable.

15. Many of these activities both increase output now and enhance its sustainability over time. Soil bunds and water harvesting, for example, can have enduring returns that begin soon after work is completed. Even reforestation to improve soils and stabilize hillsides in the long run can start yielding benefits (in the form of lopped branches for fodder or firewood) within a couple of years after trees are planted. Properly conceived and implemented, activities such as these can equally serve short-term production needs and long-term environmental needs.

Role of WFP assistance

16. The activities listed above may require a substantial investment today (e.g., to build bunds or plant trees) in order to realize continuing long-term gains (e.g., better crop yields or harvesting of firewood and building poles). People in developing countries often lack the capital to do these works, however, or cannot afford to wait to recover their investments. As a result, activities that would lead to more sustainable forms of development are not carried out.

17. As used by WFP, food aid can make investments easier. For example, WFP may distribute food to cover the heavy initial labour costs of building soil bunds on farm land. Farmers are then left with only the need for routine maintenance of the bunds in order to realize increases in crop yields. At least in the ideal case, each year's better crops will more than compensate for each year's maintenance costs, and farmers will be able to care for their bunds indefinitely.

18. Food aid can serve a similar function with respect to communal resources. For example, where a village is threatened by erosion on communal land uphill, WFP can help stabilize ravines through construction of check dams. Once the initial costs are out of the way, villagers will incur only modest expenses for protection and maintenance of these communal structures. By thus minimizing the short-term costs of an investment in long-term environmental protection, WFP can make possible an activity that would not otherwise take place.

19. Finally, food aid can promote activities of more national interest. For example, WFP can help get trees planted in areas where eroding soils would otherwise fill reservoirs downstream with silt. In this case, food aid would amount to a budgetary supplement, enabling the local government to carry out more tree-planting in defense of its reservoirs than would otherwise be possible.

20. These examples illustrate the primary role of food aid in fostering sustainable development: helping meet the initial expenses of activities that will produce long-term benefits, but which are too costly for people or governments to start without assistance.

21. To do this correctly requires finding the appropriate level of WFP assistance for each type of project. If people are working to prevent siltation in a government reservoir far downstream, their payments (in cash and in food) should be at least equal to wages prevailing on other rural works projects. The situation will be different if people are creating assets (bunds, check dams) on their own land, or on communal land, for their own direct benefit. In such cases,

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it is reasonable for beneficiaries to make a substantial contribution of their own to the work. Food aid can then comprise an additional incentive that could be well below the wage for hired labourers working on other people's land.

22. WFP has two main ways to ensure that food is used correctly as an incentive for work on people's own land. First, WFP may sometimes refrain from distributing food at all, if available extension would be sufficient to get such work started without additional incentives. This question recently arose with respect to an agricultural and forestry development project in Bolivia (project Bolivia 2703). In its summary report on this project (see WFP/CFA:27/SCP:2 document 2/3-D Add.06), WFP's Evaluation Service recommended that certain "small-scale activities providing short-term economic returns for individual workers should not (any longer) be supported with food aid, as promotion and technical support would normally be sufficient" to get the work done. This would avoid what the report described as "the increasing level of habituation of workers to food distribution for implementing all kinds of programmes in rural areas," a situation caused by heavy inputs of food aid by several major donors over many years.

23. Second, in the many cases where food payments are an appropriate means of support for work on the beneficiaries' own land, care can be taken in determining the correct level of incentives. As noted, the transfer value of rations in such cases could be less than the prevailing wage, with the difference representing the beneficiaries' own contribution to creating their new assets. In current WFP-assisted projects of this sort, the value of rations as a percent of local wages ranges from 50 percent (Philippines 3691 and Burkina Faso 3326) to 70 percent (Guatemala 2587 and Guatemala 3065) or more. Means of determining correct incentive levels will be a matter for continued study by WFP in future.

MAKING BENEFITS LAST

24. As noted, WFP for more than twenty-five years has assisted environmentally-related activities. Current levels of support to these activities are very substantial. WFP's main priority now is therefore to ensure that benefits of these activities are as great as possible, and that benefits last after food aid ends. This implies strict attention by WFP to project design, monitoring and evaluation, and implementation, as well as to the policy context within which projects function. WFP initiatives in these areas are summarized below, in terms of work on current projects designed to further environmentally sustainable development.

Project design, monitoring and evaluation

25. WFP is intensifying its work in project identification and preparation. Experts may be engaged through WFP's Project Preparation Facility in order to resolve major issues even before projects are submitted for appraisal. Much recent work of this sort has centered on vulnerable group feeding projects (e.g., projects Vietnam 3844 and Chad 3500); however, WFP expects to participate increasingly in identification and preparation of environmentally-oriented development projects. Informal discussions have begun within WFP and with technical divisions of FAO to select countries in which missions can be fielded for this purpose.

26. At the appraisal stage, proposals are being closely examined to determine whether individuals or communities will carry on project activities once food aid ends. For example, in a forestry project in Madhya Pradesh (project India 3227), questions were raised during appraisal about community woodlots, a form of afforestation that has faced serious management problems in many countries upon termination of outside assistance. As a result of these discussions, resources were directed instead to multipurpose government plantations near cities and other sources of cash demand for wood products. By placing this project component on firm ground, in terms of management and financial feasibility, benefits are most likely to be lasting.

27. Project India 3227 also illustrates new ways in which WFP gathers information for project design. The appraisal mission concluded that more should be known about management of livestock in tribal areas, as a basis for deciding on the size and location of pilot fodder plantations. It was therefore decided to conduct a rapid rural appraisal of livestock practices in representative villages, a process that is to be carried out before this project component is implemented.

28. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems are being strengthened in many countries to keep better track of projects. WFP's contribution to this process varies depending on local circumstances. For example, as part of a project in China to improve low-yielding lands (project China 3146), WFP is supporting a system through which beneficiary households will themselves record data (on their production, income and expenditures), under the supervision of M&E teams. In an agricultural development project in Gambia (project Gambia 2729), WFP and a local consultant recently conducted a training seminar at which sub-project managers identified key M&E indicators and decided on means of gathering data. In support of a major water and land development project in Bangladesh (project Bangladesh 2197), WFP has created an M&E unit able to monitor resources from several bilateral donors as well as from WFP.

29. In addition to routine reporting, these systems can be used to address basic project issues. For example, the M&E system for project Gambia 2729 will help resolve questions as to whether communal farms will be maintained once WFP food and government inputs are discontinued. Only if the first group of farms survives on its own will additional areas be brought under communal cultivation. In important projects to promote reforestation (Sudan 3709) and agricultural diversification (Sri Lanka 3480), only rudimentary mechanisms now exist for monitoring work done by beneficiaries on their own land. To establish a closer link between work done and food received, WFP will support M&E systems better able to track project activities at the individual farm level. In all these cases, M&E will help ensure that WFP food is actually being used to promote environmentally sound development in lasting ways.

30. Periodically, WFP evaluates the outcome of its projects. This is most commonly done as background for the appraisal of project expansions. For selected projects, however, WFP also carries out ex-post evaluations. WFP has recently undertaken a review of four completed fisheries projects in China, to be followed soon by an ex-post evaluation of Chinese reforestation projects. In addition, WFP plans this year to carry out an evaluation of project Tunisia 482, in order to assess the aftermath of this project's longtime support for water conservation works, planting of fruit trees and cooperative development. In all these exercises, WFP seeks lessons that can be applied in the better design of new projects.

31. Where necessary, WFP can supplement its routine methods of evaluation with more intensive techniques. For example, WFP last year sponsored a rapid rural appraisal of a watershed management project in Ethiopia (project Ethiopia 2488). The appraisal was carried out by two local consultants, who spent a month visiting project sites to interview households, community leaders and catchment-level technicians. Findings of the survey with respect to the project's long-term impact will serve as an essential point of reference for the mission which will formally evaluate the project during 1989.

Project Implementation

32. In addition to seeking better ways to design and keep track of its projects, WFP is giving increasing attention to project implementation. This follows from the recognition that poorly implemented projects may be worse than no projects at all. For example, soil bunds that are improperly built by a watershed project can quickly start to wash away. At best, farmers will have to

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- (g) the Office should develop internal staff training and advisory support activities in order to assist ILO staff at headquarters and in the field to integrate environmental and sustainable development considerations more effectively in their traditional activities.

Co-ordination within the United Nations system

22. Within the UN system, special attention is being given to the critical need to improve co-ordination of environmental and sustainable development activities. The ILO has been actively supporting and participating in these efforts and the Governing Body has been kept closely informed of progress. For example, at the 241st Session (November 1988), the International Organisations Committee discussed the Oslo Conference on Sustainable Development and the work of the inter-agency group called the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters (DOEM).

23. The ILO has also been actively involved in the development of the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme (SWMTEP), which is an ongoing process to facilitate improved planning and co-ordination within the UN system. The recently approved SWMTEP for the period 1990-95 contains over 50 specific references to possible action by the ILO, alone and in collaboration with others, concerning many different environmental issues, e.g. working environment, rural development, housing, environmental training, industrial activities.

24. The ILO will continue to make every practicable effort to enhance the effectiveness of the co-ordination process within the UN system.

The ILO and the environment: Prospects for the future

25. Increasing interest and concern has been expressed by several ILO Industrial Committees and other meetings regarding the environment in 1988. For example, the Tenth Session of the Chemical Industries Committee adopted a resolution concerning the control and avoidance of toxic wastes; the 12th Session of the Metal Trades Committee adopted a resolution concerning the contribution of the metal trades to the improvement of the environment and also proposed as one of its possible future agenda items "the contribution of the metal trades to the improvement of the environment and to the achievement of sustainable economic growth"; and the Committee on Conditions of Work in the Fishing Industry adopted a resolution on protection of the livelihood of fishermen, which refers in part to the importance of the protection of the marine environment and sound fish stock management. These examples provide an indication of the attention which environmental issues are receiving at the various meetings convened by the ILO. The reports prepared by the Office for such meetings are also giving increasing attention to the linkages between environmental problems and critical labour and social issues.

26. During the next biennium, there are a number of other issues which may require special attention by the ILO. One of the most important future environmental challenges may be that of "climatic change". Although the greatest attention is being devoted to the development of scientific and technical data and analyses of this phenomenon, there may be significant linkages between the possible effects of climatic change - or of policies and activities developed to delay or respond to climatic change - upon employment and social conditions. As a result, the ILO will need to monitor this issue closely in future. In addition, a large number of regional and international

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AVOIDING ENVIRONMENTAL HARM

39. To result in sustainable development, projects must avoid unintended harm to the environment. The danger of doing harm varies greatly depending on the type of activity being undertaken. Many WFP activities are environmentally neutral, notably the kinds of human resource development projects not considered in this paper (mother and child health care, institutional feeding, etc.).

40. A second group of WFP-assisted projects is likely to be largely benign in environmental terms, although specific risks bear watching. These mildly risky activities include:

- Forestry. Depending on local circumstances, tree species may have to be carefully selected to avoid undue stress on water supplies or the kind of aggressive root systems that can destroy ground cover and leave soils vulnerable to erosion. If insecticides are required, extreme care must be taken in their use to protect nursery workers and people on whose land seedlings are planted. If grazing lands are to be used for reforestation, thought must be given to whether pressure of displaced animals could lead to erosion in other areas. Single-species plantations should not replace genetically diverse forests on which local people depend for food, medicines, income, firewood and building materials.
- Agricultural productivity (excluding irrigation, covered below). Encouragement should be given to use of organic fertilizers and mulches as ways of keeping soils productive. If marshlands or marginal soils are being reclaimed for crops, there must be reasonable assurance that fragile ecologies are not being misused in ways that would make agriculture unsustainable in the long run.
- Rangeland management. Establishment of new fodder grasses must be done through planting techniques that do not disturb soils and accelerate erosion. Provision must be made for limiting numbers of animals in accord with the carrying capacity of the land.

41. In "mildly risky" activities such as these, environmental problems for the most part can be identified and dealt with during project design. WFP reviews terms of reference for missions sent to appraise such projects, in order to ensure that due attention is given to possible risks.

42. A final group of activities poses more serious risks in terms of the potential for doing environmental harm: physical conservation works, road-building, irrigation and human settlement projects. Components of these sorts are present in 108 projects currently supported by WFP; together, these components command 710 million dollars in life-of-project resources (see Table 2 below). In addition, WFP annually provides more than 100 million dollars for refugee relief operations, which pose some of the same environmental risks as resettlement projects. Altogether, this means that WFP spends about 275 million dollars each year on environmentally "risk-prone" activities.

Table 2. Current WFP activities posing environmental risks, by region (life-of-project WFP costs of components specified, in millions of dollars, at 1 January 1989)

	Total WFP	East & Southern Africa	West & Central Africa	Med. & Middle East	Asia & Pacific	Latin America & Carib.
Physical conservation works	279.5	34.4	39.9	47.3	125.0	32.9
Roads	180.2	25.0	41.6	12.9	78.6	22.1
Irrigation	166.2	12.3	20.2	17.1	108.2	8.4
Human settlement	83.8	7.5	22.6	22.6	27.0	4.1
Total	709.7	79.2	124.3	99.9	338.8	67.5

43. WFP's involvement in "risky" activities reflects its concern for the very poor. The poor are often in areas where soils are depleted, erosion is advanced, rainfall is inadequate and access by road is limited. Others of the poor become refugees or turn to resettlement projects in hopes of finding land. To serve these groups, WFP must carry out the kinds of activities that are inherently risky in environmental terms. The appropriate response is not to avoid such activities, but to identify and avoid their environmental risks.

44. Risks in such projects are of various kinds:

- Physical conservation works. Conservation works such as bunds and bench terraces must be built to exacting specifications. If terraces are improperly levelled and bunds improperly contoured, water can be channelled down hillsides in ways that cause new gullies to form. In extreme cases, poorly-built conservation works can actually increase soil erosion.
- Road-building. Road construction destroys vegetation and cuts up land in ways that can also pose environmental risks. Proper attention must be given to location and alignment of the roads, drainage, construction standards and long-term maintenance, in order to avoid problems such as gullying, soil erosion and landslides.
- Irrigation. Irrigation projects must also be designed and implemented with great caution. If this is not done, such projects can lead to loss of land (through waterlogging and salinization), waste of scarce water (through inadequate land levelling or inefficiencies in the distribution system) and spread of water-borne diseases.
- Human settlement. Settlement projects almost inevitably imply environmental stress, as large numbers of people are moved onto new land. If land is poorly chosen or carelessly prepared, its output may prove inadequate to meet settlers' needs for food. Sharp increases in the demand for firewood, building materials and water can deplete tree cover and water supplies in ways that make sustainable development impossible. These latter problems can also arise when refugees are concentrated for long periods at camps or feeding centers.

45. As with the mildly risky projects described earlier, these more seriously risk-prone activities require strict attention to environmental dangers during project design. Risk-prone activities are, however, also extremely sensitive to proper implementation. As suggested above, even the best-designed bunds, roads, or irrigation schemes can do damage if implementation is careless. In risk-prone projects, it is therefore essential to ensure that work is properly supervised,

that its quality is continuously monitored and that reliable arrangements have been made for long-term maintenance.

46. The observations above are consistent with the findings of a recent consultancy to examine environmental implications of WFP projects. The consultant concluded that avoidance of environmental risks would primarily depend on the attention given by WFP to the design, implementation and maintenance of the projects it supports. As outlined below, WFP will concentrate on these issues as it works to enhance environmentally sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

47. Environmentally sustainable development requires treating the earth now in such a way that it can meet the needs of future generations. WFP has a vast portfolio of the sorts of projects that, in principle, work in this direction: reforestation, soil improvement, watershed protection, irrigation, rangeland management and so on.

48. It cannot simply be taken for granted, however, that projects of this sort will have positive results. If carelessly designed or implemented, even projects like these may accomplish little, or may actually do environmental harm. As noted above with respect to making benefits last and avoiding environmental harm, WFP must therefore continue to move forward in a number of areas where promising initiatives have already been taken:

- Project design. WFP can call upon experts to assist at any stage of project design, from identification to refinement of Plans of Operations. At all stages, WFP is giving more systematic attention to the selection and briefing of outside experts. Social scientists are more commonly included on missions to help determine whether individuals or communities will keep project activities going on their own once food aid ends. Model terms of reference are being prepared for major types of projects, in order to ensure that missions properly address key issues affecting environmental sustainability. To assist in developing terms of reference, an FAO consultant recently worked with WFP to identify categories of projects in which environmental risks may need special consideration during project design.
- Project implementation. WFP can act to see that complementary inputs (technical assistance, extension and non-food items) are available as needed to support work done for food. A limited amount can be done by WFP itself; technical review missions can help keep projects on track, for example, and judicious use of monetization can make funds available for local expenses. To provide the resources required for significant amounts of technical assistance, however, WFP will have to join efforts with other multilateral or bilateral donors, as well as with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Means of coordination with other United Nations organizations to provide technical support for WFP projects will be considered during 1989 at a high-level meeting of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy made up of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IFAD and WFP.
- Monitoring and evaluation. WFP is working to strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems related to its projects. Support can take the form of assistance in a system's design, purchase of data processing equipment, training of M&E officers, payment of vehicle running costs, etc. In cases where poor project implementation could result in environmental damage, special efforts can be made to monitor the quality of work done and the effectiveness of maintenance systems. Rapid rural appraisals can illuminate project issues and suggest ways of increasing impact. Ex-post evaluations can be used to identify the conditions under which project activities are most likely to be kept alive by beneficiaries after food aid ends.

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- Training. Since December 1987, WFP has carried out a series of staff training seminars covering its new project cycle, ways of ensuring that project benefits last, appropriate uses of food aid and other topics related to environmentally sustainable development. In addition to an introductory course on the project cycle for headquarters staff, regional seminars have been held for WFP field staff in West Africa, Asia and Latin America.

49. A number of the activities cited here have so far been carried out by WFP on a pilot basis or in selected projects only. To promote environmentally sustainable development most effectively, WFP will have to make these activities a more routine part of its work.

50. There is an important inference to be drawn from this discussion: the issue of environmentally sustainable development is in no way separable from WFP's normal operations. What is needed is for WFP to achieve in more thorough and systematic fashion what it has aspired to all along - the design and implementation of sound projects with lasting benefits and no negative side-effects. This is far from simple, but it basically requires an intensification of existing procedures, rather than any radical shift to new concerns.

51. To the extent its resources allow, WFP will therefore concentrate on more rigorous implementation of its existing project cycle and on supplementing food with the kinds of supporting inputs that sound development projects require. By giving uncompromising attention to these tasks, WFP is most likely to make a real contribution to the environmentally sustainable development of the countries in which it works.
