



PROCLAMATION

Roots of Peace and the United Nations Environment Programme are proud to announce our partnership, as we recognize that Landmines are an environmental concern.

There are over an estimated 70 million landmines sown in 70 countries—roughly 1/3 of the countries on earth. These toxic landmines render farmland unusable and hold the land hostage for generations to come.

In April 1997, the late Princess Diana walked on the soil of Angola in an effort to raise global visibility on the landmine issue. Today, on this April 30th luncheon, as the Queen Mary 2 prepares to set sail for a new decade of peace in Africa, we follow in Diana's footsteps, as we aspire to create a new impetus for mine action.

ELEPHANT PATHWAYS FOR PEACE—Roots of Peace and UNEP aspire to raise awareness for the removal of landmines in Southeastern Angola, as the legacy of war prevents the animal population from walking upon ancient migration routes. There are over 135,000 elephants trapped by landmines in Northern Botswana, and over 60,000 are at risk from being "culled" or "killed" as they infringe upon limited food sources. Together with Conservation International, we will strive to open the ancient migration routes for a Trans-Frontier Park linking Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

MINES TO VINES—Roots of Peace and UNEP support the removal of over 10 million landmines in Angola, so that the seeds of agricultural development may be planted. The sowing of landmines prevents the cultivation of healthy crops, preventing Angola from realizing its agricultural potential to feed itself and export to Sub-Sahara Africa. Together, we will aspire to raise both funds and awareness for the removal of landmines so that indigenous crops may reinvigorate the earth.

It is our hope that these concerted efforts will contribute to restoring Africa's fertile soil, one of its most valuable resources, while at the same time contributing to the eradication of poverty and to sowing the seeds for peace.

Heidi Kuhn
Founder and CEO
Roots of Peace

Brennan Van Dyke
Director, Regional Office for North America
United Nations Environment Programme