

## Biography

### Phillip Weller

Philip Weller is an environmental planner by training. He studied general Environmental Science at the University of Waterloo in Canada and received a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the same University with a focus on rehabilitation and clean-up of environmental hotspots within the Great Lakes of North America.

In his position as Programme Director of WWF International (Danube Carpathian Programme, 1995-2002) Mr. Weller was the driving force behind the “Lower Danube Green Corridor” - an agreement between Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine and the largest wetland protection and restoration initiative in Europe. Previously he served for four years as director of Great Lakes United, a unique binational coalition of interest groups including local municipalities, research organizations, businesses and NGOs in both Canada and the United States focused on the clean up of the Great Lakes. Mr Weller has also managed successful consulting businesses in both Canada and Austria and has done numerous assignments for governments and international organizations.

Mr Weller has considerable practical experience in the restoration of natural ecosystems and in planning processes to achieve public involvement in environmental decision-making. In February 2000 he was appointed by Margot Wallström, EU Commissioner for Environment, to be a member of the Baia Mare Taskforce. He also played a major role in the organization of the Danube Carpathian Heads of State Summit held in April 2001 under the chairmanship of President Iliescu of Romania and HRH Prince Philip, the Honorary President of WWF. Most recently Mr Weller helped organize on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Christian Orthodox Church the 5<sup>th</sup> Religion, Science and Environment Symposium entitled “The Baltic Sea: A Common Heritage and Shared Responsibility”. Mr Weller is author of three books on environmental topics including ‘Freshwater Seas’ an environmental history of the Great Lakes of North America.

Mr. Weller is married to the Austrian Andrea Weller, pharmacists, and is father of two sons.