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IUCN Viewpoint

Environmental Education

Student riots have been much in the news; among other issues their spontaneous eruption over the globe may be viewed as a symptom of discontent with existing systems of formal education in the context of environmental awareness. The increasing emphasis on professional training, with vast bodies of facts to be assimilated, does not accord with the new vision of the world, found among those who have lately become "environment conscious". They want meaning in life and are not content with the routine, rigid – and often narrowly specialized – disciplines so often dictated by present training programmes.

Environmental education has developed rapidly in the past few years and has contributed greatly towards the shaping of the necessary new approach. It stresses interrelations and linkages and the role of man in managing properly the natural resources at local, national, regional and global levels. It is essentially interdisciplinary, and covers the social as well as the natural sciences.

This approach to education involves development of understanding: how the environment functions, how it is interrelated with man, how man affects his environment, and especially what are the short- and long-term consequences of his actions. It also involves the development of attitudes and ethics: the maintaining and enhancing of diversity, and keeping open options for future choice, leading to formulation of guidelines for behaviour and action in relation to issues concerning environmental quality and ultimately contributing to better decision-making based on sound ecological principles.

IUCN through its Commission on Education and in collaboration with its sister organization, WWF, is actively involved in promoting environmental education and has been since the Commission came into existence in 1949. A series of conferences and seminars has brought the need for special action in this field strongly before governments and there is now acceptance in many countries of the environmental education approach, at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The most recent of such major regional meetings was the first European Working Conference on Environmental Conservation Education held at Rüschtikon near Zürich, Switzerland, in December 1971. Conclusions of the Conference have been accepted by many agencies as the basis for their educational activities.

UNESCO has been concerned with this work, particularly since its ground-breaking "Biosphere" Conference in 1968, and IUCN has received its support in co-operative projects. FAO, particularly through its Forestry Department, is also committed to work in environmental education.

Current IUCN concern is with curriculum building, teaching methodology, text books and other teaching aids. Much of the factual basis for environmental education is available from scientists but translation into teaching practice adapted to local conditions involves the active co-operation and participation of all groups in education: decision makers, educational scientists, and teachers.

An acceptable base for curriculum development was evolved at an IUCN working meeting held in Nevada, USA, in 1970 and this has since been used by a number of countries in producing their own environmental-oriented curricula. It has been possible to adopt existing content in a new structural grouping without causing over-crowding with new subject matter.

Teacher training courses have also been promoted by IUCN including, in 1972, one held in Wilhelminaord, Netherlands, for teachers from northwest Europe and another in Wales that included participants from countries outside Europe.

As a result of these activities, IUCN has produced a methods handbook for use in primary and secondary schools that is ready for publication. Other publications are in preparation.

The future alignment of IUCN involvement in formal education will be explored at a workshop on new developments in this field, with special emphasis on higher education and teacher training, at London, Ontario, Canada, next month.

These concerns have been extended to out-of-school activities, particularly through collaboration with IYF.

Although these projects have produced promising results, much remains to be done. The broad acceptance of the environmental approach in education in Europe and North America must be carried through to practical commitment at all levels and inevitably this will take much time and effort. Development of teaching materials, reorganization of programmes, and teacher training will not be completed quickly.

In other regions, little progress has been made in this approach to education and the task of introducing new concepts and skills appears formidable.

The developing countries are often best attuned culturally to the revolutionary ideas of environmental education but preoccupation with the understandable pressing problems of food production, health services, housing and the like sets priorities for vocational training, and the development of skills.

Yet there need be no conflict with these objectives since environmentally-oriented education can strengthen the development process. Development decisions must be taken locally and only environmentally-aware decision makers can avoid the economic and social hardships caused by the wrong type of development.

Although the long-term solution calls for revision of formal education, the immediate problem in developing countries is to give those concerned with planning and action a new vision and awareness as well as some basic models so that they may take environmental issues into account at all stages of their work.

IUCN is committed to the task of promoting environmental awareness and the development of a deep, personal concern for the biosphere as an essential stage in the solution of environmental problems. During the next triennium its programme will be strongly directed to this objective, not only through formal education and out-of-school involvement but also through close co-operation with the appropriate national and international bodies in promoting planning and development at governmental level of viable environmental policies with adequate machinery for their practical achievement.

Union Business

Nominations of Officers of IUCN

In accordance with the provisions of the Statutes the Executive Board has made the following nominations for officers of the Union. Elections will take place at the 11th General Assembly at Banff, Canada.

President:

Professor D. J. Kuenen, Netherlands

Vice-Presidents:

Professor I. McT. Cowan, Canada

Mr. Zafar Futehally, India

Dr. Christian Jouanin, France

Professor M. F. Mörzer Bruyns, Netherlands

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Commission on Education

Chairman:

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Mr. B. N. Bogdanov, USSR

Mr. W. E. Burhenne, Federal Republic of Germany

International Commission on National Parks

Chairman:

Mr. John I. Nicol, Canada

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. P. M. Olindo, Kenya

Mr. Theodor R. Swem, USA

* Members of the Board hold office for six years. The following members continue in office after the Banff meeting: Mr. B. Dioum (Senegal), Professor U. Hafsten (Norway), Dr. Paulo Nogueira-Neto (Brazil), Dr. M. E. D. Poore (UK), Professor Olivier Reverdin (Switzerland), Dr. Lee M. Talbot (USA) and Dr. J. A. Valverde (Spain).

We regret to announce that because too few persons planning to attend the 11th General Assembly in Banff have booked tours, all of the pre- and post-Assembly tours have been cancelled.

Conservation Notes

Whale Conservation 1972... not perfect but still improving

The 24th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission took place in London on 26–30 June, 1972, only a week after the end of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which had recommended, by an overwhelming majority, a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling.

The Commission rejected the moratorium on the grounds that there was no scientific justification for a blanket ban on whaling. But the significance of the United Nations, acute concern for the resource for which the IWC is ultimately responsible appeared to have its effect. During the course of the week, the IWC either took or initiated action on virtually all the subjects contained in the IUCN Policy on Whale Conservation 1972 (see IUCN Bulletin 2 (21), p. 185–188) and the recommendations made by the International Conference on Whale Biology, at Luray, Virginia, in June 1971 (see IUCN Bulletin 2 (20), p. 172).

Immediate implementation of the International Observer Scheme was approved, officially, and the Blue Whale Unit system in the Antarctic (the only area in which it was in use) was replaced by catch quotas by species.

Quotas for sperm whales (by sexes) and for sei and Bryde's whales in the Antarctic and north Pacific were set at the sustainable yield (which, according to the Scientific Committee, presently approximates to the maximum sustainable yield from these populations). Quotas for fin whales in these areas were set somewhat below the sustainable yield and an undertaking was given that further reductions would be made next year. A quota, at the estimated sustainable yield level, was set for the virtually unexploited minke whale stocks in the Antarctic.

The Commission requested its Scientific Committee to examine the problem of making estimates of individual stock sizes and yields for species in each region, with a view to setting quotas by stocks in the foreseeable future.

Approval was given to the appointment of a sub-committee of scientists on small cetaceans, to improve data collection on all world catches and to review the status of these species. Incidental kills of small cetaceans in tuna fisheries, for example, have risen alarmingly in recent years; 250 thousand porpoises and dolphins are estimated to be killed each year in the US tuna fishery alone.

Protection for prohibited species whose term of protection was due for review was extended indefinitely.

The Scientific Committee's recommendation for a decade of intensified research on cetaceans was approved and a committee was appointed to investigate the means of implementing this decision, which will include cooperation with other organizations.

A recommendation was made to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to prompt whaling nations who were not signatories to the International Whaling Convention to accede as soon as possible. A further recommendation was addressed to nations in possession of pelagic whaling fleets, and requested them to take all possible measures to prevent the sale of redundant fleets to non-member countries.

Lastly, a committee was appointed to review the Commission's terms of reference, its need for an expanded staff (including scientific staff), the means of simplifying its procedure, and other measures designed to make the organization more effective.

It is inevitable that the rejection of the moratorium will be severely criticized. On the other hand, it is difficult to see how the scientific and conservation communities could give wholehearted support to the UN recommendation, with no clear indication of the degree to which

the nations who supported the ban would have been willing to finance expanded research and surveillance of the whale populations, in the absence of the industry's shipping.

The meeting has taken some far-reaching initiatives to improve existing whale management. The outcome of the moves to expand and intensify research, to promote better management of small cetaceans, to press non-member whaling nations to join the IWC, and to improve the Commission's organization and effectiveness will be watched with keen interest. It is unfortunate that this record of a reformed attitude to whale conservation was marred by the meeting's failure to make more drastic reductions in the catch quotas for depleted stocks of fin whales.

Ceylon protects all marine turtles

The Government of Ceylon in June 1972 enacted legislation which gives total protection to the leathery turtle, and to the other 4 species of marine turtles which are found in the seas around Ceylon, the olive-backed loggerhead, giant brown-red loggerhead, hawksbill turtle and the green turtle.

The protection will apply to all sea turtles and their nests, eggs, young, both on land as well as in the water.

Conferences and Meetings

Yellowstone and Grand Teton ready for Second World Parks Conference

On 18 September an expected 450 delegates will assemble in Yellowstone National Park for the start of the Second World Conference on National Parks.

Coming from more than 90 nations, they will exchange information on the world's national parks and equivalent reserves, and plan together for the advancement of national parks during the century ahead. Conference theme is: National Parks – A Heritage for a Better World.

Programme of Events – Yellowstone National Park

18–20 September 1972

Beginning on Monday, September 18, representatives from all over the world – estimated to number 350 – and their North American hosts will spend three days in Yellowstone National Park enjoying a variety of special tours and programmes. The events in Yellowstone will include special commemorative ceremonies, and the World Conference will officially open the evening of 19 September.

At Yellowstone a special series of in-depth discussions under the theme: "Policy and Programme Considerations in the Establishment, Preservation and Use of National Parks in the USA", will be held. These panels, of which there will be seven, will have as participants many high-level members of the Executive and Legislative branches of the US Government, as well as representatives of federal and state agencies having responsibility for management of park resources.

The first three panels will meet on 19 September. The remaining four will meet on 20 September. All sessions will be at Old Faithful Lodge.

Panel 1 10:00–11:00

National Parks and Federal Executive Policy Making

This panel will discuss the implications involved in the allocation of resources (scenic, scientific, historical, cultural and recreational) among the national priorities of authorization, including funding for the development and management thereof.

Panel 2 11:00–12:00

National Parks and
Congressional Policy Making-Authorization

Congress is charged by the Constitution with policy making responsibilities for the management and utilization of the public lands. The panel will discuss the implications of the allocation of resources for scenic, scientific, historic, cultural, and recreational uses vis-à-vis consumptive utilization.

Panel 3 13:30–14:30

National Parks and
Congressional Policy Making-Appropriations

This panel will discuss financing of management and preservation programmes among competing priorities of Federal responsibility.

Panel 4 09:10–10:10

National Parks in their Regional Environment

This panel will discuss viability (physical, financial, and esthetic) of preservation of resources for scenic, scientific, historical, cultural and recreational purposes within the Region.

Panel 5 10:30–11:30

National Parks in State Planning and Land Use Policies

National Parks (scenic, natural, scientific, historical, cultural, and recreational) will be discussed in the context of social, economic, and political management of State programmes.

Panel 6 11:30–12:30

National Parks and their local Impact

National Parks (scenic, natural, scientific, historical, cultural, and recreational) and their impact on municipalities, communities, and local jurisdictions as influenced by economic and legal responsibilities, such as social programmes (schools, hospitals, etc.), general taxation, tourism, zoning, policing, etc. will be discussed.

Panel 7 14:00–15:00

National Parks and
Related Environmental and Recreation Programmes

Following the panel discussions, reports will be given on historic preservation and conservation, and on the National Symposium on National Parks, held earlier this year at Yosemite.

The programme of events at Yellowstone, will be open to participation of up to 1200 persons, the overnight accommodations capacity of the park at that season. Invitations to participate have been issued to all delegates from abroad plus a large contingent of US citizens.

On 21 September the participants will travel the 60 miles from Old Faithful to Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park for the technical sessions of the Conference.

The Technical Sessions, 22 to 27 September, may be attended only by special invitation and reservation. Invitations to participate have been issued by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton to more than 120 nations on behalf of all the sponsors. Representation by United States interests will be allocated and special invitations will be issued on the basis of available space after the international participants have been designated by their respective countries.

Authors selected by the Conference sponsors have prepared 32 background papers for these sessions. The background papers have been translated into the three official Conference languages (English, French and Spanish) and are being sent to all Conference participants in advance for study. At the Conference sessions, the authors will present brief summaries of their papers, and panelists will then discuss the subject. There will be opportunities for debate from the floor. Simultaneous interpretation in the three official Conference languages will be provided at all the technical sessions.

**Agenda for Technical Sessions –
Grand Teton National Park**

All Sessions will be held at Jackson Lake Lodge

Friday, September 22

09:00 I. Opening of the Technical Sessions

10:00–12:00 II. A Look at the Past

Past accomplishments, shortcomings and problems of the worldwide national park movement. Authors of background papers are: Prof. Jean-Paul Harroy, Belgium; E. M. Nicholson, UK; Assistant Secretary of the Interior N. P. Reed, USA.

14:00–17:00 III. A Look at the Present

Present-day park values, progress, and problems on a worldwide basis. Authors of papers are: Dr. V. V. Krinitskii, USSR; Perez Olindo, Kenya; Italo Costantino, Argentina.

Saturday, September 23

09:00–12:00 IV. A Look at the Future

Social and scientific opportunity and a look at problems arising from increasing population and economic pressures. Authors of papers are: Kai Curry-Lindhal, UNESCO/Africa (Sweden); Michio Oi, Japan; Dr. Joseph Fisher, USA.

09:00–12:00 V. Parks and People

Guidance for park managers and the stimulation of new and creative ways to obtain greater public benefit from parks. Authors of papers are: Dr. Marion Clawson, USA; Tetsumaro Senge, Japan; Dr. Robert Schloeth, Switzerland.

14:00–17:00 VI. Planning and Management

The broad aspect of planning and management for the future with emphasis on physical and living resources. Authors of papers are: Sylvia Crowe, UK, and George B. Hartzog Jr., USA.

14:00–17:00 VII. Special Park Environments, I

Special and unusual social, scientific, and environmental problems of national parks in wet tropical, arid, and mountain regions. Authors of papers are: Prof. P. W. Richards, UK; Mario Boza L., Costa Rica; Prof. M. Kassas, Egypt; J. R. Desai, India; Prof. Dr. K. P. Mirimanian, USSR.

Sunday, September 24

Morning free

14:00–17:00 VIII. Wildlife and Resources Management

Controversial aspects of wildlife management programme in national parks. Author of the background paper is Dr. H. F. Lamprey, Tanzania.

14:00–17:00 IX. Special Park Environments, II

Social, scientific, and environmental problems of marine, island, polar, and subpolar parks and reserves. Authors of papers are: Prof. Carleton Ray, USA; Prof. Jean Dorst, France; Prof. W. A. Fuller, Canada.

Monday, September 25

09:00–12:00 X. Uses and Interpretation

Problems involved in communicating park values to the visitors. Authors of papers are: D. Aldridge, Scotland; Prof. Dr. D. J. Kuenen, Netherlands.

09:00–12:00 XI. Staff Development and Training

Current international training opportunities and suggested ideas for improvement of these opportunities. Author of the background paper is Dr. Kenton Miller, FAO/Latin America (USA).

14:00–17:00 XII. Environmental Interpretation

Approaches and techniques that can be used to stimulate environmental awareness and motivate people to respect and protect their natural world. Open forum

and field workshops. Author of the background paper is Vernon C. Gilbert, USA.

Tuesday, September 26

09:00–10:30 XIII. International Opportunities

Opportunities to expand and improve worldwide park systems in the future, including information on how these opportunities may be realized. Author of papers are: the Honourable Russell E. Train, USA; John I. Nicol, Canada; Dr. R. F. Dasmann, IUCN (USA).

10:30–12:00 XIV. Help

An open forum to answer how, where, when and what help can be made available for the creation and/or development of national parks and equivalent reserves. Composite background paper from FAO, UNESCO, World Bank, OAS, and other international organizations prepared by IUCN.

14:00–15:30 XV. Developing Public Support

Special discussion of need and benefits of public support for parks. Open forum.

15:30–17:00 XVI. Conference Review by Rapporteurs

Wednesday, September 27

09:00 XVII. Closing Session

Delegates who will travel from the IUCN General Assembly at Banff to the Parks Conference are reminded that air transportation should be booked from Calgary to West Yellowstone. This is via Western Airlines Flight No. 27/415 which departs Calgary at 15:05 hours. Flight 27/415 replaces flight 25 which will not operate after September 6.

Travel from Yellowstone to Grand Teton will be by bus transportation on 21 September, although an air link between West Yellowstone and Grand Teton (Jackson, Wyoming) could be booked via Frontier Airlines Flights 527 or 529 by those who need a continuous flight plan.

Following the Conference, delegates not taking part in either of the two post-Conference tours should book their travel out of Jackson, Wyoming, via Frontier Airlines to any desired destination. Intercontinental flights connect at Denver, Colorado, and Salt Lake City, Utah. Delegates are urged to make their travel arrangements as early as possible.

Corrigendum to the UN Declaration on the Human Environment

The final text of the Declaration on the Human Environment adopted at Stockholm in June was altered by minor language changes and additions to the text as printed in the last IUCN Bulletin, which was based on the official document available at that time. The additions were to Principle No. 19 and the full text of Principle No. 26.

Principle No. 19 has an additional sentence, as follows: *It is also essential that mass media of communications avoid contributing to the deterioration of the environment, but, on the contrary, disseminate information of an educational nature, on the need to protect and improve the environment in order to enable man to develop in every respect.*

The new Principle 26 follows: *Man and his environment must be spared the effects of nuclear weapons and all other means of mass destruction. States must strive to reach prompt agreement, in the relevant international organs, on the elimination and complete destruction of such weapons.*

Errata

The report of the Environmental Forum meeting in Stockholm (IUCN Bulletin No. 7, July, Page 34) referred to a lecture on ecological warfare in Indochina. This was presented by Dr. Arthur Westing, USA, not by Mr. Lars-Eric Esping. We regret this error.