

Viewpoint

Beams and Motes

(The following remarks are extracted from the keynote address "Conservation and Utilization: Toward Reconciliation", which was made by Dr. Raymond F. Dasmann at the Symposium on Wildlife Conservation and Utilization in Africa, at Pretoria, in June this year.)

Some have proposed that there is a technological imperative which states that if something can be done it will be done, particularly if anyone can make a profit from it. Opposed to this there has been advanced a conservation imperative which states that when in doubt, do nothing, unless action is essential to the welfare and survival of man or wildlife.

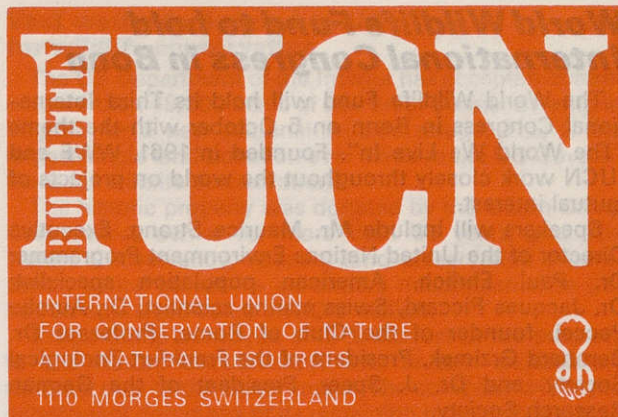
Looked at from this latter point of view, one could suggest that as a principle, consumptive utilization of wildlife or wild vegetation from relatively undisturbed biotic communities be undertaken only when it will appreciably benefit the welfare or increase the probabilities of survival of any species, its genetic varieties or biotic community. This would mean that we should not propose intensive cropping in natural areas where benefits are marginal or where the effects on wild populations or natural communities are doubtful and potentially harmful.

Such a general principle would require considerable debate when applied to any given situation. It would shift the burden of proof over to those who propose the intensive utilization of any living resource to show the benefits to be gained by man or wildlife, and establish the absence of significant deleterious effects on the species populations to be utilized or on the area in which the utilization will take place. It could essentially require the preparation of an "environmental impact statement" before any intensive utilization scheme is accepted. It would mean that we would leave wild areas and their wildlife alone unless there were very good reasons for contrary action. It would mean that proof of need and no long-term reduction of values would be required — in contrast to the habit of conjuring benefits and neglecting costs that often have burdened utilization schemes. This would allow a better balance between conservation and utilization without ignoring the value of either.

Unfortunately, such a policy, applied only to wildlife utilization schemes could be entirely counter-productive if it allowed other forms of exploitation to go forward unchecked. Indeed wildlife utilization schemes, more than most others, have tended to be based on realistic studies of costs and benefits because of the opposition of those who would prefer complete protection, and equally of those who would prefer to eliminate wildlife to make room for other forms of exploitation.

To be realistic we must insist that any form of intensive exploitation of land or water resources — mineral, plant, or animal — be preceded by such environmental impact analysis, that any form of economic development that involves extensive changes of existing and more-or-less stable landscapes or aquatic areas be subject to this kind of scrutiny. Furthermore we need insist that before any kind of development that would have potential impact on wildlife or natural areas is permitted, the full value of wildlife and natural environments over the long term be fully considered, including the economic values to be derived from intensive use and management of these resources.

The adverse reaction of those who share the preservationist outlook on conservation to those who hold to the utilization or management viewpoint is misdirected to the extent that it singles out for attack potential allies while leaving those who oppose both viewpoints free to carry out much more destructive schemes. But it is not entirely misdirected since those who favor wildlife management and utilization are too often guilty of the same narrow viewpoints as those who favor other forms of exploitation and seem to speak the same language.



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The wildlife manager who wants to raise antelope, and in so doing would eliminate all potential competitors and predators, is no different from the forester who would destroy natural forests and plant Monterey pine, or the dam builder who would destroy a fine wilderness only in the interests of perhaps unnecessary power production or the provision of marginally valuable irrigation water, and deserves the same kind of treatment from those who see beyond economic returns to broader values in the human environment.

The wildlife manager who turns off all humane feelings and slaughters wildlife, for whatever worthy goal, without consideration of the pain and suffering of the animals involved, looks no different to those who do not share his narrow vision from any other bloody killer and is likely, ultimately, to be subject to the same constraints.

By contrast the nature lover who can weep over baby whales while turning a blind eye to other marine utilization schemes that would destroy the food supply of all whales, certainly lacks understanding. Those who would protect all animals from hunters, but leave them to starve on a depleted habitat, have some strange kink in their humanitarianism. Those who would eat meat, but oppose all killing of animals, live at best in a peculiarly sheltered world. One can find "beams" or "motes" in everybody's eyes and can only plead for a broader vision and more understanding.

IUCN awarded grant from Ford Foundation

IUCN is pleased to announce that the Ford Foundation has awarded it a grant of \$300,000 for the two years 1973-1974 in support of its hardcore programme.

This is the second grant IUCN has received from the Ford Foundation. The first grant was for an amount of \$650,000 covering a period of 33 months.

IUCN is most grateful to the Ford Foundation for this continued support which underlines the confidence of the Foundation in IUCN's expanded programme of activities.

The excellent support that has been received from private foundations during the past several years has contributed greatly to the ability of IUCN to carry on its work at the increased level called for at the 10th General Assembly in New Delhi in 1969.

Members will be pleased to know that the timely support from the Ford Foundation has helped markedly to close the fund raising gap for 1973, made wider by the dollar devaluation against the Swiss Franc of almost 40 percent in two years. However, further fund raising activities will be called for to meet the budgeted expenditure for the triennium 1973-1975.

World Wildlife Fund to hold International Congress in Bonn

The World Wildlife Fund will hold its Third International Congress in Bonn on 5 October with the theme "The World We Live In". Founded in 1961, WWF and IUCN work closely throughout the world on projects of mutual interest.

Speakers will include Mr. Maurice Strong, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; Dr. Paul Ehrlich, American population specialist; Dr. Jacques Piccard, Swiss marine scientist; Dr. Aurelio Peccei, founder of the Club of Rome; Professor Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, President of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, and Dr. J. Speer, President of the German Research Society.

Dr. Karan Singh, India's Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, who is also Chairman of the Indian Board for Wild Life, will speak on conservation in India, with special reference to the major Government effort to save the tiger from extinction.

H.R.H. The Prince of the Netherlands, President of the World Wildlife Fund, will address the Congress, while Sir Peter Scott, Chairman, and Dr. Luc Hoffmann, Executive Vice-President, will speak on the work of the World Wildlife Fund for the conservation of the natural environment of man.

The German Federal Government is giving a dinner in honour of the Congress.

The Congress will be held in the Beethovenhalle. Previous Congresses were in Amsterdam in 1967 and in London in 1970.

A Ball to raise funds for conservation will be held in association with the Congress in Munich's Bayerischer Hof on the evening of 6 October.

MAB to meet in Morges

During September 25-27 IUCN will host the meeting of the Panel of Experts for Project 8 of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. Project 8 is entitled "Conservation of Natural Areas and of the Genetic Material they contain" and is concerned, among other things, with the establishment of a network of biosphere reserves and with special measures for the protection of genetic resources. IUCN has a long-standing interest and concern with the area encompassed by Project 8 and has been active in preparation for the MAB panel meeting and foresees an important role in the successful operation of this Project.

Three conservation projects in East Africa have recently received support from the Zoological Society of 1858, Frankfurt. Included are a new airplane for use in Kenya's Tsavo National Park, one of the largest in Africa; funds for an officer to be employed by the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, now grown to an organization of 6500 members in 168 clubs; and a caterpillar tractor for Ruaha National Park, Tanzania.

Honours

Commission member honoured by UK

Miss Sylvia Crowe, a member of IUCN's Commission on Environmental Planning, was made a Dame of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for her long and distinguished services to landscape conservation.

Dame Sylvia has been active in a variety of IUCN activities, including the writing of IUCN Supplementary Paper No. 21 "Landscape Planning, a policy for an overcrowded world", and an important background paper, "The Master Plan for National Parks in their Regional Setting", for the Second World Conference on National Parks.

IYF General Assembly 1973

The 18th Assembly of the International Youth Federation (IYF) was held from 1-13 August in Brasparts, Brittany, France. About 60 participants from 16 countries attended the General Assembly, which was held concurrently with a symposium, "National Parks and Other Protected Areas: the viewpoint of youth".

Discussions having particular relevance to IUCN included an application for financing a new IYF World Bureau, which will replace the International Youth Centre in Amsterdam, and the Development Programme 1973-1978, both supported by IUCN and the UNESCO Division of Youth; applications to UNESCO and the Council of Europe for consultative status; and structural change in the IYF organization.

Annual "topic" for IYF during 1973-1974 will be the new Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

New officers, elected to serve until the New General Assembly, are:

President	Bo Landin (Sweden)
Secretary General	Gerhard Walter (Austria)
Treasurer	Julius Smeyers (Belgium)
Information Officer	Oscar Marley (Belgium)
Projects Officer	Lutz Katzschner (Fed. Rep. of Germany)

Chief Editor "Taraxacum" David Withrington (UK)

The next General Assembly will take place in Belgium, during the first two weeks of August 1974.

Conservation Notes

IUCN-WWF protest Belgian Bird trapping

IUCN and WWF have protested that the proposed lifting of last year's ban on bird trapping in Belgium could result in a disaster for some species.

In a letter to the Belgian Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Albert Lavens, IUCN/WWF expressed astonishment at his announcement in Parliament recently that trapping would be permitted again for the benefit of bird fanciers. It is proposed to limit trapping to established quotas of named species and nets would be outlawed, but experience shows the difficulty, if not impossibility, of control. The result could be a disastrous slaughter of some species.

Hope was expressed that the complete ban on trapping will be maintained, declaring that its relaxation would be a step back in international plans to protect the environment.

Announcing the ban last year, the then Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Leo Tindemans, said that Belgium had become isolated by ignoring international conventions for the protection of birds which it had signed.

It is estimated that some 20 million birds on migration through Belgium were trapped annually for bird fanciers and also as gourmet delicacies.

Australians increase protection of Crocodiles

The State of Western Australia has added the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the freshwater crocodile (*C. johnstoni*) to its list of "Fauna Declared Rare and Likely to Become Extinct", according to word received from Dr. H. Robert Bustard, secretary of the SSC Crocodile Specialist Group. The action increases the penalty for illegal killing to A\$1000. Both species are listed in the IUCN Red Data Book (category 2).

The action further reduces the incentive for taking crocodiles in Australia. Earlier, the Commonwealth banned the export of crocodile skins and products made from skins. However, export for scientific purposes, or export of skins from crocodiles raised in recognized farms is permitted.

Dr. Bustard reported that the saltwater crocodile situation appears to be encouraging in the Kimberleys area of Western Australia.

An ecologically sound method of vampire bat control

One of the three true vampire bats, *Desmodus rotundus* of the American tropics, is said to be responsible for the deaths of thousands of cattle annually from the rabies it carries. Other animals, and occasionally people, are also victims.

Until recently, no satisfactory means to control these blood-eating animals existed. Common methods, such as gassing or destruction of the caves where the bats roost, destroyed the useful bats as well as the vampires.

Intensive research has turned up biochemical methods that are said to be highly effective and ecologically sound since only the target animals are affected.

Two observations led to development of the new methods. One was the extremely low tolerance bats have for the anticoagulant drug, heparin. The other was the grooming habits of bats, which actively lick themselves and their neighbours in the roost.

To develop one method, researchers mixed the anti-coagulant with petroleum jelly, spreading the mixture on captive bats. When released, these bats carried the deadly mixture back to their roosts where each bat so treated subsequently was preened or licked by several dozen of his fellows. Deaths occurred from hematomas, internal hemorrhaging, failure of the circulatory system, or starvation due to lack of strength.

A second method involved injecting cattle with the drug. Due to its great bulk, a cow would not be affected by the drug, but a vampire bat feeding on the animal during several days following the injection would receive a lethal dose.

Both methods are said to be equally effective. In test populations, a 96 to 100 per cent reduction in bat bites was reported in two weeks.

The research was conducted by the Agency for International Development, the Denver Research Center of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of the Interior) and the Mexican Department of Agriculture. Field work was done in Mexico and Brazil.

European conference on regional planning

The Ministers in charge of regional planning from 20 European countries will meet 25-27 September 1973 at La Grande Motte in France. Convened at the invitation of the French Government under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the Conference aims chiefly at promoting the harmonious and balanced development of all regions in Europe. The Conference will be open to the public.

Discussions will centre on three main subjects, outlined as follows: (1) Urgent regional planning questions in Europe, particularly a coherent transport and communications policy in the framework of regional development plans: the creation of a system of preliminary consultations at all levels about development plans in frontier regions; and the preservation of the environment and a healthy economy in mountain areas in the centre of Europe. (2) Workings method and techniques: (3) The future of European cooperation.

The findings of the Conference will be referred to the governments concerned.

New Environmental Directory published

A major new source of data on environmental groups has been published in a preliminary edition by the Sierra Club (USA) under the title "World Directory of Environmental Organizations".

This is the most complete directory of its kind now available. It is being circulated widely throughout the world for additions, corrections and comments, and a more definitive edition is planned for 1974.

The book can be ordered from Sierra Club Special Contributions, P.O. Box 7959, Rincon Annex, San Francisco, California 94120. Orders should be accompanied by a cheque or bank draft for US \$7.50.

Vast wetlands donated to US for wildlife conservation

The US Department of the Interior has accepted control of more than 49,000 acres of the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia for a new national wildlife refuge. This is the largest single land donation ever made to the US Government for wildlife conservation.

The historic property was donated by the Union Camp Corporation, owner for more than 60 years, and The Nature Conservancy, national land preservation organization which served as an unpaid middleman. The gift has an appraised value of \$12.6 million.

Union Camp conveyed a 40% interest in the property to The Nature Conservancy, who in turn immediately turned it over to the Government. The company will make subsequent donations of its remaining interest in the land in 1974 and 1975 until the transaction is completed. Under US tax laws, the company receives a deduction of the donated land's appraised value from taxable earnings over a period of several years. No significant timber harvesting has occurred on the property during the past quarter of a century.

The Dismal Swamp contains forms of plant and animal life seldom seen elsewhere. A unique native species is the Dismal Swamp short-tailed shrew. Seventy-five species of birds nest in the Swamp, and one of the last native breeding populations of black bears in the East is there. Insects, fishes, frogs, mammals and a varied assortment of plants combine in a unique community. At the heart of the Swamp, on the property being conveyed by Union Camp, is Lake Drummond, covering nearly 3,000 acres and roughly circular in shape. Its average maximum depth is only 6 feet, but these unusually pure waters are essential to the Swamp ecosystems.

The Interior Department will manage the property through its Fish and Wildlife Service as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

FAO Development Plan for National Parks in Panama

Following a survey made in October-November 1971 by FAO in cooperation with the National Parks and Wildlife Section, the Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources of Panama, a system of national parks in Panama has been proposed comprising six areas: Portobelo, Altos de Campana, Volcán Barú, Islas de las Perlas, Bocas del Toro, and La Frontera.

Such a system of national parks will conserve excellent examples of the natural and cultural heritage of Panama, and could contribute substantially to the economic development of the country.

IUCN/WWF established close cooperation with FAO in early 1972 by organizing a survey of the proposed Volcán Barú National Park. This survey was carried out by Dr. Anne LaBastille. The report of the survey will be published by IUCN as Occasional Paper No. 6 and will provide the scientific basis for the development of the park.

IUBS education group meets

IUCN was invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the IUBS Commission on Education as an observer, from 18-20 July 1973 at the Ecological Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, in Warsaw.

One of the main points discussed during the meeting was the UNESCO World Biology Teaching Congress to be held at the same time as the IUCN World Conference on Environmental Education, both planned for September 1974.

The Javan rhinoceros, which once ranged from Bengal throughout southeast Asia, now numbers at least 44. When scientific conservation work began five years ago in Udjong Kulon, western Java, only 24 of the animals existed. The intensive conservation programme by the Indonesian authorities has been supported by the World Wildlife Fund.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has notified the Director General of its adherence to the IUCN Statutes and of its desire to become a State member of the Union.

This brings the total number of State members to thirty-three.

IUGB Meeting

The XIth International Congress of the International Union of Game Biologists met at Stockholm, Sweden, 3-7 September 1973. IUCN was represented at the Congress by Dr. José A. Valverde of the Executive Board; Commission Members Dr. Fred Kurt, Professor Douglas H. Pimlott, and Mr. Lars-Erik Esping, as well as by many members of specialist groups. The Secretariat was represented by Mr. A. J. Mence and Dr. R. F. Dasmann who also attended the meeting of the Wolf Specialist Group of the Survival Service Commission, held in the same place.

The Congress is held biennially and brings together wildlife experts, primarily from European countries, to present and review the latest research findings. Representatives from 26 countries attended the Stockholm meeting, to discuss the population dynamics of birds and mammals as well as a number of other related subjects. The next Congress will be convened in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1975.

France creates fifth national park

On 27 March 1973 the French Government has created the country's fifth National Park, named "Les Ecrins".

This national park established to protect the natural area around the "Barre des Ecrins" (a mountain of 4103 m) and the Pelvoux region, which covers around 90,000 ha of high mountains situated southwest of Grenoble.

Only activities compatible with the protection of this natural zone will be permitted in the National Park, although some grazing, agriculture and traditional forestry will be allowed to continue. Touristic activities such as hiking, skiing, and mountain climbing, will be permitted where they do not affect wildlife existing in the park.

The "buffer zone", covering about 180,000 ha around the Park, and where some people live, will be subject to a management programme to develop traditional rural activities. New activities will be mainly touristic. Visitors will be welcomed to this area and not in the Park itself where no roads, villages or winter resorts exist.

WWF provides funds to expand Kenya's Nakuru National Park

H.R.H. The Prince of the Netherlands, President of the World Wildlife Fund, handed over a cheque for 172,500 Kenyan pounds to President Kenyatta on 29 August to finance the expansion and consolidation of Nakuru National Park with its lake of a million flamingos.

The funds, equivalent of about \$500,000, were raised by children in Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, and by a general appeal in the United States.

The World Wildlife Fund's Nakuru campaign was launched because the lake, one of Kenya's greatest

tourist attractions, was potentially threatened by pollution from development of the surrounding lands not included in the National Park. This would have destroyed the ecological balance which produces the prodigious amount of algae, small crustaceae and insect larvae in the water and mud that supports the huge bird population, making Nakuru "the greatest ornithological spectacle on earth" in the words of the American ornithologist, Roger Tory Peterson.

The World Wildlife Fund's contribution will enable the Kenya National Parks to purchase the land round the lake for inclusion in the park, thus safeguarding not only the lake but a rich mammal population including rhinoceros, hippopotamus, antelope, gazelle, leopard and buffalo.

Further funds will be made available to provide for development, management, and research aimed at making Nakuru a model conservation area.

Staff Notes

Paule Gryn-Ambroes leaves National Parks Commission post

Mrs. Paule Gryn-Ambroes has resigned her post as Executive Officer of the International Commission on National Parks after serving with the IUCN Secretariat since early 1971. She has returned to Belgium.

Prior to coming to Morges, Mrs. Gryn-Ambroes headed the Secretariat of the Belgian National Committee for the International Biological Programme (IBP), and served as scientific and administrative assistant in the Department of Ecology at the Free University of Brussels.

Errata

In the June issue of the Bulletin (Vol. 4, No. 6, p. 22) we reported on the 2nd International Symposium on Tropical Biology held in Caracas, Venezuela, in February 1973. The headline erroneously attributed sponsorship of this meeting to IBP when it was in fact organized and co-sponsored by the International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) and the International Society for Tropical Ecology (ISTE). We regret this inaccuracy.

Book Reviews

Utton, Albert E. and Henning, Daniel H., eds. (1973). Environmental Policy: Concepts and International Implications. Praeger Publishers, Inc. 278 pp., US\$15.00.

This well-bound book reprints 26 articles originally part of a symposium published in the Natural Resources Journal of the University of New Mexico School of Law. The first 12 articles are a theoretical and philosophical appraisal of the concept of environmental policy. First published in July, 1971 they include discussions of the history of the environment movement, the future problems of growth-centered societies, and political and bureaucratic responses to environment problems. The US National Environment Policy Act is mentioned frequently. The articles directed to more specific topics such as litigation, suggested principles for environmental policy, and public participation are of greater interest to the international reader.

The remaining articles were published in April 1972 as part of a symposium "The Human Environment: Toward an International Solution", designed as a contribution to the discussion generated by the UN Conference held in Stockholm in June 1972. This is the more interesting section of the book as it includes such subjects as pollution liability, enforcement and standard setting, pollution and human rights, problems of international agreements, the role of the individual, national sovereignty, African resources agreements, economic incentives, migratory animals, and the role of the law school.

(Robert Muecke)

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