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Viewpoint

On Marine Parks

Except for recalcitrant special interests, most informed people now realize that the ocean seas of our world must be protected from the twin evils of over-exploitation and abuse. This has been called for repeatedly by scientists and international authorities, and as one aspect of the matter, the relatively new concept of marine national parks has been advanced.

The First World Conference on National Parks (Seattle, 1962) recommended that governments and other appropriate agencies examine the possibility of creating marine parks and reserves, and the Second World Conference on National Parks (Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, 1972) urged that action be taken to conserve representative samples of marine ecosystems. The promotion of marine parks was also stressed by the 11th IUCN General Assembly (Banff, Canada, 1972) as well as by the UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972). The Regional Symposium on Conservation of Nature: Reefs and Lagoons (Noumea, New Caledonia, 1971) recommended that all governments concerned take action to create a range of underwater reserves and marine parks suitably and effectively protected under appropriate legislation.

There are enormous values to be protected, embracing the full range of scientific, scenic, economic and cultural elements that comprise the *raison d'être* of terrestrial national parks. While it may be argued that traditional scenic qualities commonly found in national parks—Grand Teton's peaks are a splendid example—are absent, who could fault the grandeur of the open ocean, or the spectacular wonders of the Great Barrier Reef, or Antarctica's surrounding ice and seas, or rugged sea-lashed coastlines, or quiet bays and sunny isles, or the vast profusion of plant and animal life to be found in every latitude? Any undisturbed (and unpolluted) marine area near any coastline can be totally fascinating to those willing to venture below the surface, though it must be admitted that for ordinary visitors the techniques of access require much careful development.

On the scientific and cultural side, volumes can yet be written, for the sea and its mysteries have as yet been scarcely probed. We do know that the sea affects us all intimately, whether we live in Kansas, Cornwall, or Central Africa, and mankind must see to the protection of this life-giving hydrosphere, and to the preservation of its intricate interworkings with the land and terrestrial life, which only now are beginning to be understood.

It could be argued, and not without some reason, that advocates of marine parks, or oceanic parks, at any rate, are giving emphasis to the wrong kind of action at this time. In view of the deleterious effects of man's abuse of the ocean, it might be said that the major thrust should first be directed toward control and cleanup,

toward ending rapacious exploitation and use of the sea as a dumping ground, and particularly toward terminating the massive in-flow of chlorinated hydrocarbons which clearly poses the threat of an ocean so poisoned that its living things face altered or reduced productivity. Professor Carleton Ray makes the point that marine parks could become irrelevant unless a broader respect for the preservation of the health of the ocean is achieved. We agree.

Unfortunately, up to now few actions have been taken by any responsible authorities that indicate anything more than lip-service recognition of the need to protect the sea from abuse. For this reason any action programme that brings pressure for controls that will protect the health of the ocean is both necessary and urgent. Marine parks are one of these programmes.

A look backward may be instructive. A century ago the idea of preserving and protecting certain spectacular natural areas for public benefit was virtually a new idea. Then Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 for the "benefit and enjoyment of the people". The idea found ready acceptance and, with Yellowstone as a model, countries throughout the world began the important work of setting aside their own parks and reserves. In the succeeding 100 years more than 1200 national parks have been established in most of the world's countries, and the influence of this widely-accepted effort to preserve and protect some of the world's most magnificent places has been truly enormous in stimulating conservation awareness and conservation action.

National parks are many-splendored things in their own right and without them societies everywhere would be poorer in all respects. Without the example of Yellowstone, however, and the ethic to preserve and protect outstanding natural ecosystems which the park movement fostered, the chances are that destruction of nature would have been far greater than it has been.

Scientists recognize the transcendent values of the ocean and its coastal areas but the evidence of most human activity suggests that people in general have little comprehension of the facts. Scientists and conservationists have long urged that more marine-based parks be established, and while there has been limited success, notably in Japan, the USA, and Kenya, with proposals slowly moving in a number of other nations, the idea has not fully caught on. In the absence of spectacular marine resources, the idea is difficult to sell to the public—and, of course, to decision makers.

In due time, we hope, marine parks will be as widely accepted and as eagerly sought as terrestrial parks are today. Meanwhile it is part of the task of conservation organizations to encourage evolution and full acceptance of the concept.

To this end an International Conference on Marine Parks and Reserves is being planned for May, 1975, in Tokyo. Arising out of discussions between Dr. Tsuyoshi Tamura and Harold J. Coolidge, two pioneering conservationists whose work has been enormously influential, the Conference will be sponsored by the Marine Parks Center of Japan, the Environment Protection Agency of Japan, the National Parks Association of Japan, and IUCN. Hopefully, this meeting, and a preliminary Conference in Iran, will bring about major advances in the Marine Parks cause.

However, one must not underestimate the difficulties of the task ahead. Despite certain similarities and parallels with traditional national park experience, marine parks, including coastal areas, present quite a different set of problems.

We know little as yet about ocean ecosystems, in contrast to considerable accumulated data on land areas and land-dwelling species. Unfortunately, too, the world still subscribes to the idea of *res communis* for ocean areas, and there is little sign that this now outworn idea is likely to be laid aside in the interest of world improvement.

(Continued on next page)

Similarly, the world must overcome the persistent myth that the oceans are not only an inexhaustible source of wealth (free for the taking, of course), but a vast sump as well into which any refuse can be dumped or any polluted waters drained without detriment. Today we know this myth is simply that, a myth. The oceans are not inexhaustible of their wealth, nor impervious to the actions of men. For all their vast immensity, important fisheries have been virtually wiped out, and even the most remote reaches of the watery mass covering more than 70% of the earth's surface have yielded biological evidence of the chemical poisons that have found their way into it during the past 25 years. Indeed, it seems likely that no part of the oceanic mass is uncontaminated.

If pushing the expansion of marine parks can help solve any of the international marine problems now assuming nightmare proportions, the charge to Conservation is not only clear; it is imperative.

Robert I. Standish

Programme Activities

Meeting on ecological guidelines for south east Asian areas

IUCN will conduct the second in a series of regional meetings to pursue the general theme "ecological guidelines for economic development". This meeting will be hosted by the Institute of Ecology, Padjadjaran University at Bandung, Indonesia, 28-31 May.

More than 50 decision-makers from government agencies of the South East Asian countries are expected to join with university professors, ecologists and planners to discuss the topic "The Use of Ecological Guidelines for Development of Tropical Forest Areas of South East Asia".

The formulation of ecological guidelines for development was suggested by the IUCN Commission on Environmental Planning as part of the follow-up of the book issued in 1973, *Ecological Principles for Economic Development* by Dr. Raymond F. Dasmann, John P. Milton and Peter H. Freeman (John Wiley & Sons Ltd). In view of the rapid development of the South East Asian tropics, it was considered of great urgency to provide an ecological input into the development process. Through the Bandung meeting and similar meetings scheduled for Caracas in February and Teheran in October 1974 - it is hoped that discussion of relevant principles will result in the elaboration of guidelines. Outside experts are preparing papers on various aspects of this problem as the basis for discussion at the four-day meeting.

The proposal for the Bandung meeting originated with the Indonesian Planning Authority. It will be organized in conjunction with a purely national meeting on the same theme for approximately 50 Indonesian decision-makers, planners and scientists, which is scheduled for 3-5 June, also at the Institute of Ecology, Padjadjaran University.

Local arrangements for both meetings will be handled by the Indonesian organizing committee with Dr. Otto Soemarwoto as Executive Secretary. Dr. Soemarwoto, who is the Director of the Institute of Ecology, currently serves as a member of the IUCN Executive Board.

The meeting is being funded in part by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Co-sponsors are expected to include FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

An index to Volume 4 (1973) of the IUCN Bulletin is published as a Special Supplement to this issue.

The following poem was written by Dr. Oscar Forel and read by him on the occasion of announcing his gift of "Le Manoir" to IUCN. See IUCN Bulletin 5 (1) p. 2.

To the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Morges

Nature's defenders, you my friends
Are gathered to receive this home
That you may treasure it to use
As bastion in future frays.
Erected in a distant past,
Seven times a hundred years,
It will endure for centuries
Upholding you until the doom
Of this schizophrenic age.

From the Manor's ancient tower
May you anticipate the storms
which threaten to beset the path.
At the horizon, soaring peaks
With outlines pure, all link and bind
As one, the skies with Nature's realm;
Through day and night they mount their guard
Beyond defilement and the din
Of an age, which renders pale
The blessed smile of heaven itself.

Long may the blue Léman, which laps
And compasses this loved terrain,
Remain a taintless sanctuary,
So that our children's progeny
Are not obliged to cross one day,
The hopeless point of no-return.

Spare not yourselves to put a term
To current ills and disarray
Which mar an age, where stark technique
Reigns as queen, and robot kings
Are worshipped still as sacred things.
With science and with expertise,
Your mighty foeman squanders force,
And gold and silver, to let loose
All evils on our living space . . .
But you have taken up the gage,
Knights of the Future, Chevaliers of Nature;
Posterity will live to hail
The victory to be won by you.

The Manoir, 1234 A. D.

St. Prex, 17.10.73

(Translator's Note: Dr. Forel's poem has a haunting rhythm and an intricate rhyme-scheme. No attempt has been made to reproduce its original elusive form, but neither is the translation literal. Yvonne I. Nicholls.)

Consultant in East Africa

Dr. Hugh F. Lamprey, formerly Director of the Serengeti Research Institute, Tanzania, has been retained by IUCN as a consultant to implement a series of IUCN/WWF Projects in eastern Africa. His appointment took effect on 1 January 1974.

His main tasks will be to prepare two significant conferences; one on the Development of Ecological Guidelines for the Management of Savanna Grasslands; and the other dealing with the coordination of national parks management.

Additionally, he will be responsible for liaison with the United Nations Environment Programme and will facilitate of IUCN/WWF contact and coordination with the governments of the region.

Houbara bustard project terminated

An IUCN/WWF project, originated by ICBP, for investigation of the breeding biology and ecology of the Houbara bustard, was cancelled several months ago. Protracted delays in expected financial support from the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, plus resumption of hostilities in the area, were the reasons for abandoning the project.

In 1972, Mr. W. A. Newlands was appointed as investigator, and actually began field work in August with a visit to Pakistan where he obtained background information on the bird and associated species. Although the work ended prematurely, Mr. Newlands had been able to provide useful data on the bustard, including a detailed bibliography, and also recommendation for subsidiary conservation programming for the tragopan and blackbuck.

Conservation notes

Dr. Paulo Nogueira-Neto heads the special Brazilian Secretariat for the Environment

An IUCN Board Member and President of the Brazilian Association for the Defense of Flora and Fauna, Dr. Paulo Nogueira-Neto, has recently been appointed Head of the Special Secretariat for the Environment, an organization created by Brazil's office of the President on 30 October 1973, which is directly responsible to the Minister of the Interior.

The Secretariat will have wide responsibilities in matters relating to pollution and conservation of natural resources. Generally speaking, it will play a co-ordinating role in relation to the different official organizations in Brazil that deal with environmental matters, and support non-governmental organizations as well.

Dr. Nogueira-Neto is well known in the conservation world. He is a Professor of Zoology at the University of São Paulo, and has published many papers, as well as a recent book on the breeding of wild animals which is quickly becoming a standard reference in many tropical countries.

Federal Republic of Germany lists its wetlands of international importance

The Federal Republic of Germany has established a list of internationally important wetlands. The governmental Institute for Vegetation Research, Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (Bundesanstalt für Vegetationskunde, Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege), which prepared the list, said this was the first step in Federal Republic preparations to become a party to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance which was finalized at Ramsar, Iran, in February 1971 (see IUCN Bulletin 2(19) p. 161 and Special Supplement). The list also will serve as the Federal Republic's contribution to the Directory of Wetlands of International Importance which IUCN is compiling with the co-operation of six international agencies.

The German list includes 40 wetlands, between the North Sea and the Alps, of international importance as waterfowl habitats. The largest and most important wetland is the intertidal coast and its North Sea islands lying between the Danish and Dutch border. This is one of the finest and most important waterfowl areas in Europe.

Other areas include some regions of the Baltic coast, examples of the peatland areas in the northwest German lowlands, some parts of the Ruhr and Rhine rivers, the western area of Lake Constance, and some natural and artificial lakes in front of the Alps in Bavaria.

Some of the areas could be established as bilateral wetland reserves between Germany and other countries. For instance, the Waddensea of the North Sea, shared by Denmark and the Netherlands; the Flensburg fjord, bordering Denmark; the peatland of the Zwillbrocker Venn at the Dutch border; some parts of the Rhine adjacent to France; the part of Lake Constance bordering

Switzerland and the dams of the river Inn shared by Austria.

Some of the wetlands are already established as nature reserves, while some are being considered as new reserves. It is particularly hoped that most of the area will be included into the system of non-hunting or controlled hunting reserves, the Institute said.

New marine park surveyed in Dominican Republic

The Island Resources Foundation recently completed a preliminary marine and terrestrial wildlife survey of the proposed site for a new marine national park in south-eastern Dominican Republic. The projected park would encompass semi-arid Isla Saona, Bahia Catalinita, and the entire Bayahive - Boca de Yuma Peninsula and the surrounding waters, comprising some 750 sq.km. in all.

A number of rare and endangered species were found within the area, including green and hawksbill marine turtles, the manatee, the Haitian solenodon, roseate flamingo, white-crowned pigeon and Hispanola least parrot.

Dr. Edward L. Towle, president of the Foundation, reported increasing interest among Caribbean island governments in the safeguarding and rational development of marine resources. Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda and Guadeloupe are also moving ahead to establish underwater parks and the British Virgin Islands have a Marine Conservation Committee currently exploring the feasibility of setting aside selected areas as marine parks or preserves, he said.

New Hebrides Conservation projects

The Vila Cultural Centre/Museum in the New Hebrides has proposed three projects with the aim of protecting and conserving the natural environment. These have been submitted to the Condominium Government for approval. Included are, (1) the atoll known as Reef Island or Rowa, as a site for scientific study, (2) a nature reserve around Duck Lake at Rentapao, Efate, and (3) a botanical ornithological park at Malapoa near Vila/Efate.

The French Residency has put at the disposal of the Cultural Centre approximately 3 hectares at Malapoa for the botanical/ornithological park. Because of its proximity to Vila, this Park will be of considerable recreational, educational and scientific value, as well as serving as a tourist attraction.

Seminar on noxious aquatic weeds

A regional seminar on noxious aquatic vegetation in tropics and subtropics was held 12-17 December 1973, in New Delhi, India. The meeting was jointly organized by the National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination and the Indian National Science Academy in cooperation with Unesco.

Organized in five sections, the seminar ranged widely over the extent of infestations and their impact, particular ecological aspects, biology and ecology, control measures and utilization. Recommendations and abstracts of the more than 50 papers presented are available from Dr. C. K. Varshney, Secretary, National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination, and Indian National MAB Research Committee, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi. Dr. Varshney is a member of IUCN's Environmental Planning Commission.

The monthly magazine, *Unasylya*, is being reissued by FAO, Rome, with the first number planned for July 1974. Theodore M. Pasca is the editor.

The German section, ICBP, has announced that the German Society of Animal Photographers has agreed to ban photography at the nests or in the immediate vicinity of nests of birds threatened by extinction. All of the species listed have suffered from high environmental disturbances.

Enforcement of U.S. Endangered Species Act

In recent remarks, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed disclosed that between 1 July, 1970 and 1 July, 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior had:

- documented the illegal importation of 33,677 animals, most of which were seized;
- charged seven airlines with violations involving wild-life importations;
- completed 541 endangered species cases of violations of the Lacey Act.

Few of the individual cases have been publicized.

"Canberra II"

Environmental sciences in developing countries, and how they may best be applied to economic development, will be the predominant theme of a SCOPE-UNEP symposium to be held in Nairobi 11-23 February. Planning and organization of the symposium has been carried out under the leadership of Professor Mohamed Kassas, assisted by Hugh Southon of SCOPE.

The meeting is an outgrowth of the symposium on environmental sciences in developing countries held by SCOPE at Canberra in August 1971 in connection with the Twelfth Pacific Science Congress.

Drafting groups will work during the first week to determine recommended research and to prepare general recommendations. Plenary discussions will be held during the second week.

Results of the symposium will feed into the Founex II meeting (alternative patterns for development) which will be held in Nairobi in September.

Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, Ireland

Official opening of the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve at the North Slob, Wexford, was scheduled for 15 February.

The Wexford Slobbs carry considerable numbers of wintering and passage waders, as well as several species of geese, and are the principal wintering ground of the Greenland whitefronted goose.

The Reserve comprises some 160 hectares and has been purchased by the Department of Lands (Forest and Wildlife Service) in association with the Irish Wild-bird Conservancy with the aid of financial support from the World Wildlife Fund. It represents Ireland's first major undertaking in the acquisition and management of wild-fowl haunts in the national and international interest.

Graduate fellowships in Environmental studies

Graduate fellowships providing field teaching opportunities and course work leading to the Master of Arts degree in Environmental Studies are now available at Montclair State College, New Jersey School of Conservation, USA. Applications from candidates in countries other than the United States are welcomed.

Applicants should be graduates of accredited institutions and have a major concentration in either elementary education, science education, social studies, or some other related field. Candidates with teaching experience will be given preference and a personal interview will be required.

In addition to room and board at the New Jersey School of Conservation, the Teaching Fellow will receive a stipend of \$1,200 for the academic year (September 1 through June 30) and remission of tuition for all graduate courses required to fulfill the specific degree requirements.

Applications and further information can be obtained by writing Dr. John J. Kirk, Director, Montclair State College, New Jersey School of Conservation, Branchville, New Jersey 07826, USA.

Peru has issued three new stamps picturing protected species: vicuña, Andean condor, and spectacled bear.

MAB — Alpine Project Session

A first meeting on coordinated research for the alpine region was held at the Austrian Academy of Sciences 4-8 December 1973. It was attended by about 30 participants from France, Italy, Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Austria and Hungary, and was held under the sponsorship of MAB UNESCO.

World Wildlife Fund News

WWF plans for saving Javan tiger

The World Wildlife Fund is launching a project in collaboration with the Indonesian Government to save the Javan tiger from extinction. Fewer than 15 are believed to survive.

One of eight forms of the tiger, the Javan sub-species once ranged throughout the island, but loss of its forest habitat and over-hunting of both its prey species and the tiger itself have brought it to the brink of extinction. It is among the smallest of the tigers, generally darker in colour, and with fewer stripes, some of which can degenerate into spots.

Surveys indicate that a small number definitely survive in the area of the Meru Betiri forest reserve in extreme eastern Java. The plan is to improve protection by increasing the number of guards and providing them with vehicles and equipment to thwart poachers. A biologist will assess the numbers of tigers and other wildlife and study the ecology and life pattern of the tiger to provide the basis for further conservation measures.

The effort is part of the WWF's international campaign to save the tiger from extinction, for which an appeal for \$1 million was launched a year ago by H.R.H. The Prince of the Netherlands, President of the World Wildlife Fund. Over half this fund has been raised.

World Wildlife Fund and IUCN appeal to fur trade

IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund have appealed to the fur trade to implement immediately the provisions of the Washington Convention covering the protection of fur bearing wild animals.

In a statement the two organizations declared: "The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was finalized earlier this year by 80 nations meeting in Washington. Under the Convention, trade in pelts of cheetah, leopard, snow leopard, clouded leopard, tiger, jaguar, ocelot, giant and La Plata otters, and other endangered fur-bearing species will be banned.

"The processes necessary for implementation of the Convention take time. But urgent measures are required to protect the endangered species, and the World Wildlife Fund and IUCN call on the fur trade to accept now the provisions of the Convention and to cease to deal in endangered furs.

"The World Wildlife Fund and IUCN also appeal to the public to refrain from buying endangered furs.

"In consultation with the World Wildlife Fund and IUCN the International Fur Trade Federation has agreed to call on its members in 23 countries to act as if the Convention were already in force. The Federation's National Groups will offer Customs and other authorities their assistance in identifying furs."

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