



Decisions of UNEP Governing Council

Approval of a comprehensive programme in conservation of nature, wildlife and genetic resources was one of the highlights of the second session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme which met at Nairobi, Kenya, 11 to 22 March 1974.

The 58-nation Governing Council reviewed present and future activities of the Environment Programme, set priorities and approved budget allocations, including \$18 million in 1974 and \$20 million in 1975 for Fund Programme activities. This included allocations at the \$1 million level for the Conservation Programme during 1974, and \$1.5 million in 1975.

Conservation Programme

In the Conservation Programme, the following objectives, as adopted by the Governing Council, are stressed:

"Particular attention should be given to the protection of endangered species of fauna and flora. In this connection the Executive Director should take steps to encourage the speeding up of the ratification of the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and to assist in the conservation of migratory species and others not adequately covered by existing conventions.

"For the preservation of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, biomes and habitats, effort should be made to expand the network of terrestrial and marine parks, in which studies of the relevant ecosystems should be encouraged. Emphasis should be placed on arid lands, forests, wetlands and marine areas. The Executive Director of UNEP is requested, in cooperation with appropriate international organizations, to promote studies leading to concrete action facilitating the exploration, protection and conservation of nature in the humid equatorial zones.

"The preservation of the diversity of genetic resources should be one of UNEP's most important objectives. Specific attention should be given to establishing a genetic resources network and gene banks."

The Conservation Programme comprises three sub-areas: a) plants, animals and endangered species; b) systems, sites and samples (parks and reserves); c) genetic resources. A variety of actions, some already initiated and others to be undertaken, make up the overall programme in this priority area:

a) *Plants, animals and endangered species*

UNEP has designated IUCN – which it identifies as the primary non-governmental organization with competence in this field – to undertake the secretariat function related to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

As a supporting measure to the Convention, UNEP will examine possibilities of improving the capability of existing machinery to identify illegal exploiters of wildlife in international trade.

12th General Assembly Dates

Dates for the 12th General Assembly and 13th Technical Meeting in Zaïre have been fixed for 8–18 September 1975. Details will be announced later but the schedule includes the opening General Assembly session on 8 September, Technical Meeting sessions on 9, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 17 September, and General Assembly sessions the afternoon of 17 September, and 18 September. Executive Board meetings precede and follow the General Assembly. Commission meetings will also be scheduled during the period. Three days midway will be devoted to an excursion to Virunga National Park.

NEW SERIES Vol. 5, No. 4 APRIL 1974
Published with the financial assistance of UNESCO; issued monthly

Viewpoint

UNEP Governing Council's Second Session

The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme has just held its second session at UNEP's new home in Nairobi. A roundup of the Council's major decisions appears elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin, but the summary scarcely conveys the depth of the operation or the momentum gained by UNEP in shaping and implementing its programme since the first meeting of the Council in Geneva last June.

UNEP is now installed in its new headquarters, the first in the developing world for a UN body. The move to Nairobi and staff recruitment have been heavy tasks but it has been possible also to lay the foundation for a new global programme on the environment. There are gaps, and areas yet to be improved but the programme is dynamic and adaptable.

The Governing Council settled to its task with little of the uneasy tension that underlay the first session, already showing itself familiar with the subject matter and the critical issues involved. The programme submitted gained an easy passage with few major changes, a tribute to the careful preparatory work for the session.

The operations of the Environment Fund were again the subject of careful scrutiny by delegates with the underlying problem of the optimum division of power between the Council and the Executive Director surfacing from time to time.

The major point of stress concerned funding for human settlements, which was a polarized issue between donor and recipient countries. The final compromise of a small allocation from the Fund and reference of the issue to the UN General Assembly leaves much of the tension unresolved.

UNEP is functioning in a dynamic and turbulent world situation and, as UNEP's Executive Director, Maurice Strong, pointed out: "The environment is moving from the level of generality on which much of the discussion has taken place to date, to the need to confront very specific issues, many of which contain the seeds of conflict and division both within nations and internationally."

Some of these issues were raised and dealt with at Nairobi. Many more remain, but at least the international machinery for considering them is already in operation. Now that the first relatively easy steps have been taken the participating nations are in position to face the hard decisions that lie ahead.

A long-term plan will be established for the provision and interpretation of data on wildlife utilization to the governments of member states, with a view to assisting them to improve wildlife management as a source of protein and food, for economic and recreational activities.

A detailed study will be carried out to compare the productivity and return of game production with domestic animal production in several ecosystems, the first of which, it is expected, will be arid lands.

b) *Ecosystems, sites and samples*

Approval was given to two IUCN projects concerned with the promotion of a coordinated system of national parks and other protected areas in East Africa and Central America. (These are described in more detail elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin.)

The protected areas of the West African subregion do not cover more than a fraction of its ecosystems and the programme calls for the examination of rain forest, high mountains, pseudo-steppe and savanna desert areas in particular, and the initiation of discussions with national authorities on the establishment of national parks. Cooperation between park authorities of contiguous protected areas will be fostered at the same time. IUCN will organize and service a working conference of the states concerned.

There is need for a comprehensive programme in each region to train nationals for park management, and the programme calls for detailed assessment of work being done by governments, FAO and other bodies and the elaboration of a long-term regional programme of training.

A summary of current activities and training needs in wildlife management will be prepared, indicating priorities for action and long-term requirements. A meeting of experts will be convened to define a global programme. Technical meetings in each of the regions will, as necessary, elaborate and refine the programme.

Stress is given to support for UNESCO's MAB Project 8 (Conservation of Natural Areas and of the Genetic Material they Contain), one of the objectives of which consists of establishing a world system of biosphere reserves, including parks, contiguous zones, etc. An expert panel is to review the situation and define criteria and ways and means for establishing an adequate network of protected areas and biosphere reserves. Special attention will be given to the problems of zones contiguous to these reserves, including the use of these zones for research activities. IUCN is directly involved with UNESCO in carrying forward this project. The Programme provides for assistance to IUCN to strengthen its contribution to MAB Project 8.

Support is to be given to a conference on the establishment of marine parks and reserves in South West Asia and North and East Africa to be organized in early 1975 by IUCN in cooperation with the Government of Iran which will act as host to the conference. Also included is UNEP support of an international conference sponsored by the Marine Parks Centre of Japan, the Environment Agency of Japan, the National Parks Association of Japan, and IUCN (Tokyo, May 1975). The results of the Conference in Iran will be taken into account by the Tokyo Conference.

c) *Genetic resources*

Crops: FAO is being supported in its activity relating to the conservation of crop genetic resources, the main objects of which are to reinforce the exploratory work on endangered species, principally in the Near East, Ethiopia, and tropical America; and to support training activities in exploration, conservation and documentation, especially in developing countries.

Forests: Assistance has been extended to FAO for preparation of guidelines for the preservation of forests and genetic resources. This will cover their conservation: as natural stands *in situ*, as seeds or other kinds of promulgation, and as an artificial stand *ex situ*. Close

Iran joins IUCN

IUCN now has its 36th state member, Iran. In March, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Abbas Ali Khalatbary, notified Morges that Iran adheres to the Union's Statutes.

liaison will be maintained with UNESCO, the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, and IUCN.

Animals: FAO, in cooperation with UNEP, will carry out a pilot study in two parts on the conservation of animal genetic resources. The first part is designed to make a preliminary survey of breeds of animals throughout the world which will have to be considered for inclusion in the "Inventories of genetic resources most endangered by depletion or extinction". The second part is an action oriented project to deal with the preservation of a unique cattle breed ("Kuri" breed of Lake Chad) in its habitat. This latter part of the pilot study is expected to serve as a model for the preservation of other unique breeds in other developing countries.

Microorganisms: A UNEP-sponsored meeting of scientists and representatives of FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IAEA and UNIDO will suggest activities to be undertaken by UNEP relating to microbiological genetic resources. Suggested programmes include the use of rhizobium for nitrogen fixation to replace artificial nitrogen fertilizers; the use of microorganisms for the treatment of waste and water; and the microbiological control of insect vectors.

Other environment programme aspects

In addition to setting a high priority for conservation of nature, wildlife and genetic resources, the Council:

1. Decided to participate in the financing of the exposition element of the United Nations Conference-Exposition on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976;
2. Recommended that the UN General Assembly set up, effective 1 January 1975, a new international Voluntary Habitat and Human Settlement Foundation (VHHSF) with an allocation of \$4 million from the Fund of UNEP over four years;
3. Established an Earthwatch system of global monitoring and information services to provide early warning of environmental risks, and to ensure that governments have access to the best scientific knowledge, experience and technology required to deal with these problems;
4. Launched a major effort for arresting the march of deserts and aridity, preventing soil erosion and restoring productivity of arid areas, in an effort to prevent or mitigate "future Sahelian-type" tragedies;
5. Mounted an attack on the problems of the marine environment and its living resources, including specific measures designed to support the UN Law of the Sea Conference;
6. Established a \$100,000 revolving fund for information on environmental matters;
7. Requested the Executive Director, in cooperation with other UN organizations, to study and make proposals for the implementation of a resolution passed at the last General Assembly calling for cooperation in the field of natural resources shared by two or more states;
8. Decided that UNEP, with the cooperation of other UN bodies, should assign a high priority to the monitoring of nucleides resulting from nuclear tests and report regularly to the Governing Council;
9. Decided that its third session will be held in Nairobi, 6 to 21 February 1975;
10. Recommended that the General Assembly take note of the Governing Council's intention to make a recommendation in regard to the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

Summary of Joint UNEP/IUCN Projects

Formal contracts have been given to IUCN by UNEP to enable it to carry out the following projects. UNEP is providing a substantial part of the funding, but the various projects are also being supported by the World Wildlife Fund, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), and other sources.

1. *Ecological principles for development in the American humid tropics*

Guidelines for economic development based on ecological principles and referring specifically to humid tropical forest areas of Latin America were formulated at a meeting organized by IUCN and held in Caracas, Venezuela, 20–22 February 1974. The Conference was supported by UNEP, WWF and SIDA, and its sponsors included FAO, UNDP, ECLA and OAS. (See IUCN Bulletin 4 (12) p. 51)

2. *Ecological guidelines for development in tropical forest areas in South East Asia*

A further meeting concerned with formulation of ecological guidelines for development of tropical forest areas will be held 28–31 May 1974 in Bandung, Indonesia. The Government of Indonesia is collaborating with IUCN in convening and organizing the meeting. In addition to UNEP, IUCN and WWF, the Conference has the support of SIDA and it is expected that the sponsors will include FAO, UNDP, UNESCO and ECAFE. (See IUCN Bulletin 5 (2) p. 6)

3. *Coordinated system of national parks and reserves in East Africa*

Initiated in early January 1974, this project is designed to evaluate the extent to which the existing parks and reserves in East Africa and other African countries provide protection for the characteristic ecosystems of the areas, and to recommend additional areas that should be protected. A working conference of representatives of the national park administrations of the region, to consider the outcome of the survey and to explore mechanisms for consultation and cooperation, is planned for late 1974. Dr. Hugh F. Lamprey is working as consultant on this project. (See IUCN Bulletin 5 (2) p. 6)

4. *Establishment of coordinated system of national parks and reserves in Middle America*

A survey is under way to evaluate the extent to which the existing parks and reserves in the Central American isthmus provide protection for the characteristic ecosystems and cultural values of the area, and to recommend additional areas that should be protected. Plans for this project are being developed in close cooperation with FAO, particularly that organization's Wildland Management and Environmental Conservation Programme. A working conference will be held 2–9 December in San José, Costa Rica, following the survey of parks and reserves. In addition to UNEP, IUCN and WWF, the project will be carried out in close cooperation with FAO, UNESCO (monuments and sites), UNDP and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

5. *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*

UNEP has designated IUCN to undertake the secretariat functions related to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. At the present time the Convention has been ratified by only one country (USA), and ten ratifications are necessary for it to come into force. IUCN is working with its members, particularly its State Members, in urging governments to take formal action. A conference of the States party to the Convention will be convened as soon as possible after its entry into force.

6. *Pilot seminar on environmental education methodology in East Africa*

IUCN in collaboration with the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP) is organizing a pilot seminar on environmental education

methodology in East Africa. The work is receiving support from UNEP and is being carried out in cooperation with UNESCO. The seminar, which will be held in live-in conditions at the Mombasa Polytechnic in Kenya, will include teachers/educators from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. It will explore recent developments in techniques for environmental education, in particular the techniques developed in the United States by Total Education in the Total Environment (TETE). A preparatory meeting has already been held in Morges.

7. *Policy shaping, environmental education and public awareness*

Working closely with UNEP, this project aims to extend and make more effective the existing mechanisms for informing and educating citizens throughout the world, and inspiring them to take action needed to initiate and support environmental conservation and protection. (See IUCN Bulletin 5 (1) p. 3)

Programme activities

Duncan Poore joins IUCN staff as Senior Ecologist

Dr. Duncan Poore, one of Great Britain's best-known conservation scientists, has joined the IUCN Secretariat at Morges as a Senior Ecologist sharing with Dr. Raymond Dasmann responsibility for the ecological aspects of the Union's work with particular reference to the conservation of flora. He will also contribute to work on education and policy, law and administration.

Prior to coming to IUCN, Dr. Poore was Director of the Nature Conservancy, the Government Agency responsible for nature conservation and ecological research in Great Britain. Dr. Poore held that post from 1966 until 1973 when the Agency was reorganized into the new Nature Conservancy Council and the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

A graduate of Cambridge University with honours in botany, Dr. Poore holds the doctorate degree in ecology.

From 1959 to 1965 Dr. Poore was Professor of Botany and later Dean of Science at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, during which period he found time for considerable research into the internal dynamics of Malayan lowland dipterocarp forest. He later lectured on forest ecology at Oxford.

Dr. Poore has had extensive international experience having worked on land use problems in Jordan, Cyprus, Iraq and West Pakistan in addition to Malaya. He is also a classicist and worked as a Japanese language translator from 1943 to 1945.

Conservation objectives set for Marine Turtle Group

The continuing spread of human activities to the shoreline nesting areas of marine turtles and an ever-increasing demand for turtle products, both for food and curios, are posing serious threats to the natural populations. Turtle farming operations aimed at relieving these threats still rely heavily on natural stocks.

The Survival Service Commission at its meeting in October 1973 initiated a review of marine turtle conservation, to be carried out by the Co-Chairmen of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Professors A. Carr and Tom Harrisson. Together with the Secretariat, they have now established four conservation objectives to which future marine turtle conservation activity will be directed through the Marine Turtle Specialist Group. These are: 1. positive protection of natural turtle breeding areas, i.e. nesting beaches and related inshore areas; 2. internationally coordinated protection of immature and adult turtle populations at sea; 3. monitoring the commercial exploitation of turtles and their products; and 4. promoting information programmes directed at all levels.

West European parks being surveyed; improvement hoped

A team of experts has been working since last autumn on an IUCN/WWF survey of national parks and protected natural areas in Western Europe, which is expected to be an important step toward their qualitative and quantitative improvement.

Protection and management given to the parks and reserves varies greatly from one area to another, and there is widespread opinion among experts that, both in the number of areas protected and in attention given to these areas, West Europe falls short of the standards needed if they are to be a contribution to a representative world system of national parks and equivalent reserves. In many instances, the level of protection and management is less than in countries where financial resources are extremely limited.

At a meeting in Morges in March, the team reported active co-operation had already been received from 11 of the 16 countries to be covered, while another 4 countries have indicated informally that they will participate.

The project involves collection and analysis of data on representative national parks and protected natural areas and evaluation of the current status, administrative procedures and effective management of these areas.

The survey will study the present system of national parks and protected natural (and semi-natural) areas above 500 ha, plus smaller islands and other protected areas with outstanding conservation value for Europe. The following major aspects will be studied:

- 1) The present network of protected natural areas and the extent it is representative of the major European ecosystems;
- 2) Evaluation of the protection of nature actually provided;
- 3) Review and evaluation of relevant legislation;
- 4) Review of the policy for protecting natural areas and the national park concept in the different countries;
- 5) Problems of land ownership and control of land;
- 6) Public pressure on the areas; visitors, local inhabitants, attitude of the authorities toward these pressures, the control of public uses;
- 7) Exploitation within the protected areas;
- 8) Visitor facilities; interpretation and education;
- 9) International parks and reserves - co-operation in protection and management;
- 10) Training of personnel;
- 11) Administrative structures;
- 12) Financing the development.

The survey team members are: Dr. Duncan Poore, IUCN Headquarters, Senior Investigator and Field Consultant; Mr. Kai Curry-Lindahl, Member ICNP, Field Consultant (conservation status); Sir Hugh Elliott, Editor and Field Consultant; Dr. F. Burhenne-Guilmin, Co-ordinating Consultant on Legislation; Dr. W. Erz, Field Consultant; Mr. Hanno Henke, Consultant on Policy Aspects; and Mrs. Paule Gryn-Ambroes, Co-ordinator of the survey and Field Consultant. Dr. Peter A. Gay (UK) represented the Council of Europe at the March meeting.

Two nations ratify World Heritage

Iraq and Bulgaria on March 5 and 7, respectively, deposited with UNESCO their instruments of ratification of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, becoming the third and fourth nations to do so. Earlier, the USA and Egypt took similar action.

Conservation notes

NGOs to create environmental centre in Nairobi

More than 150 representatives of non-governmental organizations, assembled in Nairobi prior to the Governing Council meeting, decided to create a permanent, independent, international Non-Governmental Organizational Environmental Centre in Nairobi. The meeting also decided to constitute itself as a permanent International Assembly of NGOs Concerned with the Environment.

The purpose of the centre is to develop a focus of activity among NGOs on environment matters and to facilitate communication and action with the UNEP. The Centre will not seek to represent or purvey the particular views of any one organization. Several organizations and individuals pledged financial and other support, and the Executive Director of UNEP welcomed the initiative.

The Environment Liaison Board, which was elected at the First World Assembly of NGOs Concerned with the Global Environment in Geneva last year, was given the mandate to create and direct the Nairobi Centre with the assistance of interested NGOs. IUCN and WWF-International are members of the Environment Liaison Board.

The greater part of the four and a half day NGO meeting was devoted to discussions sponsored by working groups on the UNEP programme priorities.

One recommendation made by the working group on natural resources and ecosystems referred to the Conventions on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Calling attention to the failure of most governments to ratify these conventions, the group urged the members of the Governing Council to "take the lead in rectifying this unjustifiable situation by urging their own governments to take immediate steps to sign and ratify these conventions without further delay".

Five nations sign wetlands convention

Five nations have now signed the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Iran was the first to sign. Successive signatures were filed with UNESCO by Finland, the United Kingdom, USSR and Switzerland.

Of the five countries only the UK has designated wetlands for inclusion in the List. Article 2 of the Convention provides that each contracting party shall designate at least one wetland to be included in the List when signing the Convention or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession.

New National Park in Brazil

By Presidential decree, Brazil has recently established the new Amazonian National Park. Covering approximately 1 million ha, the park is situated in the Itaituba region about 250 km south east of Manaus.

The New Hebrides Condominium on 11 February issued four new postage stamps in support of a campaign to protect wildlife found in the islands. Designed by J. and H. Bregulla, the stamps feature the night swallow-tail butterfly, Pacific dove, flying fox and the green sea turtle.

IUCN BULLETIN

Published monthly by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources with the financial assistance of Unesco. Unesco Subvention 1974 DG/2.1/414/39.

All material may be reprinted unless protected by copyright. Signed material reprinted should bear the author's name. The Editor would appreciate two copies of any reprinted material.

Authors interested in submitting material for publication are invited to write to the Editor.