

## Viewpoint

### Papua New Guinea: independence and environmental concern

In May 1975 the Waigani Seminar was held at the University of Papua New Guinea on the subject of the Melanesian Environment: Change and Development. In his opening address to the Seminar the Honourable Stephen Tago, Minister for Environment and Conservation in Papua New Guinea, presented the problems and opportunities facing the country as it becomes independent.

Following are extracts from that address:

"We have generally taken our environment for granted. This makes the task that faces me as Minister for Environment and Conservation a difficult one, for what is generally taken for granted is not likely to be a policy issue. This is changing, however, since we increasingly realize that there needs to be a deep and lasting commitment of our people to maintaining and also improving, but certainly protecting our resources base."

"The resources base, which is all we have, is what has given us the capacity to survive and to live and must give us the potential to develop. That, and our communities, together with the magnificent variety of our cultural heritage and its natural background, is the true wealth of Papua New Guinea. But we must be careful not to forfeit this wealth for short-term economic gains nor to ignore that such gains may be acquired at the expense of our people and their expectations."

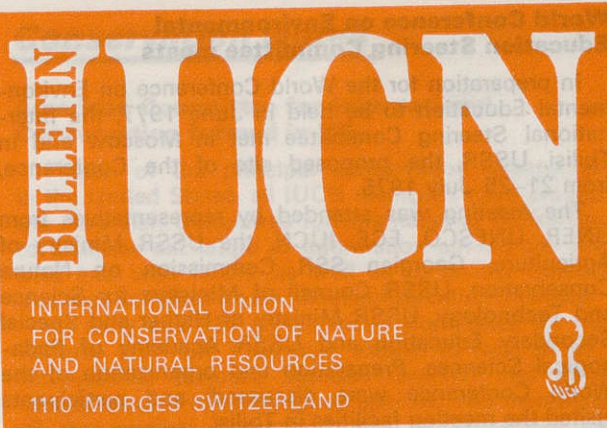
"However, we must have economic growth. But economic growth means changing the environment. As we know, it is at this point that injury to the environment can take place. If nature is abused beyond its limits, its revenge is inevitable. The question is not whether we should have economic growth. There must be! Nor is the question whether the impact on the environment must be respected. It has to be. The solution to the dilemma clearly revolves not about whether, but about how, we are to manage our development."

"With this in mind we have tentatively defined a number of environmental principles from which we will work:

1. All our people have the right to a safe, healthy, productive and culturally satisfying environment which permits a life of dignity and well-being.
2. We are the trustees of the environment for future generations and our approach to development must reflect this.
3. Pollution of land, air and water in quantities which cause the degradation of the environment must be controlled.
4. Habitat and wildlife management must receive consideration in planning our development.
5. Protection and enhancement of the environment requires education directed toward living with our environment."

"We have also been careful to include in our guidelines not only the physical and health aspects, but cultural considerations as well. We are concerned that a development project does not adversely affect our culture, but supports and enhances it. Hence at all stages during the decision-making process for a project, the people should be consulted. The recognition of people's rights is likely to produce a more acceptable pattern of development. This means that the advantages and disadvantages of a particular project must be explained to the community and its wishes respected."

"The challenge is to us, our public servants, teachers, village elders, local government councillors—indeed to all Papua New Guineans—to discipline our desires for quick exploitative development and temper it with concern so that we do not slowly destroy what is unique in our country."



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## Programme Activities

### Ecological guidelines formulated at conference in Persepolis

From 24–30 May 1975 an international meeting was held in Persepolis, Iran, to formulate ecological guidelines for management and conservation of natural resources, with particular reference to wildlife and biotic communities, in dry regions of the Middle East and South West Asia. Convened by IUCN as a component in the series of meetings on ecological guidelines for development in major world ecosystems, the meeting was hosted by the Imperial Government of Iran and sponsored by UNEP, the Department of the Environment, Iran, and IUCN. Financial support was provided by UNEP, WWF and SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority).

Delegates from eleven countries of the region attended, together with representatives from four international organizations and a number of consultants.

Over forty guidelines were formulated. They relate to land use, the impact of change on human populations, resource surveys, conservation of genetic resources, soil and water, monitoring of development, and reservation and restoration of biotic communities. Recommendations were approved which endorse recent international recommendations on arid land ecology and arrest of desert spread, formation of regional networks of protected areas, establishment of a Range Development Centre for the Middle East, and expansion of training centres for environmental management. They urge greater attention for environmental education, taxonomic studies within the region, training and research in natural and human ecology including greater university involvement, more cautious use of pesticides and fertilizers, and improvement in range management.

Field trips organized by the Department of the Environment to Arjan International Reserve, Bamou National Park, and historic sites in Shiraz and Persepolis provided participants with practical examples of conservation and its effects in arid regions.

The Proceedings of the meeting will be published by IUCN.

### South Africa ratifies Endangered Species Convention

South Africa became the 16th party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora when it deposited its instrument of ratification with the Government of the Swiss Confederation on 15 July 1975. The Convention came into force on 1 July.

### World Conference on Environmental Education Steering Committee meets

In preparation for the World Conference on Environmental Education to be held in June 1977, the International Steering Committee met in Moscow and in Tbilisi, USSR, the proposed site of the Conference, from 21–25 July 1975.

The meeting was attended by representatives from UNEP, UNESCO, ECE, IUCN, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, Georgian SSR Commission on Nature Conservation, USSR Council of Ministers for Science and Technology, USSR Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education and USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. Preparation and organization of the World Conference were discussed, and participants visited the meeting facilities in Tbilisi.

The basic programme for the Conference, which will be organized by UNESCO-UNEP in collaboration with IUCN and hosted by the Government of the USSR, was agreed upon. Preparatory steps will include international workshops of scientific and technical experts, and the recommendations of these workshops will be reviewed in a series of regional seminars.

The Conference will last five days, and 400 participants are expected. The working languages of the Conference will be English, French, Spanish and Russian.

After plenary session, sectional meetings will be held covering: environmental education in pre-school, primary and secondary schools; teacher and leadership training in environmental education; environmental education in institutions of higher learning; environmental education for other specialists at the post-graduate level; and creation of public awareness and out-of-school (adult and youth) environmental education.

Draft resolutions will be drawn up in the sectional meetings, and final resolutions adopted by the Conference will be published in four languages. A final report of the Conference will also be published in the working languages.

### Red Data Book, Volume 3 Amphibia and Reptilia

The completely revised Volume 3 of the IUCN Red Data Book, *Amphibia & Reptilia*, has just been issued. René Honegger, author of the original volume published in 1969, has provided sheets for all species covered in the index and has prepared a separate index listing the amphibians and reptiles considered to be under some threat of extinction but on which data are presently lacking, and their distribution.

The standard format of the revised RDB Volume 1, *Mammalia*, has been used, which incorporates vulnerable species and systematic coding. Revisions to the volume will be made regularly and will be sold by sheet at a nominal cost.

The price for the complete set including looseleaf binder, dividers and 162 sheets, will be US\$ 15, including surface postage and packing. Present owners of Volume 3 can order the replacement set of 162 sheets for US\$ 10, including surface postage.

### Marine parks and wetlands regional meeting planned

Against a background of intense human activities in the coastal zone of the Mediterranean Sea, a Regional Meeting on Marine Parks and Wetlands in the Mediterranean Area is being planned for Hammamet, Tunisia, 8–12 December 1975. Under the auspices of the Government of Tunisia, IUCN and UNEP will sponsor this regional meeting with the co-operation of the Tour du Valat Foundation for the Study and Conservation of Nature. Support will be provided by

the Fund of UNEP and WWF, and the International Waterfowl Research Bureau will co-sponsor the meeting.

Using the recommendations of the International Conference on Marine Parks and Reserves (Tokyo, May 1975) and the Regional Meeting on Promotion of the Establishment of Marine Parks and Reserves in the Northern Indian Ocean (Tehran, March 1975), as well as the International Conference on the Conservation of Wetlands and Waterfowl (Heiligenhafen, December 1974) as background, the meeting will discuss reports of the survey of critical marine habitats and of protected areas in the Mediterranean, and also reports of wetlands of the region. Working groups will review progress in the establishment of marine parks and wetland reserves and will formulate proposals for systematic action.

The meeting will be conducted in English and French. Participation will be by invitation, and about 80 marine and wetland specialists are expected to take part.

### New IUCN publications

Just published by IUCN are the following publications:

*1975 United Nations List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves*. IUCN New Series No. 33, 87 pp., text in French and English, US\$ 5.00, including surface postage.

*Private Remedies for Transfrontier Environmental Disturbances* by Stephen C. McCaffrey. IUCN Environmental Policy and Law Paper No. 8, 157 pp., US\$ 6.00, including surface postage.

*Normas Ecológicas para el Desarrollo del Trópico Húmedo Americano* compiled by Duncan Poore. IUCN Occasional Paper No. 11, 39 pp., in Spanish, US\$ 4.00, including surface postage.

This Summary of the Conclusions of the International Meeting on the Use of Ecological Guidelines for Development in the American Humid Tropics held in Caracas, Venezuela, 20–22 February 1974 was especially designed for decision-makers. The full Proceedings of this meeting recently appeared in English, and the Spanish version is expected later in the year.

### High mountains conference set for New Zealand

An international workshop conference to review the state of knowledge of high mountain ecosystems, to consider problems of land use and economic development in high mountain regions and to develop guidelines for the future is being organized by IUCN and the Department of Lands and Survey of New Zealand, in co-operation with the University of Christchurch, New Zealand, and with the co-sponsorship of UNESCO. The workshop will be held 4–13 February 1976 in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Productivity and biological diversity of mountain regions, as well as the well-being of the inhabitants, are being affected by the simplification and degradation of fragile high mountain ecosystems. To stem the growing rate of environmental deterioration, the conference will review the problems of high mountain biota and ecosystems, and ecological guidelines will be drawn up.

After presentation of keynote papers, there will be a four-day field trip, followed by three days of workshop and plenary session. Participation will be by official invitation to a number of governmental decision-makers and to invited contributors with special knowledge of high mountain systems. Approximately 80 persons are expected to attend.

## Wetlands Convention on home stretch

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat is close to coming into force. Six countries have now either signed it without reservation as to ratification or have signed and ratified it.

The Convention will enter into force four months after seven States have become party to it, so only one more ratification (or signature without reservation) is needed.

Of the six parties to date, four—Australia, Norway, Sweden and South Africa—have signed without reservation (the latest being South Africa on 12 March 1975), and two—Finland and Iran—have signed and ratified, Iran ratifying on 23 June 1975.

So far eight other countries have signed subject to ratification: Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland, USSR, United Kingdom, Belgium, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands. Provided at least one of them delays ratification no further, this important Convention could be in force by the end of the year.

## ICNP meets in Tokyo

The International Commission on National Parks met in Tokyo immediately before the International Conference on Marine Parks and Reserves.

The future of the expanded commission on national parks and conservation of ecosystems, resulting from the decisions of the 55th Session of the IUCN Executive Board, was discussed. It was recommended that the new commission be small in size, but selected to represent all major geographical regions. Its successful operation would depend on close liaison with the Secretariat, preferably through a full-time liaison officer of adequate status and training, as well as on the ability to meet at least annually. Further discussion centered on the possible date and locale of a Third World Parks Conference.

Other business included discussion of problems associated with the preparation of the UN List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves, and the World Directory of National Parks and Other Protected Areas.

## First volume of World Directory of National Parks published

The first issue of the World Directory of National Parks and Other Protected Areas has just been published. Issued in the looseleaf form of the Red Data Books, the Directory provides data in synoptic form as ready reference for park managers, scientists, scholars, as well as libraries, universities and other organizations dealing with national parks and protected areas. The sheets are arranged alphabetically by country.

The Directory is based on information gathered by IUCN in its continuing task of monitoring the *UN List* and draws on more than 20 years' experience in this field. This first issue of 250 sheets covers 17 countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania, Europe, North America, and South and Middle America. The publication will be expanded as information on additional areas is processed, with a target of several hundred sheets each year. A second issue of additional countries and areas is expected during 1976.

The price for the first set of 250 World Directory sheets, including binder and dividers, is US\$ 25, including surface postage and packing.

## Conservation Notes

### American Committee for International Conservation formed in US

Fifteen of the principal conservation organizations in the United States, all IUCN members, have organized the American Committee for International Conservation to facilitate exchange of information among the members and with IUCN, as well as to review those US overseas activities which affect conservation interests.

As early as 1930 an American Committee for International Wild Life Protection existed to raise funds for international projects, sponsor research and publish several studies of endangered species. The membership of the original Committee was of individuals, and from 1955 to 1970 its president was Harold J. Coolidge. After IUCN came into being, the American Committee helped support a number of IUCN projects.

Following the Banff General Assembly, a task force recommended reconstitution of the American Committee to provide for consultation among IUCN member groups in the US. New by-laws were adopted in 1974, and the re-named American Committee for International Conservation held its first regular meeting in Pittsburgh in March 1975.

Other non-governmental IUCN members in the US are being invited to join. IUCN members in other nations are invited to inform IUCN of problem situations to be brought to the attention of the American Committee. Several of the member organizations have active international programmes, chiefly in Latin America.

Named by IUCN's Executive Board for North American Membership Liaison, John Perry is Executive Secretary of the Committee. Officers include Dr. Lee M. Talbot, Chairman; Dr. Warren B. King, Vice-Chairman; and Dr. Fred G. Evenden, Secretary-Treasurer.

### Multidisciplinary Symposium to study whales

The great whales and their smaller relatives will be the subject of a multidisciplinary public conference at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, 9-12 November 1975. It will gather together experts from the social and natural sciences, arts, humanities, and concerned citizens. Further information is available from The National Whale Symposium, 605 S. Fess Street, No. 3, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

## World Wildlife Fund News

### Sumatran reserve last hope for smallest rhinoceros

The Sumatran rhinoceros, smallest of the five rhino species, has a chance of survival in Sumatra only in the Gunung Leuser reserve in the north of the country, according to a report received by the World Wildlife Fund.

Between 30 and 50 animals are estimated to live in the dense jungles of Gunung Leuser, but in a recent survey tracks of only eight or so were seen in an area of 3000 square kilometres. Only one animal was seen.

No evidence of rhino was found in the lowland alluvial plains of central and southern Sumatra, once considered the main habitat. The Gunung Leuser reserve, which lies in virtually untouched rain forests west of Medan, is also a sanctuary for the increasingly rare Sumatran tiger and the orang-utan.

The Sumatran rhinoceros (*Didermoceros sumatrensis*) has two horns compared with one in other Asiatic species in India and Java. Loss of habitat to human settlement and hunting for its horn as an aphrodisiac

have reduced the rhino, which once ranged throughout South East Asia into eastern Asia, to a few scattered and isolated animals. The only recent captive specimen died in Copenhagen Zoo in 1972 of old age.

#### **Alan Pike joins IUCN staff**

Alan J. Pike has recently joined the IUCN Secretariat at Morges as Head, Finance Management and Office Services. Seconded to IUCN by the Government of the United Kingdom, Mr. Pike assumed his duties in June.

Prior to coming to IUCN, Mr. Pike was with the UK Department of the Environment as Principal. He was particularly involved in manpower resources allocation, financial estimates and managerial techniques. In Morges his responsibilities will include technical project formulation and co-ordination of contract and finance management.

### **Book Reviews**

#### **Simmons, I.G. (1975). *Rural recreation in the industrial world.***

London: Edward Arnold. 310 pp. 20 photos. £9.95.

This is an important contribution to an understanding of recreational demands and the capacity of land and water resources to provide for them. The book discusses a wide range of recreational demands and resources from intensive 'user-oriented' recreation on the urban fringe to the use of remote wilderness areas. The author, a British geographer based at the University of Durham, has had considerable experience in the field of outdoor recreation and nature conservation in the UK, USA, Canada and Japan, and draws most heavily on examples from those countries. However, the book examines the situations that exist in most parts of the industrialized world. Particular attention is given to the special problems created by recreational demand on national parks, which in many areas of the world act to the detriment of nature conservation.

As the first book dealing with outdoor recreation from an international viewpoint, *Rural recreation in the industrial world* is well worth reading. It can be easily understood by those with no background in the field, but at the same time will provide new ideas and stimulate thinking among the experts.

R. F. Dasmann

#### **Haulot, Arthur (1974). *Tourisme et environnement.***

Marabout Monde Moderne. 412 pp.

#### **Frans, C. and Lemaire, Emmanuelle (1975). *Dictionnaire de l'environnement.***

Marabout Université. 318 pp.

These two paperbacks in French from Brussels both indicate a slightly but refreshingly 'different' approach to rather special aspects of conservation, often neglected.

The dictionary is a competent compilation, clearly stated and nicely laid out, covering a very wide field in a lively way. Not surprisingly, the approach is a little Belgian—or more exactly, Walloon—Francophone. There are entries for key men in the development of environmental studies, including such Europeans as Haeckel and Ivan Illich. But one would have liked mention of an American like Odum, or perhaps from Britain, Tansley and Charles Elton. Oddly, the admirable editor of *The Ecologist*, Edward Goldsmith, is in (4 lines); one cannot help wondering if that is not because he was born in Paris (1928). Similarly the treatment of IUCN, though accurate, is somewhat cursory (p. 309). But these are minor faults in a creditable, interesting enterprise, which should be emulated in all other paperbackable languages forthwith.

Arthur Haulot is a remarkable European, who has been Commissioner General of Tourism in Belgium for nearly 30 years, as well as holding the highest offices in the international travel and leisure fields. *Tourisme et environnement* is, in effect, his thesis dissertation for his doctorate of science taken in his sixties. No-one could be better qualified to review the intermesh between the world of places and the flow of humans pouring into them from outside for their own basically 'selfish' amusement, edification, rehabilitation, etc. Drawing on his great experience, on many regional contacts and on a not very convincing literature, Dr. Haulot presents a wide, lively panorama. It is annoying, however, that despite no less than 25 pages of Preface (by Prof. M. Vigneaux), Introduction (Dr. André Capart), Avant-Propos, 'Definitions', etc., there is no Contents Sheet or chapter layout in the front.

The main chapters cover quantitative, then qualitative aspects of tourist impact, a long section of case histories and illustrations of how tourism works out in terms of nations, politics, society, economics, culture (cultural pollution is especially interesting), health, and conservation. There is then a full treatment of 'tourism and anti-pollution', leading into consideration of a need to think internationally about the philosophy and practice of tourism. Appendices cover such varied matters as special problems of the young tourist and new effects of camping and the caravan.

*Tourisme et environnement* is a bit unco-ordinated. Perhaps it tries to do too much in one soft cover, but the effort is pioneer, the effect stimulating. In conservation really fresh approaches are becoming rare. Here is one.

Haulot and Marabout are to be congratulated for an impressive effort.

Tom Harrison

#### **Cramp, Stanley, Bourne, W.R.P., and Saunders, David (1974). *The seabirds of Britain and Ireland.***

London: Collins, 287 pp., £3.50.

This authoritative book results from 'Operation Seafarer' of 1969–70, in which professional and amateur ornithologists throughout the British Isles combined to map and count all seabird colonies. The knowledge gained from this major survey is of great importance, as Britain and Ireland provide the most important breeding places for seabirds in the north-east Atlantic.

The text deals with the biology and life history of seabirds, their present numbers and population trends. It contains a detailed account of the twenty-four species nesting every year in Britain and Ireland, from the herring gull to the rare Leach's storm petrel. Notes are given on identification, feeding and breeding habits and world distribution. Each species is illustrated both in line drawings and in colour plates. There are also twelve photographs of the birds in their habitats.

Lists of rarer species and vagrants, appendices, a comprehensive bibliography and an index of species have been added. The distribution maps are printed in two colours. They show in detail the location and size of all breeding colonies of each species. There are also maps showing the general distribution of seabird sites in the British Isles, water temperatures and salinity in winter and summer, plankton distribution and regions of special danger from oil spillage.

Maarten Bijleveld

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