



# Bulletin

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*IUCN plays major role*

## Thailand to have National Conservation Plan

Beginning in January 1978 an IUCN/UNEP mission will be assisting Thailand to prepare a Nature Conservation Plan for the entire country. The scope and timing of the mission were agreed in Bangkok in November — following a preparatory meeting in March — between representatives of Thailand's National Environment Board, the Royal Thai Forest Department, IUCN, UNEP and FAO. Since then IUCN has completed a final draft outline of the Plan for approval by the National Environment Board.

The Plan will cover all aspects of nature conservation. It will examine the status of present national parks and reserves and propose new ones. It will look into the protection of important ecosystems that lie outside the national parks. It will

advise on the rehabilitation of degraded areas, paying particular attention to shifting agriculture. It will scrutinize forestry policies and logging practices.

The Plan will establish procedures for assessing the environmental impact of development projects. It will lay the groundwork for a comprehensive programme of public education and seek to put conservation into the mainstream of school curricula. It will help find sources of conservation funding. It will review present legislation. It will define areas of competence among existing agencies, government and private, and propose improvements to the present system of coordination.

Prior to the IUCN/UNEP initiative a large-scale FAO/UNDP mission on national parks and wildlife in Thailand

was scheduled for mid 1978. This has now been shelved on the grounds that it would duplicate the work being done under the Conservation Plan. However all parties to the Plan believe that the FAO/UNDP mission, modified as necessary, would be an invaluable follow-up and are very keen that it should go ahead. UNDP will therefore be kept fully briefed on the content and progress of the Plan—to which FAO will be contributing.

IUCN consultants will be working in Thailand from the middle of January. The conservation section of the team will be joined by experts in the all-important areas of education and legislation in March. By September 1978 the Plan should be completed and ready for adoption by the Government of Thailand.

## Concern over development of Kagera River Basin

A big agricultural project to develop the Kagera River Basin in East Africa has been causing extreme concern to environmental bodies, particularly IUCN and UNEP. At the IUCN General Assembly in Geneva last April several delegates, all of them eminent scientists with first-hand knowledge of the area in question, spoke out strongly against it. Unanimously they considered the project—which is being backed by the United Nations Development Programme—to be ecologically unsound and certain to prove very damaging to the unique Kagera National Park.

The Assembly was informed that contrary to the advice of IUCN and UNEP, UNDP had commissioned two commercial firms (both directly interested in the project) to undertake the ecological

field study. UNDP had declared a readiness to discuss the resulting report with IUCN—but only at some future date *after* it had been accepted by the three African nations concerned.

### Agreement signed—report received

That was the situation last April. On 24 August the Presidents of Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania signed an agreement: *Création de l'Organisation pour l'aménagement et le Développement du Bassin de la Kagera*. Six days later UNDP sent a copy of the relevant report to IUCN—stressing that it represents the views of consultants which are not necessarily those of UNDP, and that it is not at this stage intended for general circulation. Consequently we do not feel able to quote from it here.

The report has been intensively studied in Morges and IUCN's Director General, Dr David Munro, has written at some length to Mr Brad Morse of UNDP commenting on a number of disquieting aspects in it. The proposal is to convert through hydrological means 70,000 to 80,000 hectares of the dry savanna of the national park to farmland—which, as Dr Munro says, may be productive for only a few years. What gives most cause for

alarm is that within the one report the commercial firms state certain key conclusions that contradict the clear recommendations of the ecologists they engaged to undertake the field study. Yet the firms claim that these recommendations are in no case being disregarded.

In his letter Dr Munro pointed out that IUCN cannot provide effective advice unless it receives draft reports at an early stage of development planning. Nevertheless he reaffirmed IUCN's position as communicated to UNDP on 15 December 1975—namely, that *independent* ecological impact studies of the Kagera National Park and the Kagera River Basin are essential.

Dr Munro concluded by insisting that IUCN is certainly not opposed to development. As well as acting to protect important communities of animals and plants, IUCN is equally engaged in promoting the *sustainable* use of animal and plant resources. This can only be achieved by development that is in harmony with nature.

### UNDP's reply

In a letter of reply, UNDP has again stressed that the consultant's report does not

*(Continued on back page)*

### Dates firm for 14th General Assembly

The dates of the 14th General Assembly in Ashkhabad, Turkmen SSR, are now fixed. It will run from Wednesday 27 September through Thursday 5 October and all members are invited to send representatives. Meetings of IUCN Commissions will take place on 25 and 26 September.

# News from Members

## Farmers join conservationists

Farmers in the area surrounding the Bia National Park, Ghana, are taking a strong conservationist line. They have discovered that logging in the Bia Game Production Reserve, besides endangering their water resources, greatly increases the damage done to farmland by elephants whose habitat has been destroyed. The farmers' association has therefore been campaigning hard against further logging in the reserve—initially with some success.

Last August the Minister ordered a halt to all logging operations in the reserve and in September the Commissioner of Lands and Mineral Resources visited the area to assess the situation. Unfortunately the ban on logging was afterwards lifted—demonstrating (once again) that the timber lobby is a powerful one. However all duties relating to timber extraction have now passed from the Forestry Department to the Department of Game and Wildlife. This will make for more effective control of logging.

A fauna survey has shown the unhappy effects of logging on colobus monkeys. All groups of the black-and-white colobus and red colobus have vanished from the cleared sections of forest and are now crowded into the undisturbed areas.

## Colobus tailpiece

The colobus monkey is in Appendix II of CITES. Trade is therefore controlled by all parties to the Convention. Ghana has taken the praiseworthy and all too rare step of interpreting *control* to mean prohibition. It has banned all colobus exports.

But monkey business is still good

## Long live the wilderness

*Extract from a speech by the Hon. Chief Buthelesi at the First World Wilderness Congress, Johannesburg, October 1977.*

About 13% of South Africa is under the control of black people who comprise about 80% of the total population. Some of the big problems of a black wilderness enthusiast begin right there.

More and more of my people who with me belong to the wilderness of Africa see my enthusiasm for the wilderness getting less and less relevant to the major issue of sheer survival. I still pursue my dream of preserving our wilderness in spite of all because I am convinced that once we stop being wilderness-oriented we are likely to feel caged, with the resultant desperation that overcomes all caged animals even if they belong to the species *Homo sapiens*.

When the Zulu people were conquered by the British in 1879 white hunters of the non-sportsman type, employing Zulus with ex-war firearms, decimated much of the game in all but the inaccessible areas.

These are the sad facts of history. They are stated as a record of what

business for those who can get it. Colobus coats now sell for £700 in London.

## Otters gain a chance of survival

A new year present to the few surviving otters in England and Wales—from 1 January they are fully protected in both countries. On the advice of the Nature Conservancy Council, Britain's Secretary of State for the Environment has added otters to the list of animals protected under the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act.

The protectionist cause was much strengthened in the summer by the publication of *Otters 1977*—a report jointly authored by the Nature Conservancy Council and by the Society for the Promotion of Nature Conservation (both IUCN members). The report shows that increased disturbance from fishing and boating and spoliation of river cover from various causes (for instance, the clearing of banksides by water authorities) have speeded the otter's decline. In most of its former haunts in England and Wales it is now either very rare or extinct.

Scotland and Northern Ireland are a different story. They are among the few countries of Western Europe where otters are still not too uncommon. Trends in these populations should be carefully watched. And otter hunting should cease there too.

## Tropical garden blooms

The Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden is a private non-profit body supported by foundations and individuals. It has been

happened rather than as a mutual re-creation exercise. The happier facts are that most of the wildlife strongholds, including gems like Lake St. Lucia and Ndumu, still exist as game reserves.

The contribution of various Zulu and white people to the survival and management of these international draw-cards is a major achievement. It reached its zenith in the 1960s when wild game conservation had become so good that thousands of surplus animals were able to be captured to replenish other areas. I refer here to the world-famous Operation Rhino and the subsequent operations to transfer wild animals of many species in and beyond our borders.

Obviously we are going to play a major role in the management of our priceless KwaZulu reserves and I want to make it clear that we appreciate the historic, cultural, spiritual and economic value of wildlife and wilderness. That we sprang from the wilderness hardly needs emphasis. I do not want anyone to think that when these areas pass to our control that we are going to be any less aware of their vital importance or any less able to manage them. The wilderness is our natural habitat for it is here where we were forged as a people.

granted a US congressional charter to create a national resource in tropical botany and to offer research facilities to staff and visiting scientists. The emphasis is on conservation, medicine and nutrition. For climatic reasons the Garden is in Hawaii. It is governed by a national board and serviced by an international committee of botanists and horticulturists.

A garden does not grow to maturity overnight, not even in the tropics, but the Pacific Garden has made remarkable progress in its first years of operation. Two major sites are being developed, as well as a number of satellites which offer micro-environments of great interest and importance. The cooperation of the scientific world has been most heartening.

With the establishment of our plant collections and the setting up of an apprentice programme to teach young people an appreciation of nature, the first phase of our work is nearing completion. The second phase will see increased emphasis on research. The Garden quite logically began with conservation—the preservation of Hawaiian and other endangered tropical plants. As part of this programme endangered plants from throughout the world's tropics are eagerly sought. Small stipends are offered to assist collectors.

## Advice on harp seals spurned

The Canadian Nature Federation urged the Government of Canada to base its quota for the total catch of harp seals on the most conservative estimate of the number that can be killed annually while still permitting the population to increase. But in fact the quota for the hunt next spring has been fixed at 180,000—10,000 more than last year.

I will say that I have different ideas about managing these areas because it is obvious to me that the present Zululand game reserves are becoming overdeveloped. I believe their chance of survival lies in their retention in the most primitive state possible, i.e. WILDERNESS, and to this end I will do all I can to see that the new management practises peripheral development.

In our plan we have a department which deals with Wildlife Conservation, Historical Areas and Tourism. I shall ensure that I get the best personnel, irrespective of colour or creed, to run the department. Our historical areas have been sadly neglected. I want them to be living monuments, not something recorded in concrete and stone.

While tourism is of economic importance as well as a bridge to better understanding, I would never allow it to kill the goose that lays the golden egg. This can happen so easily. Our policy will be to have the maximum number of people enjoying the tourist areas with a minimum of infringement on the aesthetic, cultural and other values. We want people to go away having learnt something about the history and culture of our people.

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As a practising Christian I believe the wilderness experience is necessary in the development of all people. In the wilderness barriers fall away and we can see each other for what we are worth. If more of the world's leaders could meet in the tranquility of the wilderness I believe a better understanding would grow.

## Biosphere reserves in the South Pacific . . .

Two valuable meetings took place in Australia and New Zealand in late October and early November. The first was a UNESCO Regional Workshop on Techniques for the Selection of Biosphere Reserves. This was organized by the MAB National Committees of the two host countries. It involved 10 days of discussions and field excursions starting in South Australia and moving, by way of the tropical rain forests of Queensland, to the mountains in the South Island of New Zealand.

The objectives of the workshop were (a) to examine resources and techniques for evaluating sites of possible reserves and (b) to test the whole concept of biosphere reserves by applying it to the regional situation.

Participants attended from the two host countries, from Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, South Korea, Tonga and, from outside the region, Austria, Norway and the USA as well as UNESCO and IUCN.

The workshop examined Australian and New Zealand procedures for selecting biological reserves and compared these with their own home-grown experience. It also decided on the ideal distribution of biosphere reserves and their relationship to other protected areas. Ideal methods of management were agreed on too, but it was recognized that this ideal would often not be attainable.

## . . . and high mountains in New Zealand

The second meeting was more of a domestic New Zealand affair, though with important international overtones, and some of the representatives from the MAB workshop stayed on for it. It took the place of the international High Mountain Conference planned by the New Zealand Government and IUCN for early 1976 but cancelled because of shortage of funds.

This meeting had two distinct results. Firstly, it enabled all the most responsible and influential bodies, official and voluntary, concerned with land use in the New Zealand high country to meet and—after very lively discussion—to formulate a policy for presentation to Government.

At the same time an IUCN draft on *Ecological Guidelines for Balanced Land Use and Development in High Mountains* was examined and tested against the New Zealand experience. The guidelines, in their improved form, are expected to be published in 1978.

## IUCN and WWF

IUCN and WWF have been examining ways of improving their cooperation in programme and project planning and execution. WWF must be able to assure those who provide funds for conservation that their donations are cost-effective, are used for top priority matters and produce a "multiplier effect".

The key to this is the development of the World Conservation Strategy, which is currently one of IUCN's main tasks, and within the framework of which WWF will, on the advice of IUCN, establish its Conservation Programme.

Effective conservation requires effective programme and project management. In recent years WWF has had a Conservation Project Management Department. However experience has shown that this is not the best way of operating and in recent discussions between IUCN and WWF it was agreed that management of WWF projects should be entrusted to IUCN, which already advises on programmes and undertakes the screening

of projects. Therefore, in 1978, WWF will transfer its Project Management Department to IUCN and ensure the necessary funds to run it.

In the final analysis the Board of Trustees of WWF is responsible for the manner in which funds collected by national organizations are spent. To carry out this fiduciary duty a Conservation Programme Committee has been established. It includes WWF Trustees, representatives of the Boards of WWF national organizations, IUCN representatives and other eminent conservationists.

Although WWF uses the expertise of IUCN, it must have an internal "conservation presence". Thus a senior and experienced Director of the Conservation Programme Division is to be appointed as soon as possible. His responsibilities are set out in the accompanying advertisement (see box). He will be one of the three key people reporting to the WWF Director General, the other two being the Directors of the Marketing (fund-raising and public relations) and the Finance and Administration Divisions.

### Director required for WWF Conservation Programme Division

The World Wildlife Fund is a leading international foundation for promoting conservation through the raising and granting of funds, and undertaking related functions in the fields of public information and awareness. Its international headquarters in Switzerland comprises three divisions, covering Marketing (fund-raising and public relations), Administration and Finance and Conservation Programme.

The headquarters has a small but highly qualified staff, which coordinates and services 26 national organizations throughout the world (more will be established) and relies on the expertise of other specialist organizations, particularly the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), to establish its Conservation Programme. This programme forms part of the World Conservation Strategy being prepared by IUCN with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WWF.

Although IUCN prepares and manages WWF's Conservation Programme, ultimate responsibility for its execution rests with the WWF International Board of Trustees, which is advised by a Conservation Programme Committee consisting of some Trustees, some representatives of WWF national organizations, some IUCN representatives and other eminent conservationists.

A Director is being sought for the Conservation Programme Division. His main responsibilities will be:

1. to serve as permanent secretary to the Conservation Programme Committee, and especially
- a) to evaluate and report on implementation of programmes and pro-

jects during the previous calendar year;

- b) to gather, assess and collate proposals and comments from Board and staff members, WWF national organizations and other sources regarding the Conservation Programme for the following year;
- c) to summarize policy proposals for the Conservation Programme Committee in order to establish guidelines for IUCN in preparing the long-term conservation programme.
2. to maintain liaison with WWF national organizations on all matters concerning the conservation programme;
3. to maintain liaison with IUCN on all conservation matters;
4. to coordinate, in close cooperation with IUCN, high-level representations in support of the conservation programme, to be made by WWF officers or Board members, or by others on behalf of WWF.

**Qualifications** The Director of the Conservation Programme Division will have worked for many years in National Parks and/or wildlife management up to senior executive level, and will have had international experience. He will speak and write absolutely fluent English, and will preferably have a good knowledge of French and/or Spanish.

**Remuneration** Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

**Applications** Applications, in confidence, should reach the Director General, World Wildlife Fund, 1110 Morges, Switzerland, before the end of February 1978. They should be marked "Confidential—DCP".

## "One Europe, one environment"

In the belief that mid 1978 would see the first *elected* European Parliament, the European Environmental Bureau in Brussels has issued a manifesto, "One Europe, one environment", calling on all candidates to have proper regard for environmental matters. The EEB is an independent, international body comprising national and other large NGOs within the European Economic Community. Its purposes are scientific and educational. To date it has paid particular attention to the problems of energy, agriculture, land-use planning and transport.

A central plank of the manifesto is the need to rethink the concept of economic growth. Europe should invent a new industrialism which will lead to people living more fully, yet pressing more lightly on the planet. A new model for development is an urgent requirement. Europe belongs to all Europeans, living now and yet to be born. Destructive exploitation must cease. At the same time the European Parliament must consider the impact of its policies on the world as a whole, including the Third World.

### Shorter working week

The manifesto points out that for Europe the age of abundance in material resources

will soon be giving way to an age of scarcity. "Resource thrift" must become the goal. The emphasis should be on individual work and skill rather than throw-away production. By a mandatory shortening of the working week, unemployment could be reduced and the status of manual work improved.

Europe owes much of its natural beauty to the dual role of the traditional farmer as food-producer and caretaker of the landscape. Today the emphasis is on subsidized food production. But if the landscape is to be preserved it is producers, not products, that should be subsidized.

### Non-nuclear future

On energy the manifesto demands that the Euratom Treaty, which calls for "the speedy establishment and growth of nuclear industries", be amended. A low energy, non-nuclear future should be the aim, helped out by alternative strategies and strict energy conservation. There is no necessary link between economic growth and higher energy consumption.

Industrial and urban expansion pose grave threats to the natural environment. Wetlands and places where migratory birds find food and shelter must be pro-

tected, says the manifesto. Commerce in animals and animal products must be strictly controlled. Marine resources must be properly managed.

### The people must decide

People have a right to know what pollutants are put into air, water and land. Only by access to published registers of emissions can they be informed about pollution control and exert effective pressure for a cleaner environment.

Similarly people have a right to express their own views on all man-made environmental changes that affect them. At the heart of all decision-making should be the Environmental Impact Statement. The requisite procedure should be rapidly introduced at all levels.

*Great Britain's inability to be ready for European elections by mid 1978 has forced their postponement—probably till 1979. Perhaps the delay could be used by the EEB to create a Mark II version of their manifesto, tauter, sharper, designed to "grab" the aspiring politician and to arm him with such facts as will help him to plead the environmental cause with the peoples and Parliament of Europe.*

Editor

### Peru gains two new birds

Peru must add two birds to its avian list. One, completely new to science, has been discovered in cloud forest high in the Andes. It is a tiny owl whose unique features—long facial feathers and bristles—have earned it the name of long-whiskered owlet, *Xenoglaux loweryi*, a monospecific genus.

The other find, again in northern Peru, is of a bird considered extinct since 1877: the white-winged guan, *Penelope albipennis*. Previously thought to have inhabited only mangroves, it now appears to live in "tall trees in green canyons within dry forests" and to be locally quite plentiful. The Peruvian government has placed the guan under protection.

The ornithological research which led to these discoveries was part-sponsored by WWF.

### Kagera River Basin (continued)

constitute a development plan. Further work is still required. With the agreement of the Governments concerned UNDP is therefore planning a multidisciplinary mission drawn from outside sources—potential donor agencies and specialist organizations. While the precise scope of the mission has yet to be settled, UNDP states that all due attention will be paid to ecological factors and expresses the hope that either IUCN or UNEP—or both—will be able to participate.

This is a heartening response and IUCN looks forward, even at this late date, to playing an active role.

### Rhine '77—improved vintage

The Rhine may be losing its claim to be the "sewer of Europe". As a result of international anti-pollution measures introduced last year it is definitely cleaner, reports the Dutch institute for purification of waste water. River tests at the Dutch border have shown a big drop in the mercury, lead and copper content.

### National park grows in Bonaire

Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles has gained a most valuable extension to its national park in the northern tip of the island. The adjoining estate of Slagbaai has been purchased and added to the park, which now covers over 5000 hectares. The Governments of Holland and the Netherlands Antilles, the local government of Bonaire, the Prince Bernhard Fund and several other organizations and individuals all contributed to the purchase.

Slagbaai is an important feeding ground for flamingoes and one of the last refuges of *Amazona barbadensis rothschildi*, a subspecies of the Amazon parrot. IUCN will be advising on the management plan for the park.

### Hope for the Cape?

By a happy combination of chance and state-ownership 50 km of South Africa's coastline extending from Table Mountain to Cape Point have remained largely untouched. We hear from Rory Birkby, a "friend" of IUCN and principal planner for the Cape Divisional Council, that a longstanding proposal to safeguard

this coastline from development should shortly bear fruit. The proposal is already part of the Metropolitan Guide Plan and the peninsula may soon also be protected by the Environmental Planning Act.

### 3 new parties to Endangered Species Convention

Malaysia acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on 20 October, thus becoming the 41st party. Venezuela ratified the Convention on 24 October and Botswana acceded on 14 November. They thus become the 42nd and 43rd parties respectively.

### 3 new parties to Wetlands Convention

Denmark acceded to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat on 22 September, Poland acceded on 22 November, and Iceland on 2 December. They thus become the 19th, 20th and 21st parties respectively.

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