

BULLETIN



*< Protégeons la Nature
Elle nous le rendra >*

WARSAW — JUNE 1960.

In accepting the invitation of our Polish friends, we were assured of finding a warm welcome and the conditions for international understanding which so greatly contributed to the success of the Seventh General Assembly. We knew of course already that in Poland nature protection enjoyed legal status and that its principles were taught in all schools and at the universities. But this was all brought home to us by the wealth of documentation distributed to each participant with a generosity which revealed the pride of a nation in having saved both its soul and a noble undertaking from destruction.

As Professor Kulczyński, Vice-President of the Council of State, pointed out in opening the General Assembly, Poland in common with other European countries has to face the growth and expansion of its heavy industry and find a compromise between nature protection and the economic future of the country. The plenary sessions were also honoured by the presence of his Excellency the Minister of Forests and Nature Protection, Mr. Dąb-Kociol. His presence both at Warsaw and Cracow, as also on the excursions to Białowieża and the Tatras, reflected the interest which Governmental circles take in the ideas and principles we uphold, and the importance which they attach to them. It would be invidious to try to thank each individual contributor to the success of our meeting, for many of them remained in the background, such as those who arranged the very fine and noteworthy exhibition on the protection of nature in Poland which we had the honour of declaring open at the end of the first session of the General Assembly at Warsaw.

The high position occupied by scientists among those responsible for the fortunes of the country and the place accorded within the Academy of Sciences to the protection of nature guarantee that Poland will continue to occupy one of the leading positions in Europe as concerns conservation and protection of nature. The commemorative tablet at Białowieża calls to mind that it was the sacrifice of innumerable bison and elk that sustained the energy of the conquerors of Tannenberg. Today the bison is the emblem of nature protection in Poland and the symbol of the will of a people to save the most beautiful regions of its national heritage from any interference.

Nor must we fail to mention the coloured poster announcing the Union's meeting which decorated the walls not only of Warsaw and Cracow, but also of all the towns through which the excursions passed during and after the Congress. The ride through the Forest of Białowieża in horse-drawn carriages and the descent of the gorges of the Dunajec by raft will long remain in the memory. Everywhere we went we came upon attentive hosts whose pleasure in welcoming us was shown in the most various, and often touching, ways. We experienced only one disappointment, and a deep one, namely the absence through illness of one of the main organizers of our conference, our friend Professor Goetel, who nevertheless insisted on sending us a recorded message of welcome to Cracow and to whom the General Assembly unanimously demonstrated its affection and admiration.

The technical meetings which took place in the large hall of the Academy of Sciences at Warsaw were highly successful. These carefully prepared meetings gave rise to discussions between specialists from all corners of the world. They made it possible to lay the foundations of the future scientific policy of the Union, and in particular to launch the programme which the Union contemplates carrying out in Africa with the help of the Africans themselves and with the collaboration of Unesco, F.A.O. and C.C.T.A./C.S.A. The foremost specialists on the problems of the conservation of African fauna and its habitat were united in Warsaw and reached unanimous conclusions in favour of the programme of the Union, considering that this was one of the last chances of preserving the remnants of the big African fauna, in countries where they run the risk of being exterminated by agricultural and industrial emancipation. It is by no means a question of depriving new states of what has always been theirs, but of making the responsible authorities realize that this large fauna not only constitutes a considerable tourist attraction but that, wisely managed, it can be a source of wild protein and, unlike the herds of native cattle, wild life is closely adapted to its habitat and consequently does not destroy it.

The execution of the African Special Project is envisaged in three stages, of which the first will begin this year. The project has been drawn up and will be directed by an ad hoc committee under the chairmanship of Dr. E. B. Worthington, new member of the Executive Board. It may be added that it is assured of financial backing outside the general budget of the Union.

The last two plenary sessions were held in the panelled Council Chamber of the Cracow City Hall, where some decisions were taken which are of great importance for the future of the Union. Especial mention should be made of the unanimous acceptance by nominal vote of the Executive Board's proposal to transfer the seat of the Secretariat from Belgium to French-speaking Switzerland. Subsequent events have entirely justified this choice by clearly demonstrating the advantage of establishing the seat of an organization such as ours in a neutral country. The move of the Secretariat is planned to take place at the beginning of the New Year. In leaving Belgium, which for over ten years has given us such generous hospitality, we are leaving behind numerous friends of the Union, friends who have understood our difficulties and have not hesitated to provide discreet, often essential, assistance. We should like to express to them here our deep gratitude and the hope that the Union will always be worthy of their friendship.

By acclamation the General Assembly elected two new Honorary Members in the persons of Lord Hurcomb and Professor Victor Van Straelen, the retiring Vice-Presidents. The Union owes both these men a very large debt of gratitude for the outstanding services they have rendered and the wise advice they have always been ready to offer. Two new Vice-Presidents were elected, namely Professor F. Bourlière of Paris and Mr Peter Scott of Slimbridge (England).

Mr. M. C. Bloemers, who has been our devoted Secretary-General for the last two years, was re-elected by acclamation, but informed the Assembly that he wished to resign, if possible before the end of the year. In accordance with this wish the Executive Board has accepted the resignation of Mr. Bloemers for 1st December, 1960. A former Vice-President of the Board, then Financial Adviser, Mr. Bloemers has been associated with the Union for many years and has constantly defended its interests.

The General Assembly authorized the Executive Board to take steps to replace Mr. Bloemers as soon as possible. Thanks to the very great understanding of the Director-General of F.A.O., Mr. B. R. Sen, and of its Deputy Director-General, Dr. Norman Wright, the Union has been able to obtain the services of Mr. G. G. Watterson, previously F.A.O. representative on the Executive Board of the Union, at present representing F.A.O. in Ghana. Mr. Watterson has been released for a period of eighteen months and will assume office as Secretary-General of the Union from next March.

The General Assembly closed with the hope expressed by the delegate from Kenya that it would be possible to receive the Eighth General Assembly there in 1963.

It would seem no exaggeration to say that the Union's Seventh General Assembly marked an important milestone in its existence. The 300 or so people who attended from numerous countries, representing important organizations or associations, experienced for themselves the high standard of the discussions and the spirit of real international collaboration which pervaded the whole meeting.

The problems discussed aroused almost identical reactions among the States representatives present. Such meetings encourage mutual understanding and respect among nations whose sole wish is to live in a world free from all thought of aggression.

J. G. BAER,
President of I.U.C.N.

AFRICAN SPECIAL PROJECT

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has launched an « African Special Project » as an attempt, based on sound ecological principles, to save the remaining large mammals in tropical African areas, with the assistance of the native populations.

The project will be carried out in three stages, which were carefully discussed at Warsaw.

In the first place, Mr. G. G. Watterson of F.A.O. has had instructions from his organization to proceed according to the programme accepted in Poland. It is his intention to spend about one month before Christmas in West Africa and a longer period early in the New Year in East and Central Africa, in order to visit the responsible authorities in these new states and to persuade them of the importance of I.U.C.N.'s cause, and through this means to influence public opinion.

Between these two periods he will journey to Europe for consultations and contacts.

F.A.O. has kindly agreed to make his services available to the Union; as to the necessary travelling expenses, the Fauna Preservation Society has placed a sum of \$ 2,000 at the Union's disposal, through the good offices of Col. C. L. Boyle, Chairman of I.U.C.N.'s Survival Service, and an equal sum has been offered by the New York Zoological Society through its President, Dr. Fairfield Osborn.

The Scientific Council for Africa south of the Sahara (C.S.A.) is in favour of the organization of a conference on the conservation of fauna, nature and natural resources in modern African states, to be held in September 1961. This conference will take place as envisaged by I.U.C.N., but after several consultations it has been concluded that it could best be held at Arusha (Tanganyika) rather than at Kampala (Uganda) as originally suggested. Arusha is not far from the Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti, and the Amboseli Reserve, among others. Such a location is of course an important point in favour of this choice. The numerous topics which will be discussed include: The present role of natural resources (fauna, flora, soil, water)

of wild lands in local economy, and the possibilities of its increase; research, conservation and development; the integration of the conservation and development of wild resources with programmes of economic development in modern states; mass education in nature and natural resources; and finally, international projects such as a list of national parks, revision of the 1933 Convention, etc.

Thirdly, the I.U.C.N. will attempt to raise the necessary funds to engage staff to deal with the project after the Secretariat is transferred to Switzerland early in the New Year.

CONSERVATION AND DESTRUCTION

Thailand. — This country is making a serious drive to promote the objectives of nature conservation, and Dr. Boonsong Lekagul and the society of which he is Secretary-General, « The Association for the Conservation of Wild Life », have sent us some news of current work there. For instance the Game Law is being revised, according to examples of game laws in other countries. The Forest Law, too, is also being examined since it is far from perfect and is ineffective in preventing destruction. The setting aside of the most primitive regions as natural reserves and National Parks is also under consideration.

Netherlands. — In the national budget for 1961 a sum of about \$ 2,200,000 has been earmarked for nature protection (as compared with a sum of \$ 1,200,000 for 1959). \$ 1,300,000 is intended for the purchase of reserves (1959 : \$ 630,000) and \$ 300,000 for their management (1959 : \$ 210,000). In addition, the personnel of the Institute of Ecological Research for Nature Protection has been increased to 21 (1959 : 16 employees).

Introductions. — There has been a curious interplay in New Zealand between the damage done by two of the « pests » introduced into the island, opossums and deer. The opossum concentrates on the destruction of the foliage of rata and kamahi, and this defoliation opens the forest floor to light, facilitating the regeneration of shrubs and trees which are palatable to deer. Thus, the deer in turn encourage the migrations of the opossums by clearing the way for them. Young opossums, on leaving their mothers, travel up to 10 miles, as long as the necessary tracks are provided by deer, wild cattle or goats.

The New Zealand authorities are obliged to take severe, and unfortunately unpleasant, measures to get rid of these pests. The *New Zealand Herald* reports that in the Rotoehu State Forest the Forest Service is using poisoned jam, dyed green, to destroy opossums. It seems that these animals are attracted by this colour and that the experiment has proved a complete success.

Insecticides. — The spraying of forests with DDT continues to be the subject of serious preoccupation in Canada and research work is in progress, according to the

Bulletin of the Sport Fishing Institute. Spraying operations against spruce budworm (see I.U.C.N. Bulletin Vol. V., No. 4, Oct. 1956) which affect millions of acres of forests have a disastrous effect on populations of salmon, trout and eel. The salmon population is capable of reproducing itself to a normal level provided it is allowed an interval of three years between each spraying, but these operations are carried out far more frequently, and in spite of the efforts of the pilots directing them it has not yet been possible to prevent DDT pollution of the rivers. A Canadian forester, F. F. Webb, declares that it is the duty of biologists to endeavour to find admissible control measures taking the whole biological complex of the area into account. He also hopes that more selective DDT compounds can soon be perfected.

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The well-known American magazine « The New Yorker » has for some time been publishing a column called « These Precious Days », which is headed by the following sentence : « The New Yorker's fever chart of the planet Earth, showing Man's ups and downs in contaminating the air, the sea, and the soil ». We should like to quote some extracts :

« In St. Louis, when a child loses a tooth, his parents send the tooth to the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information, where it is examined for strontium content. »

« Farmers and home gardeners, busy these June days with cultivating their row crops, can find out whether their vegetables will be marketable or edible, or both, by sending to the nearest Civil Defense office for the booklet « Defense Against Radioactive Fallout on the Farm. »

« An unexpected shift of wind in the spring of 1954 carried atomic debris to the island of Rongelap, in the Pacific, irradiating the place and its people. Today, five years later, the coconut crabs of Rongelap, which live on land, are unsafe to eat. »

« The Nature Conservancy has come up with a proposal that certain rivers in America be made « national » rivers, with the same status as the national parks. If this were done, they could be protected against empty beer cans and factory wastes, and would be vulnerable only to atomic waste from past explosions. »

« The United States Public Health Service is studying information in its possession that appears to show a relationship between air pollution and cancer of the stomach, lungs, and esophagus. »

« The counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Caernarvon, Montgomery, and Merioneth, in the West of England and in Wales, report a sharp rise in deaths from leukemia. The rise has occurred in the last eight years, and the area is the British area of greatest strontium-90 accumulation. In Westmorland, deaths from leukemia doubled. »

« Two hundred boxes of apples exported by Lebanon were confiscated recently in Bristol, England. The fruit was coated with spray residues, arsenic and lead. »

« The bones of reindeer in Little Delta, Alaska, have an unusually high strontium-90 content. This discovery puzzled investigators at first, because Little Delta is in an area of relatively light fallout. The explanation is that the moss in Alaska holds contaminated moisture (rain and snow) on the surface; the reindeer eat the saturated moss, and so absorb the poison. »

« Long Island homeowners lost their court fight to prevent the aerial spraying of DDT. The Supreme Court refused to review the case. Justice William O. Douglas, in a dissenting opinion, pointed out that by a Food and Drug Administration ruling not a trace of DDT must be present in milk, and that the plaintiffs in the case had produced evidence that milk from their dairies had been contaminated, as well as that vegetables and fruits had been contaminated and birds and fish had been killed. »

EDUCATION

Dr. H. Piacentini, one of the Union's regular correspondents and a pioneer of conservation in Argentina, has just been elected President of the « Comisión Asesora para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales Renovables » of the Province of Rio Negro. Immediately after this and

following the example of Buenos Aires, a « Bird Week » was founded, but this time for children from secondary schools as well as for primary classes. The interest of the pupils and, Dr. Piacentini hopes, also of the teachers, is aroused by means of talks, essay prizes and certificates. Posters and newspapers back up this praiseworthy propaganda effort (see opposite).

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The « Commissie Natuurrecreatie » (Rotterdam, Netherlands) has published a booklet by J. A. Nijkamp, J. Men-nema and H. Wals which gives humorous directions for teaching nature protection to children. The brochure is illustrated by eloquent little sketches that need no captions (some examples are given below).



CONSERVEMOS NUESTRA FAUNA

PROVINCIA DE RIO NEGRO
MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS SOCIALES



FLAMENCO

COMISION ASESORA HONORARIA PARA LA CONSERVACION DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES RENOVABLES
DIRECCION DE EDUCACION



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The Education Commission of the I.U.C.N. has decided to set up various regional groups which will concern themselves with the countries in their area and find it easier to hold meetings; the whole Commission can in fact meet only at General Assemblies. A first successful trial has been made by the countries of N. W. Europe : Scandinavia, Great Britain and the Netherlands. Under the chairmanship of Professor W. H. Pearsall (London), this group's first meeting, which was attended by the Secretary-General of the Union, took place in Copenhagen last April and a programme was worked out. It is hoped to repeat this experiment in London before the end of this year.

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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

CRACOW, 24th June 1960.

1. The Seventh General Assembly

- resolves that consultation should be held with other international organizations concerned, in particular with F.A.O., UNESCO and C.C.T.A., in order to launch an Africa project in the early future. This project would be designed to inform and influence public opinion, through its leaders and responsible persons in the Governments, that the applications of conservation practices, based on ecological knowledge, is in the best interests of all African countries.

The programme of operation should include
a) preparatory work including a field mission to be commenced as soon as possible; b) a conference in Africa during 1961; c) an organization for following up the decisions of that Conference.

2. The Seventh General Assembly,

- in view of the extremely rapid changes threatening the future of wild life and of natural habitats in Africa,
- welcomes the initiatives of UNESCO and F.A.O. and other authorities in intensifying support for education, and especially for adult education, in Africa on conservation and related subjects,
- and expresses the hope that greatly increased support will be found for such purposes before irreparable harm has been done to the African landscape, soil, fauna, flora and other natural resources.

(Proposed by the Delegation of the Republic of the Sudan.)

3. The Seventh General Assembly,

- in view of the emergence of Africa and the many rapid social, economic, political and other developments taking place in this continent,
- resolves that the Union give special attention during the immediate future to African problems, including educational materials and campaigns to promote the conservation of animals and forests and to secure the enforcement of rules for protection of wildlife by appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations.

4. The Seventh General Assembly,

- following correspondence between the Union and the Royal Academy of Sciences of Sweden,
- resolves that the Union encourage every effort to satisfy the demand for energy in Sweden, Norway and Finland without unrestrained exploitation of their rivers and lakes, especially the Torne and Kalix river systems, which in their present nearly natural state are of such high scientific, educational, recreational and scenic value to this and future generations, not only to Scandinavians but also to scientists and other visitors from all over the world.

5. The Seventh General Assembly

- notes with satisfaction that representations made by the Union in 1952 have assisted in the satisfactory resolution of problems concerning the Daisetsusan National Park, and the Chubusangaku National Park,
- and therefore resolves that the Union invite the attention of appropriate authorities in Japan to the desirability of protecting the Oze-ga-hara Moor in Nikko National Park and also the Kumano River and its tributary, the Kitayama River, which provide an outstanding scenic connection between the mountain ranges and the seacoast in the Yoshino-Kumano National Park and are both endangered by the proposed hydroelectric schemes.

6. The Seventh General Assembly

- strongly supports the resolution proposed by the International Council for Bird Preservation (Tokyo, 1960) that the proposed Antarctic International Treaty include appropriate measures designed to maintain the fauna, and urges the setting aside of inviolable areas for the conservation of this unique polar fauna and its natural environment;
- in addition, supports the action recommended by the Antarctic Symposium of the International Council of Scientific Unions (Buenos Aires, 1954) that the Special Committee for Antarctic Research be invited to prepare standard regulations which will provide for the protection of the Antarctic fauna and flora and their habitat, and that member nations be encouraged to ensure their enforcement.

7. The Seventh General Assembly

- notes with satisfaction the steps which have lately been taken in a few countries to meet the urgent need for provision of advanced training in conservation and natural resources management, especially by the setting up of University Chairs, courses of post-graduate instruction and institutes or other courses of higher studies;
- invites all authorities concerned to review as a matter of urgency the many extensive gaps which remain to be filled in different parts of this field, and to take early action to secure adequate facilities through the institution of more courses of advanced training and the provision of expanded support for this vital requirement.

8. Whereas the Eighth Technical Meeting of the Union in reviewing at Warsaw in June 1960 the impact of man and modern technological development on nature and natural resources has urged the Union once more to call attention most urgently to the grave consequences which must result from the immensely increased number of human beings;

— whereas experience has demonstrated the truth of the Union's message to the World Population Congress in Rome, 1954, that :

« The increase of world food production hardly matches, if indeed it can continue to match, the increase of world population. Often, in spite of the efforts of experts, it achieves this only at the cost of an impoverishment of soil and water resources and a destruction of forests or of animal and plant communities and lastly of erosion affecting large regions of the earth. »

— whereas since 1954 the population of the world has increased by 250 million persons;

The Seventh General Assembly

— accordingly expresses its deep concern over this matter and urges competent international and national authorities to intensify their programmes of research and of action. Such programmes should be supported by sufficient skill and knowledge to ensure acceptable and effective measures for achieving a reasonable balance between natural resources and the rate of human increase.

9. The Seventh General Assembly

— expresses concern at the continuing absence in a number of countries of official provision for fulfilling the duty of trusteeship to safeguard the future of the land;

— and accordingly recommends that in all countries, especially rapidly developing countries, measures for comprehensive landscape planning and co-ordinated public control over changes in land use should be recognized and maintained as an essential feature of good government.

10. The Seventh General Assembly

— resolves that the Union recommend that ecological research be undertaken in National Parks and other natural areas of holarctic forests in order to obtain a better understanding of the interrelationships of the climate, soil, vegetation and fauna of such habitats, the methods for such research to be closely co-ordinated between the areas chosen for study. Comparable studies could be undertaken in other geographical areas.

11. The Seventh General Assembly

— urges that the Union shall promote the exchange of knowledge between scientists working on chemical and biological control and those concerned with nature protection in order to promote the practical application of the results of observations and research.

12. The Seventh General Assembly,

— considering that the Mountain Gorilla has been effectively protected for the past 31 years in the Albert

National Park in the Eastern Congo, and that no similar provision has yet been made for the protection of the Lowland Gorilla;

— urges African governments whose territories include the range of the Lowland Gorilla to establish inviolable national parks or integral reserves without delay, to assure permanent protection of these gorillas.

13. The Seventh General Assembly

— recommends that urgent measures be taken to restore in the Albert National Park the total protection of the mountain Gorilla habitat at present gravely threatened by the incursion of cattle herds from Ruanda and adjoining areas.

14. The Seventh General Assembly

— believing that a major threat to the existence of some rare animals is their illegal exportation from the country of origin, followed by their legal importation into other countries;

— warmly approves the action of those countries which have restricted the importation of such animals;

— now resolves that the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources should urge all governments who do not yet restrict the importation of rare animals in harmony with the export laws of the countries of origin, to do so now and thereby support the efforts of those countries to preserve animals in danger of extermination.

15. Deeply moved by the splendour of the Dunajec Gorges in the Pieniny National Park, the participants of the Seventh General Assembly are convinced that these Gorges represent one of the greatest botanical and natural sights in Europe. This limitrophe National Park stretching along both sides of the Gorges, which is the culmination of efforts by Poland and Czechoslovakia, has become the typical example of international collaboration and may be taken as a model for all similar endeavours. The scientific and touristic value of the limitrophe National Park of Pieniny where the incomparable beauties of this mountain range are preserved, deserves to be popularized all over the world.

The Assembly expresses its gratitude to all those who have laboured persistently to assure the protection of nature in Poland and Czechoslovakia. It recommends that this Park be preserved in its entirety for future generations.

Statement.

The Seventh General Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources would welcome the introduction in the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution supporting the principles of nature conservation and the practical application thereof in economic and social affairs.

The « Nature Conservancy » has recently taken a great step forward in the field of nature conservation in persuading University College, London, to run a course in conservation for young graduates. This innovation will make it easier to fill certain posts for which it is at present very difficult to find specialists conversant with certain African problems, for instance, such as animal populations or the management of soil, water or wildlife resources. Applications should be sent to University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1. or, if a grant is required, to the Nature Conservancy, 19 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

According to the experience of I.U.C.N., which receives a number of letters on this subject, the most common problems are these : a) the difficulty of finding an institute or college offering this type of course, b) difficulty in finding posts for those who have already qualified in this field, whether at an appropriate university or by experience.

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Since November 1959 the « Intelligence Unit » of the Council for Nature in Great Britain has been functioning as an information centre with the help of an annual grant (for a term of three years) from the B.B.C. Queries may be sent in to the Unit, but should as far as possible be of the kind to which the answers cannot be found in ordinary dictionaries or encyclopedias. Every endeavour will be made to reply as clearly as possible.

The Intelligence Unit comprises a Films Section too; it is also to organize photography competitions among amateur naturalists. Enquiries about these may be addressed to the Film Officer, Council for Nature, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

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The « Nature Resources Board » of Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, has been publishing since April 1959 a periodical « News Letter », distributed free — 5,000 copies to schools — and also intended to educate the native farmers by informing them of soil problems and the best ways of guarding against catastrophes. The pamphlet is illustrated by photographs and drawings, like that shown opposite, which concerns the ill effects of introducing exotic species.

COMMENTS ON PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED


« Nature and Man », John Hillaby (Phoenix House, London). The brilliant Zoological Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* is above all an enthusiastic naturalist. He has just published this very well illustrated work (cloth, 63 pp.) in which he outlines his view of nature conservation. His picturesque and lively style makes the book very easy to read. He deals with all the problems in the field of nature conservation which he considers of prime importance for mankind, both for the life of each individual and for the survival of the earth's inhabitants. Recommended to all naturalists and amateurs.

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« The Natural History of the Otter », Marie N. Stephens, B.Sc. (published by UFAW, 7a Lamb's Conduit Passage, London, W.C.1.). An interesting report of an investi-

LANTANA

is eating up your country



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gation carried out in Great Britain on the otter to establish a clearer picture of the damage that is so often attributed to this small mammal. It is only by this means that those in authority can judge whether its partial destruction is necessary. A semi-aquatic animal, the otter is distributed across most of the world and is divided into a number of

species and sub-species. In Great Britain it is far more numerous than is generally realized, sometimes appearing even in the middle of towns. Although carnivorous, otters also eat grass and fungi, but above all they eat most of whatever available prey is most abundant. Of course they are fond of fish and take as many as they can from streams. In the breeding ponds of fish hatcheries it is very often the solitary «rogue» otter which is guilty of the worst damage. On the other hand, it must be said in their favour that they rid streams of diseased fish and poor specimens, since these are the most easily caught.

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«Serengeti darf nicht sterben» (Serengeti shall not die), Bernard and Michael Grzimek, Verlag Ullstein, Frankfurt. Any commentary on this work seems superfluous, especially when one knows the authors of this remarkable plea for wild animals. It will be remembered that one of them lost his life in carrying out the mission assigned to him. 336 pp., excellently illustrated by 18 colour-plates, 21 drawings and 2 maps, this book should find a place on the bookshelf of every champion of the big African fauna.

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«The Paradise of Plants and Animals» (in Czech) by Jan Čeřovský. 118 pp. illustrated by charming drawings and written for children from 9 upwards. In a luxurious binding, it represents a praiseworthy effort and is sure to be a success.

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«A Look at Threatened Species», Lee M. Talbot. This well presented book is published in the series of the Fauna Preservation Society for the Survival Service of I.U.C.N. (price 10 shillings, 137 pages. In English). Judiciously illustrated, it may be obtained from the Fauna Preservation Society, c/o The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1. It gives the results of a mission financed by Mr. J. Arundel and covering several months in 1954 and 1955. Mr. Talbot, a young ecologist who was at that time attached to the Union, visited countries of the Middle East and some in South-East Asia, achieving a considerable amount of work within a few months and not only bringing back extremely valuable information about the status of wild life, and the conditions of the soil (degradation, restoration schemes) but also establishing in each country he visited valuable contacts which are still kept up by the Union. This lively publication immediately attracts and holds one's interest and can be read with profit by both specialists and amateurs.

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«Pesticides: their use and toxicity in relation to Wildlife» by L. Rudd and Richard E. Genelly, Game Bulletin No. 7, Dept. of Fish and Game — State of California 1956. An excellent objective study of the repercussions on wild

life of the use of pesticides, accompanied by recommendations, a considerable bibliography, and a survey of the products at present employed with indications as to their usage and toxicity.

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«Simba of the White Mane» by Jocelyn Arundel, illustrated by Wesley Dennis. (125 pp. In English. McGraw-Hill Book Co, Inc., New York-Toronto-London). A charming tale, set in the Serengeti National Park of Tanganyika, of a little Masai boy and his friends the lions. An excellent book for older children, which deserves translation into several languages.

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«Ecology and Chemical Pesticides», Conservation Foundation, New York, May 1960. This Foundation has published a collection of discussion notes dealing with the very controversial use of pesticides. The authors have particularly emphasized the various ecological aspects of this use.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The statement of principles given below will be conveyed to the States of tropical Africa by the mission entrusted with I.U.C.N.'s «African Special Project» as described at the beginning of this Bulletin:

An impartial assessment of world-wide wildlife conservation problems has led I.U.C.N. to the conclusion that the accelerated rate of destruction of wild fauna, flora and habitat in Africa — without adequate regard to its value as a continuing economic and cultural resource — is the most urgent conservation problem of the present time. The destruction of this asset, which includes the finest and most varied large animal populations remaining on earth, would be a biological and cultural catastrophe. To a large extent, these great and unique faunal and floral resources could become exhausted merely because the indigenous people have not had adequately demonstrated to them methods to maintain maximum economic and cultural benefits from them. Wildlife is Africa's most neglected but potentially one of its most valuable renewable natural resources, and one that can be wisely utilized for the benefit of countries so fortunate to possess it. The problem is a two-fold one: first, conservation of the national parks and faunal reserves; and second, the management of wildlife stocks on lands outside the existing parks and reserves, especially on those lands not suited to agriculture.

The National Parks and Sanctuaries. — The great national parks and faunal reserves of the world are unique cultural assets having not only national value to their respective countries, but an important international value as well. Like the magnificent cathedrals and historic art cities of Europe and the temples and shrines of Asia, they

are part of the rich cultural heritage of civilized men everywhere and should be held in trust for future generations. As living museums of natural history, the African national parks, in particular, are quite the most spectacular areas of their kind — priceless examples without comparison on any other continent. Their reduction or destruction would be a profound loss to humanity everywhere and it would be particularly unfortunate if their distinct economic and recreational values were underestimated until it is too late.

As educational opportunities expand, these parks and sanctuaries should become a source of great national pride and interest to the citizens of each African country fortunate enough to possess them. The spectacle of an array of African animals in its natural setting is one of the finest on earth. Few educated people have failed to be moved by it. Fuller recognition of wildlife conservation as one of the important forces in a higher civilization is increasing. There is a growing appreciation of how much human life is enriched by the creatures with which we share the earth.

In addition to these cultural values, however, the parks and sanctuaries are a sound economic investment for there are rapidly increasing world-wide demands for the recreational activities of the very kind offered by these areas. Tourists today are bringing increasing amounts of money into most African countries and these tourists journey to Africa to see, foremost among other features, the finest of all wildlife spectacles. Thus during the years ahead the economic value of the African national parks and wildlife areas will be of even greater importance than now.

Lands Outside of the National Parks. — Until recently, the economic use of the ungulate fauna outside the parks and reserves has hardly been considered in Africa. It has apparently been assumed that modern systems of economic production must either require the disappearance of wildlife, or else ignore its presence. Yet, large mammal populations scientifically managed and harvested as a renewable resource may yield protein foods in areas where livestock production has proved to be difficult or hazardous and over a substantial part of the African continent offer more efficient and productive results than can be achieved with livestock. The management of wild lands for production of natural crops and the economics of such land use have been demonstrated in several parts of the world.

For at least a million years certain parts of Africa have been producing wild animals at rates that compare favourably with good present-day domestic livestock production, and of especial importance is that this production has been without destruction of pasturage or soil resources. This phenomenon is worthy of intensive study. Research on livestock breeding, meat production and even grassland management is accepted and encouraged; comparable research on wildlife populations and their habitats is urgently needed.

The ecologist especially questions the advisability of disturbing natural plant and animal communities on lands marginal and submarginal for agriculture. Such areas tend to deteriorate rapidly under the grazing of domestic animals or under cultivation. On these lands, where conventional agriculture is uneconomic or impossible, there is a need to

recognize wildlife as an important nutritional resource. There are indications that in some areas more protein food could be harvested through scientific management of native animals than by ranching cattle or sheep. In still other areas, wildlife can contribute to total meat production supplementing that produced by livestock. Governments should be assisted to establish programmes which would treat the ungulate fauna of Africa as a valuable economic resource for the benefit of Africans.

Conclusion. — The African people and their administrations should look favourably upon their inheritance of faunal resources. Their responsibilities to future generations in all parts of the world need to be emphasized by all Governments. If this opportunity to save and to make use of the unique African fauna and flora is foregone at this time, it will be lost forever. Humanity will have sacrificed the eternal to the expedient.

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By the time this Bulletin reaches its readers, part of the Secretariat will already have been transferred to Switzerland and I shall have left to return to my own country.

During my two years of office there has been a thorough reorientation in the activities and organization of the Union. This reorientation culminated in the decisions taken by the Seventh General Assembly.

During this period, however, one feature of the Union which has remained stable has been the interest shown in its activities by its numerous friends throughout the world. I should like to express to them my warmest thanks for the material help they have given the Union and for their interesting correspondence which has been a constant source of information and encouragement for the Secretariat.

M. C. BLOEMERS,
Secretary-General.

READ AT RANDOM

« We have learned that upsetting the balance of nature in the Galapagos Archipelago was a result of interference by man and the domestic animals he introduced; numerous and outstanding features of the wild life of these Islands have suffered grievously from these incursions. What is happening in the little world of the Galapagos is only the echo of the undesirable clash with natural surroundings of a human population whose number is snowballing. »

Extract from *Galapagos, Die Arche Noah im Pazifik*, by Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt (R. Piper & Co Verlag, Munich).

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AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

Our readers will be interested in this extract from a letter written in 1898 by the famous composer Saint-Saens to the President of the Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France (quoted in « Belgique d'Outre-Mer » in 1959) :

« At last, for the first time, I have seen something stated which I myself have thought for a long time, and by an authority who has a chance of being listened to. It has been said that the African elephant cannot be domesticated... But to domesticate elephants one must have them, and for this there is only one way, that is to put a stop to the trade in ivory which is carried on with stupid lack of foresight. I suppose you do not know the little book of mine published two years ago by Flammarion, entitled « Problèmes et Mystères »; in it I tried to show that the rule of humanity should be solidarity extended to the present and to the future. To waste the resources one has at hand with no thought of what will remain for future generations is to my way of thinking a criminal act. But this is exactly what is happening in Africa. Since Europeans had the idea of parading what they call the torch of civilization, the number of elephants has decreased in an alarming manner, and these animals, which are essential for a genuine African civilization, are rapidly becoming extinct, just in order to enrich a few individuals who care for nothing except the money they put into their pockets. All this massacre, to jeopardize all this just to make « billiard balls » and « paper knives »!

» It is a matter of urgency to protect the African elephants in the French Congo and to ask the King of the Belgians to protect them in his Belgian Congo. It is high time... »

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« The interest and importance of the protection of nature in Africa and in Madagascar make one wonder whether it would not be possible to give international status to the National Parks and Reserves which have been established there, as has already been done as regards the exploitation of certain large Cetaceans. This solution would offer great advantages, since besides helping to give local authorities a better understanding of the problem and relieving them of demagogic pressure, it would act as an encouragement to them to make the required effort. »

Extract from *L'avenir de la Protection de la Nature dans les Etats de la Communauté* (Comptes rendus mensuels des séances de l'Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer), by René Malbrant.

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« If the earth is still livable and in many places still beautiful, that is chiefly because man's power to lay it waste has been limited. Up until now nature has been too large, too abundant and too resistant to be conquered. » (Joseph Wood Crutch in *The Great Chain of Life*.)

« The sun, moon and stars would have disappeared long ago if they had happened to be within reach of predatory human hands. » (Havelock Ellis.)

Quotations printed in the Monthly Letter of the Royal Bank of Canada, Vol. 40, No. 4, Montreal, May 1959.

It is with regret that we have learned of the deaths of :

Mr. Colin Marshall, in Africa, from poliomyelitis. Mr. Marshall constantly supported the Union when he was in the Forestry Department in Malaya, and took an active part in I.U.C.N.'s former Commission on Public Information; and Mr. Dennler de la Tour, of Buenos Aires, a keen and reliable correspondent of I.U.C.N. since 1952. Everyone knows the part he played in promoting the protection of nature in Argentina and he was in touch with our Secretariat to the last.

The loss of these two great friends is a sad blow for the Union.

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