

*Resolution 22: Cooperation for Nature Protection and Conservation.*

In our highly complex, mechanical and hurried civilization it seems at times most simple to solve problems by decree, authority, and direction. Such an attitude is even expressed in matters of conservation; and we sometimes feel the pressure of the technician or administrator as an infallible judge. But conservation, whether of soil, water, forests, grasslands, or wildlife, is most often accomplished by those who live upon the land and look to the land for sustenance and profit. To be permanent and successful, conservation measures applied to the land must be acceptable to land owners and operators, whether they are small farmers, private corporations, or governmental agencies. Conservation is no single thing — it is high dams to provide power for cities, it is malaria control that permits people to move to less erosive land, it is government parks for esthetic appreciation, it is timber management by great private companies, it is contour cultivation by a farmer on the slope of a tiny field, it is scientific research as an indispensable basis for nature protection and conservation.

Experience teaches us that effective and widespread nature protection and conservation require coordinated effort by many individuals, groups, and agencies — private and public, urban and rural, agrarian and industrial. To achieve this there must be understanding, and when there is understanding there can be action — action of people and groups working together to conserve and improve the natural resources upon which individual living standards and the welfare of groups ultimately depend. There must, in short, be cooperation between people for common objectives, and they must work together with a clear and honest understanding.

Therefore the I.U.P.N. wishes to encourage closer cooperation among the people of a community or natural area, between groups where conflicts develop, and between private and public interests, in arriving at a fuller understanding of nature protection and conservation problems, and it wishes to express the conviction that people working together provide the most powerful and effective force for achieving that conservation and utilization of resources which can fulfill man's present needs and attain long-term conservation objectives.