

27. Pesticides

It is declared that the IUCN under present world conditions, supports all well-considered attempts to increase food production and reduce vectors of human disease.

The *IUCN recognises* that, at least in the immediate future¹, much emphasis will be placed on chemical control of plant and animal pests;

the *IUCN recognises* that it is essential to establish standards for the careful use of the various pesticides during any period while their continued use is still considered necessary and permitted.

It is noted, however, that enforcement of such standards require administrative and advisory review boards to assess and control the use of chemicals; that some countries do not yet have such arrangements; and in any event that the administration of such standards is difficult considering the small number of trained personnel normally available for instruction and enforcement, and because of the strong pressure of economic interests which promote the use of pesticides, often overriding ecological considerations.

It is recognised moreover, that the critical nature of pesticide pollution of the soils, waters and organisms of the earth, and even of the atmosphere, together with the demonstrated impact of their acute and/or sublethal effects makes it necessary to take vigorous action promptly. Many technologically advanced nations now ban or restrict the use of DDT and certain other persistent compounds. These restrictions came about not only because of ecological imbalance but because foodstuffs were found to be contaminated to an unacceptable degree for public wellbeing. The dangers presented by other pesticides and by certain other chemicals are being examined and many of these materials may be added to the prohibited list.

The **10th General Assembly of IUCN** meeting at New Delhi in November 1969

therefore recommends that

1. States and appropriate international agencies which have not already done so, set up effective administrative machinery to assess, register and control the use of pesticides in their areas of interest;
2. in setting up such administrative machinery, it is essential to take into account possible harmful effects to wildlife as well as to domestic livestock and human beings and therefore such administrative organisation should include at least one Ecologist in its membership together with representatives from other relevant disciplines;
3. that all States and all appropriate international agencies take effective measures to withdraw the use of those compounds which have been shown to be persistent and destructive in the environment or which scientific evidence would indicate will be hazardous. Certainly the evidence against the continued use of DDT is overwhelming and an immediate ban on its use is recommended, except for emergency human health purposes;
4. **urgently recommends** that all governments undertake all necessary research to develop better methods of pest control which will not possess the hazards inherent in the use of persistent broad-spectrum pesticides such as aldrin, dieldrin, DDT, endrin, and other related compounds. Background information for this Resolution will be found in the report of the Commission on Ecology.