

be bred for the destruction of jackals. Panfontein is probably the first wild life research and experimental farm of its kind.

Societies like the Transvaal Hunters' Association, angling societies, farmers' associations, and the like are co-operating with the Transvaal Provincial Administration with a view to achieving more effective conservation. Whereas no funds were available prior to the year 1948 for protection of the Province's wild life, the Transvaal Provincial Administration's present budget for that purpose and the stocking of the Province's water with fish amounts to nearly £100,000. What is believed to be the largest hatchery in Africa is at present being built at Lydenburg. A board, the Fauna and Flora Advisory Board, has been established to advise the Province on all matters pertaining to wild life conservation in the Transvaal.

A very important provision in the new Game Ordinance of Transvaal is that protection may be extended to animals other than game animals.

More effective control is now being exercised over the capture of wild birds, and the capture of and trade in these birds is not being permitted. Generally it may be said that much more is now being done to achieve the more effective conservation of wild life in South Africa than was done even five years ago.

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

Extracts from the Report of the Second Session of the General Assembly, held in Brussels, 18th-23rd October, 1950

M. van der Goes van Naters, Secretary of the Netherlands Provisional Nature Conservancy, spoke of the need for the Union to act as arbitrator in all international matters. Giving examples under four headings for the need for action, he said: ". . . a system must be established based on the following points:—

(a) Among the reports of the technical conference there are three concerned with frontier and international parks and in addition a résumé written by the Secretary-General.

The defence of the most untouched and the most valuable of these areas runs up against international obstacles. Here are some examples:—

At the Belgian-Dutch frontier there are four natural monuments: The first is the famous Mont Saint-Pierre, the Dutch section of which was sacrificed to material interests last year. It is now too late to establish an international monument here. The second is the Heath of Calmpthout, well known to our President; it would be possible to set aside all this frontier area as a reserve. The third is the area of Zwynn, the former mouth of the Scheldt, which is rich in semi-salt water flora of rare beauty. In spite of the mistakes made on both sides of the frontier, it might be possible, even at the last moment, to save this landscape. The last monument, the least known, is an area of marshes and peat-bogs, on both sides of the border between Tilbourg and Arendonk, called De Moeren (The Marshes). I visited it a fortnight ago and was delighted with it. But its protection involves all sorts of difficulties, above all that of satisfying both the farmers and the friends of nature. There is no doubt that in the case of these three natural parks which still exist on our frontiers, Benelux-Monuments should be established. What arbitrator, above the parties involved, can help us to establish them if not our Union?

(b) In Italy a park of great beauty is seriously threatened by industry and hydro-electric installations, although it is a national park created by law and said to be inviolable. I am speaking of the Gran Paradiso, in the Valdotaine region, which I visited this summer and the summer before.

The defenders of the Gran Paradiso, a park of international importance, have appealed to the Council of Europe at Strasbourg. As a member of the Assembly of the Council, I will do my best to see that this appeal is favourably received. But who, if not the Union, is in the best position to defend an object of such supra-national importance before supra-national authorities?

(c) The Netherlands Government has given the Government of the Indonesian Republic complete sovereignty over Indonesia, a country where there are treasures of such beauty that no imagination can picture them. Among some of the benefits of Dutch rule was an exemplary nature protection service, the administration of which was centred in the botanical garden of Buitenzorg. This organization was split up by the war; the reserves of rare animals, as well as the last rhinoceros of Java and Sumatra, are seriously threatened. The Technical Conference at Lake Success resolved on two occasions that exceptional vigilance should be exercised on behalf of the threatened fauna of Indonesia.

The Dutch Council for the Protection of Nature has collected all the data necessary for an efficient reorganization of the service. But . . . the Dutch Government is rightly opposed to the intervention of an official organization in the affairs of another sovereign state.

There is only one authority which can intervene: namely, our Union, and, Mr. President, I am happy to learn by the report which has just been distributed, that the Secretary-General has already approached the Indonesian Government.

(d) In Western Europe, this over-populated section of the world, the duty of re-arming has become a sad necessity. Everywhere shooting ranges, grounds for manoeuvres, aerodromes, and military airports are being demanded. In every instance the so-called 'wild areas' are chosen, that is, areas which are undamaged from a botanical point of view. This dangerous situation could certainly be improved if a better international understanding were reached on this matter. A compromise could be agreed upon: the land which is least valuable from the point of view of European nature should be chosen for these exercises.

What international and impartial organization, if not the Union, can take action or be in the best position to suggest solutions, not to individual governments, but to the Committee of the Atlantic Pact?

I may say in conclusion that the real purpose of the Union is:—

- (i) To do all that can be done by an organization, a group, or a nation.
- (ii) To find norms and rules which are internationally valid for the defence of nature and the natural landscape, and then to draw up conventions necessary for their realization.
- (iii) To inspire, assist, and approach governments for the heavy responsibility of safeguarding natural resources lies with them.
- (iv) To defend before the supra-national authorities of the Council of Europe, the Atlantic Pact, the United Nations Organizations, and their specialized agencies the really supra-national interests of the protection of nature.
- (v) To build up a system of protection according to natural circumstances but which, like nature itself, will go beyond frontiers.

There, ladies and gentlemen, are some of the principles of

a programme for the International Union; there is the atmosphere in which it can live and thrive. There is the ecology of our Union.”

The Survival Service.—At the Technical Conference on Nature Protection, held at Lake Success in August, 1949, it was resolved that I.U.P.N. should establish a “survival service”. The task of initiating this service has been entrusted to Mr. J-M. Vrydagh, delegate of the International Office for the Protection of Nature, who, speaking at the present conference, said that the work could be divided into four parts.

First, it was necessary to collect all the available information on threatened species. This the service had done to the utmost of its ability, the principal source of information being the “Zoological Record”. It was found that threatened species had never been the subject of ecological study, because the research worker preferred to work with abundant and easily obtainable material. The only information on threatened species came from enthusiastic observers.

Secondly, it was necessary to verify the information obtained. This would be done by sending out a questionnaire to persons living in the areas where the threatened species still existed.

(The draft form of this questionnaire includes questions on the past and present range and numbers of the threatened species, the changes in its habitat, the causes leading to its decrease, and the measures which could be taken to ensure its survival.—EDITOR.)

The third point in the programme of the Service was the dissemination of the information collected. The information regarding mammals would be published as a supplement to the work of Allen and Harper.¹ The information on birds would depend upon the reports by the American, Mr. Greenway, who intended to publish a work on all threatened birds.

The fourth point is to assist governments and competent organizations in their efforts to ensure the conservation of threatened species. This, Mr. Vrydagh concluded by saying, had to await the knowledge of the species; this knowledge the Service was in the process of obtaining.

¹ ALLEN, C. M. *Extinct and Vanishing Mammals of the Western Hemisphere with the Marine Species of all the Oceans*. Special Publication, American Committee for International Wild Life Protection, No. 11.

HARPER, F. *Extinct and Vanishing Mammals of the Old World*. Special Publication, American Committee for International Wild Life Protection, No. 12.