

# NOTES, NEWS & COMMENTS

## The Foundation for Environmental Conservation: Auspices, Objectives, and Needs

The Foundation, which had started operating unofficially some years earlier, was finally established legally in 1975 at Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland, as non-profit and tax-exempt by authority of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and perpetually under Swiss Federal Government surveillance by the Department of the Interior, Berne. Its headquarters are at 15 Chemin F.-Lehmann, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

### FOUNDERS AND GOVERNING BOARD

The Founders were the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund International (WWF), both now situated at Gland, Switzerland, and Professor Dr Nicholas Polunin, of the above address. The Governing Board of the Foundation consists of the last-named for life and a representative each of IUCN and WWF, with powers to co-opt a very limited number of other members for periods of three years at a time (renewable for similar periods).

### OBJECTIVES (UPDATED)

- A. To undertake, in cooperation with appropriate individuals, organizations, and other groups, all possible activities to further the ends indicated in its title, and specifically:
- B. To own and promote pertinent publications, in particular the international Journal *Environmental Conservation*, and to derive therefrom revenues to be used especially towards coverage of publications costs—in mind are certain other journals, possible supplements to the present one, and, ultimately, much-needed works of reference. The Foundation-sponsored, open-ended series of Environmental Monographs & Symposia started publication in 1981;
- C. To foster pertinent conferences, in particular the International Conferences on Environmental Future (ICEFs), and to sponsor the Baer-Huxley Memorial Lectures;
- D. To organize specialist 'Workshops' to deliberate and pronounce freely on urgent aspects of environmental change or other causes for concern;
- E. To encourage, and where possible promote, studies on environmental change and ecosystem development and maintenance;
- F. To institute through similar auspices, and thereafter continue to sponsor and promote, the World Campaign for The Biosphere, 1982-; and
- G. To accept and administer (under Swiss Federal surveillance by the Department of the Interior, Berne, and the authority of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva), funds for the above purposes, including creation and bestowal of suitable awards for environmental achievement and/or enterprise.

### ADOPTED PROJECTS, ETC.

#### 1. *Environmental Conservation*

The Publisher having assumed financial responsibility for the printing and production of the Foundation's Journal, and help from the United Nations Environment Programme and other sources having covered incidental needs of the Journal through 1981, funds will be required henceforth for its support in such matters as subventions to the Publisher for extra pages published beyond the standard 80 (or 88 if blank spaces are left at the ends of major papers and sections) of text per issue and to pay numerous incidental expenses which hitherto were largely contributed with his services by the President in his capacity as Editor but which mounting costs and taxes are making it increasingly difficult for him to support. In addition, funds are desirable (1) to offer to the Publishers to make available a substantial number of 'individual' subscriptions at a greatly reduced price, and (2) to endow a prize for the best paper published each year in *Environmental Conservation*.

#### 2. *Office and Allied Expenses*

With ever-mounting costs and taxes (though the Foundation itself is non-profit and tax-exempt) and problems of currency exchange, it has become increasingly difficult for the President and his family to maintain the Secretariat despite regular contributions from the Publisher and intermittent help from other sources, and so funds are needed to help him pay for essential office expenses when not contributed by the Publisher, telephone, and a modicum of necessary travel. In addition some funds are now desired for payment of casual assistance, attendance at conferences and meetings, and reimbursement of services and taxes paid for the Secretariat. (The International Environmental Consultancy has been discontinued for the time being.)

#### 3. *International Conferences on Environmental Future*

Whereas the President hopes to continue to refrain from reclaiming the amount still owing to him personally in respect of the 2nd ICEF, substantial sums will be needed to carry out the planned 3rd ICEF, though it is expected that the bulk of necessary financing will be contributed by or through the host country. The first ICEF in 1971 cost approximately \$44,000 (apart from unaccounted relieving gifts and the generosity of the host Government of Finland) and the 2nd ICEF ca \$65,000 (including preparation and publication of the Proceedings in adequate detail, but apart from the help of the host Government of Iceland and various Icelandic services). The 3rd ICEF is expected to cost very much more, in view of ever-rising prices and the need nowadays to pay the expenses of an increasing proportion of participants, and so the 'ideal' budget has been divided into six units of \$50,000 each which are accordingly being sought for accommodation, fares, administration, publicity and publication, honoraria to authors, etc., and incidentals. These last include the Baer-Huxley Memorial Lecture and propitious workshops. (A further such unit might be needed to assist the host country to hold

pre- and post-Conference regional workshops on what needs to be done locally 'to save our region' in the context of a global 'march to survival'.)

#### 4. Multilingual Glossary of Environmental Terms

It is understood that work on this project has continued with the support of the Pergamon Press, Oxford, England, and it is understood that production by them at least in English, French, Spanish, and German, will be on a database system facilitating continuous updating.

#### 5. Other Journals, etc.

(a) Means are desired to encourage and help other needed journals through sponsorships, memberships, or grants, an example being *Environmental Awareness*, organ of the Indian Society of Naturalists (INSONA), of which the President and his Wife are Patrons.

(b) Preparation and subvention towards publication (with new coloured fold-out map or maps) of a completely revised edition of *Introduction to Plant Geography and Some Related Sciences*, to include new sections on pollution effects and ecology, plant conservation, introductions and their effects, competition, continental drift, and the role of plants in environmental conservation.

(c) Environmental Monographs & Symposia: Means are desired to support special cases with a leading international Publisher and possibly start another series to take care of less 'crisply scientific' works or potentially important volumes of doubtful sales potential.

#### 6. World Education Concerning The Biosphere

With the object of promoting world-wide knowledge of The Biosphere and appreciation of how humans are an integral part of it and utterly dependent on it, and yet are threatening it with their ever-increasing numbers and pressures on its finite resources, there were proposed in *Environmental Conservation* successively an 'International Year of the Biosphere' which was soon extended to 'The World Decade of The Biosphere, 1982-92' but then redesignated and subsequently declared as 'The World Campaign for The Biosphere 1982-', which the Foundation initiated and continues to sponsor but hopes will soon be taken over by a new *ad hoc* world body supported by various other ones.

#### 7. Research Projects

Various worthy ones have been encouraged, *inter alia* with publication of their results, but a budgetary item to help future ones financially would be welcomed. As a specific item it is thought that a project on Nature in a concrete Jungle could be promoted with little special financing, at least in its early stages. Another proposal is of still-needed national or regional floras, and yet another is of an illustrated volume on Vegetation Types of Europe (which, however, it is understood is now in an advanced stage of preparation).

#### 8. Other Items

(a) Feasibility study of a proposed International Association (or World Council or Academy) of Environmentalists; also of a comparable educational body, and of a Who's Who in the Environmental World.

(b) Endowment of the Baer-Huxley Memorial Lectures on topics of contemporary environmental concern, of which the first, on 'The International Community and the Environment', was given by Maurice F. Strong in Reykjavik, Iceland, during the Second International

Conference on Environmental Future, and was first published in *Environmental Conservation* (Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 165-72, Autumn 1977); the second is to be given by a leading environmentalist at the 3rd ICEF (see item 3 above).

(c) Endowment of a prize for the best paper published each year in *Environmental Conservation*, and ultimately of a major award or awards for environmental achievement and/or enterprise.

(d) Funds to convene working groups of leading specialists to pronounce quite freely on major environmental threats. An endowment of \$5 millions or SFr. 10 millions would suffice for this and meanwhile cover some of the above needs from income.

Further projects are under consideration, including urgent research proposals, a major World Heritage Series of volumes, establishment of a biennial award for demonstrated environmental concern and concomitant action by a multinational corporation, and fostering the establishment of associated foundations etc. in other parts of the world. With the demise of the Pahlavi Prize and the opening of the Tyler Prize to energy concerns, a major award for environmental leadership is an urgent need—if possible on a par with the Nobel Peace Prize (for which, incidentally, the nomination of leading environmentalists seems particularly desirable).

#### OPERATION AND NEEDS

With the running costs already contributed, and in the absence of any institutional overheads and taxes other than those that continue to be paid privately, the Foundation constitutes what has been called a uniquely economic vehicle for support of the environmental/conservation movement—whether generally or through specific projects which can be put in train as soon as funds become available. Contributions are warmly welcomed and individually acknowledged, and can be received in any negotiable currency by cheque made out to the Foundation for Environmental Conservation, c/o Banque Populaire Suisse, 1 Quai des Bergues, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, or sent to the Foundation's address ending the opening paragraph of this notice. (Plans for recognizing special services or substantial donations to the Foundation by the award of an engraved certificate designed by a renowned draughtsman have been shelved in view of the urgent need of all available funds for more pressing purposes, but donors are requested to identify themselves clearly unless anonymity is desired.)

NICHOLAS POLUNIN, *President*  
The Foundation for Environmental Conservation  
(as approved by its Governing Board).

#### Tropical Forest Campaign\*

A group of leading experts and other world notables concerned with tropical rain-forests and international development have launched an appeal to governments to alter the current course of rain-forest destruction before irreversible social and economic disruption occurs.

\* In this vital concern which is functionally at least a part of the World Campaign for The Biosphere, we hope we have helped and are continuing to help with our stressing of these topics in past issues of our Journal, and of Parks and Reserves in this one.—Ed.