



FIG. 1. Flower of *Rafflesia pricei* in Kinabalu Park, Sabah. It was 30 cm in diameter, brick-red in colour but spotted with yellow, and smelled faintly of carrion. Photo: Susan K. Jacobson.

plants are parasites and produce no photosynthetic leaves, instead deriving all their nourishment from these forest vines. The rapid destruction of tropical rain-forests within their range, including those in Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, and the Philippines, makes their future uncertain. Two species have not been seen since World War II, and may be extinct (Willem Meijer, pers. comm.). Although Kinabalu Park is 754 sq. km in area, many of the other ten nature reserves that protect these flowers are small.

In 1854, the Bogor Botanical Garden successfully cultivated *R. arnoldii*. Recent cultivation attempts at the Singapore Botanical Garden, however, have so far failed. Protection of these unique flowers in the wild should remain a conservation priority.

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### IIED-North America Join WRI

The World Resources Institute (WRI) and the International Institute for Environment and Development-North America (IIED-NA) are joining forces to strengthen their ability to promote improved policies and practices for environment and resource management world-wide. IIED-NA will become a major centre within WRI, fully integrated with the overall WRI programme.

As separate organizations, both groups have been committed to the principles of environmentally sustainable development, pursuing this common objective in different but complementary ways. WRI specializes in policy studies and research on environmental and natural resource issues affecting the industrialized as well as the developing world. These studies are followed by intensive engagement in pertinent policy-making processes in the United States, in international bodies and, to a lesser extent, in other countries. IIED-NA's programmes concentrate on developing countries, emphasizing technical programme support, institutional strengthening, and policy advice for Third World governments and non-governmental organizations.

Together, WRI and IIED-NA are committed to transforming the insights of the past decade into effective policies, programmes, and on-the-ground actions, that link natural resource management with progress in economic development.

The new Director of the IIED-NA centre within WRI is Thomas H. Fox, former Vice-President for International and Public Affairs of the Council on Foundations. He also has been the Director of the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Executive Director of Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA). Mr Fox served in the Peace Corps in Africa for seven years, as Deputy Director of the Program in Togo, Director of the Program in Burkina Faso, and finally as Chief of Programs and Training and Deputy Director of the Africa region in Washington. At WRI he will report to WRI's Vice-President for Research and Policy Affairs, Mohamed T. El-Ashry.

'Bringing IIED-North America within WRI adds an important new capability for WRI. For the first time, we have the ability to pursue issues in a sustained, cooperative way with leaders and groups in the Third World, where many of the most difficult challenges are today', said James Gustave Speth, President of WRI. He continued 'We are committed to maintaining the special character of IIED that has made it uniquely effective in working with environment and development issues in developing countries. IIED-NA's field-based expertise combined with WRI's strengths in research, publishing, and policy affairs, will strengthen our common ability to help define and implement the concept of sustainable development. We will be able to address natural resource and environmental issues on a broader front, joining policy analysis with implementation to reach the full range of actors who can influence change throughout the developing world, as well as in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere.'

Speth also announced that two members of the IIED Board of Directors, Robert O. Anderson and Maurice F. Strong, have joined the WRI Board. In concrete terms, WRI will assume overall management responsibility for IIED-NA. IIED-NA will be an operational centre within WRI, focusing on providing programme support, applied research, and policy and technical advice to public and private institutions in developing countries.

The International Institute for Environment and Development, based in London, England, UK, will continue its independent programme as a separate entity. WRI and IIED in London will continue their close relationship, and plan to collaborate on such matters of mutual interest as sustainable agriculture. WRI and IIED have jointly published *World Resources 1986* and *World Resources 1987*—annual reports on environmental conditions and trends—and are working on *World Resources 1988–89*.

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