

**Resolutions**

Cheetahs, marine mammals, and non-human primates were the subjects of special resolutions passed at Banff. Resolution No. 21 urged

that vigorous efforts be made by all countries to halt the import of cheetah skins, raw or in the manufactured state, and that the import of live cheetahs by zoos and safari parks be limited to institutions which can demonstrate the capacity for long-term propagation of the species'. Governments of countries with cheetah populations were asked to guarantee large tracts of cheetah habitat.

On the conservation of marine resources, Resolution 16 urged

all nations to modify fishing operations so as to avoid destruction of porpoises and other small cetaceans, and all organisations concerned to examine rigorously the permitted quotas for all marine live resources, especially whales and seals, and to impose a moratorium on the capture of any species for which scientific evidence does not clearly support continued harvest. It also suggested that the greatest caution be used in the exploitation of krill on which many other species, notably the baleen whales, depend.

On the use of non-human primates in research and teaching, Resolution 20 recommended

the use of non-threatened species wherever possible, and preferably tissue culture; the maximum use of individual animals to reduce demands; that threatened species, including all apes be used only in crucial human health research; that breeding programmes be promoted to provide supplies, and the highest humanitarian considerations applied.

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## **National Parks: the Second World Conference**

The first World Conference on National Parks was held at Seattle, in 1962. It is remarkable that it took ten years to organise the second, which was also held in the United States, starting at Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, on September 19, 1972, and transferring on the 21st to the Grand Teton National Park, in the same state, where it ended on the 27th. These conferences perform an invaluable function in bringing together people concerned with national parks all over the world—where else, for instance, could the delegate from a remote new country like Western Samoa hope to learn at first hand the problems of running national parks from people with experience of parks as diverse as Wood Buffalo, Tsavo and the Peak District? When 43 nations still have no national parks and some 30 others only primitive ones, it is perhaps too soon to say that national parks have arrived. But those that do exist are already in danger of being submerged by human population and

development. Yosemite with its smog may be an extreme case, but the latest issue of *Loris* tells of tourists taken by helicopter to see a group of terrified elephants in a Sri Lanka national park.

To show that national parks are not just an Anglo-Saxon fad, we asked Shri Zafar Futehally, Hon. Secretary of the Bombay Natural History Society and a Vice-President of IUCN (who were sponsors of the Conference), to comment on it. He writes:

‘The opportunity to strengthen old contacts and make new ones is, I think, the most valuable function of such conferences. But in our fast-changing world, an assessment of the role of national parks, internationally and within countries, was overdue, since so much has happened on the environmental front since the first world conference was held. In 1962 our main concern was simply to establish the importance of national parks somehow, and we can appreciate the difficulties of this from the fact that a definition of national parks was only passed by the IUCN General Assembly in November 1969, at New Delhi. Still, Jean-Paul Harroy and his colleagues of IUCN’s National Parks Commission can be happy that 1200 parks have so far been created. The recommendations of the second Conference point to a greater concern for land use policies as a whole, and not just in park areas. It was felt that unless such policies are enforced, the future of the parks is gravely threatened.

‘Many strong statements were also made emphasising the role of parks as outdoor laboratories. Dr Budowski and Dr Kuenen were alarmed at the increasing trends of monoculture and the non-recognition of the need to maintain the diversity of our natural forms for stability, for scientific study, and for ensuring our genetic heritage. N. P. Reed, US Assistant Secretary of the Interior, said in fact that ‘relatively intact ecosystems may provide the clues or the bases from which man might better understand the biosphere. Of all the values which the national parks of the world possess, perhaps none are of greater significance than this’. However Max Nicholson, with his inborn realism, pointed out that so far very little research had in fact been done in national parks.

‘These questions apart, all delegates were concerned with the problem of preserving the natural qualities of the national Parks while maintaining an ever growing pressure from visitors. The US National Park Service did well to commission the Conservation Foundation to submit a report on the problem, and *National Parks for the Future*, which was presented to all participants at the Conference, contains many useful guidelines. The ecological, psychological and physical aggression which park managers of the future will have to contend with have been accurately identified. The goal of conservation here is unmistakable: parks must present an experience that is consonant with their innate attributes and not attempt to supply entertainment of the type that is available elsewhere. No more swimming pools, golf courses, or luxury living within park boundaries; rather, more nature walks and interpretative programmes that will bring the visitor eye-to-eye with the birds, trees, animals and enable him to understand their relationships.’