

NOTES, NEWS & COMMENTS

The Foundation for Environmental Conservation: Auspices and Objectives

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 viewpoint and emphasis are fully global and its activities as widely international as possible. Its headquarters are at the same place as formerly although the street name and number have recently been changed to 7 Chemin Taverney, 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 publication 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, and a complementary Environmental Policy Series is now being planned;
- 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' etc. to deliberate and pronounce freely on urgent aspects of environmental despoliation or other causes for grave concern, e.g. the widespread die-back of trees and wearing-away of alpine tundras;
- E. To encourage, and where possible promote, studies on environmental change, including ecobiome or ecosystem development and maintenance;
- F. To institute through appropriate auspices, and thereafter continue to sponsor and promote, the World Campaign for The Biosphere, 1982—, whose functions are henceforth to be fostered primarily by the World Council For The Biosphere—International Society For Environmental Education (see 6 below); 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 further enterprise.

ADOPTED PROJECTS, ETC.

1. *Environmental Conservation*

The Foundation having re-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 1984, funds will be required henceforth for its support in such matters as subventions for extra pages published beyond the standard 80 (or 88 if blank spaces may be left at the ends of major papers and sections) of text per issue and to pay for illustrations, proof corrections, and other 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 cover more editorial and incidental expenses, 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 *inter alia* of currency exchange, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the Secretariat privately, despite assistance from the Journal's Publisher and intermittent help from United Nations and other sources. Consequently funds are needed to help defray essential office etc. expenses—including those of two telephones and heavy postage, subscriptions, purchases of reference works and other equipment, extra pages in the Journal, useful reprints and entertaining, and necessary travel when sanctioned by the Board. In addition, some financing is now desired for payment of casual assistance, attendance at conferences and meetings, and reimbursement of services and taxes paid for the Secretariat. (The International Environment Consultancy has been abandoned following establishment by IUCN of their Development Consultant Register.)

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 any further ICEFs, though it is expected that the bulk of necessary financing will be contributed by or through the suitable host countries. The first ICEF in 1971 cost approximately \$44,000 (apart from 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 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 to start another, complementary Environmental Policy Series (likewise sponsored by the Foundation) to consist of highly authoritative 'readers' for environmental policymakers, politicians, and the enlightened public.

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 which, as of early October 1983, was taken over by the Joint World Council For The Biosphere-International Society For Environmental Education—the former of which was founded primarily to foster the World Campaign for The Biosphere. The new dual body is commonly referred to by its acronym of WCB-ISEE.

A substantial endowment fund is sought *inter alia* to back the Foundation's sponsorship of WCB, including subsidization of the annual meetings of WCB Councillors and their Joint Coordinating Committee's planning sessions with the officers of ISEE—at which, *inter alia*, the main thrusts of education on and for The Biosphere should be discussed and updated.

7. Research Projects

Various worthy ones have been encouraged, with due 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 (with due conservation warnings), 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 top-level World Academy of Environmentalists (now that the educational etc. aspects are being furthered by the new dual body whose acronym ends the first paragraph of No. 6 above); also of an International Who's Who on the Environment and of a World Wilderness Alliance.

(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 next 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 enterprise.

(d) Encouragement of a Canadian initiative for 'The Arctic as a Regional Sea'.

(e) 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/conservational movement—whether generally or through specific projects which can be put in train as soon as or soon after 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
 (updated version following its Governing Board
 meeting of 27 February 1985).