

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The First World Conference on National Parks was held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., from 30th June to 7th July, 1962, sponsored by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Unesco, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, in association with the United States National Park Service and the National Research Council of America.

The object of the Conference was to achieve a more effective international understanding and encouragement of the national parks movement. The General Chairman of the Conference and of the United States Steering Committee was Dr. Harold J. Coolidge, Executive Director of the Pacific Science Board of the United States National Academy of Sciences, who is also chairman of IUCN's Commission on National Parks.

Sixty-two countries from all parts of the world, including many emerging nations, attended. Africa was represented by some twenty countries, Latin America by fifteen. Asia and Europe were well represented, and there was strong representation from Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Simultaneous translation in English, French and Spanish facilitated the successful prosecution of the Conference sessions, which were directed at the following subjects relevant to national parks: purposes, principles and policies; education and research; economic and cultural values; optimum use; wilderness and habitat-types; practical experience; international co-ordination.

IUCN was represented by its President, Professor J. G. Baer of Switzerland, and ten members of the Executive Board who thus had many opportunities to meet delegates from all the countries represented at Seattle. Major I. R. Grimwood, Chief Game Warden of Kenya, who had just returned from leading "Operation Oryx" in Arabia, represented the Fauna Preservation Society as an observer.

The Conference concluded by adopting twenty-eight Recommendations. Naturally most of these dealt with the establishment and management of national parks but three dealt specifically with wild animals in danger of extermination and these are given below.

Recommendation No. 23

THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS recommends the early examination by IUCN of a project to create within the natural range of certain gravely threatened species—rhinoceroses, orang-utan, Arabian oryx, caribou and others—one or more special reserves into which individual animals can be moved so as to promote increased reproduction of the species, and further invites the Governments concerned and other appropriate agencies to give sympathetic consideration to the project.

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Recommendation No. 24

WHEREAS the best available estimates indicate that the total world populations of the five species of rhinoceroses approximate the following numbers :

Black Rhino—11,000 to 13,500
 White Rhino—2,500 to 3,500
 Great Indian Rhino—600
 Sumatran Rhino—100 to 170
 Javan Rhino—24 to 50

AND WHEREAS many of these animals exist in small isolated pockets, AND WHEREAS all five species are threatened by the erroneous belief in the magical properties of rhino horn and the consequent killing to meet these demands,

THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS warmly welcomes and endorses the proposed world campaign for rhinoceroses sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund and the Fauna Preservation Society in co-operation with the Survival Service Commission of IUCN, and recommends that the Governments of the nations concerned consider the establishment of additional parks or reserves to incorporate areas in which rhinoceroses still survive.

Recommendation No. 25

WHEREAS three of the most remarkable mammals of the South American Andes are threatened with extinction, and are so catalogued, due to the rapid and extensive destruction of their forest habitat,

THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON NATIONAL PARKS recommends that those Andean countries which have them within their boundaries establish, wherever possible, parks or reserves to preserve these mammals, namely :

Mountain Tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*)
 Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*)
 Pudu Deer (*Pudu pudu* and *P. mephistophiles*)

The Rhinoceros Committee

Recommendation No. 24 above was the result of meetings at the Conference of the Survival Service Commission's Rhinoceros Committee, set up at the suggestion of Peter Scott. The following were present, giving an excellent representation of all parts of the world (except Java), still inhabited by rhinoceroses: M. H. Cowie (Kenya); M. Flizeau (Cameroon); E. P. Gee (Assam); I. R. Grimwood (Kenya); O. Milton (Malaya); A. Ory (Congo); P. M. Scott (U.K.); L. M. Talbot (Tanganyika); J. Verschuren (Tanganyika); J. Vincent (Natal); J. Wyatt-Smith (Malaya).

The Committee dealt especially with the following: the status of the five species of rhinoceros; how best to curb the trade in rhinoceros horn; the promotion of ecological surveys of rhinoceros habitat, especially that of the three Asiatic rhinoceroses; the setting up of breeding areas for rhinoceroses.

The recommendations of this Committee are being considered and followed up by the Survival Service Commission and the Fauna Preservation Society.

With acknowledgments to *IUCN Bulletin*, New Series, No. 4, July/September, 1962.

OIL POLLUTION CONFERENCE

An Inter-Governmental Conference on the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil was held by the International Maritime Consultative Organization in London in March and April, 1962. It resulted in considerable extensions to the 1954 Convention. The most important were described in the closing address by the President of the Conference, Sir Gilmour Jenkins. They will come into effect after ratification by the nineteen member countries.

(1) The Convention will cover smaller ships including all tankers down to 150 gross tonnage.

(2) Naval vessels will be included.

(3) The principle that there should be no discharge whatever of persistent oil into the sea was accepted for the future and will be applied to all new vessels of 20,000 tons or more.

(4) The requirements for the reception of waste oil have been extended.

(5) The zones of the sea in which no oil may be discharged have been greatly enlarged. The North Sea, the Baltic Sea and a very large area in the North-East Atlantic out to 40° W. will be closed to oil discharge. Other extended zones will come into effect, as far as the coasts of their countries are concerned, when the Governments accept the Convention. These prohibited zones will include new areas along the Spanish and Portuguese coasts, and off the coasts of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Black Sea, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. Existing zones will be increased from 60 to 100 miles when each country concerned accepts the Convention. Somewhat similar provisions have been made in respect of the sea areas around India and Madagascar.