

Report of the Committee on Legislation and Administration (IUCN)

On the occasion of IUCN's 7th General Assembly at Cracow on the 24th June 1960 a resolution was passed to form a committee on Legislation and Administration. In accordance with this resolution the Committee consists of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary and Members appointed by the above.

The first task of the Committee was the collection of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Laws, Rules and Regulations. This collection is to form the basis of a permanent centre in this field.

Immediately after the 7th General Assembly a circular was addressed to all Member Governments of the United Nations with the request to forward copies of existing laws, rules and regulations in the field. After a number of reminders documents have been received from 65 Governments, correspondence exists with a further 17 Governments and 25 Governments have not replied so far. The above does not include the documentation at the Council of Europe and replies to special enquiries. Further documentation is however received daily.

At the suggestion of IUCN's Executive Board a circular was addressed to all Governments in spring 1963 requesting information concerning the Import, Export and Transit of endangered species of Fauna and Flora. Experience has shown that the strongest measures are proving ineffective unless ALL Governments come to an agreement.

Suggestions were made for the Council of Europe's Draft of a Convention which deals with the protection of animals.

All documents received were filed under the various Governments and receipt recorded on index cards. The first draft of a paper listing all laws, rules and regulations^{+) known to us} is now being distributed to the various governments who have been requested to correct, add or amend as required.

A first review has shown that a synoptic register will not be possible as the origin and structure of the various laws have too many variations.

In consultation with the Legislation Research Branch of FAO it was decided to prepare a loose-leaf register. It should then be possible to publish at a later date an alphabetical key with a synoptic index showing references to the paragraphs in the legislation of the various countries.

Preparation of this register would, however, require the assistance of persons with the necessary language qualifications or possibly the translation of all the laws into one of the official languages.

Unfortunately the scope of every commission is limited by the fact that all work is carried out on a voluntary basis, and the Secretary General of IUCN has, for this reason, addressed a circular to all member states

and member organisations to nominate further persons with legal and administrative experience which may be appointed as Committee members. A first list of names has been submitted.

As already mentioned above the Committee made contact with FAO's Legislation Research Branch and in addition is in contact with the legal committee of the Conseil International de la Chasse.

The Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe has to some extent made use of the data collected by the committee. The Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Chairman of the Committee on Legislation and Administration addressed a questionnaire to its 16 member states concerning the basis of co-ordination of the European Conservation legislation. The Chairman visited Strassbourg on several occasions and will also attend the next meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe.

In a number of cases it has been possible to give advice to Governments, organisations and individuals. Proposals for Conservation legislation from one government were considered, the territory visited on several occasions and amendments suggested.

The Chairman assisted with the amendments to the IUCN statutes. An edition in five languages is in preparation.

The activities of the Committee could be greatly increased by the distribution of the various tasks among members with the necessary experience. The work of the committee, although progress has been made, is still in the beginning stage.

Bonn, August 1st, 1963

W. Burhenne