REPORT

OF THE CHAIRMAN OF IUCN PERMANENT COMMISSION ON EDUCATION TO THE SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE PERIOD SINCE THE VIITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ON THE PROBLEMS FACING ITS WORK IN FUTURE

Dear Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I consider it my great honour and pleasant duty to make you a report on the activity of the IUCN Permanent Commission on Education within the period beginning since 1960 and to draw in brief a picture of the tasks facing the work of the Commission in future.

I should like to note that our time is characteristic of the fact that in many countries and especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America people display ever growing interest in learning the methods and means for spreading conservation education and popularization of its ideas, they are striving to study the nature. This aspiration has been revealed in particular at the Symposium held in Arusha in 1961 which was dedicated to the problems of conservation of nature and natural resources in the present African States. This conference testified to the fact that the goals of our world movement for conservation and wise use of natural resources may be achieved only provided the maximum development of conservation education at all the educational establishment, adequate training of specialists in this field and popularization of conservation noble ideas among broad section of population. The cause of conservation education and popularization or propaganda cannot be separated from each other. It should be emphasized that not only the specialists in the field of nature conservation understand great significance of conservation education effect of our movement but also statesmen and politicians. connection one can hardly overestimate the significance of the resolutions of the XIIth Session of the UNESCO General Conference

"Economic Development and Conservation of Nature, Flora and Fauna" and the XVIIth Session of the UNO General Assembly "Economic Development and Conservation of Nature" adopted on the initiative of the delegation of Mongolian People' republic. These documents as well as the recommendations of UNESCO "Concerning the Safeguarding of the Beauty and Character of Landscape and Sites" contain the appeal to all the countries to organize on as broad a basis as possible the campaign for popularization of nature conservation ideas and conservation education at educational establishments by means of radio, T.V. and press.

The IUCN Permanent Commission on Education believes that the ideas and theses adopted by UNO and UNESCO should form the ground for its activity.

In carrying out the decisions and recommendations of the VIIth General Assembly of IUCN, the Commission in close contact with the Secretariate of the Union, under the direct leadership and with the help of the Executive Board and our dear President Professor Jean Baer, with the assistance of the UNESCO Secretariate, Mr. Gille in particular, developed its activities to spread popularization of conservation education in the world, the work of IUCN; it was generalizing the experience obtained in conservation of nature in different countries.

The Commission attaches great importance to working out the co-ordinated efforts of its members at the regular meetings and conferences. In this respect I should like to refer to the conferences of the North-Western European Regional Grouping of our Commission held in London (1961) and in the Hague (1962).

The Hague Conference presented an opportunity for holding a meeting of the IUCN Commission on Education. The Meeting was quite unanimous to suggest in the development of the VIIth IUCN General Assembly resolution to double the work on conservation and popularization of conservation ideas in the countries of the African continent. In particular it has approved the Programme of the Workshop on Conservation Education for Specialists of African countries.

Carrying out the resolution of the VIIth General Assembly on the importance of introducing and spreading the course of studies "Conservation and Wise Use of Natural Resources" into the curricular of higher schools, the Commission already in 1961

worked out and submitted to consideration of the IUCN Executive Board a General Programme for a Course of Studies "conservation of Nature" as a basis for lecturing this subject at higher schools of different types. The Programme was approved by the Board and published in the Bulletin of the Union of April/June, 1962. It was also published in the form of a separate reprint by the Union.

Taking into consideration great interest displayed throughout the world with respect to organization of the cause of conservation education and popularization of its ideas in the other countries, the Commission has decided to prepare and publish the essays of the main world literature on the problems of conservation and wise use of natural resources issued in a number of countries. On the approval of the IUCN Executive Board the Commission appealed to 250 national organizations and individual scientists concerned with the problems of nature conservation asking them to send the Commission the available literature on conservation education and popularization of nature conservation ideas. This appeal found a warm response in many countries. The Commission received valuable publications (monographs, booklets, journals, etc.) in which together with the materials having the direct concern of the problems of conservation education one can find advices and methods how to preserve and make wise use of natural resources, information on the research studies in the field of nature conservation and on the work carried out in the reserves and national parks, etc.

Up to the present time the above-mentioned literature as well as other corresponding information are received from 33 countries, that is from Australia, Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the German Federal Republic, Hungary, India, Italy, Great Britain, Canada, Kenya, China, Malaya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Ceylon, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Venezuela and Yugoslavia. Thus the Commission obtained the materials characterizing the present situation and the problems of conservation of natural resources in many countries.

When this literature was studied the Commission prepared for publication the first collection of reviews of world literature on conservation education, covering text-books, teachers' aids,

curricular guides on methods, as well as other educational material designed for teaching of nature conservation subjects at schools, higher educational establishments and special courses. This Collection is being published at the expense of the UNESCO budget.

The following issues of review collections will contain the world literature dealing with the forms and methods used for conservation of fauna and flora, soils, waters, etc.

The review collections will be forwarded for information and as practical guides to all the interested organizations.

To follow the recommendations expressed in the resolutions of the VIIth IUCN General Assembly on the necessity "... to intensify support for education, and especially for adult education, in Africa on conservation and related subjects" and with a view to render the maximum assistance to the specialists of the African continent the Commission worked out the plan for the Workshop on Conservation Education for the specialists in African countries.

By the decision of the IUCN Executive Board special Workshop on Conservation Education has been held here in Nairobi for the specialists of African countries.

In our opinion it would be very important that the materials of the workshop characterizing the tasks and the activity of the Commission on Education be published in the form of a hand-book in the English, French, Russian, German and Spanish languages which will make it available for a broad section of readers throughout the world.

Now the Commission will be engaged in solving the tasks of great importance both in the scope and matter. The successful realization of these tasks will require considerable efforts and further assistance on the part of the Executive Board as well as certain conservation organizations of different countries. These tasks may be presented as follows:

- stimulating by all means the development of conservation education and popularization of conservation ideas by generalizing and spreading the experience of many countries attained in this field. Publication of the review collections of world literature on the

problems of conservation and wise use of natural resources which the Commission supposes to issue in 1963-1966 will be of great use to this effect.

- rendering every kind of assistance by means of consultations and available materials to conservation organizations of Africa, Asia and Latin America. In this connection the Commission is going to discuss the question of creating its regional groupings in the said regions of the world as well as publish the lectures and other materials of the Workshop for the specialists of African countries.
- developing the current contacts and regular meeting of the members of the Commission with the view to work out the co-ordinated decisions on a universal basis.
- taking on to the staff of the IUCN Secretariat a full time officer who will be concerned with conservation education problems will be of great actual help to the whole cause of conservation education. In this way new opportunities could be found to help the Executive Board of the Union in spreading conservation education and popularization of nature conservation ideas.

In conclusion I should like to express my hope that the activity of our Commission will enjoy as in the past full support and understanding on the part of the Executive Board of the Union, the IUCN Permanent Commission, conservation organizations of different countries, UNESCO and other international organizations.

Permit me to assure you that the Commission will do its best to contribute to the noble cause of conservation of nature all over the world, to the struggle for peaceful life for all the people inhabiting our wonderful planet.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES M o r g e s

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