

## IUCN Assembly at Banff

The Eleventh General Assembly of IUCN at Banff, Alberta, in September 1972, was the Union's first on the North American continent. This was also the first opportunity members had for reviewing IUCN's 'new look' since the New Delhi Assembly in 1969. Funding by the Ford Foundation has made possible a greater and wider level of activity, the appointment of Dr Gerardo Budowski and Mr Frank Nicholls as Director General and Deputy Director General respectively, and a strengthening of the administration. It was generally agreed that the Union is now a much more impressive and effective body, with a considerably enhanced standing.

At the Assembly the John C. Phillips Medal for Distinguished Service in International Conservation was presented to HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, 'for his outstanding and selfless contributions to conservation' as President of the World Wildlife Fund since its foundation. Prince Bernhard then made some WWF awards: the Order of the Golden Ark to Mr Coolidge, and a WWF Gold Medal to Professor Bannikov of the USSR.

### Officers and Awards

The new president of IUCN is Dr Donald Kuenen, of the Netherlands, who succeeds Mr Harold J. Coolidge. Mr Coolidge was appointed an Honorary Member with the title of Honorary President in appreciation of his long connection and special contributions to the Union; Professor Jean-Paul Harroy until this meeting Chairman of the National Parks Commission and editor of the United Nations List of National Parks, a conservationist with a long and distinguished career, was also made an Honorary Member. The chairman of the commission concerned with endangered species, the Survival Service Commission, remains our FPS Chairman, Sir Peter Scott; our Hon. Secretary, Richard Fitter, is a member of the small Alert Group which in future will act as the Commission's working executive.

Five Vice-Presidents were elected: Professor A. G. Bannikov (USSR); Professor I. McT. Cowan, Canada; Mr Zafar Futehally, India; Dr Christian Jouanin, France; Dr David Wasawo, Kenya. Elected to the Board were Mr B. Dioum, Senegal; Mr E. Firouz, Iran; Professor U. Hafsten, Norway; Dr A. Inozemstev, USSR; Professor M. Kassas, Egypt; Ing. E. Mondolfi, Venezuela; Professor Dr M. F. Mörzer Bruyns, Netherlands; Dr P. Nogueira-Neto, Brazil; Dr M. E. D. Poore, UK; Professor Loivier Reverdin, Switzerland; Lic. G. Stutzin, Chile; Dr Lee M. Talbot, USA; Dr J. A. Valverde Gomez, Spain; and Dr Gilbert F. White, USA.

Conservation for development was the theme of the technical meetings. The conservationists' task today is to argue for rational use of resources, to guide, explain and persuade on the basis of well grounded scientific study and research, and above all, in the modern jargon, to 'keep the dialogue open' with those who make the decisions and get rid of the still widely held view that conservation means stopping all development.

**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.

The Proceedings of the Banff Assembly are published by IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland, \$5.

## **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