

## CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

FIRST EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT, HELD IN THE JERSEY HOLIDAY VILLAGE HOTEL, PORTELET BAY, JERSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS, DURING 19–21 APRIL 1979

Sponsored by the Institution of Environmental Sciences, the World Environment and Resources Council, and The States of Jersey Tourism Committee, the aim of this Conference was to bring together professionals in the field of the environment, conservation, and tourism, so as to provide a forum for:

- (a) Identification of the nature of tourism–environment interaction.
- (b) Examination of the dilemma faced by an expanding tourist industry, namely the balance of economic viability and long-term resource conservation.
- (c) Discussion of the means available to protect the cultural, architectural, and natural heritage of a country or region from large-scale seasonal population increase.

The three keynote papers were much concerned with land-use and future land-use planning. Dr Pierre Laconte (University of Louvain, Belgium) discussed the pressures of supply and demand within the context of the Conference. He was concerned about taking the action and decisions regarding tourism and the environment out of the 4–5 years' political cycles, as the problems went beyond these short-term political limits. Professor Graham Ashworth (University of Salford, England) was concerned with the new conservation ethic, and the practical outcome of such an ethic. He discussed how the pattern of life-changes was placing increasing demands on land and heritage, and how it will be necessary to devise ways of protecting the precious places. Mr Cedric Price (Architect and Planner, London, England), in his paper entitled *Tourism—a Future Factor of Humane Land-use*, considered tourism as a continuing appetite for determining where, what, and why, are the differences in contemporary life.

Other conference papers were rather in the nature of case-studies. Thus, Dr Peter Murphy (University of Victoria, British Columbia) stated that growing pressures on the local environment, and competition from factors of production, are leading to the development of resource-management interests among tourists. There were three papers concerned with the conservation of the natural environment: *Nature Conservation and Tourism* (by Jonathan Blackie, University of Edinburgh, Scotland); *The Heritage Concept: Development of New Coastal Planning and Management Principles* (by Robert Tarr, Purbeck Heritage Coastal Office, Dorchester, England); and *the Management of Sand-dune–Heathland Landscape Subject to Heavy Tourist and Recreation Pressure* (by Richard Cox, Warden, Studland Heath Nature Reserve, England).

The architectural, economic, and cultural, aspects of tourism were considered in four papers: *The Visitor Appeal of a Well-preserved and Conserved Environment* (by H. R. Hyne, Chairman, Berkshire Environment Forum, England); *Tourism and the Local Community* (by John Beaty, Planning Officer, States of Jersey);

*The Impact of Second Homes* (by John Lucas & Barbara Broadbent, University of Salford, England); and *Tourism and Litter* (by Denys Hodder, Programme Director, Keep Britain Tidy Group).

The Conference was opened by Deputy C. S. Dupré, President of the Tourism Committee of Jersey, and was organized by the undersigned and Michael Romeril, Jersey Conservation Officer.

Delegates to the Conference made a plea for a second European Conference on Tourism and the Environment, and this is now being planned for 10–15 April 1981, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE A CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS, HELD IN BONN, WEST GERMANY, DURING 11–23 JUNE 1979

This 2-weeks' diplomatic conference in Bonn, attended by delegates of some 60 nations, attained its objective of adopting a much-needed 'Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals', which will come into force on ratification by 15 nations.

In the Convention, migratory species are defined as 'The entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross national jurisdictional boundaries'. The revolutionary breadth of the new Convention may not be immediately clear from this rather ponderous language: *all* migratory animals throughout the world are covered, at least in principle.

This all-embracing view did not prevail without a long, hard, and ultimately costly, battle. Twenty-four hours before the Convention in its final form was signed, a vote was taken as to whether 'marine mammals, fish, crustacea, and molluscs' should be excluded. Forty-one nations said 'No' but nine said 'Yes', which represented a dramatic turnabout since the international meeting in Bonn in July 1976 had discussed an earlier draft of the Convention. At that stage the necessary two-thirds majority of nations desiring to include all marine species simply did not exist.

The nine nations that had been defeated on this issue—Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Uruguay, USA, and USSR—along with certain others, including Argentina, did not endorse the convention in the final vote. That was the cost of the battle mentioned above.

A heartening aspect of this 1979 Diplomatic Conference was the strong conservationist stand taken by Third World as well as Western European countries. Thus a 'Declaration by the African States', issued half-way through the meeting, made it clear that they were

only interested in a Convention which included all migratory species everywhere, and indeed it was particularly the representatives of the African nations who intervened, frequently and eloquently, to bring the Conference back on course.

Thus the enlightened view, that resources should be shared, prevailed over the concept of national property—which bodes well for the speedy adoption and successful application of this new Convention.

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NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MITIGATING THE LOSS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITATS, HELD AT THE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS, COLORADO, DURING 16–20 JULY 1979

The wide-ranging and extremely important themes of this Workshop included consideration of ongoing mitigation of the loss of coastal wetlands and/or inland wetlands, of effects of using oil and gas resources, of power projects, and of effects of transportation; they ranged from tropical to arctic conditions, and from marine to terrestrial montane habitats. Efforts to manage plant and animal resources in the face of expanding technology were handled from governmental, environmental, and economic viewpoints. Included were highly-placed governmental speakers, such as Frank Gregg (Director of the Bureau of Land Management), Ruth Clusen (Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Department of Energy), Martin Convisser (Director of the Office of Safety and Transportation), Hugh Robinson (Deputy Director of Civil Works in the Army Corps of Engineers), and Lynn Greenwald (Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Specific reports of mitigation efforts were made both in contributed sessions and through a wide variety of excellent poster sessions. The breadth and impact of the present mitigation efforts by ecologists practically throughout the United States are indeed impressive. A series of creative and clever solutions and 'tradeoffs' to governmental expansion under the 1969 NEPA laws are becoming apparent and bearing fruit.

One of the most encouraging signs was that a wide variety of middle-level government officers attended to hear specific talks. These people often permit or deny construction and other activities in the environment, and used this workshop as a briefing-ground for possible alternative but viable ecological mitigation on a host of different impact situations.

The often stimulating sessions ranged from such specific topics as bird-kills from impacts with towers etc. (some 80,000,000 birds are killed annually in the U.S.A. by collision with towers etc.) to widespread synthesis of results such as seagrass rehabilitation in the coastal areas.

One can only suggest that an international mitigation symposium be called in the near future, and that ecological scientists and conservationists from other countries make their works known in similar fashion to

promote this most important concept of mitigating resource losses from necessary industrial expansion.

The proceedings of this Workshop, under the title of 'Mitigation', are to be published as a Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station Technical Report, and will be obtainable at the station through Dr R. H. Hamre, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521, 'at a nominal fee'.

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SOIL BIOLOGY AS RELATED TO LAND-USE PRACTICES (*Eighth International Colloquium on Soil Zoology*), HELD IN SYRACUSE, NEW YORK, USA, DURING 30 JULY–3 AUGUST 1979

The International Colloquia on Soil Zoology are organized every third year by the Commission of Soil Biology, International Society of Soil Science. Although the colloquia originally referred only to soil zoology, microbiology and faunal–microbial–plant–root interactions are now included. 'Soil Biology as Related to Land-use Practices' was the chosen theme of the present Colloquium, for which the practical arrangements had been made by the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York.

About 130 participants from 24 countries were registered, and about 70 papers were presented in the main sessions—in addition to the opening, closing, and poster, sessions. The subjects of the sessions, chosen in the framework of the general theme, reflected the interests of soil biologists in the problems of environmental conservation and human impact on ecosystems.

The contents of the Colloquium seem best indicated by listing the titles of the main sessions: 'Influence of Pesticides on Soil Organisms', 'Human Waste Disposal and Soil Organisms', 'Anthrophilic Relationships of Soil Organisms', 'Relationships of Soil Organisms to Agro-nomic Practices and Animal Wastes', 'Influence of Mining-site Modification and Rehabilitation on Soil Organisms', 'Effects of Silvicultural Practices on Soil Organisms', 'Human Impact on Tropical Soil Ecology', and 'Basic Soil Ecology'.

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SID) SIXTEENTH WORLD CONFERENCE HELD AT THE BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, DURING 13–15 AUGUST 1979

This Conference, with the theme 'Development Choices for the 1980s and Beyond', attracted about 300 registrants, of whom more than half were from Third World countries. It was opened by H.E. Junius R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka, who cited how prob-