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## WWF Signs Agreement With China

The World Wildlife Fund announced recently that it has reached an agreement for cooperation in conservation with the People's Republic of China. The agreement calls for the immediate establishment of a WWF-China Committee of six members—three from WWF International and three from the recently-formed Association for Environmental Sciences of the People's Republic of China. The WWF-China Committee will coordinate links between conservation organizations and authorities in China and WWF world-wide contacts. It will initiate high-priority projects in China and will coordinate action for their implementation.

The agreement was signed by the Vice-Director of the Environment Protection Office of the Chinese State Council, Mr Chu-ge Ping, and the Chairman of WWF International, Sir Peter Scott, who described it as a 'truly historic occasion for world conservation'. Moreover, under new environmental laws passed recently in Beijing (Peking), environmental impact assessment studies are now a compulsory component of all future development planning in China, while two other key conservation decisions by the Chinese Government are as follows:

China has agreed to become a State Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the major scientific arm of world conservation, with over 50 sovereign State Members included in its total membership of 450 States, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations from over 100 Nations. IUCN works closely with WWF and [late in 1979 the two organizations moved together into newly-acquired, shared

- international headquarters near Geneva—as already indicated in *Environmental Conservation* (Vol. 6, No. 2, p. 110, Summer 1979). Their address is now as given below].
- China has agreed immediately to accede to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This move is of particular significance as China is one of the major trading Nations in wild plant and animal products.

The Director-General of WWF International said the fact that China had made these commitments and was about to assume a leadership role in conservation may well be considered the most significant single development in conservation since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972: 'China, with almost a quarter of the world's population, is facing up to problems which are of crucial importance to Man everywhere in his continuing efforts to achieve a harmonious balance with Nature. This is going to be a two-way street with a full and continuing exchange of information. IUCN/WWF have developed conservation techniques through their work in many countries..., and, by the same token, we have a great deal to learn from the successful conservation measures which have been developed in the People's Republic of China.'

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