

'garbage is gold' theme—was argued by A. Rahaman, A.C. Johri, and R.M. Deshpande.

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WORKSHOP ON THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM, HELD
IN ANTARCTICA AT LATITUDE 84° 30' S AND LONGI-
TITUDE 160° W., DURING 8-13 JANUARY 1985

Holding Conferences *about* Antarctica in Antarctica shows signs of becoming a fashionable trend. In October 1982 the Instituto de Estudios Internacionales, of the University of Chile, Santiago, organized such a meeting in the South Shetland Islands. From 8 to 13 January 1985 a second meeting, organized by a Committee of the Polar Research Board of the United States National Research Council (National Academy of Sciences/National Academy of Engineering), was held deep in the interior of the Continent, among the Transantarctic Mountains at latitude 84°30' South and longitude 160° W (with a visit to Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole to see the research in progress there).

The 1985 meeting was attended by 56 people from 24 nations. The United Nations, the UN Environment Programme, IUCN, Greenpeace International, and the Antarctic and Southern Oceans Coalition, were also represented. The discussions spanned the history of Antarctic exploration, the evolution of the Antarctic Treaty, and the development under that Treaty and associated international Conventions of measures to facilitate peaceful scientific cooperation; also the conservation of flora, fauna, and habitats, the management of marine living resources, and the regulation of possible mineral development in a demilitarized and nuclear-free region.

The organizers' aim was to demonstrate to delegates from nations such as Malaysia and Sierra Leone, and from the nongovernmental environmental organizations who had questioned the validity and effectiveness of the Treaty at the United Nations, that the Treaty system had a substantial record of achievement and offered the best hope for further progress. Those delegates who had been closely associated with the Treaty system pointed out that it was open to accession by any member of the UN, and that while full Consultative Party status depended on a demonstration of commitment in the shape of scientific activities south of latitude 60° S, non-Consultative Parties were playing an increasingly active role in the business of Consultative Meetings. Accession to the Treaty therefore offered the best way for nations concerned for the future of Antarctica to influence that future.

The meeting did not produce any declaration or communiqué (although the papers presented will be published by the US National Academy of Sciences very soon). Nor did it undertake any formal negotiations. But it undoubtedly succeeded as a forum for individual contact between 'old' and 'new' Antarcticists, in a friendly atmosphere, amid scenery characteristic of Antarctica at its most magnificent.

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25TH WORKING SESSION OF THE IUCN COMMISSION ON
NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS (CNPPA),
HELD IN CORBETT NATIONAL PARK, INDIA, DURING
4-8 FEBRUARY 1985

This was the first full meeting of the Commission to address itself specifically to the protected areas issues in the Indomalayan Realm. Eighty-five senior park agency officials and representatives from NGOs, UNEP, and FAO, from 17 countries, gathered for the five-days' session. Corbett was selected as the venue in recognition of its 50th anniversary as the first national park to be established in Asia.

The Working Session was inaugurated by Dr Monkomu S. Swaminathan, attending his first Commission meeting since being elected IUCN President in November, and by Dr Kenton R. Miller, Director-General. The Working Session was presided over by Mr Harold K. Eidsvik, Chairman of the Commission, and Samar Singh, Vice-Chairman for the Indomalayan Realm.

Main purposes of the meeting were to review the current conservation status of protected areas in the countries of this important realm. Forty-seven authors presented papers on various aspects of protected area management in their respective countries, which are being published in a proceedings volume. A second output of the Working Session is a revised 'Directory of Protected Areas in the Indomalayan Realm', which will be a compendium of data sheets on the 500 parks and reserves in the Realm, which is being produced by CNPPA and IUCN's Conservation Monitoring Centre. A separate Workshop Session during the meeting was devoted to assessing the adequacy of coverage of protected areas in the Realm, based on biogeographic representation. The Commission is continuing to work on this project and to complete an overall systems review by mid-1986.

A concluding output of the Working Session was the 'Corbett Action Plan for Protected Areas of the Indomalayan Realm'. This document spells out numerous detailed activities, at both the national and international levels, that must be initiated and strengthened to achieve more complete coverage and more effective management of parks and reserves in future.

In the spirit of the Commission's tradition of 'keeping its feet on the ground', field excursions by foot, boat, vehicle, and elephant, were taken in and around Corbett National Park. A set of recommendations for addressing some of the management issues facing this important Park were compiled, and duly presented to the responsible authorities in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

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SEMINAR ON CREATIVITY AND ENVIRONMENT, SPON-
SORED BY THE SAHITYA AKADEMI (NATIONAL ACADEMY OF LETTERS), HELD IN NEW DELHI, INDIA, DURING
26-28 FEBRUARY 1985

Environment is conventionally the concern of ecologists, hydrobiologists, and other scientists; so it is to be doubted whether anywhere else, before this, had so many creative persons in the field of letters—poets, novelists, and essayists—got together to speak of their concern for what they termed 'the growing desecration of the environment'. The inauguration of this Seminar was by a poet-diplomat, Dr Graciela de la Lama, Mexican Ambassador to India,