

Apia, W.S. 14-17 June  
1976

1. to explore and assist in the development of an appropriate legal approach to the question of world parks and international reserves; and
2. to devise criteria for the selection and recognition of world parks and international reserves, and guidelines for their management.

8. Conservation of the marine environment

Recognizing the vital importance of the marine environment to all South Pacific peoples;

Conscious that this environment is not sufficiently well known for sound development planning to take place or for the introduction of adequate conservation measures;

Noting that the coastal environment - especially mangrove swamps, lagoons and reefs - needs special attention, and bearing in mind also that the coastal zone is part of a continuum from the land to the ocean;

Noting further that many marine animals of great significance for island economies - such as marine mammals, turtles, seabirds, and certain fish species - range throughout the region;

The Second Regional Symposium on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific meeting in Apia, Western Samoa, in June 1976:

RECOMMENDS that governments carry out surveys of their marine environments and resources, and that bilateral and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance support their efforts on request;

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the management of the coastal zone be integrated with that of contiguous areas inland and offshore;

URGES the establishment of systems of reserves to safeguard representatives and unique marine ecosystems, and critical marine habitats; and

URGES ALSO the establishment of a regional system of reserves and management areas to protect and ensure the sustainable use of wide-ranging animals such as marine mammals, marine turtles and seabirds.

9. Reduction and prevention of environment degradation

Concerned at the increasing degradation of South Pacific environments, particularly that caused by dredging, drilling, blasting, mining, large scale clear-cutting of forests, and pollution by chemicals and solid wastes;

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SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

AND

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SECOND REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CONSERVATION OF NATURE

(Apia, Western Samoa, 14 - 17 June 1976)

THE SOUTH PACIFIC PROGRAMME OF IUCN

by

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## The South Pacific Programme of IUCN

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### 1. Background

1. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources has a longstanding interest in conservation in the Pacific region. During the presidency of Dr. Harold Coolidge this interest was exhibited through close IUCN cooperation with the Pacific Science Congresses in Honolulu in 1961, Tokyo in 1966, and Canberra in 1971, as well as with the IBP-CT Pacific Island programme. IUCN, through the active interest of Dr. Coolidge and Sir Hugh Elliott, provided leadership in developing the concept of Islands for Science, and has prepared a draft Island for Science Convention which received favourable attention at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, 1972 but is still awaiting governmental action. One result of this proposal, however, was the establishment of the first "island for science" in the Pacific when the W.A. Robinson Integral Reserve was proclaimed, in 1972, on Taiaro Atoll in the Tuamotu Archipelago.
2. A more active role for IUCN in the South Pacific began with the joint sponsorship of IUCN and the South Pacific Commission of the first symposium on nature conservation in the South Pacific, held in Noumea in 1971. The outcome of this meeting among other things was an association of IUCN with the SPC in matters concerning conservation, and the development of a closer relation between IUCN and various island governments.
3. As a result of these closer relationships, Dr. Colin Holloway was requested by the Government of Western Samoa, with support from UNDAF, to carry out a survey of potential national parks on those islands in 1974. The survey was completed and the report forms a background for establishing a national park and reserve system.
4. Also as a result of these relationships, IUCN was asked to prepare a draft convention for conservation in the South Pacific. This was completed in January 1975 and has received formal attention from governments at the plenipotentiary conference recently held in Apia (June 9-11 1976).
5. In February 1975, IUCN and the Government of New Zealand sponsored the South Pacific Conference on National Parks and Reserves, held in Wellington, New Zealand. This gave added impetus to IUCN's

regional involvement and led to implementation of the survey of existing and potential national parks and reserves as well as other areas of conservation significance carried out by Dr. Arthur Lyon Dahl of the South Pacific Commission with financial support from IUCN. This survey was included in the UNEP/IUCN project (RA 1103-75-04) concerned with Ecosystem Conservation. This survey has been reported and action plans are being developed here at the Second Symposium on Nature Conservation in the South Pacific (Apia, Western Samoa, June 14-17 1976).

6. Various action projects have already resulted from these conferences. These include:
  - a. Request for assistance from the Gilbert Islands in (1) drafting legislation for wildlife protection (provided in 1975), and (2) providing a warden and other facilities to protect breeding bird colonies on Christmas Island and the other Line Islands (now being reviewed by IUCN/WWF joint projects operation).
  - b. Request for assistance from the Kingdom of Tonga in establishing more effective protection for their system of reserves. This is included in the IUCN/WWF 1976 programme for financial support.
  - c. Proclamation at the International Conference on Marine Parks and Reserves (Tokyo, May 1975) of Manuae Atoll in the Cook Islands as a World Park/Island for Science.
  - d. Request for assistance from the Cook Islands in developing Manuae as a world park, for salaries of a conservation director, and for funds for their conservation programme. These have been explored with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, but are now under consideration for direct WWF funding.
  - e. Request for assistance from the Solomon Islands with drafting conservation legislation. This has been provided by the IUCN Environmental Law Centre at Bonn.
  - f. Verbal requests for assistance in implementing park planning from the Fiji Islands and Western Samoa. These are being explored now at this Apia Symposium.

#### 11. Development of South Pacific Programme 1975-1976

1. Components. The South Pacific Programme provides for the integration on a regional basis of several IUCN activities. These include:
  - a. Assistance toward the development of an integrated system of national parks and other protected areas for the Pacific Islands, including marine parks and biosphere reserves.
  - b. Assistance toward the development of a programme for conservation of critical marine habitats in the Pacific region through appropriate conservation measures.
  - c. Development of approaches for integration of conservation with co-development, based on local cultures and traditions, in order to find patterns of development that will be ecologically viable and sustainable, and conservative of the life styles of the people involved.

2. Action in progress.

- a. The survey recently completed by Dr. Arthur Lyon Dahl with support from the SFC and UNER/IUCH was a first step toward the development of an integrated national park and reserve system. This should now be further developed and translated into action plans.
- b. Materials have been prepared by Dr. G. Carleton Ray and associates for consideration at this Apia symposium. It is hoped that as a result of the discussions here a series of projects aimed at the conservation of marine habitats and species in the Pacific will be developed for funding from the IUCH/WWF "Front Line" marine programme during 1977. These projects may include conservation of sea birds; whales, seals and dugongs; marine turtles and crocodiles; marine fish; marine invertebrates as well as such critical habitats as coral reefs and lagoons, mangroves and sea-grass beds.
- c. Background papers on ecodevelopment, traditional uses and tenure patterns, customary rights and practices related to conservation, have now been presented by Dr. Jimoh Oso-Fadaka, Mrs. Suliana Siwatibau and Mr. Robert Allen. These, hopefully, provide a basis for the formulation by this symposium of proposals for the integration of ecodevelopment and nature conservation in the South Pacific.
- d. Legal and political issues related to conservation of marine and terrestrial environments are being explored in background papers prepared by Mr. Frank G. Nicholls and Mr. Cyril de Klerk for discussion here. These include the significance of the South Pacific Convention, World Heritage Convention, Endangered Species Convention and Wetland Convention, and also explore issues related to world parks, biosphere reserves, islands for science and developments from the Law of the Sea Conference. These background documents for discussion here in Apia will hopefully lead to appropriate political/legal action.

3. Up to the time of the Apia symposium most efforts have been directed toward identification and description of areas and issues for which appropriate action will be required. Following this symposium it is expected that recommendations will lead to a series of site-oriented or issue-oriented action plans and projects. All of these will require financing, but before that the identification of those individuals and agencies with the technical skills and time available to carry them forward. Although it is possible that certain activities may take place in international waters, for most projects the active interest and support of the island governments will be required as a first step.

4. The role of IUCH and its partner organization, the World Wildlife Fund, will necessarily be more limited in the action phase of the programme because of the availability of funds. It can be viewed as an initiatory and catalytic role - providing the means for starting conservation action, particularly for demonstration or pilot projects which can serve as models for other, more extensive, action. Neither IUCH nor WWF can be viewed as a means for long-term support of conservation or ecodevelopment programmes, nor can

they be expected to provide large amounts of money for any short-term activity. They have, however, an important role to play in assisting island governments or institutions in finding major sources of funds, e.g., from other governments or intergovernmental agencies. In the longer term, however, conservation must be viewed as an activity and interest of the island peoples and governments. If accepted as an integral part of development then the costs must be borne by those who expect to receive the benefits. IUCN can assist in providing a climate of public awareness of the importance of conservation, but any programmes that it helps to initiate must become self-sustaining if they are to succeed.

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