

sent review, focus has been on the wetlands, which are the most threatened of all the environments that need conservative attention. But the Reviewer hopes it has been shown from the examples given that the proceedings of the 25th working session, celebrating the 50th year from the founding of Asia's first National Park, is not solely a reference work for the converted, but a means of adding chapter and verse to the current blanket *environment* conservation recommendations.

More information is promised, or listed—an inevitable feature of modern agency activity—such as in the Corbett Action Plan, which catalogues recommended action, the 'Directory of Protected Areas of the Indomalayan Realm', and 'Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention'. Also there is lament that decisions on conservation are based on national rather than biogeographical criteria, and that politicians have to be influenced by brief but cogent arguments. The proceedings are a handbook to providing such arguments.

In the Foreword, the IUCN Commission Chairman Harold K. Eidsvik quotes J. Corbett's original work on *Wildlife in the Village, an Appeal*: 'A country's fauna is a sacred trust and I appeal to you not to betray this trust... If we do not bestir ourselves now, it will be to our discredit that the fauna of our province was exterminated in our generation, and under our very eyes, while we looked on and never raised a finger to prevent it.'

W. ROBERT STANTON
(Former Professor of Botany, University of Malaya)
73 Main Street
Stanbury, Keighley
W. Yorks BD22 0HA
England, UK.

Journal of Development and the Environment (Al-Tanmiya wa Al Beeah: in Arabic), No. 3, 80 pages (27 x 19.5 x 0.3 cm), Dar-Al-Maaref Printing Company, 11 Hassan Sabry Street, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt, annual subscription US \$5 outside Egypt, October 1986.

It is gratifying to be able to comment favourably on receipt of the third issue of this recently-launched Egyptian journal dealing with environmental matters and reflecting the view of the Organization of Environmental Affairs of the Egyptian Council of Ministers. This Organization was established by a Republican decree in 1982, and was accorded the following main functions:

1. Preparation of the national plan for environmental studies, establishment of their priorities, and then monitoring of their execution.
2. Preparation of information and promotional programmes for increasing public consciousness about the conservation and need for improvement of the environment.
3. Review of the environmental legislative decrees in developed countries, and proposal of the most suitable ones for the Egyptian environment.
4. Support of the various national activities in the field of the conservation and improvement of the environment.
5. Follow-up of international activities dealing with the environment, and dissemination of information with a view to raising the technical competence of local environmentalists.

The Journal is entirely in Arabic, and the subjects dealt with in this third number reflect the competence of the Organization in fulfilling the above objectives, as can be seen from the following titles of the articles:

1. Egypt's great concern and progress in the field of improvement of the environment.

2. The impact of environmental and health factors in Egypt.
3. The protection of the Mediterranean from pollution.
4. The pollution of air by gases emanating from cars.
5. The conservation of Nature in Egypt.
6. Environmental activities in Egyptian Provinces.
7. Malaria as an environmental disease (a lesson from Singapore).
8. The role of youth unions and voluntary groups in the service of the environment.
9. Professional health-hazards in places of work.
10. Agricultural reform.

Environmental Conservation wishes this new Journal every success in the service of the environment throughout Egypt and the Arab world, but suggests that, for non-readers of Arabic, at least a list of the titles translated into English could be given, together with transliteration of the names of the often well-known Authors.

M. A. Farid
c/o World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

The IUCN Sahel Report: A Long-term Strategy for Environmental Rehabilitation. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, World Conservation Centre, Avenue du Mont-Blanc, CH-1196, Gland, Switzerland: 80 pp., illustr., 29.25 x 21 x 0.5 cm, stiff paper cover, [no price indicated], 1986.

This report of the IUCN Task Force on the Sahel and other drought-affected regions of Africa was published in May 1986. It is a first-class review of the situation in the Sahel (interpreted broadly), where human activity and well-being depend so intimately on the natural environment—indeed in a much more direct way than in regions with more favourable climates. The report deals in a balanced and frank way with the present difficulties, and with the ways in which these are related to past situations. Its prime concern is with people and the ways in which they have managed in the past, and could continue in the future, to cope with their harsh environment in which even minor fluctuations—in, say, climate or the numbers of cattle—inevitably have serious consequences.

Although the report constitutes a general review of the problems, there is plenty of evidence that the conclusions and recommendations are based on real-life experiences in many parts of the Sahel. The Task Force itself is notable in that 19 out of its 23 members are (or at any rate were, at the time when the work was done) based in tropical Africa, and a majority were born there.

There is much emphasis on the importance of understanding the ways (ecological and sociological) in which traditional life-styles have coped with the environment; also a frank critique of the ways in which these life-styles have been affected—often ruptured—by outside influences, including trans-Saharan caravans, colonial and trade influences and, in more recent years, the attitudes of town-based governments and 'civil/military insecurity'.

Altogether, this is an excellent report which should be read by all who have an interest in the problems which it covers. IUCN deserve strong support by all who can help to carry out the recommendations for action at national and international levels which are set out so clearly in this report.

RONALD W.J. KEAY
38 Birch Grove
Cobham
Surrey KT11 2HR
England, UK.