

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, HELD IN MEXICO CITY, DURING 9–13 MARCH 1981

Dr Manuel Lopez Portillo, the presidentially-appointed subsecretary for Environmental Improvement in the Health Secretariat of Mexico, officially opened the above seminar in Mexico City on March 9th. Over one-hundred-and-fifty representatives from industry and the Government were present, as speakers addressed the range of environmental issues and problems stemming from rapid population-growth and industrialization in what is now the world's fifth-largest oil-producing nation.

The theme of the Seminar was to present specific principles, techniques, and methodologies, for environmental management that can be integrated into Mexico's plans for national development. Opening addresses included an overview of environmental issues in the region, by Dr José Lizarraga, Director of the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, a statement on the risk of promise or peril afforded by technology, by Ing. Bernardo Quintana, President of ICA, SA, Mexico's ninth largest corporation, and an historical analysis of national evolution, by Dr Norman Gaut, President of Environmental Research & Technology, Inc., a leading environmental consulting firm based in Concord, Massachusetts, USA.

Technical presentations and discussions included such topics as environmental assessment methodology, site selection, air monitoring, air modelling, water monitoring, water modelling, socio-economic and cultural assessment, ecological assessment, and benefit-cost analysis. Case-studies included technical options for motor vehicles' emissions control and their political implications, and a variety of issues in agricultural, industrial, and tourism, development. A special session was held on the findings of the *Global 2000 Report to the President* (of the United States of America).

The seminar was organized as a joint venture in international environmental cooperation between ICATEC, SA (the technical consulting subsidiary of ICA) and Environmental Research & Technology, Inc., which is a subsidiary of Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT). The seminar was a private initiative undertaken by the two companies, with partial sponsorship by the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology.

The guiding principle of the seminar itself was that, while scientific and technological methods for environmental problem-solving may be universally valid, their application must be performed within a nationally-determined framework of cultural values. One major challenge facing Mexico, and countries at other levels of economic development, is how to develop and import technology to meet domestic needs in a socially and environmentally sound way. The seminar was an indication of public and private-sector cooperation in meeting this challenge in Mexico.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTEENTH WORKING SESSION OF IUCN'S COMMISSION ON NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS (CNPPA), HELD IN LIMA, PERU, DURING 21–28 JUNE 1981

This event also involved field sessions in Lachay, Paracas, and Pampa Galeras, National Reserves. The four major objectives addressed by the 53 participants and 30 observers were: (1) to present some new concepts of importance to protected-areas management; (2) to compile information on the protected areas of the Neotropical Realm (for subsequent processing and dissemination); (3) to discuss ways and means of developing the capacity to manage protected areas; and (4) to promote international support for protected-area management in the Neotropics. These will now be dealt with in turn:

1) *New Concepts in Managing Protected Areas*:—In further carrying out its task to develop the conceptual basis for selection, establishment, and management, of protected areas, CNPPA had commissioned the preparation of four papers which were presented at the meeting for consideration by the participants. These were:

—'What genetic resources mean to the protected-area manager', by Robert & Christine Prescott-Allen;

—'Conserving marine genetic resources in protected areas', by Norman Myers;

—'Ecodevelopment and protected areas: Some social and economic implications', by Oscar Pollard; and

—'Native cultures and protected areas', by Leslie Brownrigg.

2) *Information on Protected Areas of the Neotropical Realm*:—Following a review of the CNPPA system for monitoring the protected areas of the world, including an introduction to the new computerized CNPPA Protected Areas Data Unit (PADU) at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, UK, the Session divided into three workshop sessions (concerned with South America, Central America, and the Caribbean). Each workshop session reviewed and corrected the UN List of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves, assigned each area to its management category and its biogeographic province, and compiled information sheets that had previously been prepared by the CNPPA members involved. Based on the review:

—98 protected areas which are new or were otherwise not included in the 1980 UN List were proposed for inclusion on the 1982 List (bringing the total for the Neotropical Realm to 314 areas, which is an increase of 98; the total area protected is now 47,760,822 ha, which is an increase of 26% over the total in the 1980 List);

—Each area was assigned to its proper biogeographic province and management category (the 1982 UN List will include IUCN management categories I–V, plus IX and X);

—New or revised information sheets were submitted for some 258 areas (120% of the 1980 UN List and 81% of the updated list), including 100% coverage for Central America (except Mexico), the Caribbean (except Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Jamaica), Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Suriname; Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay lack data sheets for just one area each. The data

sheets will be published in 1982 in a *Directory of Protected Areas of the Neotropical Realm*.

Special contributions in the monitoring programme were made by: Allen Putney, Roger Morales, Ricardo Luti, Manuel Rios, Juan Oltremari, Heliodoro Sanchez, Maria Tereza Jorge Padua, Pedro Salinas, and Arturo Ponce.

Several papers were also presented on selected protected-areas systems, including 'Comparison of the Status of Central American Wildlands, 1969 and 1981' (showing that in 1969 there were 25 protected areas totalling nearly 2 million hectares—3.7% of the land area of Central America—and 8 were under active management, whereas by 1981 there were 149 areas covering over 6 million hectares—11.6% of the land—and 107 were under active management). Other papers presented included 'Development of a methodology for the formation, administration, and management, of a national system of protected wildlands in Chile' and 'State of conservation of national parks and equivalent reserves in El Salvador'.

3) *Developing Management Capacity*:—CNPPA supports the development of management capacity in five ways: training; helping the man on the ground; providing information; promoting effective management of protected areas; and legislation. At the Lima Working Session:

—CNPPA's role in training was reviewed, based on the WWF publication, 'Strategy for Training in Natural Resources and Environment'. It was decided that this strategy meets very effectively the needs of the Realm, and that every effort should be made to promote its effective sponsorship; however, a few revisions are required, including a greater concentration on marine resources and an improved summary of FAO programmes.

—The IUCN International Parks Valour Award was discussed and nomination forms were distributed.

—The CNPPA publications programme was reviewed, concentrating on PARKS Magazine, nearly 1000 copies of each issue of which are now distributed in Spanish. The distribution list was revised at this Session, more than 50 new names being added.

—Workshop sessions discussed the CNPPA draft questionnaire on effective management, suggesting several improvements to make the questionnaire more useful for field applications.

—Involvement of Neotropical countries in international conservation conventions was reviewed; it appears likely that Peru and Venezuela may be ratifying the World Heritage Convention in the near future.

4) *Promoting International Support for Protected-areas' Management*:—CNPPA promotes international support for protected-areas' management in two major ways:

(a) Promoting WWF-supported projects. The CNPPA programme was reviewed, along with its list of WWF-supported projects. Three simultaneous workshop sessions were convened to provide CNPPA with guidance on protected-areas' priorities in the Neotropics for the coming three years; these proposed projects have been included in CNPPA's new programme, stressing the upcoming rain-forests and primates programme.

(b) Promoting UN-supported projects. FAO's programme in protected areas was reviewed, showing that

they have at present no protected areas project in the Neotropics. However, the UN Joint Inspection Unit has recently completed an inspection tour of the region and will be making recommendations on an expanded UNDP/FAO programme. A basic introduction was provided to UNESCO's programmes—the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the World Heritage Convention—and workshops were convened to provide information for an inventory of potential World Heritage Sites (resulting in a paper on 'Natural Areas of the Neotropical Realm for Consideration as Possible World Heritage Sites'), and for a list of potential Biosphere Reserves (resulting in a paper on 'Potential Biosphere Reserves in the Neotropical Realm'). The UNESCO representative, Dr Gonzalo Halffter, presented a paper on 'Conserving Germ-plasm'. In addition:

5) *Other Results from the Working Session*:—With participants from all parts of the Neotropics also representing most major international organizations that are active in the Realm, the Session's study visits to Lachay, Paracas, and Pampa Galeras, were particularly useful. Of outstanding importance was the remarkable recovery of the once-endangered Vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*), which has now reached population levels that enable it once again to make important contributions to the local economy. Other results included:

—Some 15 potential new members of CNPPA were identified, helping to strengthen the representation of the Commission in the Neotropics;

—A special session was held on marine conservation, with papers presented on 'A system of marine parks and protected areas for the British Virgin Islands' (Ivor Jackson) and on 'Conceptual Aspects of Coastal Problems in Latin America' (Francisco Palacio); the EC-NAMP programme in the Eastern Caribbean was also discussed (Allen Putney).

—The contribution of the Neotropics to the World National Parks Congress, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in October 1982, was discussed; it was decided to appoint Dr Marc Dourojeanni to coordinate the Latin American component of the Congress.

The Working Session closed with a number of general recommendations, including a vote of thanks to our hosts at the National Agrarian University at La Molina, and in particular to Marc Dourojeanni, Carlos Ponce, and Manuel Rios.

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY, HELD IN NAIROBI, KENYA, DURING 10–21 AUGUST 1981*

Global conferences, sometimes referred to as mega-conferences, have become a major decision-seeking mechanism in the United Nations during the last decade. Every year they focus the world's attention upon one or two different issues such as environment, water, food,

*Already presaged as an 'Important prospect' by its then Secretary-General, HE Mohamed Habib Gherab, on page 78 of our Spring issue this year.—Ed.