

EDITORIAL

We are delivering this issue, contrary to our first intentions, without the report of the UNEP Governing Council. Although the 12th Session is now behind us, a large percentage of the papers for the meeting were not delivered early enough to allow them to be published before the Council meeting.

The result is, that we are, in fact, preparing now two issues at the same time — this one, and the first issue of the next volume which will be published in July with the full UNEP report. The change of volume does not permit us to make a double issue this time.

We just want to point out at this stage that the Council meeting in the new buildings at Gigiri had another dimension this year due not only to the changed locality, but also as a result of a new structure of the debates.

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Much space has been given in this issue to the article by Veit Koester, since we are of the opinion that developments in smaller countries sometimes are not sufficiently covered.

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*Readers will also find of interest a report on the 2nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention. In this connection, one should recall that in the text of the Convention as it now stands, a very important element is missing, preventing any up-dating for the moment, since the originators of the Convention did not include any clauses for amendment of the text, and a Protocol is awaiting ratification to remedy this omission (see *Environmental Policy and Law* (1983) Vol. 10, No. 2 at page 46).*

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The article by Cyrille de Klemm, a follow-up to that in Vol. 9, No. 4 at page 117, is of actual importance since a draft resolution on the same topic will be before the IUCN General Assembly in November of this year.

Wolfgang Bremer

31 May, 1984

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Re: Interview Yuvraj Digvijay Singh)

Dear Editor,

In the November 1983 issue of your magazine I read with special interest the interview given by Mr. Yuvraj Digvijay Singh in which, among other topics, he referred to the resolutions introduced by him to the recent UPI Conference, one of them recommending the setting-up of a special fund for financing environmental projects in developing countries.

In this connection I beg to draw your attention to a note I published in the March 1983 issue of "Development Forum". Its original title was "Needed: A World Fund for Conservation". The important point, in my opinion, is that the so-called developed nations should establish a fund, not only for financing conservation projects in the Third World but also for compensating the countries of this so-called developing World for the short-term cost that to them implies the choice of conservation instead of exploitation policies. That what is left of wilderness areas, with all their genetic diversity and biological capital in general, should be preserved at all costs is surely in the interest of the whole of humanity and for this reason should be paid for by all countries in proportion to their financial capacity, which means, of course, that the industrialized nations should bear the cost of at least partially compensating the present loss of income incurred by the Third World countries in which those wilderness areas are situated, if exploitation is to be replaced by conservation.

Yours very truly,

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