

EDITORIAL

From its creation in 1975 until the change of publisher in 1982, this journal appeared four times per year. For the last two years, we have been publishing eight issues in two volumes every year.

But we realize that a better service to our readers not only includes more issues, although this is a most important aspect, but also the actuality of the information supplied. This means that the time has to be reduced between the input we have and the output to our subscribers. Our good input is due to a variety of factors, not the least being the information network which exists between members of ICEL, members of IUCN/CEPLA and a small number of very specific contacts. But preparing everything for publication — type-setting/correction/layout, distribution etc., — takes time.

Since everybody realized that it is an equally important aspect to be as fast as possible, the publishing house and the editors have agreed to see what can be done to cut down the length of production time for each issue:

Thanks to the good relationship between the editors and those responsible in the publishing house the last issue — a double one — was ready for printing and distribution in just six weeks, cutting the usual publication time by half. We plan to continue with this new system, and are very grateful to the publishing house for this teamwork. We feel sure that our readers will also be satisfied with this development.

All good intentions cannot, of course, take into consideration exceptional circumstances such as the long postal strike in the Netherlands which, unfortunately, held up several issues at the end of last year.

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In the last Editorial we mentioned all the conferences taking place in the near future. For the moment, what most concerns us, is the UNEP Governing Council and the piles of documents which have arrived for the session opening on the 15 May. Many of the papers were not submitted in compliance with the normal six week rule, so we have had no chance to report until now on the material for the 12th session. However, we plan to review the papers in the coming issue and intend to bring the report on the outcome of the Governing Council in accordance with our new publication plan. The Issue Papers for the OECD Conference on the Environment and Economics are now on our desk. We hope we can report on them also in the next issue. □

Wolfgang Breyer

7th May, 1984