

## International Environment Programmes: A Guide to the Subject Matter

The *Beiträge zur Umweltgestaltung* series contain within one source the international and European environmental documentation focussing on specific resolutions, recommendations and decisions upon which environmental policy and legislation can be further analyzed and refined.

Volume A 44 of this series is, in the first place, an enlightening reference guide to all the documentary literature published within the *Beiträge* collection. This guide contains scattered documents of the United Nations and its internal groups, the International Parliamentary Conferences, the Council of Europe, NATO, the EEC, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and private environmental efforts of IUCN and WWF, all from 1971 through late 1975. The thematic coverage of specific resolutions has been thorough, concise and detailed, and has been intended for the use of both legal and scientific specialists and for the lay reader.

Naturally the guide is a tool primarily for those with access to the contextual sources in the *Beiträge* Volumes A 2 through A 50, or with direct access to the primary documents themselves. The direct numeration reference system, described in the author's introductory pages to Volume A 44, has been geared to the approach of either reader. In addition, the same simple numeration system guides the reader to the source language in which he prefers to read.

The index material was compiled by the author alone, working from memory and without computer aids, beginning late 1974 and continuing six months through 1975. There was some assistance with translations of key terms, in the interest of international consistency.

Note though, that the index does not guide one in detail through the reportage still in the discussion stage, such as the World Population Conference, the Dakar Declaration on Raw Materials, or the UN efforts toward economic and agrarian

reform. Nor does the index attempt, unfortunately, to cover all the worldwide draft Conventions. Nevertheless, other than the major conventions on environmental manipulation and the protection of the Rhine, signed in 1976 and 1977, the index remains quite up to date.

The major weakness is the conceptual manner in which the text is set up: One needs a category in mind before one can begin to find anything. Indeed, a straightforward alphabetical listing was attempted — and discarded — because the topics so overlapped and replicated anyway that topic overhappings were justified in order to discipline the internal complexity of the material. One would venture to say that it is because the material is not in dictionary form that we have at last an environmental index of such scope at all.

Admiration must be extended to the publishing staff who had to transfer a simple box of cards to the representable printed page across a battery of languages and directions a first time, and then later reset the entire book a second time.

As a test example of the general value of such an environmental index, the author was asked in 1976 to form the foundational policy text for the German Ministerium. Essentially this meant gathering all international resolutions and recommendations of interest to food, agriculture and forestry, which was virtually the entire environmental field exclusive of nuclear weaponry and the high seas. The resulting ninety-page governmental report, each sentence a summarized resolution, was compiled with the help of Volume A 44 in just three weeks.

It is hoped then that the little text proves itself to be the fork in the road following early interdisciplinary studies, radiating on the one hand toward the rigorous research and analysis sponsored by OECD, the Council of Europe and others, and radiating also toward an understanding and acceptance of theoretical literature, multilateral agreements and Conventions.

M. G. van Lieshout □

anonymous five lines in their Bulletin.

It is obvious to the scientists who make up IUCN that the hysterical reactions against hunting exhibited by some WWF fund collectors are quite irrational and should not necessarily be taken at face value.

I am sure that your desire is to give your readers true facts and thank you in advance for publishing this letter in the coming issue.

Bertrand des Clers

*Mr. des Clers is perhaps unaware of the book, African Hunter, written by an American, James Mellon.*

*Mellon enjoys killing, especially rare species. In the book he lists those who have shot the "rarest of the world's wild goats, the Walia". The list includes himself, and Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi.*

*Mellon accompanied Pahlavi on his hunt for the spectacled bear, and has this to say about national regulations restricting hunting: "A single letter written by HRH (Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi) to any chief of state... would lead immediately to the commencement of preparations for a luxury hunt, and no one would care a damn what sort of game was to be hunted".*

*Since the EPL article, Pahlavi has fired many Iranian game department officials who have favoured restrictions on hunting.*

WEB □

(Re: Bariloche Model: Third World Disaster Study Predicts. EPL 3:2 p. 74)

Dear Editor

I was very surprised to see my note on the Bariloche Model under the title "Third World Disaster Study Predicts" and the blurb on the cover of EPL vol. 3 no. 2/77 stating that Bariloche has predicted eco-disaster for the Third World. Both assumptions are totally incorrect.

As clearly stated by me, the Bariloche Model is the first world model written by scientists in developing countries for the problems of the developing countries and offering a chance of averting disaster. It is an optimistic model when compared to the studies of the Club of Rome and although it has been criticised as being too utopian by some economists it is the world-model which has most influenced discussion in the developing countries on proposals for a new world economic order.

Marlene Jahnke

*Environmental Policy and Law, 3 (1977)*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(continued from p. 97)

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way, to 15 years of ceaseless and untiring efforts and guidance in the field of wildlife conservation by Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi.

It is not right to criticize such a man lightly on the basis of sentimental reactions, and IUCN was indeed justified in bringing down this sort of news to an