

Book reviews

interest in natural history—or even an academic approach! The entertaining and lucid text is divided into 30 short chapters covering biology, ecology, behaviour and conservation aspects of the anuran world. This is a book that will guide and inform the beginner, and charm those who appreciate such a readable style of natural history.

Tom Langton, FFPS staff herpetologist

IUCN Commission on Ecology Publications

Further details available from IUCN, Ave du Mont Blanc, CH-1196, Switzerland.

Why Conservation?

Commission on Ecology, Occasional Paper Number 4, IUCN, 1984.

This collection of questions—for example, ‘If national parks are important as genetic store-houses, what is in it for the local people?’ and ‘How do you justify the total protection of certain species of plants and animals while actively encouraging the regular use of others?’—came from a letter sent to HRH The Prince of the Netherlands, Founder President of the WWF, by Professor Emil Salim, Minister of State for Development Supervision and the Environment in Indonesia. The answers given in this brochure are designed primarily for community leaders in developing countries, but have general applications.

Future Hazards from Pesticide Use

Dr F. Balk and Professor Dr J.H. Koeman
Commission on Ecology, Paper Number 6, IUCN, 1984.

This study considers in careful detail two areas of the world (West Africa and South-East Asia) which are, like many other developing areas, increasing their use of pesticides and, thus, the risks to the environment. It describes how the hazards of pesticide use depend on type, dose rate, use pattern and local circumstances such as the condition of soils and water, climate, presence of endangered species and ecosystem structure. It describes how risk assessments should be made, and emphasises that these should be carried out on a regional basis rather than by extrapolation from one location to another, for example from a

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temperate to a tropical zone. The main objective of the report is to guide authorities, companies and individual users of pesticides in selecting control methods that are appropriate from a pest management point of view, but at the same time compatible with nature conservation interests.

Population and Natural Resources and other reports

Commission on Ecology, Occasional Paper Number 3, IUCN, 1984.

The main report in this paper records the statement on Population and Natural Resources approved in November 1983 by the Council of IUCN and the Members' Assembly of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). It also includes reports on various other meetings/workshops of the IUCN Commission on Ecology in 1983.

Traditional Life-Styles, Conservation and Rural Development

Proceedings of a Symposium organised by the Institute of Ecology, of Padjadjaran University, Bandung, and the IUCN Commission on Ecology held in Bandung, Indonesia, 4–5 October 1982. Edited by J. Hanks.

Commission on Ecology, Paper Number 7, IUCN, 1984.

This consists of a multitude of papers on a wide range of traditional life-styles, which planning agencies cannot afford to overlook and, instead, should build upon in their attempts to smooth the transition of people who face change in their lives.

Conservation of Ecological Processes

Professor R.E. Ricklefs, Professor Z. Naveh and Dr R.E. Turner
Commission on Ecology, Paper Number 8, IUCN, 1984.

This 16-page essay urges us to take one more step forward in our approach to conservation. We have already advanced from the concept of species preservation to habitat conservation, and now it is time, the authors argue, to recognise that it is vital to conserve ecological processes. We should ensure that any ecosystem management works within the framework of natural patterns and cycles, leaving the maximum number of natural regulatory mechanisms intact.

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