

Science appliquée. Il formule le voeu de voir l'Assemblée se défier de cette attitude scolastique qui veut considérer la Nature comme une entité métaphysique immuable. Il déclare que l'opinion est mûre pour admettre la constitution de 'services écologiques officiels' destinés à asseoir définitivement sur des bases scientifiques les rapports, principalement économiques, qui ne cesseront d'exister entre l'Homme et la Nature.

Les Réunions techniques organisées par l'Union, devenue aujourd'hui Union internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature et de ses Ressources (UICN), ont permis de faire le point sur de nombreux problèmes, de réunir les savants les mieux qualifiés en discussions fructueuses dont est sortie, peu à peu, la philosophie moderne de la Conservation des ressources naturelles. La protection d'espèces menacées d'extinction ne pouvant s'effectuer que par la sauvegarde de leurs habitats. L'utilisation et l'exploitation rationnelles de la grande faune à l'avantage des populations locales. La création de parcs nationaux qui peuvent devenir des attractions pour touristes tout en préservant une partie notable de la faune et de la flore. L'influence de la poussée démographique sur la conservation de la Nature fait nettement ressortir qu'il ne saurait être question d'opposer l'Homme à la Nature mais, au contraire, de lui montrer à quel point il en est subsidiaire, non seulement au point de vue matériel, mais peut-être plus encore pour son bien-être psychique et moral. Vouloir envisager une conservation de la Nature sans l'Homme serait absurde et immoral, mais c'est là une des grandes tâches de l'avenir, de faire ressortir le rôle social de ces principes et leurs conséquences pour l'avenir de l'humanité.

L'UICN jouit aujourd'hui d'un statut international reconnu et mérité, et ses principes de base pour une conservation biologique de la Nature se retrouve sous une forme encore plus dynamique dans le Programme Biologique International initié en 1964 par le Conseil international des Unions scientifiques. Ce Programme a réussi à stimuler la coopération des biologistes de tous les pays en vue d'entreprendre des recherches sur des problèmes fondamentaux relatifs à la productivité biologique pour le bien-être de l'Homme. Déjà plus de cinquante pays collaborent activement à son exécution et l'on peut escompter que les résultats obtenus fourniront les bases scientifiques qui permettront aux responsables de prendre les mesures qui s'imposent pour exploiter rationnellement les ressources naturelles de la Biosphère pour le bien-être de l'humanité. Puisse l'histoire de la protection et de la conservation de la Nature servir de guide afin d'éviter que les erreurs du passé ne

soient répétées car, face à la pression démographique sans cesse croissante, seule une action à l'échelle globale peut encore avoir une chance de réussir.

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Creative Conservation

The increasing exploitation of our natural resources, the unlimited occupation of ever more new areas, and the intensification of land-use, make it necessary for us to expand the concept of conservation. But we also need to reconsider that concept itself. For the changing conditions in the present-day world necessitate an adequate formulation of the task to be done for the upkeep and development of man's natural environment.

The proper protection of plants, animals, and valuable ecosystems, and even the preservation of vast stretches of natural and semi-natural land (how badly needed!), do not suffice to meet our current environmental problems.

In order to ensure a lasting living-space for future generations, attention must be paid to the development and rearrangement of the landscape as a whole in several countries of the world. We need a new approach in our attitude towards our physical surroundings — not only in the urban spheres but also in the rural zones. It is surely not enough to treat the countryside merely as a main source for food production and to ascertain that it has a sustained land-fertility. That countryside — wherever it may be — should express a balance between the interests of man and nature, and between the different aspects of human society. It should be shaped and maintained as a dignified habitat, as a place to work, live in, and enjoy.

Unplanned development, single-purpose land-use, and over-exploitation, have swept the landscape in so many times and places that a new approach seems to be the only possible means of creating a better relationship between man and his natural environment. This new approach tends towards a broader scope in conservation in which *creation* and *reconstruction* will play an always greater role in the years to come.

The still-short history of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources reflects the recognition that such a new concept has proved to be inevitable for an adequate expression of the conservation task in the rapidly changed conditions of the post-war world. From a Union for *Protection of Nature*, the organization evolved into its present form in which the term '*Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources*' indicates a

responsibility for a much broader field of activity. To promote the idea of a planned development of landscape as an integral part of regional reconstruction, a Landscape Planning Commission was founded to outline the Union's policy in this particular field.

Many aspects of modern society result from careful planning; this applies to the economic spheres as well as to the development of our physical surroundings. The extending urbanization, the construction of new road-systems, the schemes for consolidation of holdings, the lay-out of industrial areas, harbours, and airfields — all depend on the process of planning.

Either within the context of regional planning, or as a specific planning procedure, there should, however, be promoted a new constructive type of planning, directed to a creative treatment of the countryside. For all kinds of public works, as they are being carried out today, there is a great need for *landscape plans* and *landscape planners* — to provide guidelines for the protection of land and landscape, as well as for the creation of new landscape elements such as trees, shrubs, forests, and open spaces.

According to this way of thinking, the Americans launched their ideas of a new conservation. In the Natural Beauty Message of February 1965, the President of the United States declared: 'Our conservation must not be just the classic conservation of protection and development, but a creative conservation of restoration and innovation', and again: 'Our land will be attractive tomorrow only if we organize for action and rebuild and reclaim the beauty we inherited!'

Practical results of a multi-purpose and creative approach in land-use planning can be observed in a number of projects in different parts of the world. Although each of them merits detailed description, they will merely be mentioned in this issue as examples of successful reconstruction and transformation of landscape.

American and Israeli Examples

Though accomplished at a time when the multi-purpose principle had not yet come into being, the reconstruction of the Tennessee River Valley in the United States can rightly be seen as a classic example of large-scale environmental planning. Forestry, agriculture, industry, water-supply, recreation, and urban development, were all immensely improved by this enormous undertaking. A formerly neglected and deteriorated area has been reshaped into a flourishing landscape with great potentialities for human life and happiness.

More recently, examples of landscape planning and land reconstruction have been developed and can be observed in several parts of Israel, where a new green carpet covers the mountains near Jerusalem, and where the desert blossoms in so many lovely parks and village greens as well as in the gardens of the *kibbutzim*. In the same country, conscientious landscape planning is being expressed in the preservation of the Huleh marshes in Galilee — that valuable asset of wild nature in the Middle East — and in many historical and geological monuments.

Netherlands Examples

In completely different circumstances, the Government

of the Netherlands is reconstructing the landscape of its territory in the western part of Europe. Special laws enable the reconstruction of the age-old agricultural areas by modern farming methods. Moreover, new land is being gained from the sea in the coastal waters of Holland, where the creation of a new environment is based on a centuries-old tradition.

Particularly can the most recent polders in the Zuiderzee area serve as examples of multi-purpose works, based on comprehensive planning. Physical planners, civil engineers, agricultural experts, city planners, architects, foresters, and landscape planners, all co-operate, from the earliest stages of preparation, in the design and the realization of these new areas.

The location of the settlements, towns, and villages, as well as the layout of the road systems, water control, and urban infra-structure, are all based on research and subjected to thorough scrutiny. The interrelation of these landscape elements with the extensive new forests, nature reserves, and recreational areas, are also carefully considered in this teamwork of land-use planning.

As an indication of the growing interest in a well-planned human environment it may be mentioned that, from the extremely fertile soil of the polder Flevoland, with its high potentialities for agricultural use, at least 20 per cent of the area will be made available for recreational purposes, forestry, and the creation of new biotopes for flora and fauna to enrich the natural wealth of the country.

Every town and village gets its own parks, forests, and urban greens, in a composition that is balanced with the residential requirements. The farmhouses in the agricultural areas are all surrounded by large shelter-belts, protecting the well-kept gardens in the yard and shaping the open landscape with numerous attractive green islands.

Within a few years of completion of the reclamation and drainage of the polders, the newly-planted trees and shrubs are constituting the framework for a brand-new landscape pattern, and are providing the background for the different forms of human living and recreation. All this planting is done on an ecological basis according to which soil, climate, and phytosociological principles, determine the choice of species.

Landscape plans are being designed to provide the numerous details for the creation of these new landscapes. They also include the surrounding lake-shores of the polders where artificially-made new beaches, sheltered camp-grounds, and trails, open up great possibilities for recreational development.

The newly-established forests and natural reserves are being administered by the conservationists of the Netherlands State Forest Service, to ensure permanent effective management in accordance with their function in the public interest.

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