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Next issue's theme: Reintroduction of species

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The Centre Naturopa will send you free of charge on request selective bibliographies on ENCY 95: agricultural, aquatic, industrial, urban, tourist and leisure areas, forests, hunting and fishing, and flora and fauna.

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Appraisal of European Nature Conservation Year 1995

Twenty-five years after the first great campaign for nature, this second campaign can undoubtedly be called a great success.

All European countries, whether members of the Council of Europe or not, launched major national programmes, many of them innovative and broad in scope. While the Council of Europe has heard a great deal about them, many events will obviously remain unknown and will be neither publicised or applauded. But that is not the point.

The point is that so many individuals, voluntary organisations, authorities and policy-makers decided to do more and take better care to protect our natural heritage.

This issue aims to reflect the wide variety of activities carried out from Iceland to

Cyprus and Moldova to Portugal. It is also an enthusiastic tribute and an expression of warm thanks to all those people everywhere who showed such goodwill and spent time and money on the campaign in the hope that nature - their nature - would be preserved and attract greater respect and consideration.

The challenge - how to provide adequate living conditions for future generations - remains with us and will probably be there for a long time. I hope this tremendous pooling of energies will have made a response to it easier. ■

Jean-Pierre Ribaut



B. Boisson

Editorial

In 1970, more than 25 years ago, the Council of Europe launched the first ever international campaign to protect the environment - European Conservation Year. Since then the Organisation has never stopped fighting for the safeguarding of the environment that surrounds us.

This fight was started by the Parliamentary Assembly in 1961, when it addressed to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Recommendation 285 on "the establishment of a permanent system of co-operation concerning the protection of nature in Europe". When therefore nearly 35 years and more than 200 recommendations and resolutions later, European Nature Conservation Year 1995 was launched to take stock of the results achieved, the Assembly fully endorsed this idea and contributed with a report drawn up by Ilona Graenitz. This was done for two reasons.

Firstly, it seemed useful to analyse the follow-up given to the many political initiatives taken by the Assembly and by the Council of Europe as a whole. Here important milestones have been laid: the Water and Soil Charters, the European Diploma, the Biogenetic Reserves Network, the Bern Convention and, recently, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. It is important to examine to what extent these instruments have contributed to environment protection and how their efficiency can be improved.

But there is a second reason for taking stock of the action taken. Notwithstanding 25 years of Council of Europe activities for nature conservation, we still witness considerable deterioration of the environment. Air, soil and water are still being polluted, natural areas continue to disappear, species still

become extinct and this is not only the case in central and eastern Europe, but all over the continent. It is clear that in the present times of economic stagnation we are once again, but this time knowingly, prepared to sacrifice environmental concerns for the sake of material well-being. A campaign aimed at raising awareness that much has been achieved, but that even more has yet to be done was therefore extremely well timed.



One of the most significant changes since 1970 is that the Council of Europe is no longer alone in its efforts to promote international environment protection. Important organisations and institutions at both inter-governmental and non-governmental levels

have joined the environmental bandwagon and in particular since the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, public awareness of the essential role of the environment has grown worldwide. In Europe, one of the major consequences of this was the Pan-European Conference of Ministers of the Environment which took place in October 1995 in Sofia. The Parliamentary Assembly contributed to this conference with an important report drawn up by Leni Robert, thus showing its readiness to participate in any further effort to harmonise and reinforce conservation regulations.

But even if the appeals of the Council of Europe for the safeguarding of the natural heritage have now been heard even outside its geographical confines, the Organisation should not rest on the laurels of its pioneer reputation. The Council of Europe must go on stimulating its 39 member States to take joint action to stop deterioration of the environment and to ensure that any further development is truly sustainable.

Once again, the Parliamentary Assembly has taken the lead: it has designated one of its prominent members and acknowledged expert in the field, Peter Hardy, to report on European Nature Conservation Year 1995, and to propose action for an adequate follow-up. ■

Leni Fischer
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
Council of Europe

Why another campaign?

Jean-Pierre Ribaut

Information, awareness and education campaigns are definitely in fashion: they too have succumbed to the 20th century disease of inflation. Yet the Council of Europe felt it was not only advisable but necessary to launch a second European Nature Conservation Year (ENCY), 25 years after the first.

Many reasons

Firstly, at a time of social and economic problems such as this, when unemployment is becoming more and more of an obsession, environmental issues often tend to be pushed into the background, whereas only a few years ago several countries gave them out-right priority.

Secondly, a great majority of the public - from all walks of life and levels of responsibility - invariably associates nature conservation with the introduction of protected areas (eg nature reserves, national parks), which is of course much too narrow a view. All the evidence of the past few decades shows that not even the best network of conservation areas can guarantee the preservation of our natural heritage: pollutants move around freely, nitrates can spread across the world through water and heavy metals are found in polar icefields.

There is no doubt about it: all areas, whether natural or semi-natural, need some protection and a minimum of respect. That is why our experts were in favour of focusing ENCY on nature conservation outside protected areas.

So in choosing this theme, the Council of Europe chiefly set out to broaden the scope of conservationists' work. It also had another purpose: to galvanise conservation work, ie demonstrate that meeting ecological requirements does not necessarily mean slowing down or halting development projects, but designing and carrying them out in a different way, constantly bearing in mind the need to leave future generations the same resources as those we have today.

Key role of public opinion

To be objective, the current trend points that way and we should welcome the increasingly systematic attention paid to ecological factors. It has led to the conservation of many landscapes and natural areas such as the Cabrespine cave in France, the Grenchner Wittli landscape in Switzerland and the Dalyan coastline in Turkey. Admittedly, preserving a wetland or woodland area of special ecological value often has adverse effects on

the cost of building a motorway or other line of communication. But that is precisely where ethical choices, reflected in policy-making, come into play: are we or are we not prepared to pay for the preservation of our values and our natural heritage? That is why public opinion plays an increasingly crucial part in the matter and often has a direct impact on policy-making.

A recent survey of young people in Switzerland shows that they are highly sensitive to environmental issues (see table).

In other parts of Europe we would probably have seen different priorities, but all our years of experience at the Council of Europe suggest that in general young people are more aware of these issues than many adults.

Ecologists are reputed to reject everything and to be essentially negative people, pessimistic and prone to exaggeration. This criticism is not entirely unjustified, even if we are talking only of "real" ecologists, not the great mass of those who claim to be so.

Yet it is a fact that by comparison with the sweeping destruction of the Amazonian forest and the steady advance of the desert, it is easy to forget or minimise the successes scored, the improvements to air or water quality in a given area and so on.

Here too the campaign has meant progress. Government authorities have put forward their achievements, including progress in

improving water quality, beaches and waste disposal, while many voluntary organisations have continued to sound the alarm, pointing to all that remains to be done.

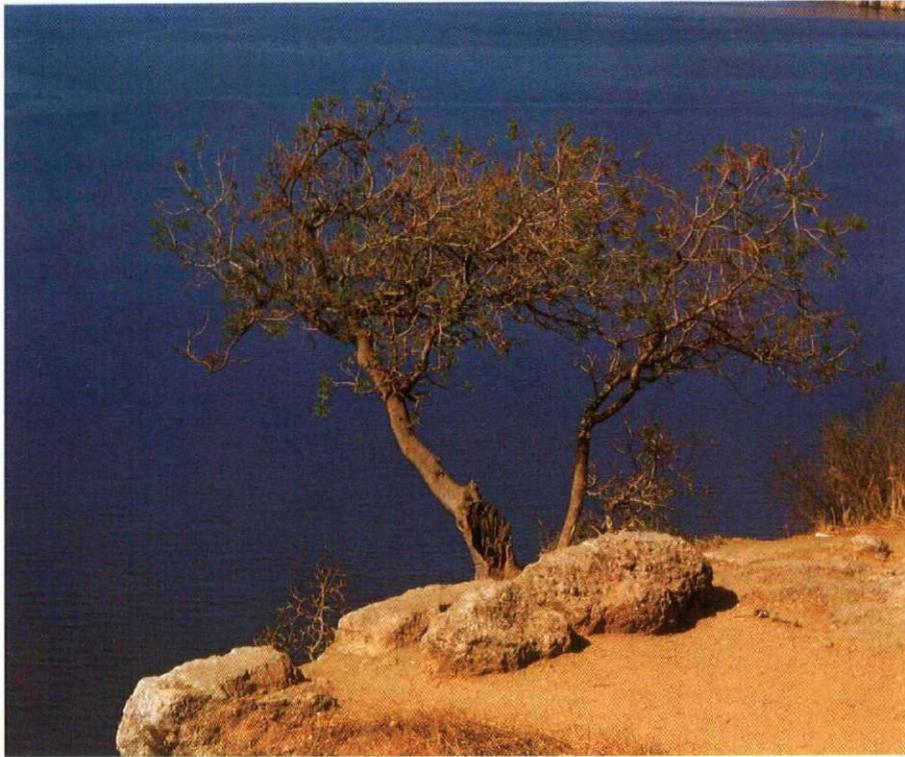
This range of opinions is understandable and may prove helpful in speeding up the changes called for - especially in our lifestyles - to enable coming generations to look to the future with confidence. ■

Dr. J-P. Ribaut
Head of Environment Conservation
and Management Division
Council of Europe

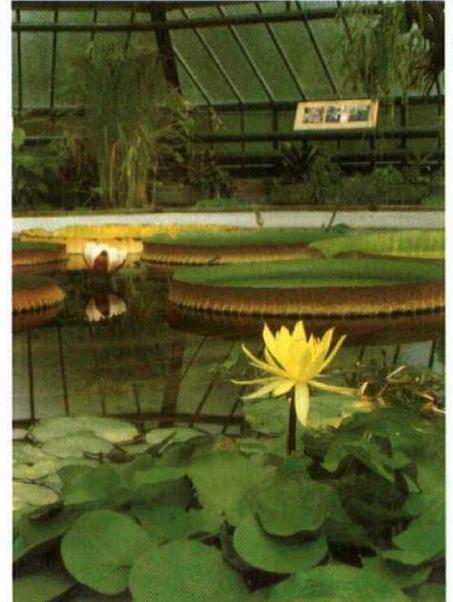
The young people answered these two questions as follows (several replies were allowed):

	Politicians must tackle these issues at once	I am or would be personally involved in
- environment/energy/ nuclear tests	48%	46%
- attitude to foreigners/ refugees	35%	21%
- drugs and other addictions	26%	19%
- the economy, unemployment	20%	8%
- European integration	16%	8%
- AIDS	11%	10%

Source: telephone survey of 506 people, Institut gS, Bern 1995



P. Sorgius



G. Engel

Protection of the coasts of the Adriatic Sea and the role of green spaces in urban areas: two examples of colloquies organised within the framework of ENCY

Events around Europe

Marie-Françoise Glatz

In each State participating in ENCY 95, National Organising Committees (NOCs) were created in 1993. These NOCs included personalities from many different fields, all having decided to co-operate within the framework of ENCY: several Ministers (Environment, Agriculture, Youth and Sport, Education, Health, Public Works, etc), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), representatives of local authorities, the media, the private sector, etc. Together they defined one or several themes at national level as well as the target audiences to whom ENCY would be addressed in their country.

At international level, ENCY was officially launched on 31 January 1995 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg during the first session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Many other events have taken place throughout this Year.

Opening ceremonies

National opening ceremonies took place throughout spring 1995 and were usually attended by eminent personalities such as King Carl XVI Gustaf in Sweden, the President of the Republic in Italy and Malta, and his Royal Highness Prince Laurent in Belgium. The presence of a member of the International Co-ordinating Committee at the ceremonies served as a reminder of the pan-European nature of the campaign.

International events

It is impossible to list all the events that took place, but here are the main ones with an international status:

- colloquy on the protection of coastal areas of the Adriatic sea, in Albania at the end of 1994;
- colloquy on the problems of nature conservation in central and eastern Europe, held in Vienna in March 1995 in conjunction with the NGO AEGEE;
- international conference "Ethnics and nature" in the Slovak Republic, July 1995;
- colloquy on hunting and fishing as instruments of economic development for the countries of central Europe, held in the Czech Republic in September 1995;
- pan-European seminar on rural landscapes, Poznan, Poland, September 1995;
- seminar on green spaces in urban areas, held in October 1995 in Monaco;
- conference on "ENCY 95: problems, achievements and perspectives", in Moldova, October 1995;
- colloquy on the ecological network, in Belgium in October 1995;
- the NGO Nature Week, held in October 1995 in Strasbourg and comprising three colloquies on "The major transport infrastructure and nature conservation", "Habitat 2000", and "Rural law and nature conservation";
- colloquy on urban development and nature conservation, organised in Paris in November 1995 by the IFHP;

- international seminar on the conservation of Mediterranean ecosystems, held in Portugal in November 1995;
- international conference on nature conservation outside protected areas, held in Slovenia in November 1995;
- conference on wetlands in Turkey;
- colloquy on environment and health, held in Kyiv in December 1995;
- colloquy on land ownership changes and nature conservation, in Lithuania;
- seminar on nature conservation in the Russian Federation, in September and December 1995.

National events

There was a very wide variety of national events, including photographic competitions, drawing competitions for children, national "days" on various themes, nature outings, festivals, seminars, colloquies, pilot projects and exhibitions.

In Albania and in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", there were about 20 events during the year. In the Czech Republic, some 40 national events and some 2 000 regional and local ones took place. In Slovenia, an exhibition was visited by over 10 000 persons.

Many countries seized the opportunity to link various national "days" to ENCY events. This was so in Hungary on the occasion of Earth Day (26 April) and Bird Day (10 May),

in Greece the Environment Days (4-6 June) and in Iceland the Day of the Forest (12 August). In Liechtenstein, over 2,000 persons took part in activities organised in connection with the Forest Day. In France, the Bird Protection League (LPO) and the Federation of Natural Regional Parks organised an event aimed at creating awareness in the general public: Night of the Owl, which gathered together 16 000 people in the night of 25 to 26 March 1995 in 300 organised field outings.

A great many competitions were organised, like the one in Switzerland on "ideas for the future" in which environmental and landscape specialists were invited to enter an ideas competition. The response was outstanding: 106 entries were received and 17 projects were selected and granted funding. Some of the projects presented are already under way.

Bilateral projects

A few bilateral projects were developed:

- Albania organised in co-operation with "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" a seminar on the management of Lake Ohri, which straddles the frontier between the two countries;
- Austria co-operated with Slovenia on a project to revitalise the Kucnica River;

- Estonia organised several bilateral events: National Forest Days and a seminar on the protection of coasts in co-operation with Finland, a nature workshop in co-operation with Sweden, and a symposium on biodiversity in the Baltic ecosystems in co-operation with the Baltic States;

- in France, the Collège Frédéric Mistral in Nice was twinned with the Lyceo Linguistico G. Decedda in Genova in order to develop an environmental action plan for the La Roya river;

- Germany co-operated with the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and also with Spain, the Czech Republic and Hungary for exhibitions;

- lastly, the United Kingdom and Ireland developed together the "20-20 Vision" project in which schools in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are taking part. The children have to look back to how the environment was in 1970, see how it has changed since, describe the way it is now and try to say what should be done to safeguard it over the next 25 years.

Closing ceremonies

Most countries have held a closing ceremony. In Switzerland, it took place during a congress in Lugano in November 1995. In the Slovak Republic, the campaign was brought to a close with the Bratislava International Conference on the role of local and regional

authorities in nature conservation in towns in December 1995. This conference, organised jointly by the CLRAE and the Slovak authorities, was a great success: 28 countries were represented and it was attended by 110 foreigners and 170 Slovaks. In Malta, the closing ceremony took place in early 1996 when it was officially announced that the Island's first marine reserve was to be set up. In Albania the ceremony took place at the last meeting of the national committee, convened to take stock of ENCY achievements.

At international level, a closing colloquy was organised at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg in co-operation with the CLRAE and the Parliamentary Assembly. This colloquy took place on 2 April 1996 on the theme "Nature conservation at the dawn of the 21st century".

M-F. Glatz
 ENCY 95 Secretariat
 Council of Europe

Examples of national events: "Night of the Owl" in France and "Forest Day" in Liechtenstein



G. Baumgart



Friess-Irrmann

Time to take stock

Ferdinando Albanese

For a whole year, countless people with an interest in the environment in 42 European countries got down to work and organised a whole series of events dealing with the problems of nature conservation. Through their action in this area, elected representatives, local, regional and central government officials, environmental associations and educational establishments succeeded in focusing the attention of policy-makers and the public in general on the crucial importance of recreating the conditions needed to enable wildlife to co-exist in harmony with human beings in all places where they live and work.

A tremendous variety of activities took place, with ENCY 95 involving the entire range of possible methods for disseminating information, raising awareness and educating people about the environment: from colloquies to public festivals, scientific publications to popularising works, television programmes to newspaper articles, and early-learning activities to pilot projects.

While it is reassuring to note that, for 12 months, nature conservation outside protected areas was the focus of environmentalists' attention and a new awareness of the problems of nature in Europe began to develop, it is unfortunate that the national media - although not the local media - in western Europe did not show enough interest in the campaign.

The current situation

ENCY has clearly shown the need to review nature conservation policy. In most Council of Europe member States, nature conservation is merely one of the policies conducted by the authorities alongside other policies in areas such as transport, public works, fishing, agriculture, tourism, industrial development and social protection. All these policies are more or less on the same level, with no hierarchical relationship between them, and are dependent on different ministries.

As a result, nature conservation policy, responsibility for which generally lies with the Ministry for the Environment, tends to pursue two objectives: the prevention of damage to nature and the repair of damage caused by other policies. In the pursuit of the first objective, nature conservation is usually at a disadvantage owing to the greater political weight of other supposedly "job-creating" policies. In the case of the second objective, nature conservation has the air of a "poor relation", ie the one with the least financial resources.

This state of affairs may explain why, for several decades, the main focus of nature conservation policy has been on the development of protected areas, ie the delimitation of portions of national territory where human activities are restricted or forbidden depending on the natural interests to be protected. It is obvious that, in our society, the policy of protected areas - which does need to be pursued and expanded - is no longer enough to protect nature if we understand nature also to include wildlife in areas occupied by human beings.

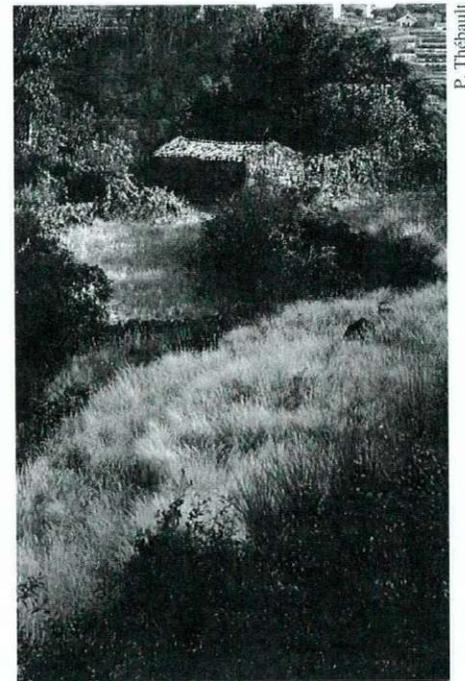
Objective to be achieved

If we consider that nature conservation is crucial to the very survival of the human race, it is now essential to achieve the objective fixed so long ago but seldom pursued, namely the integration of nature conservation into other sectoral policies (transport, tourism, etc). Nature conservation policy should not be aimed at repairing the damage caused by those sectoral policies, but rather at defining the interests which such policies should respect in order to avoid nature being damaged in the first place.

How can this result be achieved?

One approach would be to strengthen the powers of the Ministry for the Environment by making its authorisation compulsory prior to any relevant decisions. A second approach involves the elaboration of a general international convention that would impose obligations upon governments. Such a convention does, in fact, exist in the form of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 6 (a) of which provides that each Contracting Party shall develop national strategies, plans or programmes and integrate the aims of biodiversity in its relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. However, experience from the past and of other international conventions shows that governments do not interpret measures of this kind as obliging them to adopt a binding programme for all sectoral policies. Consequently, the third approach would be to seek the adoption, in countries where no action of this kind has yet been taken, either through an international convention or through free determination at the highest level, eg the cabinet, of a planning document or national nature conservation strategy that sets objectives which all other policies would be required to respect.

This third approach would appear to be the most effective under current circumstances, as it produces a new, integrated view of



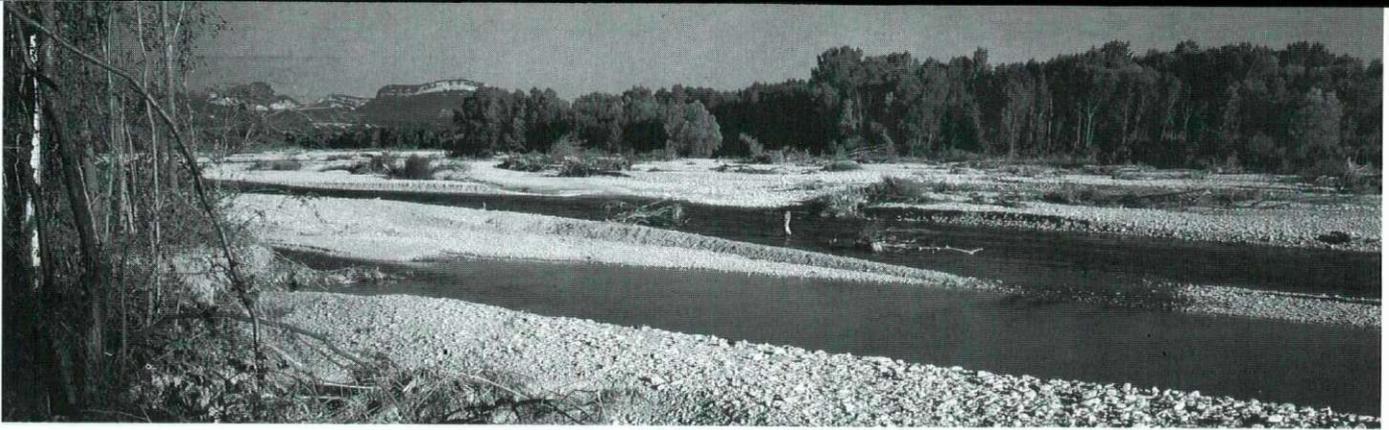
P. Thebaut

nature conservation that ties in naturally with the implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy adopted in Sofia in October 1995 by the pan-European Ministerial Conference, responsibility for which has been assigned to the Council of Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Not forgetting education and information

Another lesson we have learnt from ENCY is that organising occasional information and awareness-raising campaigns is not enough. Information, awareness-raising and education activities must be conducted on an ongoing basis. The implementation of the pan-European Strategy will therefore also take account of this dimension and a corresponding action programme will be drawn up for an initial period from 1996 to the year 2000. ■

F. Albanese
Director of Environment and Local Authorities
Council of Europe



Signature of the European Water Charter in 1967

Do parliamentarians stand up for nature conservation at the Council of Europe?

Jean Briane

That is a question readers may well ask, because they probably do not know how the Council of Europe works or what it does for the environment, especially nature conservation. The Council has in fact done a lot for nature conservation, although most people are unaware of its achievements and initiatives. And the Parliamentary Assembly has never been behindhand or lukewarm about protecting the environment; on the contrary, it has often initiated and always supported the Council of Europe's conservation work.

Unwavering support

Take Recommendation No. 284 adopted by the Assembly in 1961. It advocated establishing a permanent Council of Europe co-operation system on nature conservation issues and led to the setting up of a standing committee on nature conservation. The Assembly's unflinching support is also illustrated by its involvement in the first European Conservation Year in 1970 and its backing for the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (known as the Bern Convention) adopted in 1979.

This time too, the Assembly fully supported European Nature Conservation Year - ENCY 1995 - from the start, recommending a comprehensive and integrated European nature conservation policy. It took part in the campaign with various parliamentary initiatives, especially on the role of non-governmental organisations in relation to national parliaments and the Assembly itself. It also helped to publicise ENCY goals and activities among parliamentarians from the Council of Europe member States, particularly the new member States in central and eastern Europe. Awareness of environmental issues has emerged more recently there, so a huge amount of legislative work remains to be done and European co-operation is absolutely essential.

The Assembly has concerned itself with environmental issues since its inception, at a time when they were by no means as popular as they are now. We believe its persevering work at the Council of Europe has helped to

generate the present widespread awareness among parliaments, governments, business circles, voluntary organisations and individuals. The Assembly has set up a special committee to deal with environmental issues and there are few parliamentary sessions without an environmental report on the agenda.

In this very broad area of the environment the Assembly has always upheld the Council of Europe's special role in environmental protection and nature conservation: it is an area where the Council has done pioneering work, often breaking new ground and acquiring considerable experience and expertise, as shown by the Bern Convention and the interest it arouses among Council of Europe member States and elsewhere.

A tremendous vehicle for exchange

The Assembly relies on its own long experience of parliamentary co-operation in environmental and other matters, which its members and national parliaments are welcome to profit by. It also acts as a link between parliaments and the Council's work, especially in the area of intergovernmental co-operation. Its experience can be extremely helpful in legislative work. Parliaments - and those of central and east European countries make good use of it - can draw on a first-rate store of legislation and information at the Council of Europe, made available by the Parliamentary Assembly.

The Assembly also relies on the great advantage of its parliamentarians' dual membership, since they keep their status as national MPs. It serves as a large-scale think tank: we parliamentarians can contribute to European parliamentary co-operation both by bringing our countries' experience to the Assembly and by learning about other activities already tried out elsewhere which can be of great use to our own countries and parliaments. That is a tremendous vehicle for exchange whose potential is often inadequately exploited and should be developed even further. Some of the new member States are in urgent need of legislation in various areas including the environment, and this calls for serious thought about developing ties between the Parliamentary Assembly and our national parliaments.

An ongoing commitment

Now that it is time to assess ENCY, the Assembly is keen to contribute to the concluding stage of the campaign. But this will not be the end of our involvement in environmental protection and nature conservation. Once ENCY results and conclusions have been assessed, the Assembly will make proposals for pursuing some of its initiatives at both parliamentary and intergovernmental level, making recommendations to the Committee of Ministers in a forthcoming report.

I am convinced that the Assembly will stand by its commitment to the environment in a world where nature continues to suffer onslaughts that undermine the chances of preserving it for future generations and on a continent like ours where awareness of these dangers is now fortunately widespread and demands a rapid and vigorous response. The Assembly is duty bound to take up the challenge and will pursue its task in the firm belief that the Council of Europe still has a unique and important part to play in nature conservation. ■

J. Briane

Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities
Council of Europe

The municipalities: partners of ENCY 95

Horst Lässig

ENCY was targeted primarily at towns and regions, which participated widely in the campaign and implemented nature conservation projects throughout Europe which were as numerous as they were varied. The purpose of these projects was to create new habitats for flora and fauna and to alert the public to the need for environmental protection. From the point of view of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), this second campaign devoted to nature conservation was of major significance and was a resounding success.

The CLRAE's commitment

First of all the CLRAE took part in the work of the International Organising Committee and also ensured that the municipalities were represented on the national committees of participating states. In autumn 1994 it set up a working group to promote and implement ENCY and more particularly to show, through concrete examples, what towns, cities, municipalities and regions could do to protect nature in an urban environment. The President of the CLRAE sent a circular to the main associations of towns and municipalities of Council of Europe member States to inform them of this campaign. To ensure the participation of a large number of municipalities, the CLRAE adopted a resolution at its annual conference in May 1995 which announced its intention to lend its active support to ENCY. Municipalities were thus invited to step up their contribution by implementing nature conservation projects outside protected areas. At the same time, the CLRAE undertook to give particular assistance to the countries of central and eastern Europe to enable them to play an effective part in the campaign.

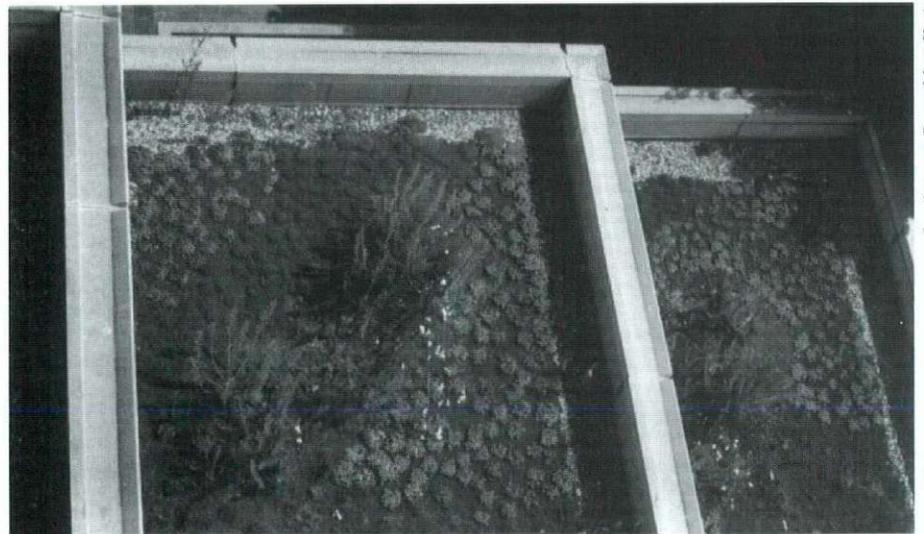
The contribution of Rems-Murr

It was absolutely clear to me that the district for which I am responsible - Rems-Murr in southern Germany - had to make a practical contribution to ENCY. In the grounds of one of our hospitals we created seven biotopes to offer a diversified habitat to numerous species of animals and plants. An additional purpose behind these biotopes was to encourage people and public and private institutions to rethink their own gardens. For this reason we incorporated these biotopes into an educational itinerary with signs explaining the specific needs of the various animal and plant groups. In setting

up the biotopes and as a way of showing that nature conservation can help bring people closer together, we enlisted the help of young people from our twin towns and regions, including Dmitrov district in Russia, Baranya county in Hungary and Southampton in Great Britain. President Herzog of Germany awarded us a diploma in recognition of this teamwork carried out on a European scale. And this is why we feel it is necessary today to continue with our nature conservation work.

The Bratislava Conference

The CLRAE organised an international conference on 11 and 12 December 1995 in Bratislava in the Slovak Republic. Several case studies presented there - eg of Brussels (Belgium), Oslo (Norway), Delft (the Netherlands), Tabor (Czech Republic), the Emscher Park (Germany) and Sofia (Bulgaria) - clearly showed that municipalities have an enormous responsibility in managing their environment. A policy on nature conservation in an urban environment must be an integral part of a comprehensive town planning programme. It is essential to preserve those places where nature is still unimpaired. To do this, it is necessary to monitor the sites on a permanent basis, to organise an eco-system at municipal level and to allocate the financial resources to cover the costs involved. Parkland and green



Landratsamt Rems-Murr-Kreis

▲ Roofs converted into green spaces in order to give nature a place in towns

▼ Pond created near Waiblingen hospital, where dragonflies and water-boatmen immediately took up residence



Landratsamt Rems-Murr-Kreis

areas in towns add to the residents' quality of life. The conference provided numerous opportunities to compare notes and forge links.

As a result of this second campaign, no-one in Europe can fail to be aware that nature conservation is essential to human existence. This is why it must be implemented everywhere. Nature conservation is something we as Europeans all have in common. It is our duty to protect natural areas which are still unimpaired and wherever possible to give back to nature areas we have claimed for ourselves. We need everyone's help if we are to achieve this.

Follow-up

ENCY has now come to an end. However, the work must continue. This is why, on behalf of the CLRAE, I call upon towns, municipalities and regions to keep a watchful eye on their environment and with the help of custom-made projects alert the public to the need to protect nature and landscapes.

The CLRAE will itself be continuing its efforts for nature and landscape conservation. We cannot merely sit back and congratulate ourselves on something which lasted only a year; follow-up is necessary to ensure the results achieved have a lasting effect.

Promoting international twinnings between municipalities for environmental protection could prove worthwhile. Perhaps setting up a chat area on the Internet could be a useful starting point for pursuing international collaboration. With such a facility, municipalities the world over could share their ideas on the environment and benefit from each other's proposals. ■

H. Lässing

Landrat of the district of Rems-Murr
Chair of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe's Working Group responsible for ENCY 95
Alter Postplatz 10
D-71332 Waiblingen

Means of communication

ENCY Secretariat

The Council of Europe produced and made available free of charge to the NOCs a number of communication materials designed to strengthen the international identity of ENCY.

ENCY leaflet

The first information document brought out on ENCY was a leaflet. It was initially published in 50 000 copies in seven languages - French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Norwegian and Russian. Certain national committees such as those of Cyprus, Latvia, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, then had it reprinted in their own language.

International photography competition

The Public Relations Service launched an international photography competition in 1994. It was a great success. More than 2 200 photographs were received from 33 European countries. The top 50 entries were awarded prizes and used in the preparation of a poster and travelling exhibition.

ENCY exhibitions

The ENCY photo exhibition, mounted in four copies, travelled around Europe throughout 1995. It was displayed in 14 countries for an average of six weeks at a time; certain countries were provided with the negatives so as to have the photographs on a permanent basis.

The exhibition on "National ENCY activities" was inaugurated in Sofia at the pan-

European Ministerial Conference on "An Environment for Europe" in October 1995 and was also displayed at the Council of Europe at the closing ceremony in April 1996.

Posters

The aim of the first bilingual French/English poster was to familiarise people with the logo and slogan "Look to the future, look after nature". Some committees had it translated; it exists in Albanian and Hungarian for exam-

ple. Two other posters were then brought out, one in 40 000 copies based on the best photographs from the competition to publicise the exhibition and another aimed at young people.

Nature 95: the ENCY newspaper

A mutual information bulletin for NOCs, NGOs and the Council of Europe was created. Three issues have appeared, in September 1994 and in April and December 1995. There is a French and English version and each issue was printed in 50 000 copies.

A few gadgets

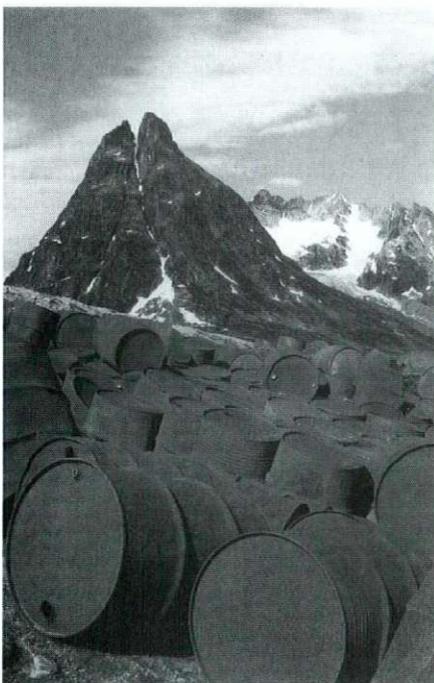
Some publicity gadgets were produced such as stickers in French and English, wooden rulers and pens, a compact disc for the media, particularly radio stations, etc.

Euro Diary

A 1995 Diary was published thanks to financial support from several national sources and from the European Commission. This diary, printed in 14 000 copies, included a large amount of information on the environment for 1995.

Videocassette

A 25-minute videocassette "Look to the future, look after nature" was made to introduce ENCY and Council of Europe activities relating to the environment. Over 2 000 copies were distributed in French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Bulgarian, and Albanian.



S. Stefánsdóttir

First prize in the ENCY photo competition



▲ ENC Y compact disc

◀ ENC Y exhibition in Sofia

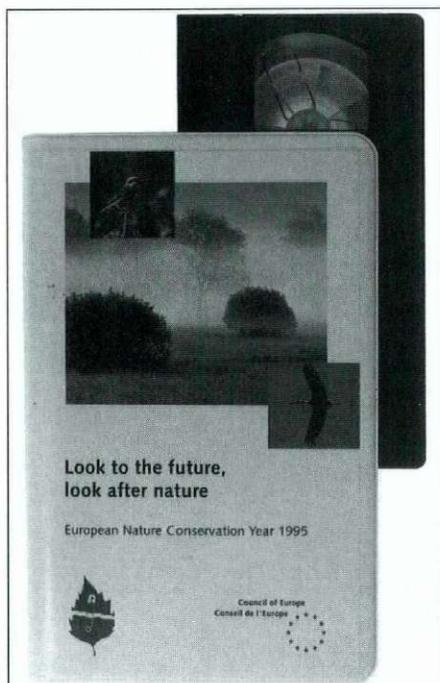
Centre Naturopa publications

Naturopa: *Naturopa* magazine has already devoted its issue No. 76 in late 1994 to a presentation of the ENC Y.

Newsletter: Since the end of 1993 each issue has contained a section on the ENC Y so that readers may follow the progress of the campaign.

Environment Features: The 1994 and 1995 articles were all devoted to ENC Y.

Bibliographies: Some selective bibliographies on ENC Y themes such as forests, tourist areas, urban environment and hunting and fishing were published. ■



ENC Y video cassette

National initiatives

All the countries taking part in ENC Y as well as the Task Force NGO Nature produced communication items such as folders, posters, brochures, information bulletins, stickers, books and other traditional information materials to publicise and promote the campaign in their countries.

A few countries were noteworthy for the large number and great variety of documents produced: Austria (200 000 stickers, 300 000 brochures, 50 000 posters), Belgium (100 000 brochures in Flanders, 2 000 videocassettes in Wallonia), Ireland (125 000 open letters to schools), the United Kingdom (30 000 calendars, 90 000 *ENC Y Magazine* brochures), Finland (10 000 envelopes, 25 000 leaflets in Finnish and 5 000 in Swedish), and the Slovak Republic (10 000 leaflets, 30 000 posters).

Some other countries sought to develop new products that would attract the attention of the

target groups. Andorra issued a telephone card. Compact discs were recorded in Austria, Malta and Poland. Monaco made use of the city's street furniture and 600 panels were devoted to ENC Y in the Principality. Switzerland and Norway distributed tee-shirts. Turkey organised a lottery with the proceeds going to ENC Y. Videoclips for television were produced in Poland and in Portugal. The Slovak Republic struck a commemorative coin and used matchboxes to publicise the ENC Y slogan. Greetings cards were distributed in Sweden and puzzles for children in Switzerland.

More than 20 countries issued special postage stamps to communicate the ENC Y. These countries included Andorra, Belarus, Cyprus, Greece, Latvia, Moldova, the Netherlands, San Marino, Slovak Republic and Spain. ■



Viewpoint on ENCY in Denmark

His Royal Highness Prince Henrik

European Nature Conservation Year 1995 has now officially drawn to a close, but the debate on the subject of the campaign, namely nature conservation outside protected areas, has only just begun. The evolution of mores in the course of the 20th century has increasingly pushed nature into the background. Having constituted the framework and basis of our existence for centuries, nature now requires a special new form of protection. But we have not always been able to fulfil this need. Greater efforts are called for if we are to guarantee that nature can exist naturally in the 21st century. Knowledge, awareness and energy are the key words in this regard. An awareness of the consequences of our acts - or rather of the fact that a disaster is inevitable if we do *nothing* - must be the starting-point for the strategy of the years ahead.

Nature as shaped by human activity

Denmark chose the man-made landscape as the theme of ENCY. The reason for this is that people have interacted with nature in our country since time immemorial. Nearly 70% of Denmark's surface area is used for agriculture, which together with fishing constituted the economic foundation for most of the population in the past. This is no longer the case. Denmark has become an industrialised country with a modern technology, in which the economic development mirrors the situation on the international scene and in which most people live in urban centres.

This is why the campaign has focused on the history concealed behind the landscape, such as we know it today. The general documentation on the campaign offered an array of posters, leaflets, brochures and a large study on the man-made landscape; many events have also been held. The 700 activities that took place throughout the country in conjunction with numerous organisations attracted considerable interest. This panoply of activities included excursions, conferences and agricultural exhibitions.

The campaign triggered a discussion on how we might better conserve our natural values in the future without doing harm to development. Nature should not be a good which we can only enjoy in defined, protected areas, but must also be a natural part of our surroundings which the public must embrace, conserve and appreciate.

Today, preservation of nature and the environment only makes sense if we act in an international context. The western world has a vital role to play *vis-à-vis* the developing countries, but co-operation between European countries is also of the essence, and the initiative taken by the Council of Europe to launch ENCY will prove to have been of great importance for protecting nature in Europe.

In the short story *The field of pain* (1942) by the Danish writer Karen Blixen, we find an exact picture of the Danish landscape: "Nature, neither disturbed nor troubled by the gaze of man nor by his activity, yielded to the eternal breath of life, which no language can describe. And yet a human race had lived on this earth for a million years; it had been



R. Mydtskov

shaped by its soil, by its climate, marked by its thoughts, so that no one can say where the existence of the country ceased or the existence of mankind began."

His Royal Highness Prince Henrik
Patron of the Danish campaign for ENCY 95
President of the Danish section of WWF
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The major part of Denmark is used for agricultural production. Here the manor Bregentved in Seeland



O. Malling

Viewpoint on ENCY in Switzerland

Ruth Dreifuss

We all have a personal interest in the state of nature and the landscape. Each and every one of us can make a contribution in our day-to-day activities to the preservation of biological diversity. We cannot simply leave this to the authorities and nature conservation organisations. This was the message of ENCY in Switzerland - and it was a message that struck a chord. This second campaign was devoted to nature conservation outside protected areas. The appeal to the people at the launching of ENCY calling upon them to become actively involved and to make some sort of pro-nature gesture, no matter how small, proved a resounding success throughout the country.

Vital areas to be protected

Despite all efforts in recent decades, red lists of endangered plant and animal species grow steadily longer. It has been necessary to set up reserves to ensure the survival of many such species. But this is not enough. In order to stem the current tide of decline in landscape diversity and the rise in species extinction, we have to realise once and for all that there is but one indivisible living environment for man, animals and plants alike. Nature is the key to our well-being and for this reason, we have to adapt our activities to our environment. Even in areas which are completely built-up, it is possible to set aside an area to accommodate a little wildlife.

We also need unimpaired nature and landscapes in our daily lives as areas of relaxation, or as sources of inspiration and discovery. Nature provides the link between our "human" reality and the whole of creation -

the "complete world" as the Geneva naturalist philosopher Robert Hainard put it.

Nature has always been a key feature of the Swiss identity. Each landscape is a portrait of the varied history of the men and women who inhabited and shaped it. Belonging to a particular area differentiates us all from one another. But the diversity and history of landscapes is also the basis of what we have in common. This may help explain the enthusiasm which greeted ENCY in Switzerland despite the difficult economic climate.

The main focus of ENCY

The impact of ENCY was not felt merely at an individual level. At national and cantonal level, much headway was made in 1995 in framing a nature and landscape policy. For example, greater attention had been paid to the environment of animals and plants in watercourses which had previously been canalised and channelled through narrow concrete conduits. A major revitalisation project of the Thur in eastern Switzerland was presented at the "Nature 1995 Days" in the Federal Palace to explain the new watercourse management philosophy. Several municipalities and cantons were prompted by ENCY to restore the natural assets features of watercourses. We hope with some optimism that 1995 will prove to be just one step in this direction among many others to come.

Radical changes are currently taking place in the farming sector. Agricultural policy reform has paved the way for the production of market-oriented environmentally-friendly "close-to-nature" food products which entail no unnecessary suffering for animals. In 1995 as part of the "Nature 1995 Days", the



B. Davatz

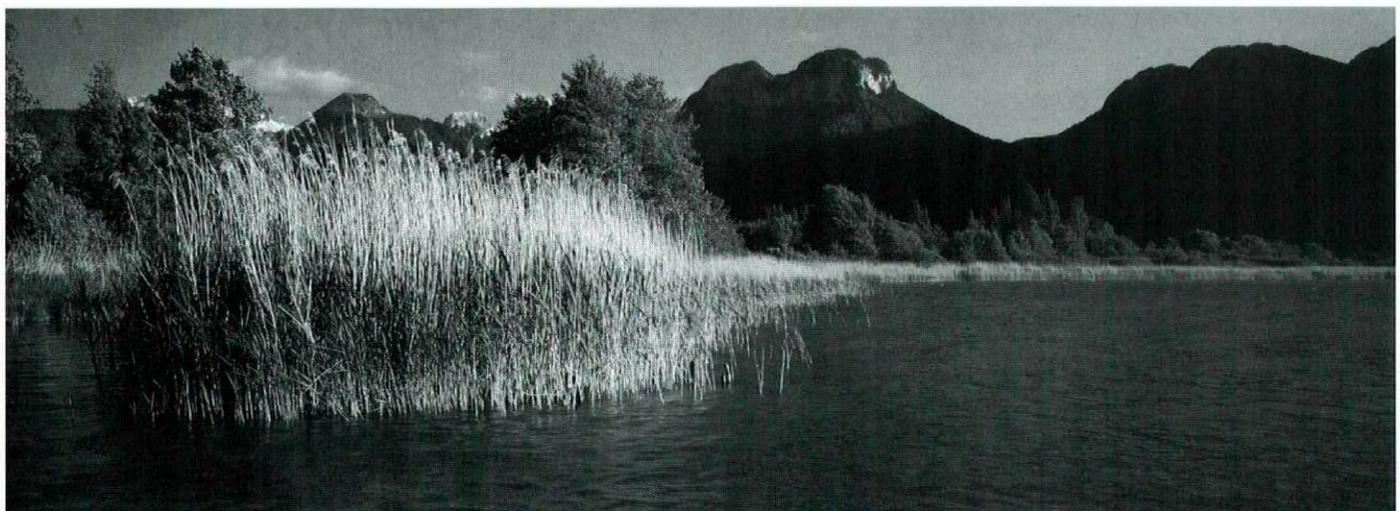
Confederation organised the "Ecological Compensation Forum" which brought together representatives of public and private farming and nature conservation organisations and scientists.

However, the economy did not take a back seat in 1995. With the "1 000 natural parks within the Swiss economy" project, the Confederation joined forces with industries in an operation to transform, by the year 2000, 25 km² of unused business land into natural areas. This is equivalent to the total surface area of all public parks in Switzerland.

The participants in the "Nature 1995 Days" adopted a manifesto "For a Switzerland closer to nature" setting out the main objectives and claims to be pursued and achieved in the coming years:

- close-to-nature agriculture with a network of areas set aside to redress the ecological balance;
- in rural lowland areas, the demarcation by the year 2000 of 70 000 ha of areas kept in their natural state;
- an increase in the number of areas close to their natural state in towns and urban districts: 10% of private gardens and areas surrounding commercial premises and 50% of public utilities by the year 2000;
- programmes to help certain endangered species;
- a national biodiversity monitoring programme;
- a landscape development plan and a nature protection agency in each municipality.

These are just some of the ambitious projects triggered by the manifesto. The impact of ENCY will be measured by the extent to which these requirements have been satisfied.



G. Lacourmette

Prospects

The National Committee's strategy proved effective. The main objectives were achieved. The first of these was to fix firmly within the national conscience the need to protect nature. A representative survey carried out in German and French-speaking Switzerland showed that 50% of the population had heard of ENCY and over 200 000 people had taken an active part in an event or project. More than 700 nature conservation projects and over 1 000 events bear ample witness to the satisfactory achievement of the second objective: to extend and apply nature protection throughout the country. Citizens, private organisations, schools and authorities all played their part. Hedgerows were planted, watercourses restored to their natural state, play-areas given a more natural face-lift and greenery introduced into residential areas. The two major projects launched at the Nature Days, the setting up of the "Ecological Compensation Forum" and the suggestion-box competition for specialists contributed largely to the implementation of model nature protection measures, to showing both the public and the authorities how they could participate, and to the promotion of innovative ideas for biodiversity conservation measures. A large number of projects which got off the ground in 1995 have now been completed. The ideas and motivation for others emerged only last year, inspired by a plethora of worthy examples. It will take several years for them to be implemented; consequently the impact of ENCY will extend well beyond the campaign itself.

Encouraged by the success of the campaign in Switzerland, the Federal Council has instructed the national committee to pursue its work until the end of 1997. It will therefore be able to follow up and encourage the implementation of numerous initiatives. Its main task will be to see that the principles of the manifesto "For a Switzerland closer to nature" are turned into practical measures. Priority will be given to driving home the message of ENCY in the municipalities, encouraging dialogue between nature conservation "practitioners" and scientists, and promoting collaboration with European partners.

"Nature 1997 Days" in Basle will bring the activities of the national committee to a close. Using the "European dialogue for nature protection" as a backdrop, we must discuss strategies for protecting biological and landscape diversity at an international congress. Collaboration between public and private nature protection bodies, a long-standing tradition in Switzerland, will play a key role. We must compare notes and inject the new developments into the dialogue between representatives of eastern and western Europe. ■

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The essential role of NGOs

Patrice Collignon

Every year must come to an end. That statement encapsulates one of the main dangers to initiatives like European Nature Conservation Year 1995. All the energy mustered in support of themes to which people throughout Europe responded - all those forums and committees which saw the start of so much dialogue - could fade to nothing ... with a few flecks of foam being all that remains of the hissing surf which only yesterday was washing over the beaches.

In his concluding remarks as Chairman of the ENCY International Organising Committee, Professor Pavan paid tribute to the work done by the NGOs during the Year and the role they would have to play in the future to make sure that the European campaign had a lasting effect. The last official words spoken in the framework of ENCY thus underlined the fundamental place of NGOs in conserving our natural environment: recognition for work of a multifarious nature, often carried out behind the scenes, but also encouragement for the future.

Stocktaking and follow-up: this article will examine the work of international NGOs during ENCY from both these standpoints.

What they did...

In January 1994, a large number of international NGOs formed a Task Force NGO Nature in order to co-ordinate their activities and to facilitate dialogue with the Council of Europe. This platform of about 50 non-governmental organisations was led by the international association Rurality-Environment-Development (RED). A glance at the Task Force's membership list shows that it went far beyond the circle of NGOs specialising in nature protection; organisations with more general aims or those specialising in other areas of human activity were keen to become involved in the ENCY process. This only goes to illustrate the wide appeal of a theme such as nature conservation or the protection of the environment in general.

The creation of this Task Force, its clear identification and its representativeness meant that NGOs were able to be officially represented within the ENCY International Organising Committee and Steering Group.

The international NGOs organised a variety of different events, reflecting the diversity of the organisers; of course there were numerous colloquies and lectures, but there were also awareness programmes aimed at schools, specific target audiences (local and regional decision-makers, golf-course man-

agers, etc.), or the general public (owners of allotments etc.). The wide range of people involved, which went far beyond the priority target groups defined when ENCY was launched, should guarantee the lasting effect of the awareness-promoting action started during the campaign.

The sources of funding for this work were extremely varied, but General Directorate XI of the European Commission was a regular contributor. It should also be noted that 35% of the Council of Europe budget available for ENCY activities was allocated to NGO projects.

The many Task Force NGOs which took part in ENCY events or organised specific activities did so in accordance with their particular areas of interest and specific capabilities; any attempt to summarise these activities is therefore bound to oversimplify. Nevertheless, we can cite some of the main areas of work of the international NGOs during ENCY 95.

The "100 000 trees" campaign, organised by International Friends of Nature, showed the link between trees and people's living environment; in fact, over 130 000 trees were planted in Europe during the campaign.

The "Landscape of the Year" award: every two years International Friends of Nature declares a particular landscape to be "Landscape of the Year". In 1995 the IFN singled out the Alps, and especially two outstanding regions: the Lesachtal Valley in Austria and the Furka-Grimsel-Susten region in Switzerland.

... and what they had to say

The NGO Nature Week, in which more than 200 specialists took part, was held from 16 to 20 October 1995 in Strasbourg. The Week featured the following three symposiums, which were organised with the help of the Council of Europe and the European Commission:

- "The major transportation infrastructures and nature protection", organised by the International Federation for Housing and Planning, in conjunction with the NGO Mountain Wilderness;

- "Habitats 2000", organised by the European Environmental Bureau;

- "Land law and the conservation of nature", held on the initiative of the European Council for Agricultural Law, in conjunction with Rurality-Environment-Development.

The European symposium on "Urban devel-

opment and nature conservation", organised by the International Federation for Housing and Planning in conjunction with the International Society of City and Regional Planners, was held in Paris on 6-7 November 1995.

The *Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux* organised a European campaign in 1995 for nature- and environment-friendly gardening, which involved many decentralised projects in 14 European countries (publication of a brochure in eight languages on ecological gardening; international seminar in Luxembourg in July 1995; International Garden Day, etc.).

A campaign to promote the environment-friendly management of golf courses in Europe was organised by the European Golf Association, and featured a series of projects aimed at ensuring that nature was more fully taken into account in the management and design of golf courses (publication of recommendations, a pilot experiment involving eight golf courses, and an international seminar held in Brussels in October 1995).

And tomorrow?

It is interesting to note the ongoing nature of the NGOs' activities; many of them will be continuing in 1996 with nature conservation projects which they started in 1995. In addition to this desire to act long-term, the NGOs seem keen to evaluate the results of their efforts, and many of them plan to carry out an assessment in 1996 of their ENCY activities. The following examples illustrate these two aspects:

- The International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP) organised a conference in Odense (Denmark) in May 1996 entitled "Linking the next century - new inter-regional connections and relations", one of the main themes of which was the consequences of inter-regional relations for nature conservation.

- International Friends of Nature will carry out an assessment of its "Landscape of the Year 1995" activity at its congress in 1996; this activity will be continued via practical activities, such as theme-based trails, a school for eco-friendly tourism, etc.

- The European Golf Association will shortly be publishing the results of its pilot management experiments, together with the conclusions of the seminar it organised in October 1995.

- The NGO Euroter proposes to carry out an assessment in 1996, in terms of both quantity and quality, of the campaign which it organised in 1995 to increase awareness of the need for sustainable tourist development.

- Following on from the success of its "ecological gardening" campaign, the *Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux* is considering creating a certificate of sound ecological practice for its member associations.

- The NGO Rurality-Environment-Development will be organising an interna-

tional seminar on ecological networks and the role to be played by local agencies in this context, to be held in Luxembourg in November 1996.

- The international seminars held during NGO Nature Week will be covered in a three-volume publication in 1996 by the Council of Europe.

The willingness of international NGOs to continue to commit themselves to nature conservation work in future years confirms the fact that NGOs are crucial allies in this area. They are extremely valuable in getting information across to the public at large, both about nature conservation and about more responsible citizenship.

The Task Force NGO Nature was wound up at the end of ENCY, but to continue the pooling of resources and the special relationships established during ENCY, the European Centre for Rural and Environmental Interests (CEIRE) will pursue the discussion and partnership started up by the Task Force. The CEIRE is one of nine groups of NGOs with consultative status at the Council of Europe; it has been in operation since 1990.

The political authority and geographical scope of the Council of Europe can help NGOs in their nature conservation work. Making the Council of Europe's communication services more broadly available to the NGOs, providing more frequent logistic support for their activities, and annual financial support could provide useful backup to partners whose concerns are often essentially similar.

Conclusion

Nature conservation, which is still governed by a policy operated in parallel with other sectors, needs to be integrated more fully into other policies. Rather than being treated as a sector apart, nature conservation needs to be managed in conjunction with other issues. The lessons learned from ENCY can have many applications, some of which have already been suggested by several NGOs; a pan-European Alpine policy on transport, spatial and regional planning, and agricultural support, would be a good example. Forests in Europe could also be a melting-pot where nature, tourism, forestry, etc. could mix to form a new alloy from which the development policies of the 20th century could be forged.

In future years, the Council of Europe will concentrate its environment efforts on the implementation of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy adopted at Sofia. There is no doubt that the NGOs will stand shoulder to shoulder with it, offering their skills, networks and professionalism, in exchange for the political recognition which this contribution deserves. ■

P. Collignon

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European campaign for environment-friendly gardening



G. Lacourmette

Environmental education in Albania

Drita Dade

In the framework of the ENCY 95 programme, the Committee of Environmental Protection (CEP), in co-operation with the Council of Europe, organised several events and activities which aimed at awareness-raising and education on environmental issues.

The CEP regards environmental education as a potential means for raising children's awareness, because the creation of conscious attitudes for the environment through the deepening of knowledge and abilities development will help them participate actively in the decisions of tomorrow.

In December 1994, a colloquy on ecological education was organised with the participation of specialists from the CEP, the Ministry of Education and Tirana Universities, and specialists from various European countries who shared their experiences with the Albanian colleagues. Being the first seminar about environmental education, it aimed at providing and discussing the main principles of environmental education which should include all levels of the education system. The presentations made emphasised the need for new methods to be implemented for the integration of these principles in all subjects

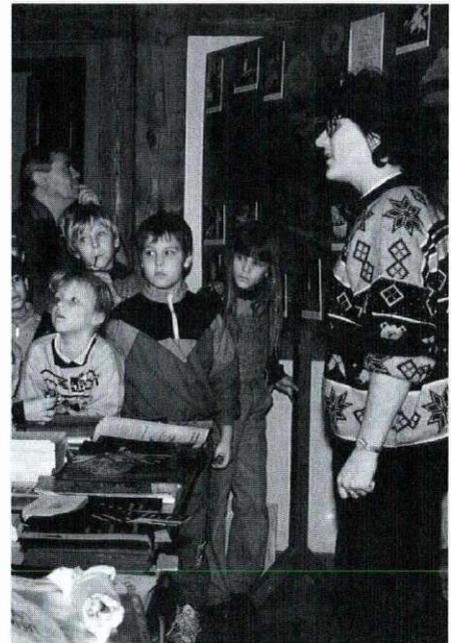
and for teaching programmes for teachers on environmental education to be prepared.

A second seminar on environmental education in schools was organised by the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Education in October 1995. It was a follow-up of the co-operation already started and was attended by the same organisations, with in addition specialists of the education directorates of all the districts of Albania.

The presentations made by the Albanian colleagues indicated that environmental education has started to be institutionalised in Albania and it is now better integrated in school curricula. Environmental education is intertwined not only in the subjects of natural sciences like biology and chemistry, but also in other subjects such as literature, foreign languages, civic education, etc, which from outward appearances do not seem to be much related to environmental education. ■

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Y. Noto-Campanella

Environmental education is a means to create awareness in children

Belarus: well-adapted education

*G. A. Butrim, V. F. Loginov and
A. A. Matesovitch*

Ecology education in Belarus firstly means compulsory introduction of nature protection disciplines in all education fields: secondary schools, professional training and higher education. Secondly, it aims at the introduction in all technical schools not only nature protection courses, but also links them with non-nature disciplines. It also envisages education of the entire population, with recruitment for this work of well-trained personnel. An environmental education programme has been developed and the legislative bases for ecology education evolution have been laid.

Appropriate education

Some ecological aspects are included in general education and in pre-school establishments. Secondary school biology programmes envisage studying ecology aspects and ecology notions may be expanded and summarised later on when environmental factors, organic evolution, biocenology and

biosphere science are studied. At advanced level the basics of ecology and nature protection are included. Optional courses are available, such as nature protection, the community and nature, ecology and nature protection, public health and environment, engineering and environment and the ecological aspects of chemistry, geography and geology have been developed. In 1996-97 a gradual transition to modernise the content of biology education will start by introducing the course "Universe", as well as a special ecology course. In secondary schools, school curricula and programmes have been adjusted to include active methods of ecology specialist training and nature protection issues are discussed in diploma projects. In all secondary school establishments basic ecology has been introduced in the second course. In senior courses the subject "Bases of industrial ecology" has been introduced.

To co-ordinate activity, experience exchange and provide methodical assistance on problems of ecology protection, an association of secondary establishments and secondary school teachers has been created. The association holds conferences, seminars and com-

petitions and develops recommendations. Hearings were held devoted to ENCY. They enlisted almost all professional technical schools and served as an evaluation of ecology education for future experts.

Higher education

The key moment in the system of training ecologically competent specialists for industrial production and management is higher education. The International Radio-ecological Institute has been formed and functions successfully at present. In a number of higher educational institutions, chairs of nature protection have been created and training of specialists in environmental protection has started. The new subjects radio-ecology, environmental protection and national nature resources management, radio-biology and radiation medicine have been introduced in higher educational establishments.

In modern higher education curricula the compulsory course "Bases of ecology" is envisaged. Also, lectures are being delivered in non-ecology specialities, such as radiation

security, ecology security, ecology and rational nature management, etc. The students' ecology centre co-ordinates the out-of-school departments. The results of scientific works are discussed every year at the Republican conferences.

For more active participation of youth from areas where there are no higher education or other scientific institutions, education in the form of tuition is organised: The work on radio-ecological education of the population, who suffered from the Chernobyl accident, is carried out. A wide network of scientific practical centres for socio-physiological rehabilitation of children and adults affected by Chernobyl has been developed. In addition, in accordance with the UNESCO-Chernobyl programme, three social rehabilitation centres have been built.

Information on ENCY

A special place in informing citizens about the state of the natural environment and increasing ecological culture belongs to the mass media. This work has become especially active during in ENCY 95. Special environment TV programmes and "round tables" devoted to ENCY shared considerable screen time. National and regional newspapers as well as popular magazines paid considerable attention to nature protection problems. The International Festival of TV broadcasts was devoted to ENCY and held in 1995. "Eco-world-95" has become an annual event and attracted the attention of many countries and a special TV section has been formed related to this event.

Statistical collections and bulletins dealing with the state of natural resources in Belarus are published every year. The schedule of practical measures in the sphere of ecology education for the period 1996-2000 is being developed, taking into consideration the needs of valid legislation and the recommendations of international organisations on this issue.

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Results in Austria

Burghard Rulofs

Initial preparations aimed at making ENCY a success began as early as 1993 with the setting up of an organising committee comprising representatives from the federal states, the Federal Environment Ministry and nature conservation NGOs. An honorary committee, comprising the Austrian President and members of the federal government and the governments of federal states, was also formed. The public relations campaign was run at national regional and local level.

National information material and events

The federal states and the Federal Minister gave the Institute for Nature Protection in Graz the task of preparing and undertaking federation-wide initiatives. A total of 200 000 stickers, 50 000 posters, 300 000 brochures, 200 video cassettes, books and stamps were used. In addition to major meetings held in Graz and Salzburg, the opening ceremony in Vienna on 3 March and the closing event in Bregenz on 16 and 17 November were particularly noteworthy. ENCY also gained widespread coverage in daily newspapers, and on radio and television. Competitions and information events were run throughout the country. There was even an Austrian song composed for ENCY.

These activities were aimed at schoolchildren, teachers, local authorities, media professionals, associations, farmers, foresters and,

more generally, all Austrians. A great many NGOs of varying size also became involved in ENCY.

In the federal states

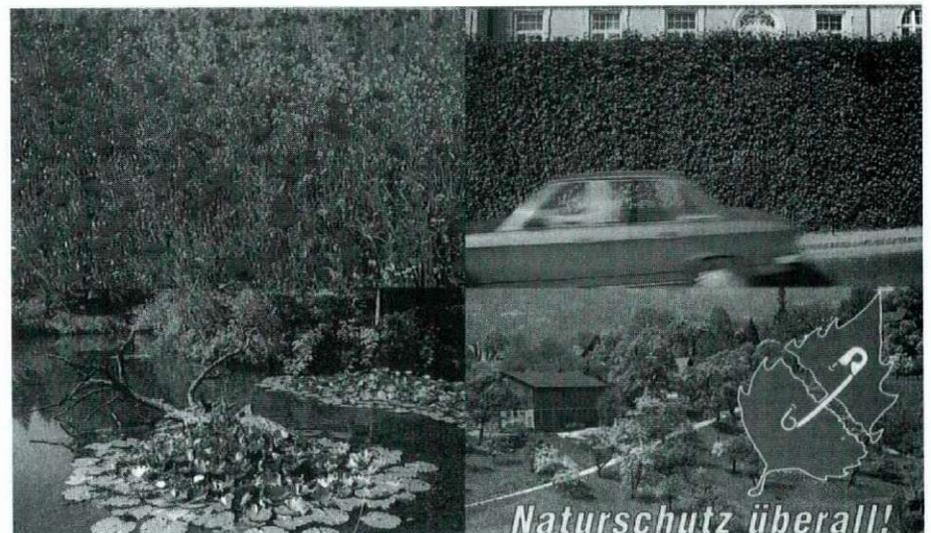
Other activities were run in each of Austria's nine federal states. Examples are given in the ENCY programme drawn up by the federal state of Styria (*Das steirische Landesprogram zum Europäischen Naturschutzjahr*) and the summary of ENCY activities carried out in Vienna (*Zusammenfassung der Wiener Aktivitäten im Naturschutzjahr 1995*).

At local level

Numerous local and regional authorities ran ENCY activities. Examples are the report on nature protection in the municipality (*Naturschutz in unserer Gemeinde*) and that on the biotope constituted by reservoirs kept for fire prevention purposes (*Lebensraum Löschteich*).

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Extract from the ENCY information leaflet distributed in Austria





J. Sobhle



D. Hubaut

▲ Opening ceremony in the presence of Prince Laurent

◀ The Bruxelles-Capitale region focused its campaign on the importance of nature in urban areas

Belgium: a few millions and many activities

Léon Woué, Jacques Stein and Dominique Alexandre

Nature conservation has been "regionalist" in Belgium, so it is now dealt with by the three regions of the Kingdom. The campaign was therefore organised by three Regional Organising Committees, each taking its own specific line, according to the features of its region. This division notwithstanding, European Nature Conservation Year 1995 in Belgium earned a reputation to equal that of the first ENCY in 1970. While the official patron of the campaign was His Majesty King Albert II, the combined opening ceremony for all three regions, held on the first day of spring, was honoured by the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Laurent.

A series of activities and schemes were run in the three regions, and this article gives a brief overview of them.

Wallonia

An organising committee was set up at the end of 1993 by the Minister for the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Guy Lutgen. The specific themes of the campaign were a more ecological management of habitats not reserved for speculative economic activities (attics, bell towers, roadside verges) and, as the priority theme, the maintenance, restoration and development of an ecological network within Wallonia. For the purposes of these themes, it was decided to raise awareness among vari-

ous target groups through exhibitions, brochures, leaflets, information days and pilot operations. The figures relating to Wallonia's campaign are quite conclusive: on 1 May 1996, 76 municipalities were involved in ecological management of roadside verges, 55 had agreed to make their attics and bell towers more accommodating for wildlife (bats, barn owls) and 20 municipalities had started work on municipal nature development plans. On the ground, these operations are monitored by two agricultural experts and one biology graduate from Wallonia, who also give them the benefit of their experience.

NGOs have also contributed to the success of the campaign through the 78 subsidised projects and the 48 "labels" granted by Wallonia, as well as by helping to organise excursions to raise awareness of natural habitats outside protected areas.

Particularly beneficial to the image of ENCY and its themes was a great variety of visual material, including the poster designed by André Buzin, a book entitled *Le Grand Livre de la Nature en Wallonie* and the videocassette based on P. Anger's film, "La nature ordinaire comme un petit coquelicot". The only regret is the poor media coverage, in spite of the work of ENCY's own press attaché.

We nevertheless hope that the press will finally take an interest in the closing ceremony, scheduled for 8 June 1996, which will involve both a forum in appreciation of the efforts of all who have contributed to the success of ENCY (NGOs, government, working

groups) and a wide-ranging discussion of Wallonia's biodiversity conservation policy.

Brussels

As the Bruxelles-Capitale Region is highly urbanised, its campaign theme was "Brussels, quite naturally", centring on nature in an urban environment. Activities were organised by the Planning/Nature Department of the Brussels Institute for Environmental Management. Public and private managers of many parks and gardens were called on to play their part, with differentiated management operations being started in certain "green areas" and support being offered to enhancement and management projects intended to promote nature in the city. The visual material developed is shown on information boards covering flora and fauna in the region's "green areas" and on a series of six posters on the theme of "Nature is in town".

An environment awareness-raising campaign, "Nature in the city - living nature", aimed at the 8 to 12-year-old schoolchildren of the Brussels Region, took up the theme of ENCY and drew children's attention to the importance of small-scale untamed nature in the city.

ENCY should be rounded off dynamically with a practical effort to set up nature clubs enabling children to "adopt" areas within their schools or neighbourhoods.

A campaign to help the last remaining colonies of house martins has also been jointly

organised with an NGO. The problem of insufficient media coverage also arose in the Brussels Region.

Flanders

A Regional Organising Committee was set up back in 1993. On the board of "wise persons" were representatives of the government department responsible for nature conservation, of the "Conseils supérieurs" (advisory bodies dealing with field sports, nature conservation and woodlands) and of NGOs. Numerous programmes having been prepared by Flanders on nature conservation outside protected areas, its ENCY campaign mainly involved drawing public attention to nature conservation outside nature reserves, raising maximum public awareness with the assistance of a good number of NGOs. Fifty projects were subsidised in 1995, but Flanders mainly distinguished itself by producing large amounts of visual material: over 100 000 copies of three special magazines on ENCY (*Année européenne*) and a nature conservation brochure (*Conservation de la nature*) were produced and distributed to every Flemish municipality and to every library in the region. Posters were displayed in over 2 000 public service vehicles (trams and buses), but the main success was the large-scale collaboration with the media, avoiding the problem encountered by the other regions: a TV advertisement marked the publication of the *Conservation de la nature en Flandre* brochure, and there was a media campaign in several weekly newspapers and magazines. The culmination of ENCY should be the passing of a new nature conservation decree, the preliminary draft of which was approved by the Flemish Government in March 1995. ■

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Black spot in the suburbs

Croatia: a green phone

Zelena Akcija (Green Action)

The Green Phone (GP) is the driving force behind most Zelena Akcija (ZA) actions because it is a direct link with the community and is available to anyone with questions and/or complaints related to environmental protection. Since its establishment in September 1992, GP has received over 4 000 calls from all over Croatia. Of all questions asked, the three most common are related to city waste management services, maintenance of green areas within urban centres and old, abandoned cars.

Over the years, GP has established itself as a fundamentally important communication link between citizens and city government on environmental issues. The public becomes a "pressure group" through GP, acting upon City administration and industry as well as their own activities. GP success lies in its ability to directly involve the public by enabling them to assume an active role in solving local environmental problems and providing a forum for their complaints and requests for information on how to go about solving problems themselves; on other environment groups in Croatia and the world; and on different activities to promote ecological protection.

Green Phone actions

The following important GP actions were carried out in 1995 within the framework of ENCY:

- Earth Day exhibition entitled "The dark side of metropolis", an awareness-raising activity. This photographic exhibition was displayed in the most frequented pedestrian passageways of Zagreb and featured illegal waste

dumps, abandoned cars and other black spots in the city suburbs.

- Oil spills in the Zutica oak forest: The Croatian State oil company (INA) extracts oil and natural gas in one of the last great oak forests in Croatia. Due to the old infrastructure, unchecked oil spills have been occurring with high frequency over the last two years, exacerbated by poor site sanitation. Due to political pressure from INA, the public company in charge of protecting the forest was unable to take action to rectify the situation. Exasperated with their inability to act, the public company invited ZA, through GP, to help them solve this problem. GP organised a highly critical media campaign which led INA to improve its performance. Although raised, INA's pollution management practices remain below the standards we demand, thus more spills are expected to occur. In this event, GP is preparing itself to organise a new campaign.

- Auto rally on Medvednica mountain: As Medvednica (north of Zagreb) is a national park, the auto rally conducted there is an illegal activity. Nevertheless, owing to strong political support, it continues to be held annually. Following the campaign organised by GP, this sponsorship has been withdrawn. Further GP action, in the form of a media campaign and round-table discussion, bringing together representatives from all the parties involved, resulted in a promise from the rally organisers that this year's rally would be the last one in that location. In addition to this commitment, all parties agreed to cooperate on a project which will restrict general car traffic on Medvednica.

- Saving the trees on the "Flowers Square", a square in the very centre of Zagreb: Without public debate, the city government decided to

start reconstruction of this square. The project involved cutting down the existing trees and replacing them with new ones. GP, together with ZA, organised an action to save the trees, as they were in good condition and significantly contributed to the beauty of the square. The action consisted of three major elements: a group of activists to physically protect trees, a public petition and media campaign. The extraordinary involvement of the public made this combined action a great success. As a result, the city mayor ordered a protection order to preserve the trees. Unfortunately, a little time after this success, the city government again acted without consultation, breaking its promise by cutting down those trees. The media supports ZA and is still reporting on this broken promise today, one year after it took place. ■

Zelena Akcija (Green Action)

Radnička c. 22

10 000 Zagreb

Croatia

Zelena Akcija - Green Action

Zelena Akcija (ZA) is a non-governmental, non-profit-making environmental organisation. Based in Zagreb, it is actively involved in environmental issues of local, national and international significance and is not affiliated with any political party. It depends on volunteers for projects, campaigns and non-violent actions.

ZA strives to empower citizens by increasing their opportunities for active and meaningful participation in all decision-making processes which have an impact upon nature and the quality of life in Croatia. Although ZA acts primarily as a pressure group, it also provides expertise, advice and information on a wide range of environmental issues to individuals, communities, schools, industry, governmental agencies and other environmental groups.

ZA works by gathering, co-ordinating and educating interested citizens through protest actions, seminars, workshops and information activities. Its aim is to facilitate implementation and enforcement of ecologically sustainable development and the principles as set out in Agenda 21, in all aspects of reconstruction and development in Croatia. ■

Czech Republic: military and environment

Viktor Šaroch

In the framework of ENCY 95, the 3rd Army-Wide Conference entitled "The military and the environment" was held on 15-18 May 1995 at the Infantry Military Academy in Vyškov, with international participation. The four-day meeting of military environmental specialists, water management personnel and other professionals from the sector of the Ministry of Defence, with representatives of the state administration, educational institutions and professional organisations, was held under the auspices of the President of the Republic with the co-operation of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic and the Vyškov Military Academy. The importance of the event was emphasised by the presence of the Deputy Minister of the Environment, Aleš Šulc, and the First Deputy Minister of Defence, Jiří Pospíšil.

An ethical approach

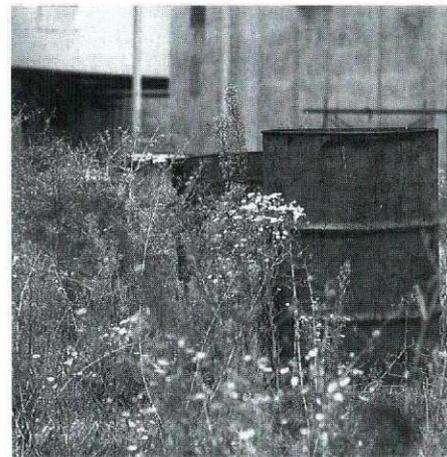
The theme of the conference was environmental ethics, which occupied the chief position both in plenary meetings and in section A. The latter also included legislative and educational aspects of environmental protection. A total of 16 lectures were held in this section, and a further five reports selected as pilot lectures were presented in the framework of the inauguration plenum. One of the most interesting presentations was the lecture given by Blanka Prokešová of the Ministry of Defence, dealing with aspects of an ethical approach to the environment in science and technology.

Section B dealt with protection of nature and the landscape and consisted of a total of twenty-three lectures, documenting realistic capacities for coexistence of the interests of defence of the state and protection of nature in the Czech Republic. Examples of this approach include the lecture by Vojen Ložek entitled "The army as protector of nature" and the report by the Director of the Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of the Environment, Jan Kender, on the protection and creation of the landscape.

The subject of technical protection of soil, water and air was covered in 21 lectures in section C. Jan Švoma of the consulting company Aquatest SG presented a basic contribution on this subject at the plenary session.

Other topics

Further sections dealt with waste management in the Czech army, investments for environmental protection and remedial measures for protection of the environment



The problem of waste management

F. Roubert

and health. Of a total of 24 contributions, the most interesting was that presented by Josef Tichý, the head of the environmental service of the 1st Army Corps, on waste handling in his professional capacity, and also the lecture by the Vice-Rector of the J. A. Purkyne Military Medical Academy, Jiří Beron, and co-workers, entitled "Evaluation of risk factors as causes of disease".

From the standpoint of international co-operation in environmental issues in the armed forces, the foreign participation by professionals from the USA, Poland, Germany and Great Britain was noteworthy. These individuals mostly consisted of colleagues encountered during meetings on professional issues in the framework of the pilot studies of the NATO Committee for Modern Social Response or at the Academy of the NATO High Command in Europe, where courses on military environmental issues are also held.

A six-volume Proceedings of the conference containing copies of the lectures has been published, of which a second edition has been issued this year in response to increased demand. ■

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Denmark: landscape tells a story

Vivian Etting

In Denmark the campaign for ENCY 95 has been directed towards the cultural landscape.

The landscape in Denmark is marked by human activity throughout millenniums. It is a country without mountains, and a very large part of the realm is used for agricultural production. With a coastline of about 7 000 km the sea has always had vital importance to the country in connection with settlements as well as trade and occupation. Nature in Denmark is almost everywhere marked by human exploitation - in good and bad ways - and therefore we decided that the ENCY 95 campaign should be directed towards the values and the story behind the man-made landscape and the interaction between man and nature.

His Royal Highness Prince Henrik undertook to be patron of the campaign and a National Committee was set up. The Ministry of Environment and Energy, represented by the Danish National Forest and Nature Agency, was responsible for the campaign, and more than 20 organisations, representing agriculture, forestry, nature, museums, leisure interests etc., participated in about 700 activities all over the country. More than 100 000 people participated. The target group was the Danish population as such, but some of the arrangements aimed particularly at children.

Events and activities

The campaign was introduced on 2 May 1995 at the royal hunting seat "The Eremitage" in a large forest just north of Copenhagen in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Henrik and Mr Svend Auken, Minister for the Environment and Energy. The main part of the activities and arrangements took place during the period August-September-October in connection with the so-called "Five green Sundays", which were organised by the Danish National Forest and Nature Agency, the Association of County Councils in Denmark, the Open Air Council, the Agricultural Council of Denmark and the Danish Forestry Society. Here people were invited to a great number of excursions and activities, as well as visits to different examples of farming and forestry.

A series consisting of four posters with the common title "The Danish cultural landscape" was produced. Here a mosaic of pictures emphasises the main characteristics of Danish landscape and at the same time warns about the consequences of bad planning. An information folder describes the target of the campaign and lists the different activities all over the country. As a more special publication the book *Discovering the cultural landscape* was pub-

lished. Here a number of scientists and authors paint a picture of the Danish landscape in the past, present and future in order to analyse its development and illustrate the problems. The book has been very well received by the press, and we hope that it will be followed by a lot of new initiatives.

Among the many activities which were organised, we would like to emphasise the effort of the many local museums all over the country. No less than 80 museums participated in the campaign with exhibitions, excursions, lectures and different kinds of printed information material. The main target has been to make "common people" conscious about the values in their environment, so that we will be able to combine the protection of nature with the exploitation of cultural values in a better way in the future.

"Forest Day" was another part of the campaign. Here the main theme was "The forest as a part of the landscape in general" and on 24 September no less than 45 000 people participated in various activities all over the country in public as well as private forests.

In the Danish elementary schools a competition was held, called "Danish mastership in geography" with the subtitle "The nature of the local area - man's interplay with nature". No less than 114 classes participated in the competition, which was primarily directed towards children from 5th to 10th class.

There was great enthusiasm about the project and a lot of excellent papers were produced.

Positive results

If we should briefly summarise the results of the campaign in Denmark, we would like to point at the great local interest and engagement. A lot of arrangements, activities and lectures have resulted in a broad attention about the campaign. At national level the media have concentrated on the main events such as the opening ceremony, whereas the local press have referred to the arrangements in the region. In order to be able to measure the broader effects of the campaign, the National Forest and Nature Agency hired a private market analyses institute. The results of the investigation were very satisfactory. Almost 40% of the people who were asked had heard about the activities during the campaign, and nearly 60% would like to participate in some of the arrangements.

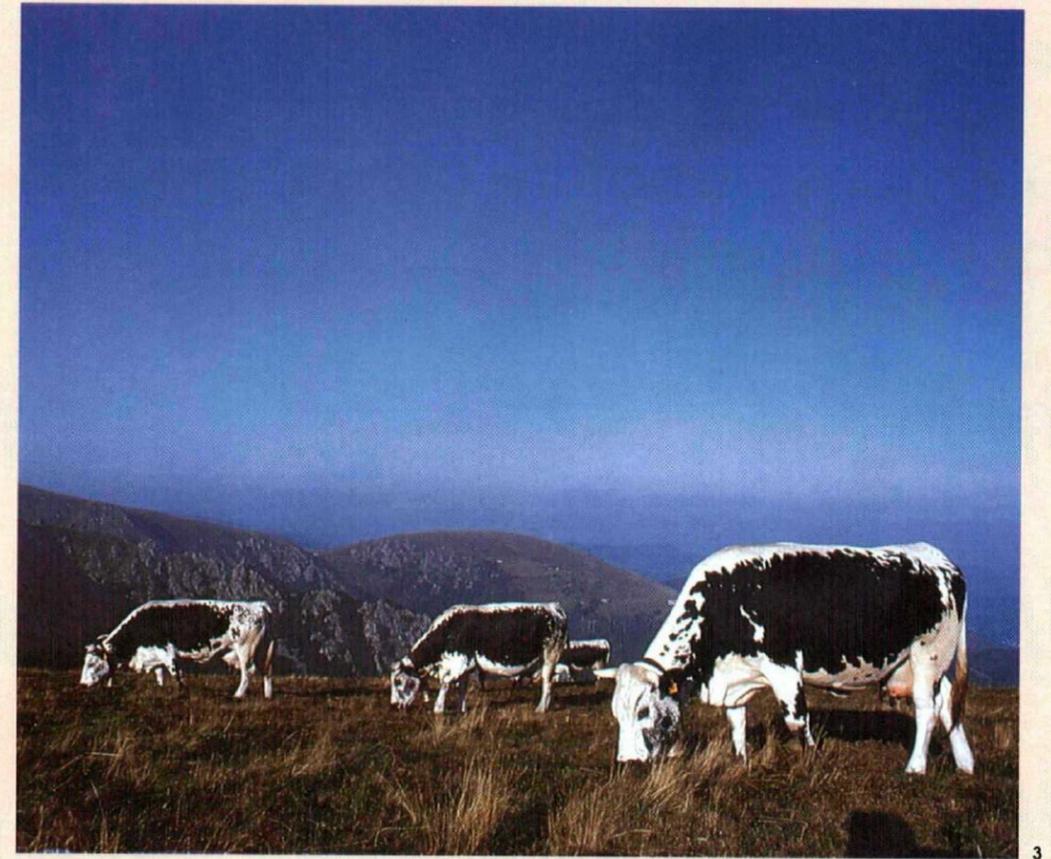
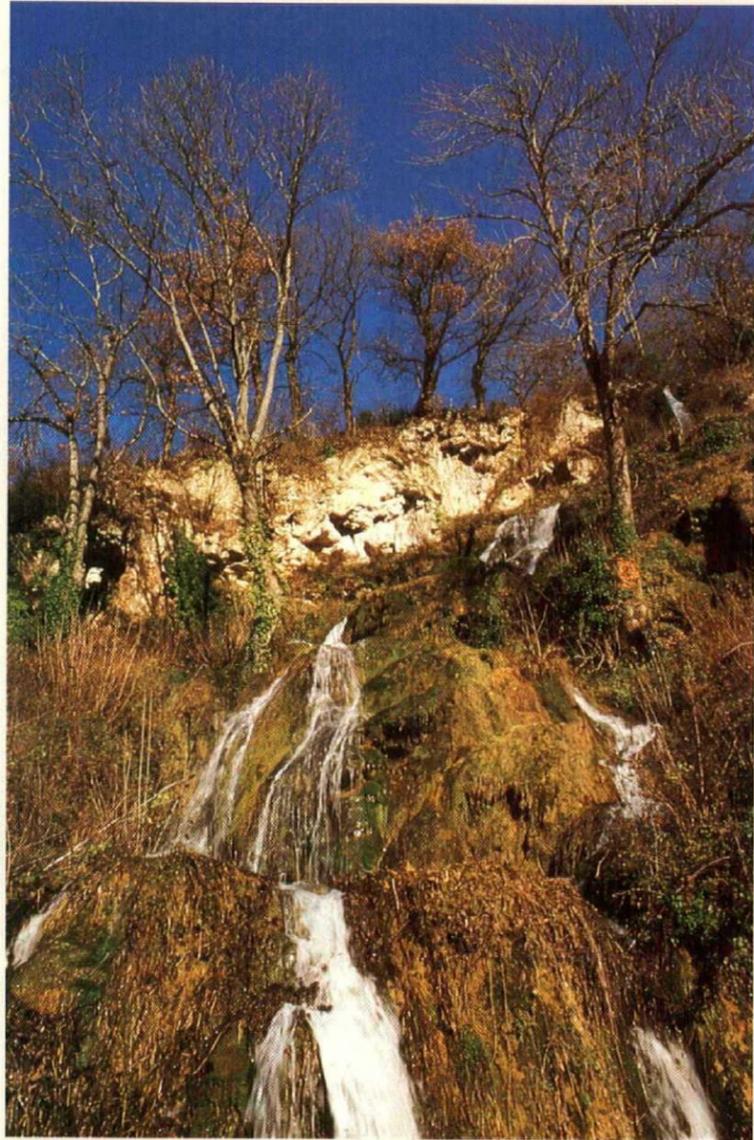
Therefore, ENCY 95 must be described as a success in Denmark. Nevertheless, it is important to emphasise that it only marks the start of a new way to regard and treat nature and landscape around us. ■

V. Etting

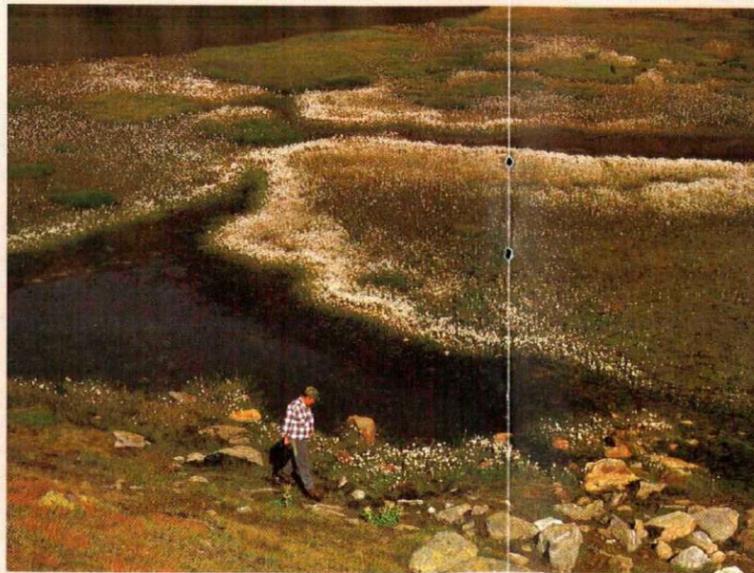
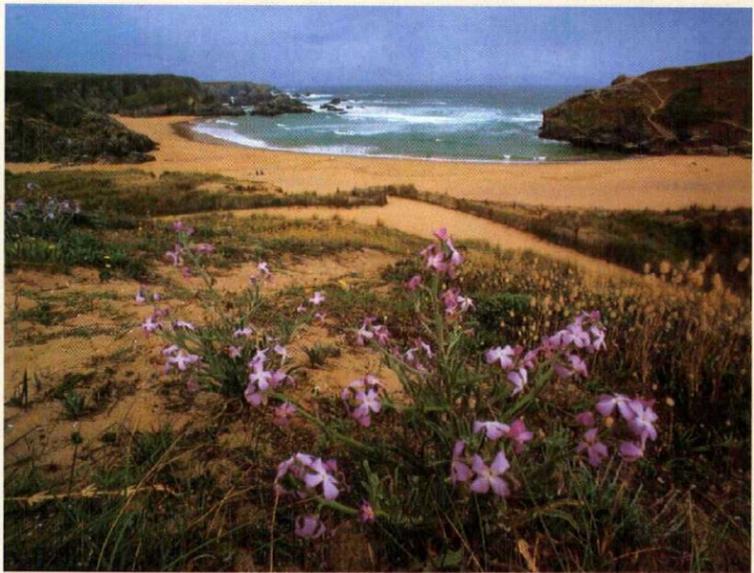
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Denmark has a coastline of about 7 000 km. View from Sr. Lyngvig at the west coast of Jutland



Look to the future
Look after nature



Germany: is nature conservation taking off at last?

Helga Inden-Heinrich

"Look to the future - look after nature": a task for us all

In 1994, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety set up a National Organising Committee (NOC) for ENCY 95 with responsibility for advising and supporting the organisers of the German programme. With 39 members from various sections of society, who were appointed in their personal capacity, the NOC included representatives of associations working in the fields of nature and the environment, hunting, forestry, agriculture, horticulture, sport, tourism, transport, business, architecture and youth affairs, as well as representatives of the federal, *Länder* and municipal authorities, the churches, business and the media.

Responsibility for the activities of the NOC was assigned to the National Agency of the Centre Naturopa, at the *Deutscher Naturschutzring* (DNR). An office funded by a special federal grant was set up for this purpose.

The aim of this second campaign in Germany was to convince all the parties concerned of the need to conserve nature, both inside and outside protected areas, and, above all, to make sure that conservation efforts continued beyond 1995.

In reply to an appeal by the NOC, over 500 public and private bodies submitted details of nature conservation projects designed to mobilise public opinion. These projects included new ways of conserving nature with the involvement of the various groups concerned. The NOC selected a total of 53 "projects of the month" out of the 500. These were then publicised with the help of various politicians, and marked the way through ENCY. President Roman Herzog, who was patron of the campaign, awarded a certificate to each individual project selected.

The great number and range of activities gave a significant boost to the impact of ENCY. Even the small events, which did not make the headlines, played an important role. Through various practical projects based on partnership, the participants in the NOC clearly demonstrated that joint action by nature conservationists is not only necessary, but also possible.

In its final declaration, the NOC made four recommendations aimed at maintaining public interest in nature conservation and keeping the relevant groups mobilised. In particular, it recommended:

- that regular working meetings should be held on specific technical issues for the main organisations involved in conserving nature outside protected areas;
- that the federal, *Länder* and municipal authorities should finance or co-finance particular projects in this area;
- that the federal government and the *Länder* should organise a national nature conservation competition on a regular basis, with prizes for successful schemes;
- that parliament should be asked, when extending nature conservation legislation, to strengthen and protect the regional planning laws and the regulations on legitimate administrative interference with individuals' rights, which are of vital importance to the conservation of nature outside protected areas and to concrete efforts to put this into practice.

In built-up areas

Emscher Landscape Park

This regional park in the Ruhr basin has an area of 320 km². Following the lead of the Emscher Park international development programme (IBA), 17 cities and two districts in the Ruhr basin association of municipalities (KVR) have decided to regenerate the environment between Duisburg and Bergkamen. The aim is to turn a rundown industrial area into an attractive and environmentally sustainable urban landscape where people like to live and where recreation and leisure facilities are close at hand. Integrated landscape planning will ensure that remaining empty spaces will not be used for any purpose, but will be linked together and environmentally enhanced.

ENCY saw the publication of a nature guide on green belt D, one of the seven green belts that cross the Emscher Park region from north to south. It runs alongside the towns of Bochum, Gelsenkirchen, Herne, Herten and Recklinghausen.

On military sites

As far as nature conservation is concerned, military training grounds often serve as important ecological corridors linking different individual biotopes.

Klietz training ground

When the Federal Army took possession of the Klietz training ground in Saxony-Anhalt in 1990, there was very little plant cover on much of the 9 200 hectares. The urgent soil protection measures taken have helped to reverse the serious erosion and have enabled

near-natural plant cover and a network of ecologically valuable areas to develop. The mix of zones used and zones not used for training has resulted in great diversity of species.

The particular patterns of use mean that the Klietz site has become a sanctuary for threatened animal and plant species. The studies carried out to date have shown that it is made up of a great variety of biotopes and that - despite or precisely because of the military usage - around a third of these belong to the category deserving special protection. In future, use of the training ground will have to comply with a 20-year land-use and soil-regeneration plan designed to protect the balance of nature.

The success of the project is also due to the effective co-operation between the army, the federal forestry agency, the local authorities and nature conservation agencies such as *Naturschutzbund Deutschland* (NABU).

Agriculture

The German-Belgian scheme to link biotopes in the northern Eifel region was set up jointly by Euskirchen biological station and the Belgian association for conservation areas and bird sanctuaries. On the Belgian side, it includes the municipalities of Büllingen (Bullange) and Manderfeld, and on the German side, the municipalities of Hellenthal and Dahlem in North-Rhine Westphalia. The northern Eifel region is characterised by extensive areas of grassland and forest, crossed by a multitude of valleys with small streams. Agriculture in the region is based on grazing. The priority objective of those involved in the project is to reconcile nature conservation with agriculture, in particular by developing extensive methods of farming. A cross-border network of biotopes is to be built up by combining appropriate farming and conservation methods with the removal of undesired vegetation. ■

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Hungary: the return of the great white egret

István Major

In the course of ENCY 95, numerous events were organised in Hungary to intensify the constructive dialogue between nature conservationists and the users of natural resources. Workshops with themes of agriculture, hunting, tourism and also fisheries were conducted with the participation of hundreds of experts and interested laymen.

The fishing example

Perhaps the resolution of those conflicts which emerge between nature conservation and users of natural resources could be best explained using the example of fisheries. Over the past 50 years, the number of fish ponds in Hungary has tripled and their total surface area has increased from 10 000 ha to 30 000 ha. Today there are 277 fish ponds, of which more than half are larger than 10 to 100 ha and the area of five of them exceeds 1 000 ha.

A system of natural wild waters existed until the end of the last century, when these wetlands were finally destroyed or reduced in size almost irreversibly through watercourse regulations and ameliorations in connection with intensifying agriculture. The two large rivers, the Danube and the Tisza, and their related watersheds, have ensured the survival of a great diversity of waterfowl. Natural water resources were of similar importance for the existence of indigenous animal and plant species, as well as for migratory species each spring and autumn. It can be said, therefore, that Hungarian wetland habitats were of extraordinary importance for the survival of wildlife even as far as Asia and northern Europe.

Since the 1960s, nature conservation has systematically tackled the task of protecting the few remaining natural or close-to-natural wetlands and of reconstructing or establishing new suitable wetland habitats. An important strategic component in this context was the conscious support to the development of aquaculture. Fish ponds are a good example of the harmonisation of nature conservation and economic objectives. As a result of this strategy, new species are continuously appearing and reappearing in the fauna of Hungary; for example, the populations of certain rare and endangered bird species are increasing.

Population evolution

After the first world war, the great white egret (*Egretta alba*) disappeared from Hungarian territory due to ruthless hunting practices. Even though hunting of the egret was later regulated and then even forbidden, this rare and beautiful bird - symbol of nature conservation in Hungary - could only return slowly because of the lack of suitable habitats. Today there are nearly 1 000 known breeding pairs, of which more than half are nesting in the reeds in the immediate vicinity of fish ponds, where they also feed.

The population increase of the avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) is also clearly connected to the fish ponds of the Great Hungarian Plains. Their low water level in spring time resembles the now very rare natural lakes and they offer a suitable breeding location.

Among the birds of prey, the appearance of the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) is linked to the fish ponds, where it finds suitable prey mainly during winter. Each winter 100 to 150 individuals can be observed around the fish ponds.

The introduction of some of the species above also demonstrates the importance of man-made habitats. It is therefore no surprise that four of the fish pond systems are declared and a further six systems are proposed as Ramsar Convention areas. In the

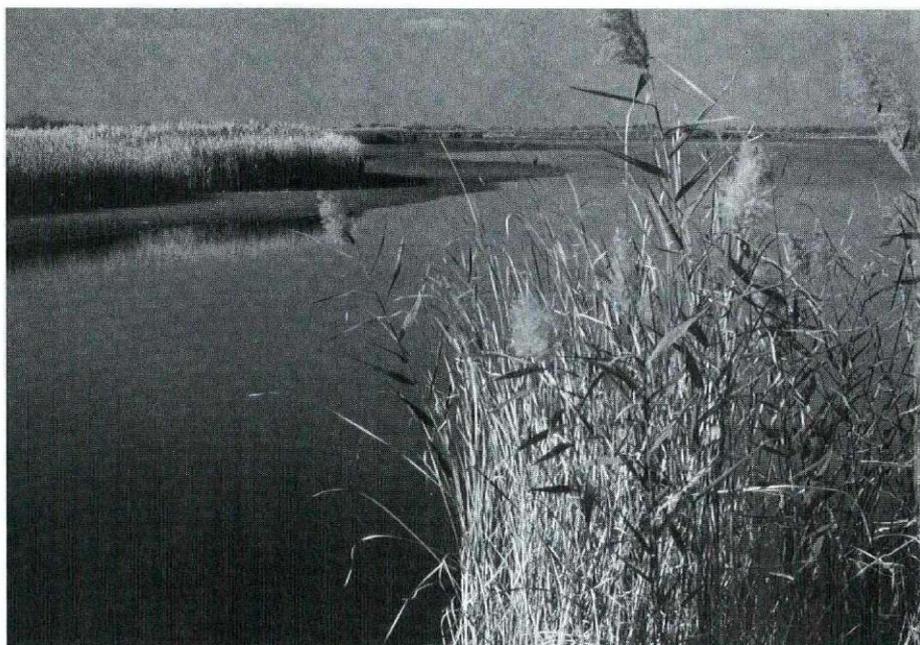
framework of a World Conservation Union (IUCN) programme, all lake and fish pond systems of ecological importance in Hungary have been surveyed and included in an overall conservation programme. The conservation policy has been formed in such a way that the fish ponds have been incorporated as part of the European Ecological Network (ECONET), being an inseparable element of our environment.

Constructive dialogue

The ENCY workshops clearly reinforced the perception that without the production of fish as a commercial good, the important man-made waterfowl habitats would not be able to offer their benefits to nature conservation. Without fish, no birds. The aim has to be to convince the management of fish ponds to incorporate the needs of the "other users" (plant and animal species), in an overall management concept. The constructive dialogue throughout the workshops could eliminate extreme viewpoints on both sides and it is planned to institutionalise the ENCY workshops for the improvement of coexisting relationships between all users of fish ponds, including the great white egret. ■

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Habitat favourable to the return of the great white egret

Z. Kalotás

Iceland: we've got the environment in our hands

Sigurdur Thrainsson

One of the main events of ENCY 95 in Iceland was a nation-wide programme for clean shores and riverbanks, named "We've got the environment in our hands". It was organised by the Union of Youth Organisations and the Ministry for the Environment in co-operation with a few unions, organisations and companies.

The event was set up to cover two of the main objectives of the Icelandic campaign, namely, increased environmental awareness and increased participation of the general public in nature protection.

The project was divided into two phases. The first phase consisted of nine seminars, held throughout the country, on nature conservation, emphasising the theme of the year and the importance of clean environment and healthy shores. At each seminar special attention was given to local environmental problems.

The second phase started on 5 June, the United Nation's World Environment Day, when a few member organisations arranged clean-up days in their area for their members and the public. Small groups of people signed up for short strips of sea-shore or a river bank to clean. This progressed through the summer until most member organisations had arranged a clean-up day. Generally the participation was good in the event, with just under 1 000 people participating in the nine seminars and around 3 000 people showing up to clean a total of 1 000 km of shores and riverbanks.

The type and amount of trash found on each strip was registered. Based on this information the amount of trash from various sources was calculated and the sources identified in hope for improvement.

The Icelandic Youth Organisation has now joined forces with the international organisation "Clean up the World" to continue the clean-up project in Iceland. ■

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F. Zvardon/Plurici

▲ More than 1 000 km of shores and riverbanks have been cleaned in Iceland thanks to the "Clean up the World" action

Field trip on the theme "Understanding landscape" in Ireland ▼



B. Boisson

Ireland: action and awareness at local community level

Seamus Lynam

In Ireland the National Organising Committee (NOC) for ENCY 95, made up of representatives from state and local authorities, farming and forestry interests as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), adopted the theme of "Action and awareness for nature conservation outside protected areas". The main objectives of the campaign were to emphasise the interdependence between man and nature, to promote the diversity of Ireland's natural habitats, to guide people in their use and enjoyment of these habitats and to re-enforce an ongoing commitment to nature conservation by all.

At the first meeting of the NOC, it was agreed that the support and, more importantly, the involvement of local communities in the area of nature conservation outside protected areas in the long term was essential and should be an important goal of the ENCY campaign in Ireland. Rather than trying to establish new networks, the committee decided to target a number of existing and well-established community networks and to encourage them to take on board the theme "Awareness and action for nature conservation" in their 1995 activities. Two of these networks were Macra na Feirme (Young Farmers Clubs) and the National Tidy Town Committees.

Working for wildlife

Macra na Feirme (Young Farmers Clubs) has 300 clubs throughout the country with over 8 000 members. They are involved in all types of community and development projects. In particular, their annual Community Service Week encourages clubs to undertake a specific project which leads to an improvement of the amenities or services of their locality. Following discussions with the Office of Public Works and the NOC, Macra agreed that the theme for club projects in 1995 should be "Working for wildlife".

A document giving information and direction/guidelines for the undertaking of projects and giving contact names of organisations and individuals involved in nature conservation was issued to the clubs. Most of the clubs participated and the projects were varied - action plans for local wildlife habitats, audits of flora and fauna, the establishment of community wildlife gardens, studies and guidelines on environmentally friendly farming, the setting down of nature trails including written guides and maps, a study on the importance of hedgerows for wildlife, etc. The projects in many cases were done in conjunction with and under the direction of local wildlife experts.

The projects were all presented to the public at county level in May 1995 and awards were made to the projects best exemplifying the objectives of ENCY. A showcase of these projects was then brought together for a nature study weekend in the Burren in August with lectures, workshops and field trips. An overall prize was presented to the Glenealy Club representing Co. Wicklow, whose project set down a five-year management plan for their local woodland. The plan is being implemented by the club in conjunction with other local groups including the Tidy Town Committee, local schools and local wildlife personnel.

Following the success of Community Service Week and recognising the positive impact that they can have on the natural environment in their community, Macra na Feirme clubs are at present exploring ways to incorporate "Awareness and action for nature conservation" into their long-term objectives and activities.

Tidy Towns Awards

The Tidy Town Awards in Ireland have been taking place for the last 37 years and in 1995 there were 700 local Tidy Town Committees. The strength of these awards is that they are community-based and harness a huge voluntary commitment to the physical appearance of Ireland's towns and villages. The NOC considered that this scheme had great potential to increase community awareness and action for nature conservation, with a view to increasing the wildlife value of urban areas. The Tidy Town Committees at local level are usually made up of representatives of various sectors of the community and also work with these sectors to improve their environment - business, education, voluntary, young people, etc.

Following a presentation by the Chairman of the NOC, Mr Seamus Lynam, to the organising and adjudicating committee of the scheme, a special award was included in 1995 for the Tidy Town Committee who submitted the best five-year plan for enhancing the natural environment of their catchment area. Documentation setting out the objectives of ENCY and giving ideas, guidelines and direction was issued to all the local committees. The documentation also included names of local wildlife interests - NGOs, local authorities, local wildlife personnel and interested individuals. The date for the receipt of submissions was 31 March 1996. A large number of entries were received and were assessed last spring.

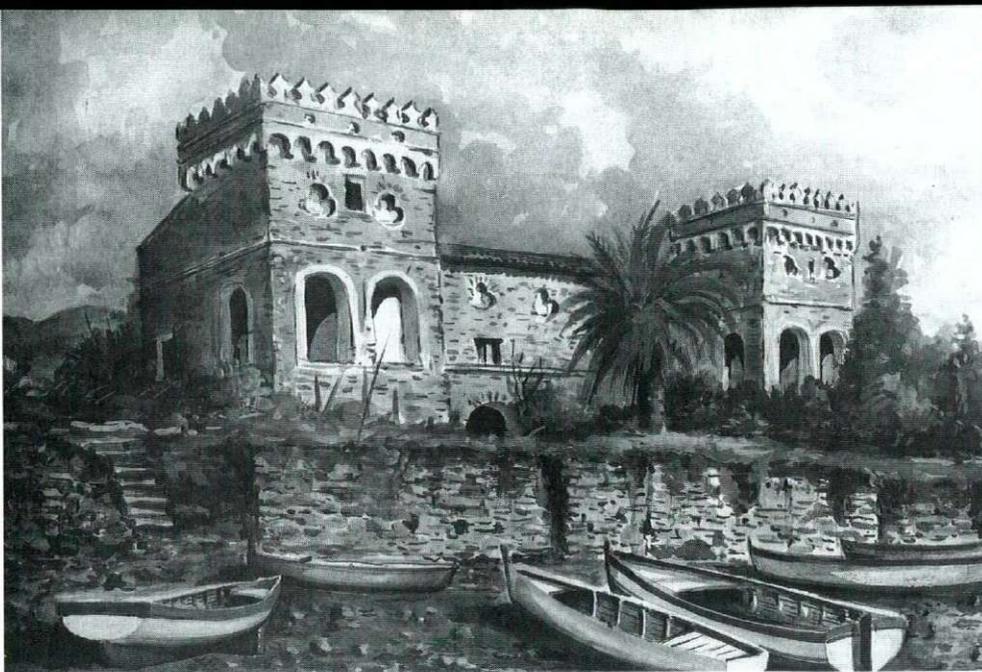
The management of the award scheme was given over to the Department of the

Environment in 1995. It has carried out a full review of the scheme, which has allowed for a fundamental change in the emphasis of the awards away from concentrating on the appearance - neatness and prettiness of urban areas - to encompassing a wider range of more fundamental issues, particularly the conservation and the highlighting of indigenous natural habitats and also historical and cultural aspects. As a continuation of the relationship already established during ENCY a Nature Conservation Award will now be an annual feature of the scheme.

Other community projects for ENCY in Ireland included school wildlife gardens, nature weekends, local library exhibitions on nature themes, a mid-summer bat count and "Understanding landscape", a series of local family days with lectures, field trips and wildlife art classes. ■

S. Lynam

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Museum of the Sea in the municipality of Pioppi, Salerno province

Italy: some activities

Mario Pavan

If we set aside sectoral interests and look at our earth, it is clear that humanity's main priority is to protect nature in order to maintain and improve living conditions and human development. This was the aim of ENCY 95.

If we are to be in a position to consolidate and build on the experiences and activities resulting from this remarkable Europe-wide operation, each state must assess what has been achieved at national level. ENCY cannot and must not remain an isolated initiative. It must serve as a basis for future national, European or indeed international action. The assessment must be of a type which can usefully lend itself to the organisation and if possible co-ordination of future initiatives.

Keywords: information and training

The campaign In Italy was launched under the patronage of the President of the Republic. The Italian national committee comprised representatives from the Ministries of the Environment, Education, the Universities and Scientific and Technical Research, and Agriculture, Food and Forest Resources.

Posters and information leaflets were distributed to thousands of schools which agreed to use them in a school information campaign.

Role of the press

Dozens of articles appeared in the press, primarily the local press, and in wide-circulation magazines which in the majority of cases also published a special poster with the ENCY logo detailing the activity which the organisation concerned was undertaking. This brought the subject to the attention of hundreds of thousands of readers.

Events

A major festival in tandem with an international scientific film competition on nature was organised by the Progetto Natura association. Lectures and practical classes on nature conservation were given to young people in the Varese natural sciences centre. Several major national congresses were held in conjunction with regions, universities and associations.

Thirty conferences on ENCY were held in 26 Italian towns. International congresses were held in Rome, Naples, Erice (Trapani), Ancona, Venice and Livorno.

Publications

Various works were published each reproducing the ENCY poster and accompanied by appropriate texts, eg. *A tribute to the sea; Endangered flora and fauna in Italy; Sardinia: protecting nature and the sea; Valgrande: history of a forest; Italian lagoons: satellite pictures; The sea is life; Red coral in the Mediterranean: Art, history and science; Human responsibility for the deterioration of the world's environment; 45 years of forest protection with the Formica lugubris Zett - the family of formicid hymenoptera; Analytical bibliography (1962-1981) of the red ant group in Italian, French and German; Proceedings of the seminar on the reforestation of lowland areas for environmental purposes; Posidonia: a contribution to the conservation of the main marine ecosystem in the Mediterranean.*

Environmental education

Environment familiarisation courses were organised for teachers. There is now a cross-curricular environment course available, ie with the various aspects being taught by teachers of different disciplines.

Creation of a sea museum

One of the most significant activities has been the provision of a castle situated on the Pollica coast for the setting up of a sea museum on the initiative of the Marenostrum association. The museum is a sea-related cultural activities centre and trains those responsible for sea management, coastal protection and conservation of the famous marine grottoes of Capo Palinuro in the recently set-up national park of Cilento and Vallo di Diano.

Bird garden

An area of land in the Ticino river park in Lombardy has been set aside for a bird garden containing numerous varieties of endangered fructiferous plants. This initiative ensures these species do not become extinct and provides a protected environment and food for the sedentary and migratory bird populations.

Creation of national parks

ENCY has been an effective catalyst for land conservation and has resulted in the creation of five new national parks and several marine reserves.

The armed forces and ENCY

The Italian armed forces' contribution to ENCY has been to implement practical nature conservation measures on land and at sea and to provide training for specialist personnel. It is essential that the military play their part in defending the country through ecological action combining both military and civil and environmental defence in a modern "integrated approach to defence". Initiating international military co-operation for land and sea conservation would also be of considerable value.

The action taken has covered the whole of Italy and has involved all branches of the Ministry of Defence: the army, navy, air force, carabinieri, the financial brigade and the military geographical institute.

Agreements signed

The armed forces manage large areas of land under exclusive military administration. However, co-operation has been set up on an official footing. The Ministry of Defence (the army) has signed an agreement with the National Forestry Office (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest Resources) and is currently drawing up an agreement with universities and garrison towns to enable military personnel to undergo ecology training and carry out environmental action in the field.

Contribution from the navy

The navy has carried out a survey and study of posidonia meadows (*Posidonia oceanica*) in the Mediterranean basin in conjunction with outside experts and several universities.

In addition it has been working in close and fruitful co-operation with the University of Pavia (Interdisciplinary bioacoustics and environmental research centre) to study and protect Mediterranean *Cetacea*, by identifying the acoustic signals of the various species of whales and dolphins. Research is well under way in conjunction with the Environment Ministry's Central Inspectorate for Marine Protection.

International conference of gendarmeries

The carabinieri organised an international conference of gendarmeries and European police forces for a common policy against the movement and improper use of waste which is harmful to the environment and human health. The conference took place on 2 and 3 October 1995 in Rome under the aegis of ENCY and was the first in a series of actions which augurs well for the conclusion of practical international agreements. Participants proposed that the European law-enforcement forces continue with this activity post-ENCY.

Other action undertaken

The military geographic institute has produced an atlas of Italian marshes using remote sensing and aerial photography.

The problem of Black Sea/Mediterranean interdependence with regard to the pollutants reaching both seas via the rivers of central and eastern Europe is of major interest to the Italian armed forces, which are currently working on a co-ordinated international action project.

All these actions are undoubtedly set to be pursued over the coming years since continuity over a sustained period of time is vital. Links will also be maintained with the Council of Europe.

Assessment

The Council of Europe's initiative has been a very important one as far as Italy is concerned. A large proportion of the above activities and many others would never have been undertaken without the stimulus provided by ENCY. The incentive to take practical action has been felt not only by official public bodies, but by other sectors as well (schools, the press, associations, etc).

This is why it is highly desirable that the activities being carried out and those which will result from them should - in a new and custom-made international framework - be

consolidated and lead to new developments and international co-operation. A key factor is educating young people in nature conservation. Our future depends on the ability of the prevailing ecological culture to take up the challenge and prevent a wide-spread environmental catastrophe. ■

M. Pavan

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Latvia: prayer for the Baltic Sea

Gatis Pavils

"Today, earth is our mother and water is her blood. Since the beginning of the world rivers, streams and springs have flowed towards the sea in order to be revived there for the dawning of a new day."

Today they remain there to die... The time has finally come for us to realise that if the sea stops living, we shall all perish. Our everyday transgressions, which seem to us like a drop in the ocean, have melted together into the ultimate crime, comparable to a heinous matricide. And we have no excuse, we are all accomplices to this crime.

In four clean-ups, the Environmental Protection Club of Latvia has managed to clean the entire Latvian coast. We received tremendous support from newspapers, TV and radio.

Last year, on 3 September 1995, a parallel event took place - a radio action. At 3 p.m. exactly, almost all the radio stations of Latvia broadcast six minutes of music entitled "Prayer for the Sea" written by Juris Vilcans. At least 17 radio stations interrupted their programmes and united in this unique action.

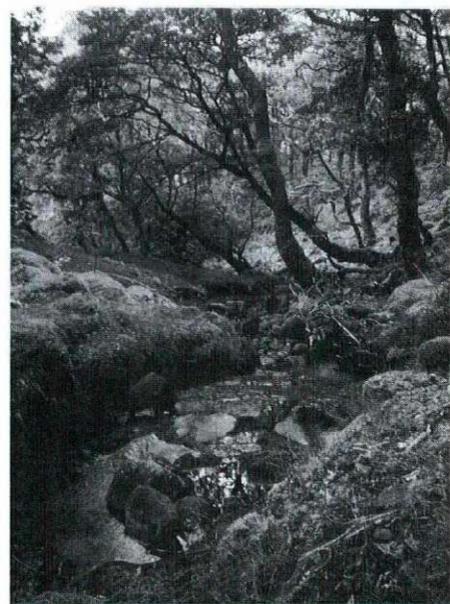
Two days previously, prayers and an open-air

press conference took place in one of the central squares in downtown Riga, in which well-known specialists participated. Discussions on different themes concerning the Baltic Sea issue were held and information material prepared by specialists was distributed.

This was a tremendous success, bringing together thousands of environmental activists, schoolchildren, their teachers and the general public. Latvian society today is changing its attitude towards protection of the sea-shore and we are sure that these clean-ups have also had some influence on this process. This year, coastal clean-ups will take place along the whole Latvian seaside during May and actions will be organised for the protection of the seashores in the largest Latvian harbours. We shall also continue to organise our annual "Prayer for the Baltic Sea" event on the first Sunday of September each year. This is an event that encourages a more spiritual devotion to environmental protection. It is very popular and we look forward to its success. ■

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"Water, source of life", one of the ENCY themes in Latvia



B. Boisson

Liechtenstein encourages young natural scientists

Regula Imhof

The "Liechtenstein's young researchers" competition was run within the framework of ENCY, in conjunction with the LGU (Liechtenstein Society for Environmental Protection) and VPBank. A total of 14 projects were submitted by schoolchildren aged 10 to 18 from different schools.

The projects focused mostly on botany, forestry and zoology. Various elements of the natural environment were featured, including forest borders, pastures, springs, mistletoe, centipedes, bats, butterflies, red ants, rabbits and hedgehogs. Abstract themes were also covered, such as packaging materials, renewable energy sources or the physical properties of beech and spruce.

The best three projects are described briefly below:

Protection of red ants

Three schoolchildren looked at the ants' nests inventoried by Leo Büchel 16 years previously. They drew up a new map of nests and also noted changes. Using these data, they considered what measures could help protect and develop red ant colonies.

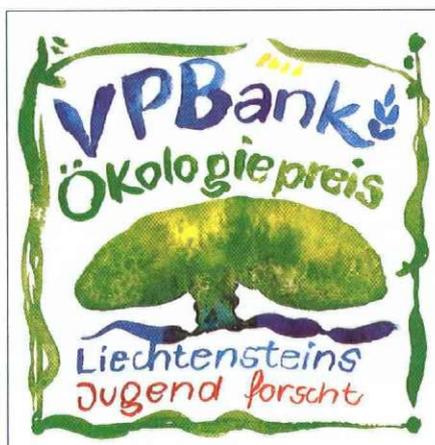
They observed that different types of beech forests, incorporating scattered conifers and characterised by dry to cool soil, were the preferred sites for nesting. Furthermore, the sites had to be sufficiently exposed to sunlight and not too grassy. It is by creating the conditions for such sites and protecting them that it will be possible to safeguard the red ant biotope. Another protection measure would be to follow up the study of ways in which ants' nests are destroyed, with efforts to prevent such destruction. Humans are still responsible for much damage and should be called upon to show more care and respect. Even if nests are artificially protected, they will not stand up to deliberate destruction. Measures aimed at conserving nesting sites and informing walkers of the importance of red ants therefore afford the best means of protecting and encouraging red ant populations.

Sixteen previously inventoried ants' nests had disappeared by the 1995 update. The group found only 26 of the nests listed but discovered 20 new ones.

The group won first prize of a three-week stay at the London International Youth Science Forum.

Study of ravine butterflies

Another team of two schoolchildren focused on ravine butterflies. They noted the presence and numbers of several varieties and linked them to various types of biotope, which pointed the way to possible protection measures.



Competition information leaflet

They observed 49 different species (29 diurnal, 5 quasi-diurnal and 15 nocturnal).

To link species to biotopes, they had to determine which biotopes were present in the ravines. All of the species observed inhabited three of the seven major types logged (forest border, dry slope, open spaces). The main biotope is the dry slope. If butterflies are to be protected, the prime task is to conserve these different types of host biotope.

The team won places in a three-week astronomy camp held in 1995 in France.

Springs in the Liechtenstein low country

Twelve springs were discovered by a small team in the Liechtenstein low country.

In the region's other two municipalities, the springs have completely disappeared. Most of them were either destroyed when the water conveyance network was developed in the 1950s or simply became part of that network. Still today, civil engineering projects are wiping out precious traces of the past. Analyses of the different springs have generally shown that their water is not fit for drinking.

In many cases, pollution is caused by bacteria or fertilisers sprayed on neighbouring grazing land and fields. The spring water is also harder than tap water.

The team looked not only at water quality but also at the cultural function of the springs.

"Formerly, the springs were used for a varied range of tasks, above all for watering livestock and daily household chores (cooking, washing, cleaning etc). Yet today, spring water is hardly used any more. Since it is more convenient to turn on a tap than to fetch water from a fountain or a well, rare are those who still think of making sensible use of this resource. Most springs belonged to a co-operative founded by the local population, who drew up a charter on water use. The charter laid down the conditions for co-operative membership and responsibilities for maintaining water collection, repairing damage or renovating the facility."

The team was given the opportunity of participating in a camp geared to a nature conservation theme.

The next "Liechtenstein's young researchers" competition will be held in 1997. ■

R. Imhof

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Moldova moves for ENCY

Angela Lozan

Recognising the importance of ENCY 95, the Republic of Moldova has carried out some national projects and actions which can be considered, we hope, as a contribution to this initiative.

According to the decree of the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, the "National day of greening of the country" (1 April) was instituted, during which many people took part in forest plantations over an area of 2 000 ha (14.2 million seedlings).

The "Nistru-95" scientific expedition has as objective hydrochemical and hydrobiological analyses, as well as the establishment of the ecological status of the river protection zone, and the inspection of sewage plants along this river of great importance.

With the aim of conserving valuable natural zones outside protected areas, investigations have been carried out in the wetlands of the

lower course of the river Prut, which are resting places for many migratory bird species, in order to support the arguments in favour of the creation of a national reserve.

An international exhibition, "Ecotech-95", has been organised, where non-polluting installations and technologies used in industry were presented.

A general event covering the activities carried out was the conference "1995 - European Nature Conservation Year in the Republic of Moldova: problems, successes, prospects", with international participation, and supported to a high degree both morally and financially by the ENCY International Organising Committee, to whom we are very grateful.

The actions dedicated to ENCY will be followed up in order to awaken the interest of local authorities to the problems of nature conservation in the Republic of Moldova and to sustain the IOC's role in promoting this campaign in the future. ■

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V. Volontir

"Nature is everywhere" in the Netherlands

Peter Bos

For a small, highly urbanised country like the Netherlands, the theme of ENCY 95 has been a very relevant one. If there is limited space for protected nature areas, then one should make an extra effort to maintain and create natural values elsewhere. Under the umbrella of the National Committee, over 700 activities took place to implement the motto "nature is everywhere". They varied from pond-digging to open days on estates, and from bat counts to helping with roadside management. These were mostly local or regional projects, providing concrete samples of what can be done in the field of nature and landscape conservation in one's own backyard.

National events, which featured Queen Beatrix and Prime Minister Kok, focused on themes such as nature conservation in agricultural areas and European nature conservation.

Follow-up after 1995

The themes of ENCY were not dropped at the close of 1995. The interest in nature and landscape maintenance in unprotected areas has been much stimulated by ENCY and many initiatives are being continued. New projects to help farmers and other landowners

with nature-friendly practices are under way with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.

The Chairman of the National Committee, Wim van Gelder, took the initiative for a declaration of intent, entitled "The Netherlands for European nature". This declaration announces further efforts and co-operation to support European nature conservation policies, in particular the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

More than 25 conservation bodies in the Netherlands, including the government, signed the declaration and an action plan is now being prepared. ENCY has not been an end in itself, but a starting-point for renewed efforts. ■

P. Bos

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Book specially published for ENCY by the Netherlands

Poland: the mass media

Agnieszka Marcoń and Michał Nurzyński

The Polish Ministry of the Environment has been making a considerable effort in recent years to secure the support of the mass media as major allies in information campaigns aimed at reaching the public.

Tangible results

This policy has been put into effect in a number of ways. The aim is to heighten the awareness of journalists themselves, to afford them regular assistance in their work of informing the public and to provide them from time to time with their favourite "raw material": front-page news.

The ministry's efforts have produced tangible results, and ENCY has proved to be an additional opportunity to reinforce these contacts. It has enhanced their scope because of the European dimension of the campaign and the new ideas introduced in this framework.

The ministry has also participated financially in the production of a number of television and radio broadcasts and the publication of special high-circulation weekly bulletins. The theme of ENCY was repeatedly addressed throughout 1995. We should mention in particular a group of journalists - already trained

on questions concerning the environment thanks to the efforts of the ministry - that has given broad coverage to this subject.

Originality

Communication aids have also been very useful: the calendar, the posters, video clips, the CD etc. But to ensure genuine success, they have also had to be original and needed to be distributed as effectively as possible. The public television station broadcast the clips on ENCY at prime viewing time free of charge, as well as clips with two songs, one written specially for the campaign. These clips have also been shown at a number of concerts (approximately 20 000 spectators). The two songs, together with several others on the underlying relations between humanity and nature, were recorded on a CD, which is easy to spot thanks to its novel cover made of natural linen and bearing the ENCY logo. It was not marketed, but served as a prize in various competitions, along with a T-shirt. Some 100 national and local radio stations have been able to obtain the CD free of charge provided that they hold competitions on ENCY.

These activities and a host of others have succeeded in acquainting the public with the logo, the idea of the campaign and the role of

the Council of Europe. Increasingly, the media have shown an interest in nature from its positive side, and not only to report on disasters or controversies. Encouraged by these results, the ministry is pursuing its work in 1996 and in June organised Eko Media Forum in Warsaw - the first international exhibition in Europe devoted to teaching about the environment. ■

A. Marcoń
National Organising Committee ENCY 95

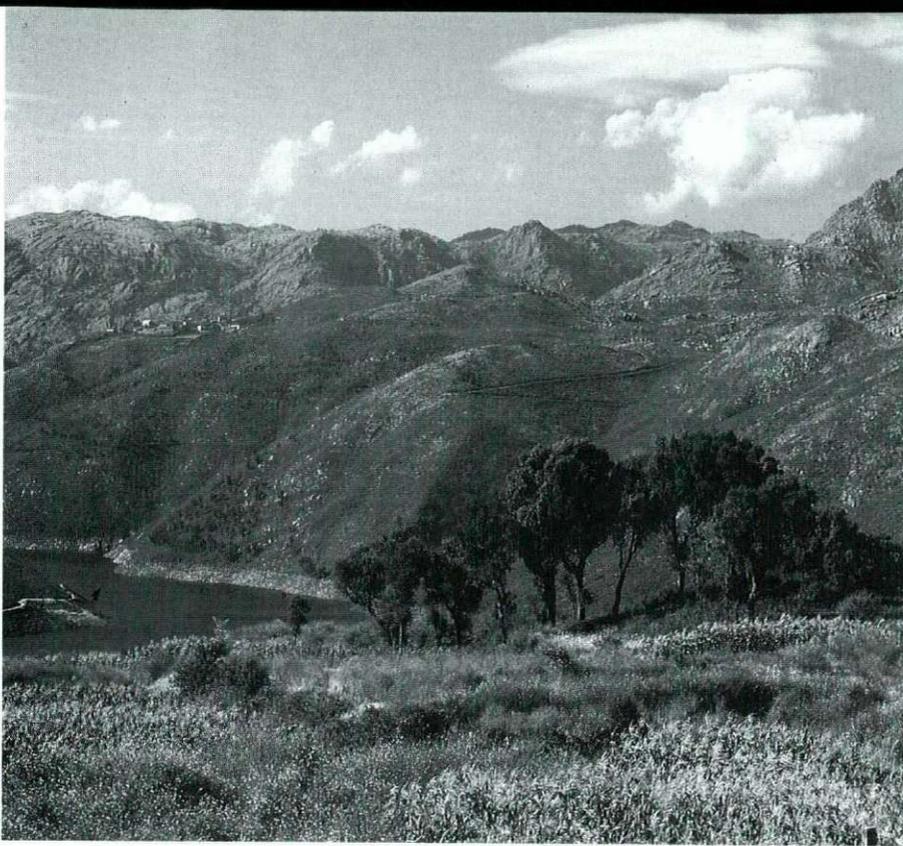
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Video clip of the song "Our awakening" by the group Buzu Squat



Compact disc produced in Poland





P. Thebault

NGOs carried out many activities on aquatic zones

Activities carried out by Portuguese NGOs

Ana Zúquete and Carlos Magalhães

The ENCY 95 National Organising Committee in Portugal decided to ask non-governmental organisations (NGOs), municipal authorities and other institutions to take part in ENCY by devising nature conservation schemes outside protected areas. The Instituto da Conservação da Natureza provided 20 million escudos to finance certain activities. A national selection panel chose the best projects according to pre-established criteria. Here are the details:

The activities of the Association for the Development of the Aire and Candeeiros Mountain Ranges were centred on the subject of "Our rivers: their past and present. What about their future?". Primary and secondary school pupils cleaned up waterways. This was followed by an exhibition of photographs.

The Iberian Avifauna Research Centre conducted awareness-raising activities on the state of the environment directed at the inhabitants of Evora, and in particular the children.

In November 1995 the Mértola Heritage Protection Association held meetings with experts in the Guadiana valley in order to raise local people's awareness.

The activities of the "Almargem" Association for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage were concentrated on protecting endangered plant and animal species in the

Algarve: leaflets on the plants and animals were published and awareness-raising material was produced. Primary schools were involved in this project.

The Nature Protection League (LPN) produced a "Handbook of good conduct in the countryside"; it highlights the importance of ecosystems, the causes of their destruction and the guidelines which should govern our behaviour towards the natural environment. A travelling exhibition was also staged on the importance of estuaries for the conservation of endangered animals in Portugal.

The Portuguese Association of Biologists (APB) studied the development of natural ecosystems, took stock of the problems encountered in the Guadiana river basin and suggested some solutions. It also held a series of lectures on managing and protecting riparian ecosystems.

The Regional and Environmental Planning Study Group (GEOTA) prepared material for use in exhibitions on wetland conservation in 1996. This NGO also organised six guided tours accompanied by experts in important nature conservation sites.

The "Quercus" National Nature Conservation Association promoted important nature conservation sites and campaigned to alert public attention to the natural heritage and the limitations on its use.

The Torres Vedras Speleology Club organised a scheme to clean up the Torres Vedras

coastline, involving schoolchildren, municipal employees and NGO members. This activity was publicised through the press and a poster campaign.

The National Association of Municipalities held an international seminar on forest fires in April 1995.

The League of Friends of Conimbriga conducted information and awareness-raising campaigns on the geography, flora, human activities and natural landscapes of eight municipalities in central Portugal, directed at young members of the Adstico Association.

The Portuguese Wildlife Research and Protection Centre conducted bird counts near the river Douro, which is an extremely sensitive area for nature conservation in Portugal and Spain. Awareness-raising activities were also organised for young people.

The Christian Environmental Research and Conservation Association (AROCHA) carried out environmental education activities in Ria de Alvor and staged exhibitions on wildlife studies.

The Portuguese Environmental Education Association organised nine guided tours of areas of cultural and environmental importance in Portugal and published information leaflets.

The Portuguese Confederation of Environmental Protection Associations (CPADA) conducted public awareness-raising campaigns in Savacem and Vila Franca de Xira on the threats to this wetland area, and studied the birds found there. The press, the television and the municipality of Vila Franca de Xira publicised these activities. The CPADA also produced posters to draw the attention of the authorities and the general public to the incorporation of the "rights of non-hunters" into the Law on Hunting. ■

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Romanian "Nature Journal"

Lucia Ceuca

The quality of the natural environment constitutes a determining factor in life quality assessment. The political, social and economic transformations which Romania has known in the last years have had a powerful impact on the changing of man's attitude towards the important heritage represented by nature.

A certain educational way of thinking related to environmental protection and conservation has evolved. Development of the legislative framework, institutional structures and governmental organisations involved in the protection of our country's natural resources, and the ecological balance as a whole, has taken place.

ENCY 95: a première

In this context, participation in a pan-European campaign, such as the one launched by the Council of Europe - ENCY 95 - constituted a première, and has concluded with beneficial results. Thus, the necessity of involvement has been acknowledged at all levels, with the rights and duties as members of a global community.

For the realisation of this unit, links are necessary. The main inter-regional argument is represented by communication. Starting from this concept, the ENCY Romanian Committee recognised the need for a publication to inform the public, to arouse awareness and to promote a strategy for integration into the international campaign.

A new publication

A small staff group working as volunteers launched the monthly publication *Nature Journal*, which is now, at the end of the campaign, at its 24th number. Its eight pages contain thematic material by personalities from the country and from abroad working in the environmental field.

On the publication's front page is written the adage "Look to the future, look after nature", the ENCY slogan. The publication's contents promote environmental ethics in accordance with which the ecosystems sheltering endangered species or unique landscapes with a high aesthetic value need special protection. The framework of the publication reserves a special place for the presentation of environmental legislation, conventions and international agreements.

Of special interest were the articles on the national programme for environmental protection

action, the environmental strategic programme for the Danube Basin, the Bern Convention, CITES and Ramsar. A special place is reserved for the articles received from the Centre Naturopa.

A major concern of Romanian decision-makers is the assurance of sustainable development on the basis of the social and economic system being capable of adapting to the changes currently occurring, taking into consideration the danger of exceeding certain limits in the use of natural resources and maintenance of the ecological balance.

In support of these concerns, Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons' article entitled "Human rights in fundamental environmental law at European level in the framework of the Council of Europe and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" was published and in the same issue all eight pages were entirely consecrated to ENCY. Articles also appeared on internal and international meetings, their agendas, opinions and messages.

It is important to note that our publication today has 2 000 subscribers, representing a large social and professional diversity: students, researchers, members of governmental and non-governmental organisations, industrial enterprises and representatives of local authorities. We have received requests even from abroad, for example from the Faculty of International Environmental Law in Japan.

An example bears fruit

Beside the diversity of themes covered, we could also mention, as the most important feature of the campaign, the strong example it gives. In mid-1994, date of the publication's first issue, it was the only one of its kind in Romania. A series of other publications in this field have since appeared, using most of our campaign material. Unfortunately, the high cost of participation in large specific reunions prevents, in most cases, direct information. The publication's staff hope to be able to contribute both to an increase in the quality of information and to closer links and integration in the structures of European environmental sources.

Now, at the end of the campaign, an overview of the evolution of this important communication instrument strengthens my belief in the necessity for further issues of *Nature Journal*. On the basis of the accumulated experience in issuing this journal, we hope that it will become a "message carrier" of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.



As an example of its positive media role in general and of its ENCY campaign in particular, we could quote an excerpt from the message by the President of Romania, Ion Iliescu, at the occasion of the journal's first anniversary: "Romania has rich natural resources and a generous natural environment. It is our duty to preserve it for future generations, to avoid the difficult situations of other countries which, in harming the natural environment, are actually borrowing the resources of future generations. I express my belief that the work of your journal will contribute to the preservation of natural resources, to public opinion awareness in the spirit of attachment towards the environment related to the needs of nature protection and conservation".

L. Ceuca
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ENCY highlights in Russia

Nina G. Dobrynina

The Director of Environment and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe, Ferdinando Albanese, opened ENCY 95 in the Russian Federation at the All-Russia Nature Conservation Congress on 5 June 1995, the World Nature Conservation Day, and addressed over 2 000 delegates from numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Particularities of the national programme

Following the general ENCY theme "nature conservation outside protected areas", five sub-themes were chosen for the national programme: biodiversity, ecology and economy (agriculture, forestry, hunting, etc.), urban environment, ecology and peace-keeping, and education. Creation of ecological awareness and understanding of human-nature interaction was identified as an objective of the national activities. Children and youth formed the largest target group of the campaign among the other three groups (local, regional and national authorities, adjacent branches - agriculture, hunting, forestry, consumers). In 1995, among others the following national and international meetings and workshops were organised:

- international training seminar "Transport and environment";
- national days of protection against ecological danger;
- international workshop "Action plan on conservation and restoration of rare species of cranes";
- international forum "Ecological policy and peace-keeping in the Eurasian zone";
- national forum "Ecology and economy in Russia";
- international symposium "Monitoring of the environment";
- colloquy of the Council of Europe "Agriculture and related activities in protected areas";
- international conference "New approach to solution of ecological problems in cities".

On the whole, about ten national and 200 local NGOs participated in the national activities devoted to ENCY.

Koromyslo

Four St. Petersburg institutions (the "Jupiter-Z" Scientific and Technical Centre, the "Euroveksel" investment company, the Centre for Arctic Innovative Investigations ARINIS and the Baltic Institute of the International Independent University of Ecology and Politology) launched a project aimed at:

International Independent University of Ecology and Politology) launched a project aimed at:

- meeting national commitments in the framework of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy;
- creating a system of staff training;
- organising the International Centre of Ecological Tourism and People's Diplomacy.

Components of the project include training in summer ecological schools and camps, spiritual community, rescue groups for ecological accidents and disasters, a rehabilitation centre for refugees from conflict areas, etc.

Little Prince

This project was organised by the federation of children's organisations "Young Russia". The ecological expedition project was held in June-August 1995 and united 72 regional organisations (about 500 000 members). The project was elaborated to form better ecological awareness and understanding of its participants: 6-7-year-old children and teenagers of 14-15. Everyone discovered his own "planet", chose a component of the environment (natural or social) and realised a personal ecological project.



Water on earth

The all-Russia contest of children's environmental education projects was held in February 1994-July 1995. It was arranged by

the Association of Advanced Chemical Education and the Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, with the aim of involving large groups of school-children, students and teachers in the study and protection of freshwater resources. As a result, 179 student groups from different regions of the Russian Federation and other CIS states participated in the contest and monitored lakes, rivers, sea harbours and streams (water quality tests, environmental investigations, pollution), studied history and ethnological features, wrote stories, poems, songs, drew pictures and posters. The best works were published in the local journals and newspapers. The next contest will be organised in 1996-97.

Follow-up

Taking into account the experience of ENCY in the Russian Federation, the decisions of the All-Russia Congress on Nature Conservation and the recent recommendations of the Inter-Agency Commission on Environmental Education, the federal programme "Environmental Education in Russia by 2000" was adopted. Its objectives were defined as follows:

- to deepen ecological awareness and understanding,
- to set up a system of ongoing environmental education,
- to develop the legislative, organisational, methodological, and information components of the system.

The programme includes a number of sub-programmes on legislative background, organisation structure, information and scientific supply, teacher training, new forms and methods of environmental education, system of obligatory training for decision-makers, environmental awareness monitoring, international co-operation and environmental literature. ■

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Slovak Republic: coins and banknotes

Jana Zacharová

As a result of ENCY 95 in the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of the Environment and the National Bank began official co-operation. Thanks to the understanding and support of the National Bank, nature motifs will be regularly listed in the annual issue plan of commemorative coins. The tradition already started in 1994 with the Slovenský raj National Park silver coin commemorating the anniversary of the protection of this valuable area. In 1995 the two-hundred-Slovak-crowns silver coin devoted to ENCY was issued. It had been selected from 19 proposals created by 13 authors.

Coins and banknotes with nature motifs were also subject to two exhibitions. The Slovak National Museum prepared the historical review of depicting nature on more than 700 currencies starting with the age of antiquity. The exhibition recalled the fundamental role of nature and life, and the respect given to natural resources in the past. Currencies were logically divided according to the time of their use (antiquity, middle ages, renaissance, modern age) and according to their message (coins and banknotes as the symbol of religion, power, life, food source, living conditions).

The second exhibition prepared by the Foundation of F. J. Turček and the Slovak Environmental Agency showed coins and banknotes currently in circulation all over the world. A collection of more than 800 samples from above 180 countries documented various trends in nature and showed different motifs - landscape, scenic beauty, activities such as sowing, harvesting, fishing, grazing, rare plants and animals, symbols of the nation or the State, emblems, etc.

Series of postage stamps

As well as coins, stamps are day-to-day products used by the general public. They are both also favourite items for hobbies and collections. Issuing of stamps with nature motifs reflects the attention which is paid by the State to this topic. The Slovak Republic has a long tradition of depicting flora and fauna on the stamps.

For ENCY a series was issued showing three representatives of endangered plant species typical for mountain sites: *Cimicifuga racemosa*, *Pulsatilla slavica* and *Onosma tornense*. Their value is 2 Sk, 3 Sk and 8 Sk. The series features the emblem of ENCY and the name of the campaign in Slovak (*Rok ochrany európskej prírody*). In addition, two First Day Cover envelopes were produced.

ENCY's contribution in the Slovak Republic

The question what were the main results of ENCY in our country is not easy to answer. Moreover, what we expect as the most important result - raising public awareness towards nature conservation - can be seen only in long-term perspectives. Nevertheless, ENCY was a significant milestone (or a cornerstone?) of the large-scale campaign for European nature, involving various actors, target groups, activities. ENCY came at the time when nature was not the highest priority on the political agenda and human minds in many countries. It came to make all of us more active and more systematic in our work for nature.

First of all, raising awareness within State and voluntary bodies resulting from ENCY was of great importance. Institutions such as the National Bank, which naturally are not aimed at promoting the idea of nature protection, have been involved in the programme as well as other interest groups - for example the Association of Towns and Villages of the Slovak Republic, the Union of Agricultural Co-operative Farms. The topic of nature protection versus economic activities was addressed and the need for broader environmental education emphasised. The general public actively and mostly positively reacted on the radio and TV broadcasts relating to nature, mainly on problems concerning their region, health and welfare.

From the procedural point of view, ENCY improved the co-operation of different sectors at national level as well as at the level of regions and districts. Their representatives on the National Organising Committee committed their understanding and willingness to communicate and to find ways of supporting nature. The discussions among the ministries and their local offices or other organisations led to the development of programmes or separate events for environmental education and improvement of the state of natural sites in the countryside or within the communities.

The next characteristic of ENCY was the real national character of the campaign. Environmental offices and organisations, national parks, schools, cultural centres, museums, libraries, zoos and municipalities have participated along with several non-governmental organisations. ENCY proved that having a common goal - the organisation of as many successful events to help nature as possible - can be a unifying element between governmental and non-governmental organisations. In many cases both official and voluntary bodies have combined their human and financial resources.

Last, but not least, the international dimension of the ENCY programme was important, both to give broader and more official support to the ideas of protection of nature outside protected areas and also to have the opportunity of self-assessment. Comparison of attitudes, achievements and experiences of the other countries participating in ENCY is a very valuable contribution for future work.

The final result was the experience from organising such an international campaign: to formulate the aims of the campaign, to target well in advance a broad audience, to raise financial sources, to support activities, to devote professionals to co-ordination and communication, to finalise the programme and to make the results available to the public. ■

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Coin specially minted in the Slovak Republic



P. Gerdehag



L. Johansson/Barometern

▲ At the Swedish inauguration, King Carl XVI Gustaf released a lamb, an important element in the preservation of biological diversity

◀ Well-preserved farm track, with stone walls to prevent cattle from straying

Royal inauguration in Sweden

Maria Prigorowsky

In Sweden, the event that drew most attention during ENCY 95 was undoubtedly the official inauguration on 11 May.

The theme in Sweden during the year was "the agricultural landscape". The aim of the national committee, consisting of 19 organisations, was to spread knowledge about the importance of biological diversity maintained and nurtured by human hands and grazing cattle.

Opening programme

All the organisations worked throughout the year - mostly independently and with different campaigns and projects connected to the theme. However, it was decided at an early stage that one big event should gather the entire committee, namely an official celebration and inauguration. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency arranged the programme for that day. King Carl XVI Gustaf, who takes great interest in nature, immediately accepted the invitation.

Öland - an island with pastureland

The inauguration took place on an island in south-eastern Sweden, Öland. This is a part of Sweden where farming is still important and one of the main sources of income. It is also an area where many farmers have kept their land in a traditional manner. The open and flat landscape is characterised by stone walls dividing the fields and meadows. Since there is so much pastureland, the flora is exceptional - with an abundance of orchids. In the village of Källa two neighbouring farmers were chosen, who both receive compensation to keep their grounds pastured. The celebration took place on their grounds.

A well-filled backpack

In the early morning of 11 May the 120 guests, press and media were met at Kalmar airport. The programme started during the

one-hour bus trip out to Källa, where everyone then enjoyed the beautiful landscape accompanied by two shorter lectures connected to the theme.

On arrival the guests were divided into six groups and given a backpack. It contained material from the 19 organisations and represented well the width of the theme. Books, maps, a leaflet on birds in the agricultural landscape and even seeds were some of the items the guests found in their backpack.

Hikes and lectures

What could be more suitable on such a day than a nature walk? The groups took off along a well-kept cattle track, after having visited an exhibition in a barn. The walk was about two kilometres long and the groups stopped at six stations with five-minute lectures to present the different aspects and values of the theme. The lecturers all came from the national committee. After a first lecture on landscape conservation the walk took the groups to the middle of a meadow sparkling with early purple orchids, where the lecture naturally was about the unique flora found in traditionally-managed meadows. The following stop was in front of a windmill with a beautiful view over the fields - the lecture pointed out the cultural history of the landscape and made the group realize, looking at an old map, that some of the fields had been there for over 500 years! The walk continued alongside well-kept stone walls to a pasture with juniper bushes - here the importance of grazing was discussed. The last two stations close to the coastline were devoted to birdlife and the return to wilderness respectively.

Lunch on the grass

Halfway back to the farms all the guests were invited to an outdoor lunch. The menu was entirely "à la agricultural landscape", with lamb, marinated chicken, onion pie and cheese. During lunch, while happily seated on the grass, the guests could enjoy folk songs sung by three local girls. They then walked back to a mound close to the farms where the official inauguration took place.

Speech by the King

A large group of people from all over Öland had gathered to see and listen to the King, King Carl XVI Gustaf - giving his speech from a windmill ladder - opened by pointing out the beauty and great intrinsic values of the agricultural landscape. The speech that followed reflected the King's intimate knowledge and great liking for that part of the country, where the royal family has a summer residence. After the speech the King very symbolically celebrated the day by releasing a lamb onto pasture. At the end of the day many of the guests, including King Carl XVI Gustaf, had surely become even more aware of the values in the agricultural landscape.

Recurrent reminder

Modern farming need not exclude solitary trees, hedgerows and meadows. In a varied agricultural landscape the flora and fauna become so much richer in all aspects. The inauguration succeeded well in presenting the width of the theme and got attention in media. It has been suggested that this day shall be celebrated, yearly, in each county, as a recurrent reminder of the values and ingredients of the agricultural landscape. ■

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Ukraine: a wind of change brings new hope

Yaroslav Movchan

Twenty-five years, the age of a generation, have passed since the first European Conservation Year. Ukraine has become a member of the Council of Europe and Ukrainians are honoured to live at the heart of Europe. A wind of change brings new hopes and possibilities for solving the old problems and Ukraine is trying its best to improve the protection of nature and the environment in conditions of deep economic and ecological crisis. ENCY, as an awareness-raising campaign, was an excellent opportunity to get the conservation message across to the greatest number of people, to form public awareness of the need for nature protection, and to promote a new understanding of nature.

Now destruction and pollution of the environment is taking place in our country, resulting in the loss of a favourable environment for human beings. According to the latest data, the mortality rate exceeds the birth rate. A natural decrease in the population of Ukraine was first recorded in 1991 and in the following years this decrease has become even more pronounced. Further destruction and pollution of the environment will endanger Ukrainians' health and is hazardous to the nation's gene pool. The consequences could be irreversible.

Legislative improvements

Following the Council of Europe announcement of 1995 as ENCY, a National Organising Committee (NOC) was set up in Ukraine, consisting of representatives of the ministries and departments most closely related to nature and landscape management, research institutions, public and youth organisations as well as the mass media. The NOC was chaired by Dr I Kuras, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine. It developed a complex of measures based on the aims and ideas developed by the Council of Europe. Taking into account experience gained by other member States, specific activities were carried out in regard to national environmental legislation. Laws on ecological expertise, on utilisation of nuclear energy and radiation protection, on radioactive waste management and the water code were adopted in 1995. Draft laws on waste and on protection and utilisation of the plant kingdom were developed. A number of scientific congresses, conferences and workshops were conducted by institutions of the National Academy of Sciences and other research and non-governmental organisations. Among the issues discussed at these events were formation of ecologically stable landscape protection and sustainable use of forests, forestry management

in radioactive contamination conditions, and development of tree planting and forest surveillance projects in order to prevent climate changes, a concept of EECONET.

Seminar for NGOs

The Green Ukraine Society, together with the Ukrainian Society for Nature Protection and the Centre for Implementation of the International Ecological Programme, organised a seminar for non-governmental environmental organisations, with the financial support of the Dutch Embassy in Ukraine. This seminar was an important event for Ukrainian NGOs, as people from different organisations were given an opportunity to get to know one other, exchange experience and start follow-up co-operation. Concrete recommendations and documents resulted from the seminar and participation of ministerial representatives encouraged understanding between NGOs and state administration. Information was also available from a Dutch NGO on public participation in the environment policy-making process.

Nature protection and health

A seminar on "Urban environment: nature and human health protection" was held. Critical environmental problems were dis-

cussed by specialists on medicine, urban biodiversity conservation, town and urban-landscape planning, and sociology. A resolution was unanimously adopted on the need to develop the state programme for studies and management of urban-landscape ecosystems.

ENCY promoted the improvement of ecological awareness of Ukrainian citizens, attracting young people to the all-European values and understanding of the necessity of a continuous nature conservation activity. ■

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G. Engel



SKP and Associates

Mary Robinson, Ireland's President, was present at the launching of the project "A vision for the future" at the Loreto National School, Rathfarnham

A vision for the future in the United Kingdom and Eire

John Lincoln

The United Kingdom and Eire 20-20 Vision Time Capsule Project was the last major project for ENCY 95, undertaken in all the countries of the UK and included the Republic of Ireland. The aim was to invite the public, particularly young people, to consider the changes to their natural environment in the last 25 years and then create imaginative ideas of what the environment should be in the year 2020 - a vision for the future. These ideas, in whatever form they were produced, were then placed in Time Capsules and buried or stored in over 300 places throughout the UK and Eire to be retrieved on the 20th day of the second month in the year 2020 (20-02-2020).

This vision for the future was to take many varied forms - videos, photographs, drawings, letters, poems, stories, till receipts, lottery tickets, magazines, sweet packets, diaries, coins, sweat shirts, and so on.

A campaign was devised to promote the Time Capsule, including a leaflet and information pack. However, as soon as the project was announced, enquiries flooded in to the five country campaign offices. It was clearly a very popular project, particularly for schools. The information pack provided guidelines for completing the project, including advice on the contents, planning and preparation, informing the media, burying or storing the Time Capsule and registering. The registration for each burial was collected and stored for the future by the British Museum and the National Library of Ireland.

The project was initiated and organised mainly by the England ENCY Office in English Nature, who were able to obtain the sponsorship of a plastics company - Wavin - who supplied the Time Capsules and delivered them to the participants. The project had its

own mascot - "NC Shrew", a small rodent that lives underground in burrows.

The success of this project was demonstrated by the considerable press and media coverage it attracted, particularly locally where it really matters, but also nationally. The involvement in the project of a number of schools from different parts of the UK was featured on "Blue Peter", a high-profile children's programme on the BBC.

However, the real success of the project will derive from the commitment given to it by the many participants, especially the young

ones, and their continued involvement in nature conservation.

We are confident that the Time Capsule project and the ENCY 95 campaign as a whole has had a significant effect upon a new and increasing number of participants in nature conservation, which after all, was the main objective for us in the UK. ■

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G. Lacoumette

1



G. Baumgart

2



Friess-Irmann

3

1. Raising environmental awareness in children
2. Underpass, so that amphibians can cross the road safely
3. Ecological management of road edges: late mowing
4. Franco-German count of birds wintering on the Rhine



G. Lacoumette

4

Elsewhere in Europe

ENCY Secretariat

It is impossible to give a detailed run-down here of all the projects and events run in Europe within the ENCY framework in 1995. Here are just a few examples:

Andorra Phone-cards were used to promote ENCY activities in the Principality. 10 000 of them were sold in just four months. The project will be followed up by a series on the fauna and flora of Andorra, to be issued soon.

Bulgaria The Environment Ministry organised an exhibition on ENCY in conjunction with the Council of Europe, to mark the 3rd European Ministerial Conference at the Sofia Congress Centre in October 1995. Each State taking part in the campaign displayed its promotional items: posters, stamps, publications etc.

Cyprus Various activities and events were organised to build public awareness: a photo competition for young people, a special stamp issue, publication of brochures by the Ministry of the Environment on water and endangered species, rehabilitation of protected areas and joint activities with the media.

Estonia Most ENCY events were held between 14 May and 5 June, a period dubbed "nature conservation month". Several projects were run jointly with Finland (National Forest Week, seminar on coastline protection), Sweden and the Netherlands (colloquy on the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea).

Finland The *Suomen Luonto* newspaper worked with the Finnish Association of Nature Photographers to organise a photo-competition on the theme "nature around us". 147 photographers submitted a total of 410 photographs. A roving exhibition is touring Finland in 1996.

France Hunters and farmers in 64 French *départements* signed a charter on fallow land for wild fauna, aimed at managing fallow land in a better, more useful and ecological manner while respecting the needs of agriculture.

Greece A hundred or so national events were organised, including a conference on the legal aspects of the environment, a concert of Greek music, the official opening ceremony of the campaign and a festival for bird protection.

Lithuania Several draft laws were prepared, on the protection of endangered species and on fauna, as well as documents to pave the way for the ratification of the Bern Convention. An international conference was held on changes in land ownership and nature conservation in the countries of central and

eastern Europe. Species were inventoried and a great deal of information and public relations material was produced.

Luxembourg The country's action programme concentrated on different environments: forests (encouraging owners to adopt nature-friendly methods of forest management, organising a "Tree day"), agricultural zones (planting hedgerows, managing orchards), industrial environment (ecological management of industrial estates), urban areas (protecting bats in bunkers and inventories of bird habitats in the City of Luxembourg), aquatic zones (redevelopment of rivers) and tourist environment (roving exhibition, nature trail).

Malta A "One world" competition was organised in Maltese primary schools to make children aware of their natural environment. Over 15 000 young people took part. The education and environment ministries awarded prizes for the best projects. The scheme will be extended to all schools on the island.

Monaco "Operation pelican 95", to clean up sea-beds and build public awareness of pollution problems, was organised over three weekends. Over ten tonnes of waste were removed with the help of numerous volunteers. ENCY and its slogan "Look to the future, look after nature" was also promoted by Monte Carlo's street furniture, on over 600 hanging signs made available for the purpose.

Norway Different items were produced to promote ENCY: posters, brochures, educational compact disc, children's musical comedy, badges, T-shirts, wooden cups, etc. These were distributed through the NGO, school, local authority and natural history museum networks. The press showed keen interest in the campaign: by mid-1995 150 TV and radio broadcasts and more than 700 press articles had already been recorded. An evaluation of results with regard to the press and the media is in progress.

San Marino Every family in the country received an illustrated Italian-language brochure on ENCY. A seminar on the theme of cleaning up deep Mediterranean creeks was organised, together with a "Green idea for the Republic of San Marino" competition aimed at enhancing or conserving sites of interest.

Slovenia A bilateral programme to revitalise the river Kucnica was launched in conjunction with Austria. The river straddles the border between the two countries and used to be entirely regulated. An international conference on the situation of wolf populations in Europe - "Wolves are not a danger but they

are in danger themselves" - was organised in November 1995 in conjunction with Croatia and Germany.

Spain Study days on the restoration and protection of wetlands were organised in Catalonia for mayors, municipal councillors and technical advisers. In Andalusia, there were special programmes for schoolchildren: "Put some greenery in your class", "Grow with your tree", "Take care of forests" etc.

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" NGOs contributed greatly to the campaign: groups of ecologists and biologists, mountaineers and pot-holers, scouts, anglers, architects and doctors, tourism and bird protection associations. The different activities gained good coverage in the media: MTV national television, the independent channel A1 and the private channel Sitel; national and local radio. The newspapers *Ekologija* and *Silkan* regularly reported on events.

Turkey The biggest national event was the international meeting organised in the Cappadocia by the Ministry of the Environment. Its aim was to examine existing policies and strategies for protecting and rehabilitating marshlands and draw up recommendations for their long-term development: regulating fishing waters, managing hunting, reducing pollution and controlling the impact of tourism on the environment.

Vatican The Vatican postal services have supported this campaign by issuing a special series of stamps devoted to ENCY. ■

ENCY Secretariat
Council of Europe

ENCY at the Council of Europe



From beginning ...

European Nature Conservation Year was officially launched on 31 January 1995. The formal opening ceremony was held in the Chamber of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It was chaired by Daniel Tarschys, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alecos P. Michaelides, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, Miguel Ángel Martínez, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Josef Hofmann, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), and Jean-Marie Pelt, President of the European Institute for Ecology in Metz.

At this occasion Robert Boote, the instigator of the first European Conservation Year, received the Alfred Toepfer Prize for Nature Conservation in Europe from the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Foundation in Basle.

... To end

The ENCY closing colloquy was organised in co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly and the CLRAE. It was held on 2 April 1996 at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg in the presence of Guy Lutgen, Minister for the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture in the Walloon region, Stanley Zammit, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Malta, and Pavel Gantar, Minister of the Environment and Regional Planning, Slovenia.

The discussions were around three themes: the future of environment protection in the Mediterranean basin, the establishment of an ecological network outside protected areas and the future of the information and education policy within the framework of nature conservation. ■



3



4



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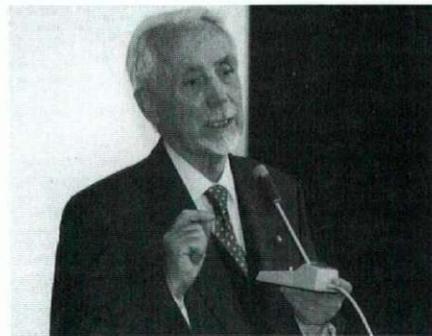
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7

1. Launching ceremony at the Palais de l'Europe
2. R. Boote is awarded his prize
3. S. Zammit
4. G. Lutgen
5. P. Gantar
6. Closing colloquy on 2 April 1996
7. M. Pavan, Chair of the ENCY International Organising Committee

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