

be controlled to some extent. Such regional environmental monitoring centres could look after their areas, keeping a strict vigil on sensitive environmental matters. Such unbiased, honest and fearless monitoring of our environment could be enforced following the laws and legislations properly through mutual cooperation of scientists, social workers, human-rights activists, and government agencies — including the courts of law, as they would be keeping an eye on each other for the very purpose of protecting our

rapidly deteriorating environment. Perhaps in this way we could then avoid some future Bhopal disasters!

SHARIQUE A. ALI,

SHOEB A. KHAN

&

AYESHA S. ALI

Physiology & Biochemistry Laboratory

*Saifia Postgraduate College of Science & Education
Bhopal 462 001, India.*

Eritrean National Code of Conduct for Environmental Security

The Government and Peoples of Eritrea,

Supportive of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN General Assembly Nr 217(III)A, 10 December 1948), and affirming the 1981 African Charter on Human & Peoples' Rights (UN Treaty Series Nr 26363 [in press]);

Recalling the 1972 Declaration on the Human Environment (UN General Assembly A/CONF. 48/14/Rev. 1 (pp. 3–5, November 1973), and conscious of the 1992 Declaration on Environment & Development (UN DPI/1344 [pp. 9–11], April 1993);

In approval of the 1982 World Charter for Nature (UN General Assembly Resolution Nr 37/7, 28 October 1982), and in sympathy with the 1968 African Convention on the Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (UN Treaty Series Nr 14689 [1001: 3–33], 1976);

Observant of the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (UN Treaty Series Nr 14537 [1993:243–438], 1976), in recognition of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (UN Treaty Series, in press), and mindful of the 1994 Convention to Combat Desertification (UN Treaty Series, in preparation); and

Aware that Humankind not only depends upon The Biosphere for its survival and well-being, but also that it must share that Biosphere with the other living things on Earth,

Herewith solemnly proclaim:

1. A deep respect for all living things, and the natural environment upon which they depend, for each is a link in the chain that supports life on Earth.

2. A firm endeavour to make use of the environment in such a fashion that no species will disappear as a result of domestic actions; and, in support of this endeavour, to maintain in perpetuity an adequate fraction of both the

terrestrial and marine environments in their natural state; and, further, to eschew any trade in species of plants or animals threatened with extinction.

3. An unflinching dedication to maintain the national lithosphere (land), hydrosphere (waters), and atmosphere (air), at levels of purity conducive to a healthy environment.

4. A steadfast resolve to utilize the national renewable natural resources sustainably and the non-renewable ones frugally, and also to dispose of all wastes sustainably; and, in support of this resolve, to achieve a national population level that is in balance with available national resources and sink capacities, so that both present and future generations can live in dignity, and especially so that development can be carried out sustainably and with equity.

5. A faithful desire to carry out no activity that would harm the environment beyond national boundaries.

6. A staunch commitment to cooperate as necessary with neighboring states, and with the world community of nations, to protect and enhance the regional environment, the environment of regions beyond national jurisdiction, and the global Biosphere in general; and, in support of this commitment, a constant devotion to resolve any environmental or other interstate dispute solely by amicable means.

7. A thorough acceptance of the need to infuse into all levels of the educational process, social and environmental philosophies that would nurture an acceptance of the fundamental rights of both humans and Nature.

[Communicated by Dr ARTHUR H. WESTING
*Westing Associates
RFD 2, Box 330H
Putney
Vermont 05346
USA.*]

'Charter' for Protected Areas and Their People

National parks experts from seven South Asian countries as well as from China and the Far East, met in Islamabad at the 42nd Working Session of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA), from 21–23 September 1994, to seek means of improved protection of the biological wealth of the region. Cooperation among these countries — which include India, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, among others — was also high on the agenda. Members of UNESCO, IUCN, and ICIMOD*, also participated in it.

CNPPA is the largest network of protected-areas specialists in the world, and attempts to foster intra-regional cooperation among countries with similar protected-areas' needs. In particular, CNPPA promotes bilateral cooper-

ation for the management of protected areas along international borders. This is important where political boundaries divide ecosystems or wider ecomplexes which should, in fact, be managed together.

As human populations grow, using more and more land, it has become ever more critical to conserve natural areas and the *wild* plants and animals that live in them. It is also becoming more and more obvious that local people have to be involved in the conservation process if it is to succeed; no longer can a government impose 'park status' on an area and expect people to adhere to it!

Background Observations

The title of the meeting — '*Parks for Life*' — succinctly expressed the intimate connection between protected areas and the livelihood of rural communities that are

*International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.