

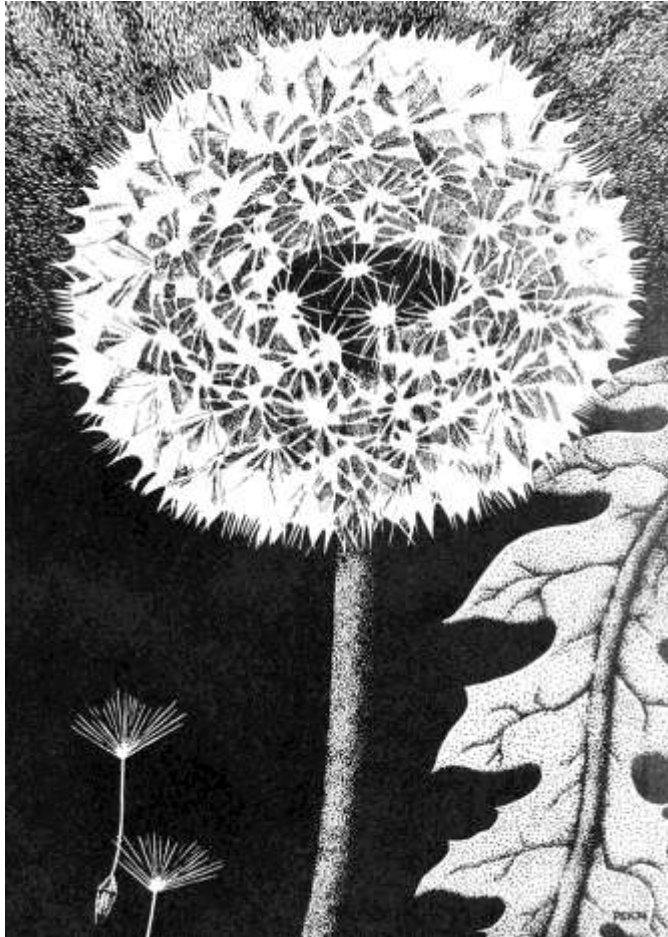
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*Taraxacum officinale*

### **International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF)**

An account of the involvement of young  
people in conservation from 1950 to 2010



**Niedersachsen**

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**Front cover:** *Taraxacum* is the scientific name for a widespread family of plants, whose seed is the emblem of the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation. It symbolises the message of conservation being carried on the wind across the world.

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*photo: David Withrington*

*Planning meeting for the book in September 2009. Clockwise round the table: Jan Čeřovský, Fred van der Vegte, Hein van Bohemen, Henry Makowski, Pieter Ketner, Wim van Muiswinkel, Anne Bogaerts, Gerhard Walter, Lutz Katschner, Franco Pedrotti.*

## Acknowledgements

In September 2009, a meeting of people involved in the foundation in 1956 and subsequent development of the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) took place at Reinsehen, in the Lüneburger Heide, Germany. Thanks go to Johann Schreiner, Director of the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation, for hosting the meeting and arranging the publication of this book.

Three of the founders of IYF - Henry Makowski, Jacques de Smidt and Franco Pedrotti - with the encouragement of Jan Čeřovský, who was active in the early years and later, as a champion of IYF, when he was Executive officer of the IUCN Commission on Education, had the idea to put together a book to capture the history of youth involvement in environmental conservation. A great debt is due to these inspirational individuals for the appearance of a book, which I hope will do justice to the movement to which we were so firmly committed.

I am grateful to all those who contributed their memories of the different periods of IYF and described some of the major events which took place; special thanks go to Pieter Ketner who helped me with the editing of this book.

David Withrington  
Chief Editor  
Peterborough, UK  
2011

*Johann Schreiner showing the planning group of IYF 'old socks' some of the historical features of the Lüneburger Heide in 2009.*

*photo: David Withrington*



## Zusammenfassung

Im Jahr 1956 trafen sich Vertreter von Jugendorganisationen aus 12 europäischen Ländern in Salzburg, um die Internationale Jugendföderation für Umweltstudium und Naturschutz (IYF), mit der Unterstützung des Weltnaturschutzvereins (IUCN), zu gründen. Die Idee der Zusammenarbeit ist in den internationalen Lehrzeltlagern gewachsen, die in Nordwesteuropa nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg stattgefunden haben. Der niederländische Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung (NJN) existierte bereits seit 1925 und war 1950 Gastgeber vom ersten "intercamp" auf der holländischen Insel Terschelling. Die schwedische Feldbiologische Jugendvereinigung (SFU, im Jahr 1947 gegründet) und der Deutsche Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtungen (DJN, 1950 gegründet) waren 1953 und 1955 Gastgeber der "Intercamps".

1952 wurde ein "Intercamp" von der IUCN und UNESCO in Belgien gesponsert. Bei der Generalversammlung der IUCN im Jahr 1954 in Kopenhagen wurden die Präsidenten dieser drei Jugendorganisationen - Jacques de Smidt (NJN), Anne von Essen (SFU) und Henry Makowski (DJN) – beauftragt, Pläne für eine internationale Jugendföderation zu entwickeln. Diese Pläne wurden 1956 bei der ersten Generalversammlung verwirklicht. Die Österreichische Naturschutzjugend (ÖNJ), die selbst 1952 als Ergebnis des Zeltlagers in Belgien gegründet worden war, hat diese Generalversammlung ausgerichtet. Die Geschichte der Anfänge der IYF wird in den Beiträgen von Eberhard Stüber (Gründer der ÖNJ), Henry Makowski und Jacques de Smidt, der als erster Präsident der IYF gewählt wurde, beschrieben. Es war deutlich, dass die Zusammenarbeit in der IYF einen dauerhaften Eindruck auf alle Beteiligten gemacht hatte.

In den nächsten 30 Jahren erzielte die IYF hervorragende Erfolge und erweiterte ihre Tätigkeiten über die ganze Welt. Die ersten Kontakte hinter den Eisernen Vorhang in Osteuropa werden von Jan Čeřovský im Kapitel "Die ersten Jahre (1957 – 1964)" beschrieben. Diese Beschreibung enthält auch einen Abschnitt über den Ausbildungskurs für Jugendleiter der IYF, der jährlich im Naturschutzpark Lüneburger Heide in Nordwestdeutschland zwischen 1955 und 1969 ausgerichtet wurde. Danach wurden diese Kurse jährlich auf Einladung Alfred Toepfers organisiert. Es ist also recht und billig, dass die Naturschutzakademie Toepfers der Herausgeber dieses Buches ist, wofür wir dankbar sind.

Das Kapitel "Die flotten sechziger Jahre (1965-1970)" beginnt mit einem Beitrag von Antje Kohler, die bei der zehnten Jahresversammlung der IYF in Salzburg den Vorsitz leitete. Die Entwicklung der Kontakte zwischen Jugendorganisationen in verschiedenen Ländern war sehr, aber der Mangel an Mitteln für Druckmaterial und die Informationsverteilung an Mitgliedern war auch frustrierend. Es entstanden viele Spannungen zwischen denjenigen, die die Bedeutung des Naturschutzes an die Jugend in der ganzen Welt verbreiten wollten, und anderen, die glaubten, Dienstleistungen für Mitgliedsorganisationen zu verbessern habe Priorität. Diese beiden Ziele waren sehr anspruchsvoll für eine Organisation, die sich auf freiwillige Mitarbeiter verließ. Damals wurden die ersten "Intercamps" in der Tschechoslowakei, in Rumänien und in der Sowjetunion ausgerichtet.

Beim internationalen Jugendforum im Europäischen Naturschutzjahr im Jahr 1970 trat die IYF erstmals auf die politische Bühne. Diese Entwicklungen setzten sich weltweit fort, als die IYF die Führung der Planung einer Weltjugendkonferenz zur menschlichen Umwelt übernahm. Diese Konferenz, an der Jugendliche aus 68 Ländern teilnahmen, fand 1971 in Hamilton, Kanada, statt. Bei der ersten Internationalen Weltkonferenz der Vereinten Nationen in Stockholm im Jahr 1972 war die IYF stark vertreten und hat mit anderen internationalen Jugendorganisationen eng zusammengearbeitet. In dieser Konferenz konnten die Delegierten aus Hamilton ihre Erklärung an Weltregierungen präsentieren. Berichte der damals Beteiligten wurden im Buch aufgenommen. Ein Bericht internationaler Jugendorganisationen, die sich unter der Ägide der Vereinten Nationen trafen, beschreibt, wie die IYF und ihre Mitgliedsorganisationen sich in koordinierten Aktionen über „sauren Regen“; "bedrohte Arten und Tiere" und "wiederverwertbare Abfallstoffe" beschäftigten.

In den späteren siebziger Jahren wurden Ausbildungskurse für Jugendleiter in Naturschutzwerkstätten in Ostafrika, Indien und anderen Ländern der Dritten Welt von der IYF ausgerichtet. Mit zusätzlichen Finanzmitteln konnte die IYF ein zentrales Büro in Dänemark einrichten. Damit waren die Angestellten des Büros in der Lage, die freiwilligen Helfer zu entlasten. Auf jedem Kontinent entwickelten sich Umweltjugendgruppen, häufig mit der Anregung oder Unterstützung der IYF. 1980 hatte die IYF ihre erste Generalversammlung außerhalb Europas in

Indien. Europäische Mitgliedsorganisationen fingen an, über die Möglichkeit zu diskutieren, unabhängige regionale Strukturen in verschiedenen Ländern zu gründen und damit den europäischen Einfluss der IYF einzuschränken.

Regionale Föderationen wurden in embryonaler Form in Lateinamerika, Afrika und Asien entwickelt. In Europa wurde 1983 die regionale Föderation zur "Umweltjugend Europas" gegründet. Die Absicht war, dass jedes Gebiet zwei Vertreter zu einem Weltrat der IYF aufstellen würde. 1984 ist das Weltbüro der IYF von Dänemark nach Indien umgezogen. 1989 befand sich das Büro in Nairobi, dem Sitz des Umweltprogramms der Vereinten Nationen. Leider hörte man nichts mehr von der IYF. Es scheint, dass die Planung der regionalen Organisationen auf jedem Kontinent mehr als genug war, die Energie der betreffenden Jugend in Beschlag zu nehmen, ohne Finanzmittel zur Verfügung stellen zu können, damit Vertreter weit abgelegene Sitzungen eines Weltvereins besuchen konnten.

Es ist erstaunlich, was junge Leute unter der gesetzlichen Altersgrenze der IYF (28 Jahre) erreicht haben, die freiwillig als Vertreter unabhängiger nationaler Jugendorganisationen für Naturschutz arbeiteten. Obwohl die IYF nicht mehr existiert, lebt ihre Geist noch in Verbänden wie "Umweltjugend Europas", die Mitglieder in 28 Ländern hat, einschließlich einiger der ersten Gründerorganisationen der IYF aus dem Jahr 1956.

Die Höhen und Tiefen der Mitarbeit zwischen IYF und IUCN werden in einem Postskriptum beschrieben. Die Unterstützung der IUCN, die so wichtig in der Entwicklung der IYF war, wurde 1984 aus politischen Gründen zurückgezogen. Es gibt auch eine kurze Erklärung zu der finanziellen Situation der IYF. Die Finanzierung der IYF profitierte von Subventionen, die Sir Peter Scott in den siebziger Jahren vom World Wildlife Fund (WWF) bekam. Ein wichtiges Ziel des WWF bestand darin, IUCN und IYF zu finanzieren. Es gibt auch einen Beitrag über die "Umweltjugend Europas" aus dem 2010, der von deren Präsidentin, Anne Kollien, verfasst wurde.

Jedes Kapitel enthält einen Abschnitt der "persönlichen Erinnerungen" von denjenigen, die in jeder Epoche der IYF mitarbeiteten – Leute, die heute noch im Naturschutz aktiv sind.

Die Anhänge beschreiben einen Zeitplan der Hauptereignisse in der Geschichte der IYF; eine Liste von gewählten Präsidenten von 1956 bis 1980; ein Diagramm der Geschäftsstruktur der IYF im Jahr 1975; eine Liste der Mitgliedsorganisationen und außerordentlichen Mitglieder; eine Beschreibung der Lehrzeltlager und Ausbildungskurse, die 1978 für Mitglieder der Organisationen der IYF zur Verfügung gestellt wurden; sowie eine Zusammenfassung einer der wissenschaftlichen Untersuchungen, die von der IYF koordiniert wurden, nämlich die Phänologie der Pflanzen und Vögel, die heutzutage in der Forschung zu den Auswirkungen des Klimawandels so wichtig ist; und schließlich eine Teilnehmerliste der ersten Weltjugendkonferenz zur Umwelt in Kanada im Jahr 1971.

David Withrington  
Chefredakteur

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## CONTENTS

		page
David Withrington	<b>Introduction</b>	6
<b>Origins and foundation</b>		
<i>archives</i>	How IYF originated	7
Eberhard Stüber	Foundation and 1st IYF General Assembly - Salzburg, Austria, 1956	8
<i>archives</i>	IYF Foundation Act	10
<i>archives</i>	Message from the Secretary General of IUCN	11
Jacques de Smidt		
Henry Makowski	<i>Personal memories</i>	12
Franco Pedrotti		
<b>The early years - 1957-65</b>		
Anto Leikola	3 <sup>rd</sup> General Assembly at Evo, Finland - 1958	20
Sylvia Galloway	Environmental challenges in 1960	23
Jan Čeřovský	Building a bridge between East and West Europe - the first steps	24
Derek Davis	Progress report by the IYF President 1963	27
Wim van Muiswinkel	<i>Personal memories</i>	28
<b>IYF Training Courses - Lüneburger Heide</b>		
Henry Makowski		
Nicolas Holliman	Experiences of organisers and participants	30
<b>The 'swinging' 60's - 1966-70</b>		
Antje Kohler (geb. Rücker)	10th anniversary General Assembly in Salzburg, 1966	34
Jan Čeřovský	East meets West in Europe - intercamps	37
Hereward Hill, Hein van Bohemen, David Withrington	First intercamps in the USSR and Romania	42
Theophile Vethaak	European Youth Forum 1970 - Lüneburger Heide	45
David Withrington	<i>Personal memories</i>	50
<b>Global developments - 1971-76</b>		
<i>archives</i>	Events in 1971 - overview	52
<i>archives</i>	IYF Symposium, Filzmoos, Austria	53
<i>archives</i>	International Youth Conference on the Human Environment, Hamilton, Canada	53
<i>archives</i>	Seminar of IYNGOs, Geneva, Switzerland	58
<i>archives</i>	Events in 1971 - conclusions	59
Fred van der Vegte	From Hamilton to Stockholm - UN Conference on the Human Environment, 1972	60
<i>archives</i>	Statement of concern by the IYNGO's to UNCHE	62
<i>archives</i>	Developments in Eastern Europe - Poland and Yugoslavia	65
Bo Landin	Report to the United Nations and International Youth Organisations on IYF activities, 1974	68
Pieter Ketner	Eastern Africa Youth Course, 1974	72
Desh Bandhu	First Workshop for Asian Youth, India, 1975	75

David Withrington, Hein van Bohemen, Lutz Katzschner, Gerhard Walter, Bo Landin	<i>Personal memories</i>	78
---	--------------------------	----

### **A change is coming - 1977-83**

<i>archives</i>	23rd IYF General Assembly, Netherlands, 1978	87
Hari Singh Panwar	The birth of an environmental youth group in India	89
<i>archives</i>	Proposals for a new IYF structure	91
<i>archives</i>	Establishment of regional federations	95
<i>archives</i>	Creation of 'Youth Environment Europe' in 1983	96
David Withrington	What happened to IYF as a world Federation?	98

### **Postscript**

<i>archives</i>	IUCN sponsorship	100
<i>archives</i>	IYF finances	102
Anne Kollien	'Youth Environment Europe' today	103

## **Annexes**

<b>I</b>	IYF - timetable of main events	107
<b>II</b>	IYF Presidents	109
<b>III</b>	IYF structure 1975	110
<b>IV</b>	IYF member organisations 1956-83	111
<b>V</b>	Study camps - the backbone of IYF and its member organisations	118
<b>VI</b>	IYF publications <i>David Withrington</i>	125
<b>VII</b>	IYF phenology investigations <i>Hein van Bohemen</i>	127
<b>VIII</b>	List of participants at the International Youth Conference, Hamilton, 1971	129

# Introduction

**David Withrington**

IYF President 1971-72

2011

Human beings have always had special interest in their natural environment: firstly, to live from it and in it - for food and shelter; in the last few centuries, to study and classify it; and, in more recent times, to understand it and what makes it tick. This led to the development of the science of ecology in the 20th century. Once we began to understand our environment, there came a realisation of the impact that we, as human beings, are having on it. A movement for environmental conservation was born. Nowhere was the commitment stronger than in the post-war generation in Europe.

Environmental conservation now has an international and global dimension. There have been numerous conventions and treaties, and two conferences of the world's nations - Stockholm in 1972 and Rio in 1992. A large number of local, national and international organisations have sprung up, both at government level and on citizens' initiatives. This book is the story of one such organisation - the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF), told by those who were involved in its foundation in 1956 and in its subsequent development. What is apparent from each of their accounts is the profound effect that this involvement with IYF has had on their lives and their outlook on the world. Their accounts also chronicle the individual and collective struggles they have taken on to make the Federation a success. We should not underestimate the sheer practical difficulties of communication and travel, especially in the early days.

IYF had its beginnings amongst the youth organisations of north-west Europe which shared an interest in the study and conservation of the natural environment. What marks the IYF out as different from most other youth organisations is that it is run by young people. The upper age limit of the Federation is 28 - and that of several of its member organisations is 23. This has brought with it problems in achieving administrative and financial stability, but the advantage of a constant infusion of fresh ideas, and the benefit to successive generations of young people of helping to run an international organisation.

Older people and adult organisations have had an influence on IYF, and the encouragement of certain people who had not lost their ideals, such as Sir Peter Scott then chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, is recorded in the following pages. Unfortunately, there were others who were less supportive: they found young people and their aspirations rather tiresome or were principally motivated by political considerations. The sponsorship of IYF by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) at its foundation in 1956 and the later withdrawal of sponsorship in 1984 are examples of both sides of the coin.

The main events in the history of IYF are set out chronologically in Annex 1. Apart from its foundation in Salzburg in 1956 by 16 youth organisations from 12 countries, we can pick out highlights such as - annual youth-leader training courses, held most often at the Lüneburger Heide in Germany; pioneering training courses for youth leaders in Eastern Africa and India; and the World Youth Conference on the Environment at Hamilton, Canada, in 1971.

The IYF is a democratic organisation: its officers are elected by delegates of member organisations at an annual general assembly. Any organisation is the sum of its members. This book includes accounts of the typical activities of IYF member organisations, many of which are reflected in the Federation's own programme of activities. These are also described with examples from different periods.

The first chapter addresses the question "how did it all start?", with contributions from some of the prime movers in the foundation of IYF.



## Origins and foundation

### How IYF originated

The self-governing youth association for the study of nature - Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie (NJN) - had existed in the Netherlands since 1925. After the Second World War, contacts were made with Sweden (Sveriges Fältbiologernas Ungdomsforening, SFU, founded in 1947) and Germany (Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung, DJN, founded in 1950). In 1949, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation - with its seat in Paris) convened a meeting of science club leaders. As a result, an international camp was organised on the Dutch island of Terschelling in 1950, to which NJN invited all the groups represented at the UNESCO meeting. In all, 25 young people from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, France and Finland attended. Two years later, a second camp was sponsored by the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUPN) and took place in Houyet, Belgium.



*Prof JP Harroy (second from left), Secretary General of IUPN with participants from 8 countries at the 1952 intercamp in the Ardennes, Belgium*      *photo: Henry Makowski*

During this camp, participants from Austria made plans to establish the Österreichische Naturschutzjugend (ÖNJ) and the idea of a more permanent working arrangement between youth organisations in the different countries was floated. JP Harroy, the IUPN Secretary General, gave this his support and arranged for a slot at the IUPN General Assembly in Copenhagen in 1954 for debating the education of young people in nature conservation. After this, a Preparatory Committee - comprising the Presidents of SFU (Anne von Essen), NJN (Jacques de Smidt) and DJN (Henry Makowski) - was set up to work towards a federation of youth organisations involved in nature conservation. The international camps (so-called intercamps) had become an annual event, and the plans were taken further at the camp on Terschelling in 1954 and on the German island of Fehmarn in 1955, where Jaap Mennema and Sam Segal from the Netherlands were co-opted to help draft a constitution and outline structure for the proposed Federation.

The office of IUPN in Brussels helped, through its national members, to put these pioneering young people in touch with youth organisations in a number of European countries. In addition to existing contacts in Belgium (BJN) and Switzerland (Nos Oiseaux), new ones were made in Spain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Austria, France, United Kingdom, Denmark and Finland.

In 1956, the intercamp took place at Obersulzbachtal in the Austrian Alps, at the invitation of ÖNJ. Before this, a formal meeting was held in nearby Salzburg, at which the proposal to establish an International Youth Federation for the Study and Protection of Nature (IYF) was agreed by the participants representing 14 member organisations - the 'founding members' - and a formal constitution was adopted. In the same year, the IUPN changed its name to IUCN at its General Assembly in Edinburgh, UK, and ratified its sponsorship of IYF.

# 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and foundation of IYF Salzburg, Austria, 1956

Eberhard Stüber, 2011



After the second world-war with its terrible destructions, in Austria as in many European countries, reconstruction of buildings and a guaranteed food supply for the population were the main concerns of responsible politicians. Already then, alert young people recognised that, in a time of strong economic growth, the standing of conservation of nature might diminish. Due to new technologies and large-scale mechanisation, it became possible to destroy - within a shorter and shorter time - valuable habitats for plants and animals as well as ecologically important areas of landscape.

In this sad situation for the conservation of the natural heritage, some far-sighted young people from different European countries took the initiative and founded, independently from each other, youth organisations for the conservation and observation of nature, and were eager to commit themselves to the protection of significant natural values. In Austria, I founded in 1952 the Österreichische Naturschutzjugend (ÖNJ), which spread in a short time throughout the entire country and attracted more than 10,000 members.

It was magnificent that these youth groups from different countries quickly came into contact with each other, organised common international camps and - what was especially important after the war - contributed to an understanding between nations. But the long-term aim was to unite in an international organisation, and this was realised in 1956.

On 3 August 1956, representatives from youth organisations for conservation from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom met in Salzburg for the Founding Assembly of the International Youth Federation for the Study and Protection of Nature (IYF). Jacques de Smidt from the Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie (NJJ) was elected as its first President. In a founding ceremony at the Residence of Salzburg, IYF was presented to numerous high-ranking public figures from politics, academia, culture, business and the international press.



*Jacques de Smidt, first President of IYF, addressing the General Assembly  
in Salzburg, August 1956* photo: Eberhard Stüber

To safeguard the memory of this outstanding youth initiative, all minutes and documents of the Founding Assembly of IYF are kept, in bound form, in the archive of the museum *Haus der Natur* in Salzburg. Looking back after 55 years, we know that - in their journey through life - many of the young people who became active during the post-war period and later within IYF have achieved remarkable results for the conservation of Europe's nature. We can all be proud of it.

After the formal foundation of IYF in Salzburg, seventy young participants visited the Eisriesenwelt, the largest system of ice caves in the world, and the Krimml waterfalls, Europe's highest with a drop of 380m. Finally, they took part in a camp in Obersulzbachtal to become acquainted with the alpine nature of this region. The highlight of the camp was to climb the 3,360 m high Gross Venediger, the second highest mountain in Austria, which later became part of the Hohe Tauern National Park. The Austrian hosts, with rope and pickaxe, took care of the participants' safety. On the summit, young people from various European countries declared once more their commitment to the protection of the natural heritage: an experience which remained unforgettable for all the participants.



*post-GA excursion: looking up to the summit of Gross Venediger*



*Franco Pedrotti helping to survey the bed of an alpine stream*

*photos: Eberhard Stüber*



*some of the participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> intercamp in Obersulzbachtal, Austria, 1956*

## IYF Foundation Act

We, the undersigned organisations, sharing the basic aims to study and conserve nature in all its aspects, have decided to collaborate in founding a federation to be known as the "International Youth Federation for the Study and Protection of Nature".

This Federation shall seek to stimulate among youth throughout the world an increasing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of nature and to disseminate the principles and practice of nature protection laid down in the Preamble to the Constitution of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Furthermore, the Federation proposes to help realise the objects of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, as contained in Article I of the Union's Statutes.

The Federation shall receive no directions of a religious or political character. The Federation shall not interfere with the autonomy of its member organisations.

Signed at Salzburg, Austria, August 1956:

Luonto Liitto, Finland (Anto Leikola)

Sveriges Fältbiologiska Ungdomsforening, Sweden (Brigitta Ohlin)

Dansk Ornithologisk Forening, Denmark (Bent Pors Nielsen)

Naturhistoriske Onsdags Aftner, Denmark (Thoger Jensen)

Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung, Federal Germany (Peter Jacobi)

Christelijke Jeugdbond voor Natuurvrienden, Netherlands (Gerard A. Monkhorst)

Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie, Netherlands (Harry Wals)

Koninklijke Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging, Netherlands (Bert Kwist)

Belgische Jeugdfederatie voor Natuurstudie, Belgium (Greta Coppens)

Field Observers' Club, United Kingdom (Roger Jones)

Société des Amis de Musée d'Histoire Naturelle Paris, France (Lucien Rey)

Frente de Juventudes, Spain (Juan Antonio Solinis del Castillo)

Movimento Italiano Protezione della Natura, Italy (Franco Pedrotti)

Gioventu Naturalistica Italiana, Italy (Carlo Besana)

Group des Jeunes de *Nos Oiseaux*, Switzerland (Jean Pierre Besse)

Österreichische Naturschutzjugend, Austria (Eberhard Stüber)



*Anto Leikola, Luonto Liitto, Finland, signing the IYF Foundation Act under the supervision of Henry Makowski, chair of the Preparatory Committee, while Jacques de Smidt looks on.*

*photo: Eberhard Stüber*

## Extract from the message of the Secretary General of IUCN to the founding Assembly of the International Youth Federation for the Study and Protection of Nature held at Salzburg, August 1956

[from the archives]

I am pleased to have the opportunity to address you - through the intermediary of our representative Ann Alexander - and to welcome and encourage you at the moment of your arrival at your important international meeting in Salzburg.

Nowhere else in the world, are artistic heritage and the splendours of nature, which are equally the capital and, so to say, the prime material of tourism, better appreciated than by the Austrian people - the most European of European peoples. So, it would be difficult to find a place where inheritance and environment have a more integral influence on humanity in general and yourselves in particular towards the foundation and development of a federation, brought together for better understanding of the world in which we live and the basic principles of our existence, which we collectively call 'nature'. Moreover, you already possess the advantage of a healthy desire for peace on Earth and goodwill towards your peers.

It is in this spirit that you are determined, on the firm base of your own national societies which are especially interested in nature, and with the same common denominator, to extend co-operation to other people in a great common cause. Happily, there is nothing new in the desire experienced by people like you who are enlightened to conserve nature and its resources, and you have had some distinguished predecessors. In Athens in that brilliant 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, Pericles, probably inspired by the introduction of the precious natural resource - the olive, stated that: 'The first duty of a good citizen was to see that the heritage which nature has bestowed remained intact for posterity' ...

...We know now that on our planet there is no living being, plant or animal - including the curious naked biped, man - which is independent. The more that modern man expands his knowledge, the more he sees that everything that exists is closely interrelated. For this reason, when you have persuaded men to think about the Earth, about all that lives on Earth and the birds which fly in the sky, it is only a short step to make them think about the place which our simple planet occupies in space and the mysteries of the world of nature.

In this way you will succeed in getting people more interested in nature: it is already a triumph to get men to think. In nature's kingdom, a man who thinks - a 'thinking man' - is already a more enlightened person, a wiser citizen, a better voter and a better human being. This is one part of the work which you have had the intelligence, the courage and sense of civic duty to address. Have confidence in the objectives which you have set yourselves; fortified by intelligence and confidence, you can move mountains of ignorance and prejudice. It only remains to say to each and every one of you: 'arise, take up your bed and walk!'

Tracy Philipps  
Brussels, July 1956

[abridged and translated from the French, Ed.]



*Two of the founders of IYF:  
Franco Pedrotti and Jacques  
de Smidt at the book-planning  
session in 2009*

*photo: Wim van Muiswinkel*

## Personal memories

### Jacques de Smidt

first President of IYF

2008

### International camps - meeting young naturalists from other countries

My story begins in 1951. In that year, just after my 19th birthday, I travelled from the Netherlands to a youth camp near Eckernförde on the east coast of Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany. I stood in admiration watching the migrating birds coming from Scandinavia, above the Danish isles. Huge numbers of birds that had climbed high in the sky had crossed the sea and, seeing the coast of the continent where we stood, they came happily down to lower layers. This event made a deep impression on me, creating a memory I will never forget.

Later, I realised that this camp was the start of the most formative phase of my youth. The catalyst of that start was Piet Heijligers, a student in biology at Utrecht University. We knew each other as members of the local branch of Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie (NJN). He told me that he was going to a camp of the Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung (DJN), as a representative of the NJN. Among young naturalists in Europe, a new tradition to meet up with each other had developed since the end of the Second World War.

Piet's description of streams of migrating birds had made me eager to attend the camp, because birds were my great fascination. But, I could also hear in his voice and see in his eyes the happiness of making new friends. In these years of new hope after the War, it was a great discovery that sharing an interest in plants and animals included the key of meeting like-minded people, on the other side of the border, just as fellow humans - not as 'allies' or 'enemies'. In our teens and early twenties, we all enjoyed the unique position of having been too young to be obliged to go for military service. This fact was not at the forefront of our minds; the pain for those who had died was too deep. But growing in our subconscious was the possibility of a new chance for our world. Plants and birds helped us. They gave us a legitimate reason to travel abroad and study them with the help of young people that knew the way.

The hunger for this 'new world' made me ready to be infected with a desire to cross borders. Piet arranged a place for me, and I travelled to the DJN camp, hitch-hiking as we used to do. This camp turned out to be the start for me of a six-year series of meetings with young naturalists all over Europe. The apotheosis was the foundation of the IYF in Salzburg. After that, I had the chance to continue in the game for three more years, until I reached the age limit of 27 years old.

### Age limits

A creative approach was necessary for people like me who wanted to be active in IYF, but had lost their NJN membership by reaching the age of 23. Help came from Hans Zandvliet of the KNNV, the Royal Dutch Association for Nature Study. He was KNNV's contact-person with the International Union for the Protection of Nature (later IUCN) and had a clear vision of the need for international

co-operation. He was strongly motivated to build links from study to protection, from youth to adult and from country to country. The solution was as simple as it was effective: to create a junior group of KNNV with an age limit of 27. The link with IUCN would turn out to be an essential one - both for me and for the IYF.

### **Towards a new organisation**

Soon after Eckernförde, birds took a step backwards in my mind. My new fascination was making contact with young naturalists in other countries. Of course, birds continued to be part of my interest in nature, but my feeling of care for nature as a whole embraced all other animals and plants as part of the ecosystem, as well as man and his cultural history. The strong factor in this process was the fact that bird-watching in the Eckernförde camp was done together with other young people. Long talks around the camp fire generated reflections which bridged the gap between our different memories of the war that had just ended. A new discovery was that making personal friendships is independent from the fact that our nations until recently were enemies. These friendships appear to be timeless and, in many cases, are still alive today.

From these beginnings in 1951, my next landmark was 1954, the year of the camp on the Dutch island of Terschelling and of the IUPN congress in Copenhagen. Since 1950, international camps for nature study had become a regular occurrence in Western Europe. The Terschelling camp was the fourth. In great happiness, I was able to attend the whole series during the next five years: on the Baltic island of Fehmarn in 1955, in Obersulzbachtal in the Austrian Alps in 1956; in Gran Paradiso, Italy in 1957; and in the boreal woods of Evo, Finland in 1958. At each of these camps, steps were made towards the birth and development of IYF. Proposals were made by a Preparatory Committee and, after discussion and amendment, agreed by the camp participants. For that reason, it was felt essential that youth organisations from as many countries as possible should send their representatives to the camps.



*IYF Executive Board at 2<sup>nd</sup>  
General Assembly,  
Orville, Italy - 1957:  
Jens Eggers, Ann  
Alexander (UK), Jacques  
de Smidt (NL - President),  
Jaap Mennema (NL).*

*photo: Eberhard Stüber*

### **The role of IUCN**

IUCN played a vital role in making contact with youth organisations all over Europe. To reach that goal, the staff in their office in Brussels asked their member organisations for help. This resulted in a list of addresses of youth organisations that we could invite to send participants to the international camps. The personal contacts of Sir Tracy Philipps, the secretary general of IUCN from 1955 to 1958, with officials of their member organisations were of great value. He arranged a visit for me to Professor Veselý in Prague, who set up meetings with young people. He knew exactly how to establish sustainable collaboration. He asked Jan Čeřovský to be my guide to nature areas in Bohemia and Moravia and to the Tatra Mountains in Slovakia. After that journey, we knew what we wanted to fight for in Europe and that we needed each other to do it.

Sir Tracy Philipps also made a direct input. He invited me to stay at his home in the South Downs in England when I was in that country to meet young English naturalists. That was practical help in saving costs, but meant much more to me, as I became aware later. He told me about the contrasts in the choices he made in his life. He had made a career as an official in the British

colonies, in particular in India. Now he was working for nature conservation, which was low in the appreciation of the post-war public. He was a very open person, which gave me the guts to ask him the 'why' questions. His answer to 'why IUCN' was: "this is the first job in my life that gives me real satisfaction because its aim is of real concern to the future of mankind and our planet".

### Searching, and finding an answer

My discussions with Sir Tracy Philipps had struck at the heart of the process I was going through in that phase of my life. I was eagerly looking around in the world. My starting point was the world of science. As a student of biology, I was happy to find clear explanations of the world around us: physical powers were made transparent by the laws discovered since Newton; the chemical world was ordered through the periodic table of elements; while Linnaeus had given similar order the living world. Complex systems such as plant communities were nicely put into boxes by Braun Blanquet and Tüxen. The path to the future was clear. Scientists had only to collect more data. According to the laws of nature, these data would reveal new systems and make the world more transparent and better understood. This was my fascination. My adventure was the opening up of geographical boundaries, probably because I liked travelling so much. Plant geography became my great love, to discover the distribution of species across the world.



*Jacques at the General Assembly in Evo, Finland.*

*1958 photo: Jaasko Passivirta*

Science was one of the two poles in my life; it was the safe haven where Universitas (an international network of universities focused on research) was searching for the truth. Biology provided me with a solid foundation with a view on real life. The opposing pole was anger at the behaviour of man: killing whales for oil, killing fur animals for clothes, polluting the air and rivers as a side-effect of our production methods - how could I live with myself? I was - and still am - a member of that killing and polluting species. This inner turmoil was mixed with memories of a terrible war, where men killed each other. This made me restless. It was a continuous search. But I did not know for what. Travelling to other countries appeared a good therapy for my restlessness, and it helped to rationalize my war memories. In the international camps we made lasting friendships. The world that was divided into allies and enemies was replaced by a world of persons you could talk with, even when you had opposite opinions.

This world was illuminated by a ray of hope. It turned out that we shared a common anger at the way humans treated our environment. By working together in an international setting, we could try to find the way to save our planet. This was my best therapy ever. Transform my anger in action. This may explain the enormous energy we found in ourselves. We travelled hitch-hiking all over Europe to meet each other. We discussed day and night to find ways to collaborate in addressing the problems caused by man. They could only be solved by man. We belong to that species. So we decided to work together and do everything in our power to that end.

Looking back after half a century, we can see that our species is able to produce individuals who can find the way to a sustainable world. There is still a long and complex road to travel. But, our anger and fear has been replaced by hope and confidence.



Henry Makowski (centre)  
with Fred van der Vegte  
and Hein van Bohemen at  
Reinsehen, Lüneburger  
Heide, 2009

photo: Wim van Muiswinkel



## Henry Makowski 2011

When I was at school in 1943, I visited the protected bird colony of the German League for Bird Protection on the Baltic island of Hiddensee, in north-east Germany. The bird warden enlisted me as a member of my first nature conservation organisation, founded by Lisa Hähnle in 1899. I am still a member today, albeit at a 100 times bigger annual subscription! In Lüneburg, where I lived after the War, an 8-hectare protected natural monument the Kalkberg, a chalk hill, had been declared in 1932. After the War, it was decided to rehabilitate the town's nature conservation areas, and the Trust responsible set up the *Lüneburg-Kalkberg Bird-protection Station*. I was recruited in 1948 to supervise its work and to build up a youth group to assist with the management of the protected area. Its position in the middle of the town was ideally suited to a youth group. There was a weather-proof meeting-point - a sparsely-furnished mountain hut on the hill-top.

At the time, considerable administrative hurdles stood in the way of creating a youth group. From 1945, the activities of social organisations were controlled by the military authorities: those devoted to youth activities came under special scrutiny. We had to fill out a voluminous questionnaire, put up two guarantors and take part in prescribed group meetings, to be held under the direction of authorised youth workers. I was fortunate that one of my guarantors was the politician, Werner Bockelmann, then the Chief Executive of the town of Lüneburg, and later the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt. Approval by the British military authorities had several advantages: we were able to get meeting-rooms in schools free of charge; we had access to new books and journals; and we were insured against damage and accidents in our activities.

We sought to enrol members through lectures in Lüneburg schools. Teachers made publicity for us and brought interested school students to us. Around the little house on the hill-top of Kalkberg, we created a care-station for injured birds. When a school student brought us an unfortunate bird or other wild animal, we recruited them at once as a potential group member. We became much in demand as the people to turn to whenever there were injured animals to be rescued in the Lüneburg area. We called ourselves *The Jays*, after the bird species that with its call gave a warning and stood as the policeman of the woods.

Of course, we had no experience in handling injured birds, no knowledge of how to apply a bandage, or how to feed them. Here we were helped by a veterinary surgeon who had found a place to settle in the neighbourhood of the 'Kalkberg'. The vet, Walter Schulze, provided us with free medical supplies, which at that time were virtually unavailable or unaffordable to us. He also publicised our Group in his practice and on visits to farmers in the surrounding villages. So, we got new members from the villages in the area. Through them, we had setting-off points for our bird-watching excursions in the rural surroundings. One of these was also a forestry district. With the forester, we arranged a programme of building nest-boxes. He provided the wooden boards, which we in turn made into nest-boxes. Through nest-boxes we got a little bit of income for the group's funds. The business flourished and word



spread to other foresters in the area. After constructing the nest-boxes, we declared our willingness to bring these artificial breeding opportunities directly to the foresters in their woods, to inspect them and every spring to clean them out.

The first post-war president of the German League for Bird Protection, Hermann Hähnle (son of the founder, Lisa Hähnle), found our work so effective for publicity that he encouraged us to experiment with a small cine camera, which he donated. We sat down together and hatched a scenario. We decided to give our youth film the title '*A day in the outdoors*'. In the next 12 months, we put together a film of a field trip and the work we carried out.

### **Going Dutch – the foundation of DJN**

We made contacts with older students who were studying at the Lüneburg Teacher Training College. They had made contact when they visited Holland with an independent youth group called the 'Netherlands Youth Association for Nature Studies' (NJN). They returned from Holland full of enthusiasm. Eventually, our Group *The Jays* received an invitation to participate in a youth camp in Holland supported by Dutch nature conservation organisations. Our Group's accounts were well filled at the time, and I was nominated to take part in the youth camp in Holland and report back. In late summer 1950, I travelled by train from Lüneburg to the Dutch border. Then I took my bicycle, cycled through the north of Holland, and landed on the island of Terschelling. These days were influential for my later life and for my work in nature conservation.

On my return from Holland, we met with the students from the Teacher Training College. We swapped our travel experiences, and decided to set up a new joint organisation, using what we had learnt from the work programmes and camp experiences of the Dutch NJN. We even copied the name, and called our new organisation DJN (Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung). With the founding of DJN in Lüneburg in 1950, a window of nature conservation across national borders opened up for us. It was important for us to introduce an age-limit on the Dutch model. We set this at 25 years, as we still had amongst us many former students. With our statutorily-fixed upper age-limit, we were the only youth group in Germany, where young people acted on their own responsibility, independent of the older generation.

Meanwhile, we came to the notice of the publishers of a school magazine. It was called '*The little friend of animals*'. The Editor in Chief bought from us photos of youth activities with animals and declared herself ready to finance a photo exhibit with our pictures. It appeared under the motto 'DJN - what we do; who we are; and what we want'. This exhibit was visited by many school students. Hamburg became a centre of youth work for nature conservation in North Germany.

In the early days of DJN, if we made longer excursions we were limited to staying in the houses of members and friends. As a state-registered youth group, we soon received old army tents delivered by the local official youth service, together with the kitchen equipment necessary to cater for larger groups. We could then organise study camps in the open countryside and invite friends from west and south Germany, as well as members of the Dutch youth groups.

### **Formalising international co-operation into a 'youth federation'**

In 1952, a camp was held which, in the history of European nature conservation, may be regarded as the forerunner of the IYF. It took place in Houyet in Belgium from 28 July to 8 August, under the sponsorship of the International Union for the Protection of Nature. The programme had been put together by experienced members of the Dutch NJN. There were short excursions each day into the surrounding countryside. Time was set aside for discussions on the work of youth groups from participating countries. This provided an opportunity for me to learn about nature conservation problems in countries outside Germany. The planning and style of this camp was a model for me in organising future training courses for IYF on the Lüneburger Heide.

During the Houyet camp, an idea was floating around which had earlier been discussed in the national groups: how to bring nature conservation youth groups together under a joint international umbrella body. During our discussions, we were encouraged by the IUPN Secretary General, Professor Harroy, to think about how this could be realised. He wanted time put aside on the agenda of IUPN's 1954 General Assembly in Copenhagen for this issue to be raised.

In the meantime, I had moved from the Bird Protection Station run by volunteers in Lüneburg to the official administration of the Province of Hamburg. The head of the nature conservation office, Carl Duve, had in his earlier years established a team of conservation volunteers for the Lüneburger Heide. My new boss knew, from his own experience, how to organise nature conservation activities for volunteers working in their spare time. For many years, the DJN - and later IYF - received support from the official nature conservation office in Hamburg.

My Hamburg boss fully supported our efforts to establish an international federation of youth groups. To help with this, I was released from my work duties to travel to Copenhagen for the General Assembly of IUPN in 1954. There, in front of a large and appreciative audience, I showed our youth film *A day in the outdoors*. At the end of the General Assembly, Anne von Essen (Swedish SFU), Jacques de Smidt (Dutch NJN) and I sat down together and established a Preparatory Committee, whose task was to work towards an international federation of national youth nature conservation groups, under the aegis of IUCN and supported by UNESCO. Our little Committee met several times, in the mountain hut on the Lüneburg Kalkberg, to work on a constitution, structure, membership and name for the new body.

This was the story when, in August 1956, the inaugural assembly of the International Youth Federation for the Study and Protection of Nature (IYF) was held in Austria. It was organised by Eberhard Stüber, who had founded the Austrian Nature Conservation Youth Group (ÖNJ) in 1952. He selected one of the most famous European cities for the launch of IYF - Salzburg has an old European tradition for culture. Preparations had gone well: the Mirabell Palace was the location of the inaugural ceremony; politicians up to Ministerial level had agreed to attend; and the international media, which were there anyway for the Salzburg Festival, also wanted to be represented.

I had travelled by train from Hamburg to Salzburg in walking gear, as I intended to stay in an alpine hut in the Hohe Tauern after the Assembly. From there we planned to go walking in the mountains. As chair of the Preparatory Committee, I had to make the opening address in the Castle. Like Eberhard Stüber, I was determined to stand on the podium wearing a formal black suit. But where could I get hold of a suit and tie? There were costume-hire shops in the city, but in view of the Festival only dress suits and tails were available. I was saved by a waiter from a small local Gasthof, where we had put the final touches to the IYF constitution. He lent me his working clothes for a few hours, including a white shirt and a black bow tie. However, the waiter's shoes did not fit, and I wore my sturdy walking shoes. These cannot be seen in the photos of me at the presentation and reception; and you cannot tell that I'm holding myself in to avoid the seams of the jacket splitting!



*Buffet reception after the founding of IYF at the Mirabell Palace in Salzburg, 1956. Henry Makowski (second from the right, with a plate in his hand) struggling in his jacket and tie borrowed from a waiter. photo: Eberhard Stüber*

## Franco Pedrotti

2011

In 1953, at the invitation of Jean-Paul Harroy, general secretary of the IUPN, I participated in an international youth camp in Sweden, organised by Anne von Essen and other members of the Sveriges Fältbiologiska Ungdomsförening. The tents were set up near the village of Hasselfors, in a very beautiful area, rich with lakes, bogs and forests, and populated by beavers and moose. Thus I met 50 or 60 young naturalists from various countries of Europe, members of active associations for the study of nature, which also printed journals for their members. I remember the associations Luonto Liitto in Finland with the journal *Molekkyli*, SFU in Sweden with *Fältbiologen*, Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie in Holland with *Amoeba*, Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung in Germany with *Die Lupe*, and Jeunesse belge pour l'étude et la protection de la nature in Belgium with *Flore et Faune*. The titles were simple, but very evocative: *Molecule*, *Field Biologists*, *Amoeba*, *The Lens*, *Flora and Fauna*.

Anne von Essen called the Hasselfors camp 'Ujiji' after the African village where Stanley met Livingstone: the camp was to be a place of encounter for people, in our case people interested in nature. This idea of encounter among people of different cultures was emphasised often in the successive assemblies and was incorporated into the Federation's statute.

In 1955, I participated in the international camp on Fehmarn Island organised by Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung. By this time, the idea of creating a new international youth federation was already very advanced, and during evening meetings proposals for draft statutes were examined. This idea became a reality the following year, with the foundation of IYF at the meeting in Salzburg, in which I participated as representative of the Movimento Italiano Protezione Natura. This was followed by the camp organised by the Österreichische Naturschutzjugend in Obersulzbachtal, a typical high mountain alpine environment.

In the same summer of 1955, after the Fehmarn camp, I was invited to participate in the training course on nature conservation in the Lüneburger Heide, which was an experience of extraordinary scientific interest for me. We were visited by its sponsor, Dr. Alfred Toepfer, who followed the progress of the course with great attention.



Orvieille, Gran Paradiso, 1957 photo and sketch: Franco Pedrotti

In 1957, I organised the intercamp in Orvieille, at an altitude of 2,200 metres in the Gran Paradiso National Park, where King Vittorio Emanuele II had a hunting lodge. With the cessation of the royal reserve in 1922, the National Park was established. Orvieille hosted the IYF General Assembly, at which Jacques de Smidt was the elected president. In his introductory speech, he underlined the educational task of the Federation: *"We believe that the first duty of the Federation is to protect nature and the whole living world, including man and his culture. Illuminating young people in this camp is one of the best ways of achieving this goal."* Jacques de Smidt also emphasised the importance of international camps as a place for member associations to exchange ideas and stressed the educational importance of the Lüneburger Heide course.

Jan Čeřovský should have participated in the Orvieille camp, but he did not obtain his visa in time. I met him personally only many years later, in Fontainebleau in 1998, at the congress marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the IUPN, now called the IUCN. We became friends immediately: in 2008 he visited me in Camerino, together with Jacques de Smidt, for a nature conservation meeting followed by an excursion in the Apennine mountains.

In Orvieille in 1957 we received a visit from the honourable Marinus van der Goes van Naters, a member of the Dutch parliament and President of the Commission for the Protection of Nature in his country. He spoke in French on the theme "*La protection de la nature: science nouvelle*", and subsequently had it printed in Amsterdam and sent to all the Orvieille participants. I would like to offer here the conclusion of this work by van der Goes van Naters, as it is very rare and almost impossible to find. I have read it and re-read it many times; it has always been a source of inspiration to me:

"During the century from '*Promeneur solitaire*' by J. J. Rousseau to '*Silvie*' by Gérard de Nerval, nature has been experienced in an intense, but unconscious way, in any case, pre-scientific. Later, during the era of industrialism and capitalism, nature was completely debased, while technology was deified. Today, we find ourselves in front of natural and human catastrophes provoked by this dictatorship of technology. The current generation does not repudiate technology, but wants it to be subordinate to man and nature. This battle to dominate technology has not yet been won; the battle for the destiny of Nivolet is proof [Nivolet is an area of the Gran Paradiso Park where a large dam and road were planned, but after a hard battle, Renzo Videsott succeeded in blocking it]. This battle is real and concrete and at the same time symbolic. There is no avoiding this. It is not possible remain uninvolved. As Roman Gary passed to the side of the elephants, we must take the side of the ibexes [an allusion to saving the ibexes of the Gran Paradiso National Park]. Everywhere, and in all conditions, even in countries like Holland, where for geographic reasons there are no ibexes. This is our duty: to take the side of the ibexes and battle for and with them. For the respect of science, for the right that is inherent in nature, and for the future of man."

Several participants at the Orvieille camp later wrote articles, which were a source of satisfaction for Prof. Renzo Videsott, director of the Gran Paradiso National Park, who was continually looking for new recruits in his battle to protect the park. Among these articles, I remember those of Anto Leikola '*Alppikauris*' (Molekkyli, 6, 1958), Bengt Sjöstrand '*Unga fältbiologer i italienska alterna*' (Helsingborgs Dagblad, 29 September 1957), Geert-Henning Schauser '*Paradiesische Ferien in Gran Paradiso*' (Flensburger Tagesblatt, 25 September 1957), Karin Furuwidh '*The international camp in Italy in summer 1957*' (Fältbiologen, 1958), Franco Pedrotti '*The VII international camp for protection of nature, Orvieille, Gran Paradiso*' (La ricerca scientifica, 10, 1958) and others.

The activities of the Federation focused largely on what is today called "environmental education". The Federation's camps were forerunners in this important sector of activities for the protection of nature - then just beginning, and now widespread. At our book-planning meeting in Reinsehlen in September 2009, I realised the importance that the Federation has had and learnt of its later developments throughout the world. In 1959, the Movimento Italiano Protezione della Natura changed its name to Pro Natura, an association that exists to this day. Unfortunately, its contacts with the International Youth Federation were not maintained in subsequent years.

## The early years - 1957-65

### Young European conservationists met in Evo, Finland - August 1958

[from the archives]

Derek Davis, IYF President, looking back on Evo in 1963

The event was the Eighth International Camp and Third General Assembly of the IYF, organised by the Finnish youth society, Luonto Liitto, under the sponsorship of the IUCN and with financial aid from UNESCO. This gathering was one of a series, held in a different country each year, to enable young naturalists from all over Europe to meet and exchange ideas on their common interests. The locality chosen for the camp is always a place of particular natural beauty and scientific interest. The Finnish camp, at Evo in southern Finland, was exceptionally good in this respect. For each participant, a camp such as this will bring its own special memories: of the people we met, of our ambitious work programme or of the country itself. For those of us visiting Finland for the first time, it was this last aspect: a country that left deep impressions - of endless forest and lakes, of the wildlife, and of the people and their culture. The camp organisers included in the programme a series of lectures as an introduction to the landscape, giving us an extra understanding of the sights that we encountered.



#### Some general points about the Evo camp

Anto Leikola  
Luonto-Liitto

The idea of having a large-scale and truly international camp, to be held at Evo, had been in our minds for several years. An international camp had already been held by Luonto-Liitto at Evo in 1953: a good camp, but as an international camp only a preview of our 1958 camp, which was the perfect example of the far larger and closer international contacts that had developed. Preparation for the Camp began in the spring of 1957, when the site was fixed. The preparatory committee was elected in October 1957. Of its six members, four were present at Evo: the official camp leader, Dr. Arvi Ulvinen, curator of Luonto-Liitto; chief organiser, Anto Leikola, chairman of the committee; technical chief, Jaakko Paasivirta; and Antti Haapanen. The Committee worked very hard, and was in

close correspondence with Karin Furuwidh, the Camp Secretary of the IYF. Once I went to see her in Stockholm. It is not possible to record here all the work we did in preparation, but at last on 5 August 1958 we saw the opening of our Evo camp.

The President of the IYF, Jacques de Smidt, and Dr. Ulvinen opened the camp, both saying some very kind words to us. The Director of the Forestry School of Evo, Mr. Paavola, welcomed us all to Evo, and gave a short lecture on the region and its various types of forest. Our sponsor, the Finnish Minister of Education, Prof. Vilkkuna, sent his best wishes to the Camp.

Our main activities were the various excursions, of which there were from two to four every day, and we all had the opportunity of visiting places of interest in small groups, with at least two Finnish leaders. Besides seeing things of purely naturalistic interest such as ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) and beavers' nests, and places like the Syrjdnalunen ridge, the "Eternal Wood", the Untulanharju ridge, and the Ormajarvi lake, we also visited the biological station at Lammi, and the Kaitalampi game research station. All of us were taken to Kaitalampi, where Professor Koskimies showed us over the station and explained its working methods and the research they were doing.

Several lectures were given during the Camp: some by participants, and some by invited lecturers. The President of the Finnish League for the Protection of Nature, Professor Syrinki, told us about nature protection in Finland and showed us some beautiful transparencies. Nature protection was also the subject of Jan Čeřovský, from Czechoslovakia. Dr. Ulvinen gave us two lectures: one on the origin of Finnish vegetation, and the other on man's influence on the same vegetation. Both of these were illustrated with excellent pictures. A young geologist, Mr. Markkanen, gave a survey of Finland's geology entitled *The Oldest Rocks of the World*.

In this way, we studied Finnish nature both in theory and in practice. However, the problems of the Federation and its member organisations were also studied. The various committees - President's, Naturalists', Financial, Photographers' and Educational - held their meetings nearly every day, and the nearer we came to the end of the Camp, the more we had to discuss. Almost every participant of the Camp took part in these committee meetings. At the final meetings of the President's committee and of the joint Naturalists' and Educational committee, practically the whole Camp was present.



*IYF 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in Evo, Finland, 1958: a committee meeting by the lake.*  
photo: Jaasko Paasavirta

During one of the last days of the Camp, we made our longest excursion. A bus-trip into southern Häme, which lasted the whole day - and we arrived home at eleven o'clock at night. We had visited the Pulkkilanharju ridge, famous for its beauty, the modern town of Lahti, then Hämeenlinna, one of our oldest towns with its mediaeval castle, the mediaeval church of Hattula, and finally the National Park of Aulanko, from the tower of which we stood and watched a wonderful sunset.

But no camp is without fun, and three times we had a camp-fire, and we sang and laughed and played games (even "Miss Evo" was elected). One night the director of the Kaitalampi station, Dr. Siivonen, invited us to his villa, which was nearby, for a wonderful camp-fire. Often the unofficial camp-fire, the so-called "nesting committee", was not out until sunrise. A special feature of the Camp was the "sauna", which is the Finnish steam-bath. We were allowed to use the sauna at the Forestry School, and all foreign participants were very enthusiastic about it.

On Friday, 15 August, our General Assembly took place at the Forestry School of Evo, although we had first planned to hold it at Aulanko. On Saturday, the Camp was officially closed, and on Sunday evening only the packed tents and three of our number showed that a camp had ever existed in that spot.

As all participants could understand English, this was made the main language of the Camp. Some of the lectures were held in German, and immediately translated into English. The number of participants was smaller than expected. The following countries were represented: Sweden (7),

Denmark (1), Holland (5), Great Britain (4), France (1), Italy (2), Austria (2), Yugoslavia (1), Czechoslovakia (1) and Finland (17). The weather during the Camp was mostly fine, but on Sunday 10 August it rained so much that it was the record for the whole of the summer at Evo!

Most of the food was provided by the shop *Evon Talouskauppa*. Mrs. Nikula from Lammi acted as "hostess" for the Camp. We are greatly indebted to two large Finnish companies, Huhtamiiki and Chymos, who helped by presenting us with their products (bread, meat, sweets, etc.). The tents and kitchen equipment were partly borrowed from the Youth Office of Helsinki, partly from the Helsinki Boy Scout Association; without their kind help, our camp would have been impossible. A great deal of the success of the Camp is due to the kindness of the director of the Forestry School, Mr. Paavola, and we were able to hold meetings, show pictures, make stencils, use the sauna, the telephone, etc.

There was a considerable amount of publicity about the Camp: an illustrated article was sent to 15 Finnish newspapers and magazines during the Camp and to some publications before the Camp had started. The leading newspaper of Hämeenlinna sent a reporter to the Camp, and a radio programme was made of our activities at Evo. We had several distinguished visitors, amongst them, the director of the Lammi biological station, Dr. Soveri, and the director of the Zoological Institute of Helsinki University, Professor Suomalainen.

Generally speaking, it can be said that from the point of view of its organisers, the Camp was a success. It was of very great value in informing the Finnish public and officials of our work and ideas. However, its greatest achievement - and here I speak for all members, not only those from Finland - was to make our international relations and contacts closer and closer, not least through 'nature', which binds us together across the world.



## Challenges facing the environmental youth movement: report to the opening session of IYF General Assembly, Burggen, Federal Germany, 5 August, 1960

[from the archives]

Sylvia Galloway (UK)  
IYF President



*IYF Executive Board at the 5<sup>th</sup> GA in 1960: Lucien Rey (France), Harry Wals (Netherlands), Sylvia Galloway (UK), Jannie de Groot (Netherlands), Monica Björkman (Sweden) photo: Wim van Muiswinkel*

“At present, the Earth and mankind are facing two major threats:

1. over-exploitation of natural resources due to population growth; and
2. danger of nuclear war.

International organisations, such as the IYF, have to fight both of these threats. The common interest in the primary objective of IYF - nature conservation - creates a friendly understanding among representatives of different nations. This is a side-product of IYF's activities; but, in view of the second global threat, it is equally important as the study and conservation of nature.

The IYF, however, has not yet managed to broaden its scope of activities from a narrow West European framework. The financial situation of IYF is a critical one. Lack of funds prevents further development of this international organisation and, amongst other things, makes the publication of many valuable materials not feasible. The Finance Committee has done hard work in elaborating applications for support from various institutions and individuals.”

## Building a bridge between East and West Europe: the first steps

Jan Čeřovský  
Prague, 2009



*Jan pictured in 2009*

With the creation of an Iron Curtain after the Second World War, the involvement of countries within the Soviet Bloc in global international nature conservation was restricted. Only Polish specialists were able to attend the conference in Fontainebleau, France, in October 1948, which was responsible for setting up the IUCN. The delegation put together from Czechoslovakia was not allowed by national authorities to leave the country. However, when conservationists from the Soviet Union started to participate in IUCN activities in 1954, a modest revival of international co-operation was made possible for specialists from the 'comrade' countries. In 1956 the Czech, Jaroslav Veselý<sup>1</sup>, attended the Fifth General Assembly of IUCN in Edinburgh, UK. There, he was asked to recommend to Jacques de Smidt an appropriate person as a contact with the international youth federation sponsored by IUCN that was just coming into existence. He suggested me - one of his students and Editor of the environmental magazine ABC 2<sup>2</sup>.

Thus began my involvement in IYF activities. Unfortunately, my attendance at the General Assembly in Gran Paradiso in 1957 was made impossible because of the late issue of a visa by the Italian authorities. After that, I attended three international camps and General Assemblies of IYF: Evo, Finland, 1958; Winchester, UK, 1959; and Burggen, Germany, 1960. I also took part in the Lüneburger Heide Course in Germany in 1958 and attended the annual meeting of one of IYF's founder members - the Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie - in Deventer, the Netherlands, in 1959. As I did not represent a member organisation of IYF, my status at the General Assemblies was that of an 'observer'. I continued to participate in IYF activities until 1960, when - having reached the age of 30 - I qualified as an 'old sock' (by tradition, long-serving members of IYF were presented with an embroidered 'old sock' at their final General Assembly). I was not the first or only participant from the 'East' in IYF's meetings. There was also representation from Yugoslavia, where the *Iron Curtain* was not as rigid as it was in the 'true' members of the Soviet Bloc.



I was also busy trying to get an organisation from Czechoslovakia to become a member of IYF. I published articles and delivered lectures about the IYF, based on my personal experiences. Jaroslav Veselý and I - via the Czechoslovak National Commission for UNESCO - arranged for Jacques de Smidt, in his capacity as IYF President, to come to Czechoslovakia in May 1959. He met with representatives of the international department of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth; however, this did not turn out to be a productive meeting. He gave a talk at the National Museum in Prague, and we made excursions to prominent natural sites in Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia.

*Jacques de Smidt and Jan Čeřovský on excursion in 1959*  
photo: Jaroslav Veselý

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Jaroslav Veselý (1906-1985) was the most prominent conservationist in the former Czechoslovakia in the 1950's and 1960's. He was the first Director of the State Institute for Protection of Monuments and Conservation of Nature, and served on several IUCN Commissions.

<sup>2</sup> *ABC mladých techniků a přírodovědců* (ABC for young technologists and naturalists) was founded in 1956 and published in Prague since 1957. Starting with 50,000 copies, it became the most popular periodical for youth in Czechoslovakia, achieving a distribution of almost 300,000 copies in the 1980's.

## Youth involvement in nature conservation in East Europe

In the 1950s and early 1960s in the East European socialist countries, biology was ruled by the ideology of Lysenko<sup>3</sup>, which rejected genetics. His 'mitschurinism' was introduced into schools of all types and levels. For basic and secondary schools, school gardens became obligatory: this was generally beneficial, bringing youngsters closer to plant life. At schools, groups of young naturalists were formed. In the out-of-school sector, special institutions called Houses of Young Pioneers and Youth were established, with nature study departments and even Stations of Young Technologists and Naturalists, both under the leadership of experienced or, at least, enthusiastic teachers. The promotion of 'mitschurinism' led to a focus on gardening and farming: more so in some countries - particularly the USSR and Czechoslovakia - than in others. Fortunately, Lysenko's pseudoscience had almost no detrimental effect on nature conservation, with the exception of a few protected areas in the USSR during the reigns of Stalin and Khrushchov in the 1950's.



Voluntary nature conservation organisations with some tradition and mass membership did exist: *Liga ochrony przyrody* (League for Nature Conservation) in Poland, and *Всероссийское общество охраны природы* (All-Russian Society for Nature Conservation) in the Russian Federal Republic. The first was more or less independent; the second was under a degree of control from the Communist Party.

Both had special youth sections and youth groups. The Russians, for example, organised the *зелёные патрули* (Green Guards): groups of youngsters pursuing nature studies as well as practical conservation activities. In Czechoslovakia, *Hlídky ochrany přírody* (Nature Conservation Patrols) were promoted by the ABC magazine. A popular form of nature study out-of-doors was the so-called 'expedition' - camps or trekking in the countryside. These were organised by the Houses of Young Pioneers and Youth in the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia, and in the USSR by the Young Pioneer groups and also by school classes. In this sense, they were 'official' activities. Other 'non-approved' groups were not tolerated; for example, the Czechoslovak branch of the Scout movement 'Junák', which had organised nature study and conservation activities, was banned when the communist party took over government in 1948.

Independent groups of young naturalists existed at some universities. In 1958, Jaan Eilart<sup>4</sup> founded the Tartu Students' Conservation Circle, the first non-governmental nature conservation organisation in Estonia. In the German Democratic Republic, at the Greifswald University in the early 1960's, students were active in the Jean Lamarck<sup>5</sup> Working Group, with Michael Succow<sup>6</sup> as one of the leaders. The contemporary political situation prevented organisations such as these from engaging in broader international co-operation.

### The first nature conservation youth camp in Czechoslovakia

Inspired by my experience of the IYF camps, assemblies and courses, I had a strong wish to launch similar events in Czechoslovakia. Several had been held in the late 1950's, but only for youngsters up to 15 years old. I wanted to involve young people aged over 18 in the sort of activities I had experienced in IYF. After some vain attempts to set something up with the Czechoslovakian Union of Youth, the only official youth organisation, I had the idea to start a working group at the State Institute for Protection of Monuments and Conservation of Nature in Prague, where I had started to work in the Nature Conservation Section in 1959. So it was that, in 1963, the first Czechoslovak youth nature conservation camp took place at Čingov in the East Slovakian karstic highlands,

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<sup>3</sup> Trofim Denisovitch Lysenko (1898-1976), President of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the USSR, was a biologist who promoted "mitschurinism", named after the Russian gardener and plant breeder Ivan Vladimirovitch Mitchurin (1855-1935).

<sup>4</sup> Prof. Jaan Eilart (1933-2006) an Estonian botanist and conservationist, was Chair of the East Europe Committee, IUCN Commission on Education, from 1982-1990. His funeral in 2006 was attended by the President of Estonia.

<sup>5</sup> Jean Lamarck (1744-1829) was a French scientist who developed a theory of evolution.

<sup>6</sup> Prof. Dr. Michael Succow (1941- ) is a prominent German botanist and conservationist. In 1997 he received the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize.

Slovenský raj<sup>7</sup>. The local arrangements were perfectly cared for by Arnold Tóth<sup>8</sup>, and the event was sponsored by the State Institute for Protection of Monuments and Conservation of Nature in Prague jointly with its sister Institute in Bratislava. Both institutes provided logistic support including members of their scientific staff to act as lecturers, workshop and excursion leaders. The camp was attended by - university students interested in nature conservation; young professionals and volunteers under 30 years of age working in or with the State Nature Conservancy; two high school students; and one young worker: a total of 36 participants.

The camp lasted from 28 June to 8 July, 1963, with a full programme of lectures, discussions, workshops, field excursions and some research work. It was opened by Jaroslav Veselý. The participants approved a resolution expressing their appreciation of the camp and requesting that more opportunities should be made available for youth to engage in activities in nature study and conservation. The document was distributed to relevant institutions, and some points were acted upon almost immediately. All participants later maintained their dedication to nature conservation, and many of them have become prominent scientists and nature conservationists. As a follow-up to the event, in 1964 similar camps were organised by some participants from the first camp. These took place, with sponsorship from the regional centres of the State Nature Conservancy, in the South-Moravian and East-Bohemian Regions.

### **A new youth initiative in Czechoslovakia**

Independently of these camps, a group of young people, mainly high school students, interested in nature study and conservation was established and developed their activities in East Bohemia, based at the House of Young Pioneers and Youth in the regional town Hradec Králové. It was supported by the staff members of the House, notably Eva Nováková<sup>9</sup> - the prime organiser - and František Procházka<sup>10</sup> - the scientific leader and driving spirit. Many members of the group became leading scientists - at home and abroad - especially in the field of botany.

### **The first contacts between young nature conservationists within eastern Europe**

The Čingov Resolution also requested that young Czechoslovak conservationists should have the possibility of international contacts. The first event was organized by the working group at the Nature Conservation Institute in Prague using the services of the Travel Bureau of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth. 36 young people, most of them participants in the above-mentioned camps, traveled at their own personal costs to the USSR. They visited Moscow, Leningrad (the present St Petersburg) and the capital of Ukraine, Kiev. A specialised programme was organized by the All-Russian Society for Nature Conservation. The participants visited relevant institutions in the above cities, were hosted by the Administration of the Prioksko-Terassnyi Nature Reserve near Moscow, and were able to study interesting boreal lakes and peatbogs in the vicinity of St Petersburg. The contacts that were established proved beneficial for the later involvement of Russians in IYF activities.

[The story is continued by Jan Čeřovský in the next chapter. Ed.]

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<sup>7</sup> *Slovenský raj* (Slovak Paradise) an area of limestone and dolomite hills with about 350 caves, and deep canyons with waterfalls up to 65 m, was declared in 1964 the first Protected Landscape Area in Slovakia. In 1988 it was upgraded to National Park, covering 19,763 ha plus a buffer of 13,011 ha.

<sup>8</sup> Professor Arnold Tóth (1911-2008) was a geologist teaching at the High School of Mining at Spišská Nová Ves in East Slovakia. He was an honorary Commissioner of the State Nature Conservancy, and did much to promote the *Slovenský raj* and its declaration as a Protected Landscape Area.

<sup>9</sup> Eva Nováková (1924-2003) was a teacher of nature studies and conservation. After her post in East Bohemia, she moved in 1975 to be head the Education Department at the Krkonoše National Park, where she worked successfully until her retirement in 1993. She subsequently started up and led the *Natura viva* Foundation for nature conservation education back in Hradec Králové.

<sup>10</sup> František Procházka (1939-2004) graduated from the University of Agriculture in Prague, worked for the Krkonoše National Park, and became well-known as a botanist. He attended the IYF General Assembly in the UK in 1967 and the international conservation course on the Lüneburger Heide, Germany in 1968. In 2002 he was awarded the Czech Minister of Environment's Prize in appreciation of his work for nature conservation and young people.

## Progress report 1963

[from the archives]

Derek Davis  
President

The International Youth Federation for the Study and Conservation of Nature, in its eighth year of existence has come to realise the full function of its activities and development. The aim of the founders, at the First Assembly in 1956, was that IYF should "seek to stimulate an increasing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of nature and of the principles and practice of nature conservation, based upon the definition laid down in the preamble to the text of the constitution of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, among youth throughout the world, whatever their race and their religious or political beliefs". At the General Assembly in 1963 at Loftahammar, Sweden, we had to examine the ways in which IYF could begin to achieve this aim, against the views of those who considered that the organisation should exist only to maintain contact between existing youth societies.

The outcome of the Assembly was that IYF should actively engage upon a programme to fulfil its statutory aims. To do this, we need to establish close contact and co-operation with the existing national and international bodies which deal with youth and with the conservation of nature. It has also been decided that, in order to expand its activities and contacts, IYF must carry out a programme of interesting international projects, not only for the members of the present societies but for young naturalists in any country who wish to participate. In connection with this, an international register of young naturalists has been opened.

The Information Sheet that has been published for the past two years will take on a reformed appearance and contain articles and news items that are suitable for the general reader. The more important policy documents concerning IYF will in future be circulated, as a form of internal memorandum, to officers and society representatives. All this we hope will contribute to a strengthening of the Federation both in respect to its internal contacts and its participation in the work of the very progressive international nature conservation movement.



*IYF Executive Board - General Assembly session in Loftahammar, Sweden, 1963:  
David Kloet (Netherlands), Monica Björkman (Sweden), Derek Davis (UK),  
Edda Riedl (Austria), Åke Bruce (Sweden) photo: Wim van Muiswinkel*

## Personal memories

### Wim B. van Muiswinkel

The Netherlands, 2010

In the years 1955-1967, I was a member of a local Amsterdam branch of the Christelijke Jeugdbond voor Natuurvrienden (CJN). In this period, I was involved in organising excursions, national camps and international contacts. I was secretary of the CJN board in 1964. Participating in IYF activities and camps was an obvious follow-up to my CJN membership. After finishing high school in 1960, I was able to attend the IYF General Assembly in Burggen, Federal Germany, organized by the Deutsche Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung (DJN). The personal contact with 50 participants from 12 different countries was quite an experience. Moreover, the beautiful landscape - with wild rivers, mountains, Alpine flora and fauna - made an overwhelming impression on me. Till then, I had only seen my own small and flat land.



Wim pictured in 2009



voting at the General Assembly in Burggen, Germany, 1960



Excursion by boat

photos: Wim van Muiswinkel

A few years later, in 1963, I was the CJN representative at the IYF General Assembly in Loftahammar, Sweden, organised by the Sveriges Fältbiologiska Ungdomsforening (SFU). In this camp, more than 60 people from 8 nations were present. We made fantastic excursions in the woods around nearby lakes, and also a boat trip along the archipelago. I remember that I was amazed to see so many freshwater plants on the coast of the Baltic Sea. The General Assembly was characterised by lively discussions about how to improve the organisation and communication within the IYF. This was not an easy challenge, in view of the limited budget.

In 1964, the CJN was responsible for organising an international IYF camp on the island of Ameland off the Dutch coast. I was one of the local organisers in those days. I remember, that there were lectures given by the representatives from five different countries on subjects such as bird migration, plant sociology and nature conservation. Moreover, we made a two-day boat trip across the Wadden Sea to the island of Schiermonnikoog. Passing the sand banks was quite an adventure!

### What IYF meant to me?

In a critical period of my life, from the age of 18 to 25, the IYF broadened my horizons. I learnt how to communicate and co-operate with people from different countries, languages, religions and political systems. I gained insight into the different landscapes, animals and plants of Europe; and I became aware of the need for nature conservation in an international context.

Looking back, I can say that this experience was very valuable to me during my career as a Biologist/ Immunologist at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and later at the University of Wageningen.



*Scenes from the 1964 intercamp on the Dutch island of Ameland - with a boat excursion on the Wadden Sea.*

*photos: Wim van Muiswinkel*



# IYF training courses - Lüneburger Heide

## Experiences of an organiser

Henry Makowski

From 1955 to 1969 (and intermittently in the 1970s) a conservation course for European young people was held every year in the Lüneburger Heide, 50 kilometres south of Hamburg in the Federal Republic of Germany. The invitation to hold these courses in nature conservation came from Dr. Alfred Toepfer, President of the Verein Naturschutzpark. The occasion was the General Assembly of IUCN in Copenhagen in 1954, when the Presidents of SFU (Anne von Essen), NJN (Jacques de Smidt) and DJN (Henry Makowski) were working together on a sub-commission on 'the education of youth in nature conservation'. The invitation was in response to the resolution that special attention should be given to international meetings for young people interested in nature conservation and landscape planning. Dr Toepfer also offered us financial and practical assistance, and the first Training Course was held the next year.



*Alfred Toepfer picking up litter from his beloved Lüneburger Heide*

At the first course, lectures and excursions were held in the time left over after practical work on the nature reserves on the Heide. In subsequent years, a programme was built up, and this has continued with minor changes every year since. The work in the nature reserves had to be stopped, as it did not leave sufficient time for the course itself. This also made it possible for participants to stay at different places during the course. This was desirable, as it is best to study problems of nature conservation and landscape planning *in situ*. For this purpose, the three nature parks - the Lüneburger Heide, the Harburger Berge near Hamburg and the Lauenburgische Seen in Schleswig Holstein - provided excellent opportunities. It is possible to show the full extent of the problems of nature conservation, ranging from a national park to a school garden in a large city.

The aim of these international training courses is to make it possible, through collaboration and discussion, for participants to know and understand the European problems of nature conservation and landscape planning - and thus give them a sound foundation for future work in this field in their own countries.



*Participants at the 1958 training course: at the left-hand end, Jan Čeřovský, and, second from the right, Wolfgang Erz (1936-98), later Scientific Director of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*



# A participant's eye view of the 8<sup>th</sup> international youth course on nature conservation and landscape management, 1964

[from the archives]

Nicolas Holliman,  
Field Observers' Club, UK

IYF's annual course in nature conservation in August 1964 took place over two weeks in the Lüneburger Heide. The course leader was Henry Makowski of the Hamburg Naturschutzamt. The course was attended by 18 participants from 6 countries. The Heide itself was the object of many of our excursions. It is situated in the western part of the North German Plain and is underlain by early quaternary deposits left by the last Ice Age. As the ice receded, the deposits became vegetated, first by the tundra, then by birch (*Betula sp.*) and later by the climax vegetation of oak (*Quercus sp.*).

Undeloh Youth Hostel was the base for the first part of our very full course. On the first evening, the participants made a list of problems facing conservationists, to provide topics for later discussion in working groups. These took place in the evenings, and the days were spent visiting reserves and observing conservation in progress. Thus the course followed a balanced programme of conservation in theory and practice.



'Youth wants to preserve nature', an article in the Hamburg evening newspaper on 4 September 1964

During the course, we made a two-day excursion to Tütsberg, staying overnight on a farm. Here, a most interesting lecture was given by Herr Kilman, a Heide farmer, on the subject of the prehistoric people who influenced the settlement of the Heide area. He described the colonisation by the different tribes and races in chronological order, carefully pointing out the advances they introduced, how they adapted the available natural resources to their needs and left a new cultural landscape behind them.

From prehistory to history - the participants spent some time in the small museum at Wilsede south of Undeloh. Here we were able to familiarise ourselves with the life and customs of the people who had the most profound effect on the cultural landscape of the Lüneburger Heide. The process of cutting down the climax vegetation started around the year 1400, to clear land for growing wheat and to provide timber for building. Once the trees had been cleared, there was a reduction in the amount of humus. Leaching took place in the exhausted soil, leaving an infertile sandy soil. The burning of vegetation to obtain a fresh growth of grass for the Heidschnucke - a primitive species of sheep which grazed the local heathland - contributed to the production of a degenerate sandy soil.

The site of our second landscape project was at Zustand, a suburb of Hamburg. Here we saw how the Hamburg Planning Office had reconciled the multiple demands made on the land. Land here was being used for agriculture, refuse disposal, and a small nature reserve - with parts left as wasteland. Two plans - for industrial expansion and an autobahn across the area - were imminent. The Hamburg Naturschutzamt drew up a new plan which allowed for the building of the autobahn and the new housing and industrial development. Also, a more suitable arrangement for agriculture and waste disposal was provided. The rubbish tip, which would be re-profiled and planted with trees, would eventually be incorporated into a reserve with a system of streams, lakes, woods and footpaths. In this way, industry, housing and communications could expand with a parallel consideration for the natural environment.

On one occasion, we saw an example of self-education in conservation. Some areas near Wilsede had been left with their climax vegetation intact, because local people had realised that the continued indiscriminate exploitation of the forest would leave no timber for building etc. In this case, the villagers set up protection laws and a system by which each villager could utilise timber resources with a measure of regard for the future needs of the community. This example from the 16<sup>th</sup> century is thought to be one of the earliest pieces of conservation legislation. It has resulted in a different landscape, with deciduous woodland integrated with the open fields.

During the course, we were able to study the typical vegetation of the Heide: Calluna, Erica and Juniper. But, today much of the landscape is covered by conifer plantations. The heath vegetation is of such natural beauty that a large area (200 km<sup>2</sup>) of Lüneburger Heide is administered as a Naturschutzpark. Visits to various parts of the reserve showed that it was managed for economic, recreational and aesthetic reasons. Some areas of pine forest provided a useful income from otherwise unproductive land. At the same time, these areas help to store rainfall and moderate the climate. A further important aspect is that the forests provide an exhilarating countryside for recreation, something Germany will need to provide more of in the future. Hotels and roads are all carefully controlled and sited so as to preserve the Park's beauty and interest. The Naturschutzpark is not without its problems, we were told that with 2½ million visitors each year, the footpaths and car parks must be continually relocated to prevent erosion.

An interesting day was spent near Tütsberg, where the British Army enact imaginary battles. Here large areas of the Heide have been denuded by continual tank manoeuvres. The occasion of our visit was the eve of an exercise involving 5,000 troops! In contrast to this scene of destruction, we saw areas which had been restored to the former heath vegetation with the help of ecological knowledge gained from an experimental plot set up in the region ten years previously. This provided an interesting success story in practical conservation.

After our stay at Undeloh, the course moved to the glider school in the Fischbeckerheide on the south side of Hamburg. The programme was designed so that the participants could become acquainted with some of the principles of town planning and landscape architecture. On a coach excursion, we learnt that one of the first steps in landscape architecture in Germany was made by Alwin Seifert during the 1930's, who demanded that the autobahn from Hanover to Hamburg should make a deviation to avoid forested areas of the Lüneburger Heide.



Some remarkable examples of landscape planning were explained to us by Henry Makowski. One in the Fischbeckerheide involved the extraction by a company of a huge quantity of sand underlying the area protected as a reserve. Consent was granted on the condition that the area was landscaped, replanted and returned to its former state. In this way, valuable resources could be exploited with no loss of land area and no costs to the Nature Conservancy Board.

An article like this can only develop the main themes of the course: why protect nature? and how can we protect nature? Some highlights from the rest of the programme included - lectures from Dr. Jüttner of the Verein Naturschutzpark; visits to the Helms museum in Hamburg, the Hamburg electricity works, Lükessand - an island reserve in the Elbe river, Harburger Berge - a reserve south of Hamburg, Altes Land, Müllin in Lauenburgische Seen, the Forestry Department of Hamburg University and the famous Hamburg Zoo. During the course we had a civic reception at the town hall of Lüneburg; we watched deer at 4 a.m. one cold morning; and, on the last night, we roasted a sheep over a pine-wood fire.

The message that will surely remain in all our minds long after the course is that conservation has now become an integral part of our lives. It is the young people of today who will have to conserve with wisdom the interests of man and his natural environment.

### Pictures from later courses



*At the 1968 course: Frank Allmer and František Procházka photo: Xaver Monbailliu*



*Participants in 1968: Klaus Bucher (BRD), Peter Nørring (DK), Reinhard Löhner (BRD), Tuula Hämalainen (Fin), Frank Allmer (BRD), Theophile Vethaak (NL), unknown, Leila Kovanen (Fin), Janet Palmer (UK), Onder Caydau (Turkey), Susanne Leetart (BRD), Xaver Monbailliu (Bel), Elspeth McLaren (UK).*



*At the course in 1974: identifying lichens - Birgith Sloth, Denmark (centre) - later to become IYF President in 1977-78.*



## The swinging '60s - 1966-70

By the end of 1965, IYF had 'come of age'. Annual Training courses were well established at the Lüneburger Heide; there was growing interchange between the member organisations, especially through participation in study camps organised in the different countries. It was now time to consider expansion, especially into Eastern Europe, and making a contribution to the growing debate about the future of our shared environment. In this chapter, we start with the anniversary General Assembly, fittingly held in the city of IYF's foundation - Salzburg.

IYF's President at the time, Antje Rücker gives a comprehensive summary of progress in the first ten years. Jan Čeřovský chronicles the attempts to bridge the divide between East and West Europe, culminating in IYF international camps in Czechoslovakia from 1966 and the first intercamps in the USSR in 1969 and in Romania in 1970. IYF launched its own magazine *Taraxacum*, which was to develop into an *International Youth Bulletin on the Environment* (see Annex VI). In 1970, we see IYF making its presence felt on the international stage by organising the International Youth Forum for European Conservation Year. Global developments were to follow in the 1970s. All this took place against a background of popular culture and a growing sense of independence and confidence among young people, known as 'the swinging sixties'.

### IYF 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary General Assembly, Austria, 1966

Antje Rücker (now Kohler)  
Presidential Address  
Salzburg, 3 August 1966

Today we are gathered to celebrate a birthday, because tomorrow it will be exactly ten years since the IYF was founded here in Salzburg. Therefore, we have willingly accepted the invitation of the Österreichische Naturschutzjugend to celebrate this tenth birthday in its birthplace, and I can also suggest no more worthy place to observe this Jubilee. I would like here to pay tribute to the historic and cultural value of this unique town, to do so fully would exceed my allotted time. It pleases me all the more, that this town and the Province of Salzburg, which constitute one of the cultural centres of Europe, in the realm of nature conservation - and this may not be known to many festival visitors - has led so much that is outstanding and exemplary.

In that context, I am thinking particularly about the foundation of the Haus der Natur in which we are allowed to be guests today. You will hardly have the opportunity anywhere else to view another so comprehensive and at the same time fascinating interpretation of nature, with all its living beings in their historic stage of development, from prehistoric times to the present day. After that, may I remind you of the Alpine zoo in Hellbrunn; many people will now be thinking to themselves - every large town has a zoological garden, what's so special about that? But still this Alpine zoo represents something unparalleled, because besides many creatures from foreign lands, you have the opportunity here to observe - at close quarters in their natural surroundings - animals from the alpine areas which you can hardly ever see in the wild, and which are often threatened with extinction. Since I have specified here these two examples, that does not mean that I value any the less all the other achievements, which may be less spectacular, but have required the same amount of effort and work.



*Antje Rücker (second from the right) pictured at the IYF General Assembly in Burggen, 1960.*

*photo: Jan Čeřovský*

These are facts, about which some of you present here will be better informed than I. For that reason, I would now like to familiarise you a little with our Federation. For those amongst us who have up to now had not much to do with the IYF, I shall briefly explain here the basic ideas and aims of the IYF, but the subsequent historical development of the Federation should also be of special interest to the members, because when you have regular involvement with an organisation, you generally are concentrating on the present and cannot make an accurate picture of the past. The aims of the Federation consist in bringing about - amongst the youth of the whole world, without consideration of their political and religious convictions - an increase in the knowledge of nature and our dependence on it, as well as in our respect for it, and developing an understanding of the principles and practice of nature conservation. The Federation intends to achieve these aims by - bringing together youth organisations whose objectives conform to the spirit of the Federation; encouraging and contributing to the setting up of new ones; making possible co-operation in the field of nature conservation with other organisations that are involved; facilitating joint activities between its member organisations in the field of nature studies, namely through the exchange of documents, ideas, experiences, results of observations and investigations, and help with joint research; by assisting with the interchange of participants at camps arranged by member organisations; and by building international joint working for the study and conservation of nature in the framework of the Federation.

The origins which led to the foundation of the Federation date back to the year 1950. Stimulated by a meeting of leading individuals from science clubs, arranged by UNESCO in 1949, NJN took the initiative and prepared the first international camp in the summer of 1950 on the Dutch island of Terschelling. The success of this first camp and the formation of youth organisations in Austria, Sweden and Germany which took place around the same period gave encouragement to the staging of further international camps in the following years: in 1952 in Belgium, in 1953 in Sweden, and in 1953 in The Netherlands again.

In these initial camps, the participants were mostly interested in studying nature, which through the exchange of knowledge led to a common appreciation of nature and the need to expand international contacts. The significance of this youth movement, as an active contribution to nature conservation, was fully understood and generously supported by IUPN and UNESCO.

During the General Assembly of IUPN in Copenhagen in 1954, the building blocks on which the Federation would be founded were laid. The delegates at the Assembly decided unanimously to set up a Committee which would prepare and test the practical means for founding an international youth federation for the study and conservation of nature which would guarantee a better and firmer co-operation between the existing youth organisations. Jacques de Smidt, Sam Segal, Jaap Mennema and Henry Makowski were the members of the preparatory committee which busied itself with this task. The preparatory work: how national youth organisations could come together and be inspired to co-operate, as well as draft statutes and rules, was completed in 1956. The aims of the Federation, subscribed to by the signatories at its foundation on 4 August 1956 on behalf of 16 organisations from 12 different countries, remain unchanged today.

The conference in Copenhagen in 1954 had a further significance for the Federation, because during this meeting the idea of a nature-conservation course on the Lüneburger Heide was put forward by Dr. Alfred Toepfer, President of Verein Naturschutzpark. Already in 1955, the first course took place with considerable financial support from the VNP. Since that time, this international course has been the Federation's most important annual event next to the General Assembly. So you can celebrate another jubilee, as this year's course is the tenth.

Now that I have related to you something of the foundation and early history of the IYF, may I refrain from recounting every single important date of the last ten years? That would be far too extensive and would bore you with its length. You can, however, begin to build up a picture of the size of the expansion of the Federation, when I tell you that the IYF today represents some 30,000 young people from 22 member organisations in 12 countries. And even these figures are shortly going to be overtaken, because in the meantime two more youth organisations have applied for membership of the Federation. One of these two applications is especially pleasing because it concerns the first organisation from outside Europe (Turkey) that has been established mainly through the initiative of

IYF. Moreover, the admission of three more youth organisations - from Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg - is imminent.

Possibly the most important achievement of the Federation in its early years was the publication of information sheets. The name *Information Sheet* already says what purpose this publication, which appears more or less regularly, serves. It is meant to inform the member organisations - and anyone else who is interested - about the most important and newest events, for example dates of camps, special projects and other initiatives. In 1960 the first *Information Sheet* was copied with a circulation of 50. Today, the *Information Sheet* is printed in offset with a circulation of 1,000. As the number of members grows and the number of camps and projects increases, an information sheet is not enough. We need a publication with more details about current problems, as well as bringing everyone up-to-date with past events and at the same time acting as a stimulus for further work. And so, in 1962 the first *Yearbook* appeared. The contents were camp reports and a detailed account of the annual General Assembly.

In 1964, an important extension of IYF membership was created through the International Youth Register. This enables young people from any country to subscribe to an individual membership, receive IYF publications and participate in camps and projects.

The following may serve as further evidence of this ever-increasing activity: the *Finland Report*, which provides an excellent report of the camp in Evo in 1958, and the Phenology Investigations which the Federation has carried out in recent years with the help of its Swedish member organisation. In the last ten years 41 international camps took place, the majority in north-west European countries. Since last year, the locations of camps have begun to spread out from this centre. I am thinking of the Expedition to Spitzbergen and of the camp in the Camargue which is taking place concurrently with this meeting. This year, for the first time, an international camp will be held in Czechoslovakia as a result of good contacts over several years.

These are just a few examples, but they show that the Federation has not stood still since 1956, but has made progress. It has developed its conviction that the possibilities that we have today to realise our aims are much increased - to have more publications, more camps and hugely increased contacts with organisations and individuals across the whole world.

We are gathered here today to hold a review. Ten years is a long enough period on which to draw up a balance sheet: namely to allocate the 'active' and 'passive', to compare them respectively, see how they add up - to find the profit. The Federation has until now always had to struggle with the same difficulties. One crucial criterion is that we are a youth organisation, independent and international; the realization of a project is not only a question of activity alone, but also of continuity. There is a frequent change-over of members in the individual member organisations and also in the Federation's Executive Board. That is a fundamental reason why some projects are not fully carried through. An example is the *Methods Book*: it was to be a small book in which the various methods used in different countries were brought together, so that the youth could become familiar with the study and conservation of nature. Besides this plan, in past years, when there were fewer camps, some of those planned were removed from the programme; many of the cancellations were due to weather conditions.

The progress made in the Federation is not only down to the people who are present here today but also to a series of individuals who have been engaged in the history of IYF. The Federation has no honorary members and gives no honorary awards. If there is - or should ever be - an honorary membership published, then it should be bestowed amongst others on the following individuals: Jacques de Smidt, Henry Makowski, Peter Jakobi, Anne Alexander, Jaap Mennema, Sylvia Galloway and Monica Bjorkmann. In the address, or more properly the 'baptism', which Henry Makowski held at the Federation's founding ten years ago, he said: "The road will not be easy until our child is over its childhood illnesses, until it can walk or run or has teeth." We know that, up to today, the road has not been easy: we have experienced a few childhood illnesses, but everybody knows that adults too are not immune to such things. The barrier for the Federation to be walking and running has already been broken, as witnessed by our Assembly here today. So, we are left with the remaining question: has the child acquired its teeth yet? I believe that it has certainly got teeth, if by that you mean 'milk teeth'. But, I am convinced that, in the next ten years, it will grow the second set.

## East meets West in Europe - intercamps

Jan Čeřovský

Prague 2009

Jaroslav Veselý and I were invited by the Verein Naturschutzpark to attend the European Conference they were organising in Lübeck, Federal Germany, in May 1965. There we met up with the IYF President, Antje Rucker - a German university girl student - and Henry Makowski. I was able to renew and enlarge my contact with the IYF. First of all, I arranged for young conservationists from Czechoslovakia to be invited to the IYF Lüneburger Heide Course (initiated and directed by Henry). In the years 1966 to 1969, about a dozen young Czechs and Slovaks attended the course. Secondly, Antje agreed to invite two young Czech conservationists as guests to the next IYF Annual Assembly and camp in Austria in August 1966. In addition, we discussed the idea to organise, in co-operation with the IYF in the nearest possible future, an international youth conservation camp in Czechoslovakia, as the first East-West meeting.

In July 1966, the first Czechoslovak group of young conservationists crossed the Iron Curtain - again thanks to the IYF. Using contacts made in Evo in 1958, I took a small group of my students to Finland, and we spent wonderful inspiring days in a summer camp of Luonto-Liitto, the Finnish member organisation of IYF, under the midnight sun in Lapland.

### The first East-West intercamp in 1966

At the 9th General Assembly of IUCN (Luzern, Switzerland, June 1966), I was made Vice-Chair of the Commission on Education, with IUCN-IYF co-operation as part of my responsibilities. The preparations for an international camp to be held in Czechoslovakia were almost complete. With strong support from the Czechoslovak National Commission for UNESCO, the Czech and Slovak Institutes for Protection of Monuments and Conservation of Nature, and in close co-operation with the IYF, we were able to push through the organisation of an international youth conservation camp in the summer of 1966. This was the first camp of its kind to take place behind the Iron Curtain.



*Čingov, 1966: on excursion in the 'Slovak Paradise' during the first Czechoslovakian intercamp* photo: *Ľubomír Huňa*

Profiting from the experience of the first national Czechoslovak camp, we chose Čingov in the Slovenský raj as the venue. Again, Arnold Tóth ensured good logistics, and as before staff members from the State Nature Conservancy served as expert lecturers. The preparatory work and the meeting itself were supervised by a Czechoslovak Committee, most members of which - including Zdeněk Černořovský<sup>11</sup> as President and me as Secretary - attended the whole event. Financial support from the Czech and Slovak Ministries of Culture enabled the participation fee to be kept reasonably low.

The participants met in the Bratislava on 20 August 1966. The date and place were fixed for the reason that many travelled on to the camp via Vienna after the 10th anniversary IYF General Assembly held in Austria. After sightseeing in the Slovak capital Bratislava, visits to the Science Faculty at Comenius University and a nearby nature reserve, the participants moved by bus and car to Čingov. Accommodation was in tents. Meals were served and meetings held in a local restaurant.

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<sup>11</sup> Dr. Zdeněk Černořovský (1910 - 2001), Professor of the Charles University Prague, a prominent Czech botanist and educationalist, was in 1966 Chair of the Scientific Council of the Prague State Institute for Protection of Monuments and Conservation of Nature.

The camp was attended by 44 young people from 12 European countries: from the East - Bulgaria (1), German Democratic Republic (3), Hungary (2), USSR (4), Yugoslavia (2) and the host country, Czechoslovakia (14); from the West - Austria (2), Belgium (1 - IYF Information Officer, Eric Corijn), Federal Republic of Germany (5), Finland (4), the Netherlands (2) and the UK (4, including the IYF President, Jonathan Holliman). The programme consisted of meetings - both formal and informal - in which the participants learned about the state of nature conservation in the countries represented, and about youth involvement in these activities. They were informed about international co-operation, among young naturalists and conservationists and their groups in particular. Besides short local field trips, whole-day excursions were made to the Slovak Karst close to the Hungarian border and to the cross-border Slovak/Polish national parks Pieniny and High Tatra. The last one - to the High Tatra National Park - culminated in a closing barbecue on the 'Bear Meadow'.

After the lectures and discussions, the participants arrived at three conclusions: nature conservation really is an urgent matter of international importance; a good global protected area network has to be created with a broader international scope and co-operation; and it is desirable for young people to pool their efforts in nature study and conservation. The participants endorsed a closing resolution, which pointed out the need for nature conservation to spread all over the world, and for international contacts and understanding to support this goal. They stated that they saw the camp as a base for future contacts and co-operation. They also expressed their admiration for the natural beauty and values of the Slovak Paradise (Slovenský raj), asking for its careful protection in the interests of mankind. The meeting, which ended on 3 September 1966, was held in a friendly and hard-working atmosphere. The official languages of the camp were English and Russian. Much interpretation was needed into other languages, particularly due to the weak linguistic knowledge of the participants from the East. The camp could be judged as a great success, opening many new international contacts.

### Camps in the East continue

After the success of the first Czechoslovak Intercamp, it was decided make such camps a tradition and to organise them at least every second year, in a close cooperation with the IYF. Thus the second Czechoslovak Intercamp was prepared to be held in summer 1968. In the meantime, the Intercamp idea received a strong support from the Czech Ministry of Education thanks to Ms Danuše Kvasničková<sup>12</sup>, a specialist in the Research Institute for Technical Schools in Prague. The 1968 Intercamp was ceremonially opened by a social evening held in Prague on 17 August 1968, sponsored by the Czech Education Minister. After sightseeing in the capital of Czechoslovakia, the participants moved to the Krkonošský (Giant Mountains) National Park in North-East Bohemia. The number of participants was not as high as at the first Intercamp: 21 young people from 10 different European countries.



The lower attendance was probably caused by some people being afraid of a potential military conflict between the host country - enjoying the 'Prague Spring' - and the Socialist Bloc, led by the USSR, which was threatening the 'brother country' with intervention. Alas, those fears were not insubstantial, and the Soviet military occupation took place on 21 August, halfway through the camp.

*Participants at Krkonoše receive news of the Soviet invasion, 1968 (National Park archive)*

<sup>12</sup> Dr. Danuše Kvasničková (1935 -) began her career as a biology teacher. In 1968 she started to work at the national level in the pedagogics of science and environmental conservation. She achieved international recognition for her work on developing school curricula. Author of many text-books and TV-programmes, she received the UNEP Global 500 award and the Czech Environment Minister's prize.



In spite of this painful event, the Intercamp continued until its planned end on 1 September. The participants visited sites of interest in the National Park, listened to lectures, conducted discussions, and undertook practical field work. The activities were run in four different languages by the elected head of the Camp Committee - George Bechet from Luxembourg. The mutual understanding was very good, and the participants expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the Krkonoše National Park Administration, particularly the contribution of Václav Veselý<sup>13</sup>, one of the Czechoslovak torch-bearers of co-operation with the IYF in the late 1960's.

The third Czechoslovak Intercamp was held in August 1969 in the Slovak High Tatra National Park under the sponsorship of the East Europe Committee of the IUCN Commission on Education. It was a youth prelude to the international conference *National Parks - Benefit to Mankind* organised by the Tatra National Park Administration, the Slovak State Nature Conservancy, and the IUCN Commission on Protected Areas on the occasion of the National Park's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The camp developed along the traditional agenda, with excursions within the Park as well to the bilateral (Polish/Slovak) Pieniny National Park, and also some field work restoring footpaths and woodland. The camp closed with a two-day conference pointing out the need for more young people to get involved in nature conservation to make up for the lack of relevant education in some European countries. In view of the camp's location and the conference that was to follow, special themes were the impact of recreation on natural values and the relations between national parks and young people. It was concluded that greater co-operation between conservation bodies and educational organisations - both governmental and non-governmental - was required. The camp leaders from the host country were Štefan Homza<sup>14</sup> and Radek Roubal<sup>15</sup>. The camp was attended by 33 young people from 5 different countries: Czechoslovakia (17); Romania (6); Bulgaria (2); The Netherlands (5 - including Hein van Bohemen, IYF Development Officer); and the UK (1). The good participation from Romania was a forerunner of the first Romanian International Youth Camp in Nature Conservation in 1970 (see inset).

### **East Europeans at IYF assemblies and conferences**

For those young people from Central and Eastern Europe who were able to participate in IYF activities in the late sixties and early seventies, the opportunity was of great benefit to their professional as well as personal growth. For many of them, it was their first trip abroad, particularly if the event took place in the West. It was a first encounter with a broad scope of foreign colleagues as well as with already famous older scientists and conservationists. They have acquired new knowledge in their field of interest, and visited sites before familiar from books or films only. They have seen the real world not always corresponding with what they have been officially told in their home countries. In newspapers and journals they published reports about their experiences, and spoke about them in public presentations as well as in private talks. Like the western IYF members, almost all of them have become top specialists in their later life careers: the influence of the IYF experience is evident. At international meetings, new contacts were established, and some friendships made have had a lifelong endurance.

The most numerous group among these travellers were Czechs and Slovaks. During 1966-1969 young people from Czechoslovakia regularly attended the IYF Lüneburger Heide course. Czech and Slovak observers and guests took part in the yearly IYF General Assemblies in 1966 (Salzburg, Austria), 1967 (Oxford, UK, combined with an international conference on nature conservation and youth), 1968 (Kuusamo, Finland) and 1969 (Eisden, Belgium). There were plans to host the 15<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Ing. Václav Veselý (1937 -), a forest engineer by training, worked for the Krkonoše (Giant Mountains) National Park Administration (established in 1963). At the end of the 1960's, he was the leading Czech representative at the IYF: he attended the Lüneburger Heide Course and the IYF General Assemblies in Finland 1968 and Belgium 1969. In 1969 he was board member of the Czechoslovak member organisation of IYF. In 2007 he retired as Head of the Park's rangers.

<sup>14</sup> Dr. Štefan Homza (1939 - 2009) was a geologist: between 1966 and 1976 he worked as nature conservation officer in the Slovak Ministry of Culture. In the late 1960's, he was the Slovak contact person with the IYF, and attended the General Assembly in Finland 1968.

<sup>15</sup> Dr Radek Roubal (1920- 1989) was lawyer and an enthusiastic nature conservationist. From 1955 to 1961 he worked for the Tatra National Park Administration; from 1968 to 1981 he was an officer in the Slovak Institute for Protection of Monuments and Conservation of Nature in Bratislava.

General Assembly of IYF in 1970 in Czechoslovakia: some more details about this collapsed project are given later in this chapter. The Czechoslovak initiative in holding intercamps was instrumental in bringing people and organisations from several other East European countries into contact with the IYF. As a result, Russian delegates took part in the General Assemblies in Oxford, UK, 1967, and Kuusamo, Finland 1968: the latter was also attended by two Romanians.

Considerable efforts were made to get an adequate participation from Central and Eastern Europe in the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment, co-sponsored by IYF at the MacMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, in August 1971. In spite of promises made by the Czechoslovak Socialist Union of Youth, the Russian Lev Konstantinovitch Shaposhnikov, then chairman of the IUCN Commission on Education, and several other influential bodies and persons, only three participants from East Europe made it - Tanyu Michev<sup>16</sup> from Bulgaria, and a representative each from Poland and from Yugoslavia, who had easier passages.

Another potential delegate was Jan Dobrowolski from Poland, an assistant at the University of Science and Technology in Krakow and scientific leader of the Polish National Summer Schools on the Human Environment, organised since 1968. Unfortunately, he did not get his Canadian visa in time. He was able, however, to attend on my invitation (at that time, I was Education Executive Officer in the IUCN Headquarters in Morges, Switzerland) the International Youth Organisations' Environmental Seminar in Geneva in November 1971. Here he made personal contact with leading IYF officers (David Withrington, Fred van der Vegte and Jonathan Holliman). A further co-operation started: Jan Dobrowolski and some of his Polish colleagues attended the IYF General Assemblies in Sweden in 1972 and at Braspars, France, in 1973.

### The rapid rise and fall of Czechoslovak membership of the IYF

As already described above, in the second half of the 1960's, Czechs and Slovaks were leading the co-operation with the IYF in Central and Eastern Europe. The wish has emerged again to become regular members of the IYF. But the problem was: who should be the member? There was no relevant organisation to apply for membership. Eventually, the problem was solved by creating a body with a long name - the Czechoslovak Co-ordinating Committee for International Cooperation in Out-of-school Activities of Young Naturalists. The Committee was attached to the Research Institute for Technical Schools in Prague, with Danuše Kvasničková (see above) as Secretary General and contact person, and leaders of such activities all over the country as board members. The body became an IYF member in 1968 under the somewhat clumsy name 'Czechoslovak Co-ordination Committee for International Co-operation in the Sphere of Interested Activities of Youth in Natural Sciences'.



Štefan Homza and Václav Veselý (1968), Vladimír Černík<sup>17</sup> and Václav Veselý (1969) attended the IYF General Assemblies as representatives of a member organisation. The key points of support for the Committee were the centres of out-of-school education and activities - the Houses of Young Pioneers and Youth and the Stations of Young Naturalists - run jointly by the Socialist Union of Youth and the Ministry of Education of Czechoslovakia.

*Václav Veselý, Jonathan Holliman (UK), Štefan Homza, Oleg Negrobov (USSR) and Ivar Edvardsen (Norway) at the 1968 General Assembly in Finland*  
photo: David Withrington

<sup>16</sup> Dr. Tanyu Michev (1939 -) is a prominent Bulgarian ornithologist and nature conservationist. He has published many books and papers on the conservation of wetlands as well as guides to bird identification.

<sup>17</sup> Dr. Vladimír Černík (1950 -), a member of the young naturalists' club in Hradec Králové, represented Czechoslovakia at the IYF General Assembly in 1969. He is the author of many science textbooks, and since 1996 he has been Deputy Director of the Czech Forestry Academy in the East Bohemian town of Trutnov.

### **An aborted General Assembly in CSSR**

The growing enthusiasm for working together with the IYF, led to the project of holding the IYF General Assembly in 1970 in Czechoslovakia. A site had been chosen in the Protected Landscape Area Jizerské Hory (Iser Mountains) in North Bohemia, and preparatory works were well advanced. The Central House of Young Pioneers and Youth in Prague was charged to be the chief organiser. For reasons that were never made clear, at the last minute this institution withdrew the invitation to IYF, in spite of a strong support expressed by the Czechoslovak National Commission for UNESCO. The main reason may have been the so called 'normalisation', a process after the short period of the 'Prague Spring' returning the political situation in Czechoslovakia to a more rigorous communist regime, in which co-operation with the 'capitalist West' again became undesirable. At short notice, the 1970 General Assembly of IYF was moved to the Netherlands (see pictures below). Soon afterwards, the Czechoslovak Co-ordinating Committee ceased to be an IYF member. What had started promisingly and developed through joint activities faded out rather suddenly.

### **A successful epilogue**

In 1974, green groups of young people in the Czech Republic under the name of the *Hnutí Brontosaurus* began their activities in the framework of the Socialist Union of Youth, and similar initiatives grew up in other countries in Central and East Europe. Over time, they were able to get involved internationally, particularly within the European Regional Section of IYF, which became the independent Youth Environment Europe (YEE) in 1983. From 1994 until the present day, the YEE headquarters has been based in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic - ironic, but somehow reassuring!



*IYF Executive board at the 1970 Assembly on the Dutch island of Terschelling, in a tent with a makeshift table:*

*Hein van Bohemen, George Bechet, David Withrington, Fred van der Vegte, Ab de Vrije and Theophile Vethaak*

## First International Youth Nature Protection Seminar - Voronezh USSR, 4 - 14 August, 1969 [edited from the original reports of Hein van Bohemen, The Netherlands, and Hereward Hill, Great Britain]



*Hereward Hill pictured in 1972*

The All-Russian Society for the Conservation of Nature organised this Seminar on the Khopersk nature reserve, in an area of forest-steppe 700 km. south-east of Moscow. The Seminar was attended by 69 participants from the Soviet Union and representatives from Poland, DDR, CSSR, Hungary, Bulgaria, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The All-Russian Society for the Conservation of Nature is the oldest and largest of the conservation organisations of the republics which form the USSR. It was founded in 1924, and from the beginning it has brought together different sectors of the population. It has more than 1.3 million members in 80,000 local groups.

The main aim of the programme was to acquaint participants with the wide variety of conservation problems in the Soviet Union, by means of lectures, excursions in the surrounding area, and visits to scientific institutes. This first-hand experience was aided by discussion sessions and by slide and film shows. From the total of 44 reports presented during the Seminar, some of the main themes were: *The principles of fauna preservation* by Professor N. Gladkov of Moscow State University; *The flora of the Voronezh region* by Professor Kamyshev of the Voronezh State University; *The rational use of land resources and the preservation of soil from erosion* by N. Ivanov, Director of the Dokuchayev Agricultural Institute; *Water resources preservation* by I. Bukhanevich, Director of the Central Laboratory for Ichthyological and Hydrological Research; *The protection and attraction of birds* by K. Blagosklohov of Moscow State University; *Landscape restoration after mineral extraction* by L. Potemkin of the All-Russian Society; *Nature protection propaganda and its forms and methods* by Y. Yefremov of the All-Russian Society; and *Tourism and nature protection* by Y. Dmitriyev of the Central Council of Tourism. Reports were delivered by the participants from visiting countries, including one on the IYF by Hein van Bohemen.

The landscape of the Khopersk reserve consists of deciduous woodland, with scattered natural lakes and a river running through the middle. The top layer of soil is black (about 30 centimetres) above a sandy subsoil. The area is relatively free from human interference. The Khoper river was clean, and during a boat-trip the participants dredged for crayfish which were eaten in the evening. On one day, the participants undertook practical conservation work on the reserve, constructing nest boxes and digging a well. During the camp, many birds of prey, beavers, elk and European bison, for which the reserve is famous, were observed. Excursions visited the Khrenovskoy pine forest and stud farm - a very famous place for breeding horses, which used to be one of the Tsar's largest studs; the anti-erosion experiments in the fields of the Dokuchayev institute; and the museum of the Khopersk reserve. The participants relaxed by swimming in a lake near the reserve, dancing, watching films, drinking vodka and eating! They were entertained, among others, by the traditional folk dancing of the Younost ensemble.

The Seminar was very successful, not least because of the hospitality of the All-Russian Society for the Conservation of Nature under the leadership of Alexander Inozemtsev, Vice-President for youth activities. He was head of the USSR group of 4 members at the first Czechoslovak Intercamp in 1966 and attended the IYF General Assembly in England in 1967. Our only criticism of the seminar was that the schedule of lectures and excursions was so tight, that there was not enough time for assimilation and discussion. We hope that this Seminar will be an important step towards closer co-operation between young nature conservationists from west and east Europe in the future.



## First Romanian International Youth Camp in Nature Conservation Retezat National Park, 18 - 31 August, 1970

[from the archive report of David Withrington]

This camp was organised by the IYF Projects Office in co-operation with the Youth Tourist Bureau (BTT) in Bucharest. The scientific aspects of the camp programme were assured by the Committee for Protection of Nature of the Romanian Academy of Sciences. Indeed, we were officially welcomed by the Secretary of the Committee, Prof. Valeriu Puşcariu, and during the camp were visited by Dr. Nicolae Toniuc and scientific experts in the field of forestry, botany and ornithology. The camp participants were largely students from the Romanian Nature Conservation Circle, including the camp leader, Iulian Bosorogan. Through IYF, foreign participants attended from Czechoslovakia (1), Federal Republic of Germany (1), Netherlands (4) and United Kingdom (1). The main reason for such a small foreign participation was the cancellation by Czech authorities of the IYF General Assembly planned for the first two weeks of August, from which some people were planning to travel on to Romania. However, we must also mention the rather high camp fee and the late date on which IYF received the camp programme from Romania.

In order to discuss the organisational side of future youth camps in Romania, IYF officers were invited by the organiser, Prof. C.L. Ursu, to visit Bucuresti (Bucharest) as guests of BTT after the camp. Plans were made for a camp in 1971 in the Danube Delta.



*IYF participants at Gemenele hut:  
Gerard van Dijk, Chris Reij and David  
Withrington, with our interpreter 'Nick'*

*photo: Martin Šima*

A main feature of our visit to Romania was the warm hospitality of our hosts. In Deva we had a guided tour of the environs of this large town in the western Romanian province of Hunedoara, which had suffered considerably in the spring flood disasters. An official reception in Deva gave us the first taste of 'tsuica' the national drink. During the camp, we celebrated the national constitution day with a midnight feast under the stars. The camp took place in Romania's only National Park, in the Retezat massif. The area of the park is 13,000 hectares and we were afforded accommodation within the scientific zone at Gemenele hut. The camp was located about 28 kilometres from the nearest village and was reached by bus on the forestry road to Gura Zlata (784m) and the final 10 kilometres to 'casa-laborator Gemenele' (1770m) on foot. The heavy luggage and provisions were carried by horses. Because of its altitude, the camp site is only free from snow for a few months of the year, and it is really only visited by scientific workers between July and

September. During these months, the head warden of the park, Mr. Hebl, and his wife are resident at Gemenele hut. They provided a wonderful 'cuisine' with the resources of a few cows, some scraggy chickens and green plants growing near the hut. Our table was usually further enhanced with bottles of wine and 'tsuica' or the popular lemon tea.

The camp programme consisted of full or half-day excursions to points of interest such as Retezat peak (2485m) and the lakes Negru (21.5m deep) and Zanoaga, two of almost 80 glacial lakes in the massif. There was also plenty of time for more thorough surveys of the terrain nearer to the hut. During these excursions we learnt from our expert guides a good deal about the natural history of Retezat. The most significant aspect of an almost virgin natural environment was the varied and luxuriant vegetation, exemplified most vividly by the flowering plants<sup>1</sup>. There were also some interesting birds, notably the garrulous Nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) and a few butterfly species; another beautiful insect was *Rosalia alpina*. There were frogs (*Rana* sp.) around the lakes and trout (*Salmo fario*) in some of them. The well-explored area around the camp site revealed many large snakes (*Vipera berus*). The most notable mammal species was the sturdy yet graceful Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), small groups of which were seen on the rocky slopes. However, the most talked about animal was definitely the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), which was reckoned to be fairly widespread in the massif. Tension mounted one evening, when a participant rushed into the hut out of the darkness, minus one shoe, exclaiming about a huge dark creature behind a bush with staring yellow eyes - which turned out to be a very frightened horse. On the last afternoon of the camp, however, two participants - following the warden's advice - had their reward for patient observation by seeing a bear feeding on a grassy slope near to the hut.



Although walking in the difficult terrain tired us physically, we were able to use our mental powers in the evenings. Communication was considerably assisted by an interpreter brought specially from Bucuresti. We listened to talks from experts on the flora and avifauna of the area and also discussed in some detail the management of the National Park. The Romanians wanted to increase the touristic value of the park by building a metalled road and a large hotel on the boundary

of the park. From our experience of the effect of seasonal grazing of sheep and cattle and of the large parties of hikers seemingly oblivious of any 'country code' of behaviour, we (that is the IYF participants) felt that a less delicate area could be developed for recreation elsewhere in the massif. Meanwhile, as one of the last wilderness areas in Europe, Retezat would gain sufficient international recognition in the future from those people genuinely interested in such a landscape. We noticed that Dr. Kai Curry-Lindahl and several other eminent scientists had visited the Retezat in recent years.

Other evening discussions in the dimly-lit hut concerned - nature conservation in Romania; the student Nature Conservation Circles; a landscape planning problem in Czechoslovakia, presented by Martin Šima; the topical issues of European Conservation Year - population and economic growth; and the aims and activities of IYF. The camp participants carried away memories of good companionship and a wonderful untouched landscape. I, for one, cannot wait to return.

<sup>1</sup> Full reports on our botanical (Gerard van Dijk) and ornithological (David Withrington) observations were published in the IYF Yearbook for 1969-70.

# International Youth Forum for European Conservation Year 1970

[from the archives]

Theophile Vethaak  
President of the Forum  
Amstelveen, January 1971

## Location

The reason for having a youth forum for ECY at the Lüneburger Heide in the Federal Republic of Germany was that IYF organises an annual course there on conservation and landscape management. In addition, the Naturpark had the distinction of being awarded the European Diploma for nature conservation in 1968. The idea of this study course is explained in a paper produced for the International Conference *Youth and the Wildlife Crisis* at the University Museum, Oxford, England, in August 1967, sponsored by IYF and the Youth Committee of the Council for Nature. The programme of the annual course usually involved one week near Hamburg and one week in the Heide, either at the small village of Wilsede in the centre of the area, or at the youth hostel in Undeloh. These facilities were, however, too small to accommodate the 50 participants we had in mind for the Forum.

## Initial work

Just before Xmas, Frank Allmer, a regular leader of the annual training course in the Lüneburger Heide, visited me in Holland, and we were able to discuss organisational problems. I learnt how the course was financed: from the time of the very first course in 1955, we had received financial support from Dr. Alfred Toepfer, President of Verein Naturschutzpark, which owns and manages the Heide. Further subsidies had been provided by the Familien Ministerium in Bonn. Between Christmas and New Year's Eve 1969, David Withrington, Secretary General of IYF, and I undertook a trip to Hamburg to discuss our ideas further with the people on the spot, and to realise the concrete details for staging the Forum. Our contact in Hamburg was Henry Makowski, deputy director of the Naturschutzamt Freie and Hansestadt Hamburg, and one of the founders of IYF. He approached Dr. Toepfer with our plans and asked him if he would like to sponsor the International Youth Forum. The letter in which he accepts is set out below.

ALFRED TOEPFER  
in firma  
ALFRED C. TOEPFER

Ballindam2/3  
2000 Hamburg 1  
Tel. 30131

19 januar 1970

Sehr geehrte Herren!

Sie sind mir mit Ihrer Gruppe im Naturschutzgebiet Lüneburger Heide sehr herzlich willkommen. Alle Einzelheiten sprechen Sie am besten direkt mit Herrn von Ascheraden aus meinem Sekretariat ab. Wenn ich Ihnen die Dinge erleichtere, dann will ich gerne das Protectorat für die Tagung übernehmen.

Mit meinen guten Wünschen für Sie and Ihre weitere Arbeit,

bin ich Ihr -

*Alfred Toepfer*

International Youth Federation  
for Environmental Studies and Conservation  
Th.C.Th. Vethaak  
Gr. Aelbrechtlaan 148  
Amstelveen 1134, Niederlande

At the offices of Verein Naturschutzpark in Hamburg, we discussed the place where we could hold the Forum and decided upon Hans Breuer Hof at Inzmühlen in the north-west corner of the Lüneburger Heide. This is a so-called 'Alt wanderer Haus' with accommodation for 50 people. After our talks in Hamburg, David and I went to Inzmühlen to inspect the accommodation. This was a marvellous trip, as light snow had recently fallen on the Heath.

### Division of tasks

We were able to find a technical leader for the Forum through IYF's mid-Europe Regional Officer, Johanna Neumann. This was a DJN member from Lüneburg, Hans Joachim Schmidtke. We stayed the night at Hans' house and decided the tasks to be done. It was intended that IYF should prepare the information pack for the participants in collaboration with our 'London Centre' (Environmental Study Centre for Young People). Unfortunately, the Centre did not receive its grant from UNESCO to start working until September 1970. This meant a lot more work for the IYF Information Officer, and not all the papers could have summaries produced. Members of IYF's Executive Board would try to attend the Forum to lead discussion groups. Inviting people from international organisations like IUCN, WWF, UNESCO and Council of Europe would also be the responsibility of the EB, and during January 1970 they visited all of these bodies.

All this kind of preparation can be carried out from another country, but, in order to organise a Forum well, you also need someone who lives in the neighbourhood. Therefore, all the organisational work that had to be done in Germany was Hans' task. This meant dealing with the accommodation at 'Hans Breuer Hof', organising excursions and excursion leaders, taking care of the free-evening programme in Lüneburg, applying for a grant from the Federal Ministry, consulting with Henry Makowski and Frank Allmer, and looking after other contacts in Germany.

*Theophile Vethaak (right), pictured with other IYF officers - Johanna Neumann and George Bechet - at the General Assembly in Belgium, 1969*

*photo: David Withrington*



### Council of Europe

In the first days of the New Year, Fred van der Vegte (President), David Withrington (Secretary General), Wim Benthem (Treasurer), Daniel Vreugdenhil Jr. (Projects Officer) and George Bechet (Member without Office) paid a visit to the Council of Europe offices in Strasbourg on behalf of IYF. They discussed the projects that IYF was organising for European Conservation Year. The Council of Europe looked forward to the participation of IYF in the ECY Conference, in Strasbourg in February. In view of the 'Appeal to Youth' that had been prepared by Professor Pavan and published by the Council of Europe, a complementary paper by IYF would be appropriate. The IYF's 'Appeal to Adults' was prepared and printed for the conference. Hayo Hoekstra (Consultant Expert, Environment and Natural Resources Division) regretted that the contribution of the Council of Europe to the IYF Forum would only be small because of their budgetary limitations. However, he agreed to provide the Forum with copies of the ECY declarations and of the papers presented by the four rapporteurs at Strasbourg in February. He asked if the Council of Europe could be invited to send a representative to the Forum in the Lüneburger Heide.



## **Production of papers**

A lot of information was given to the participants before the Forum started. From the papers of the Council of Europe, we decided to choose two of the themes: 'Urban Conglomerations' and 'Leisure'. These reports were sent to the Forum participants in an information set. In this set were also the speeches of HRH Prince Philip and HRH Prince Bernhardt, parts of which gave us something to think about. As we had not been entitled to speak at the Strasbourg ECY Conference, Professor Pavan had offered to use his time to read our 'Appeal to Adults'. This document was also a basic document for our discussions. Reports about environmental problems by different authors were included, and during the Forum the participants added contributions from their own organisations. In addition, I had assembled a small exhibition of publications of IYF and its member organisations.

## **Participation**

In spite of all the preparations, and the fact that the Forum was free to participants thanks to the generosity of Dr Toepfer, only 31 young people from 9 countries were present in the Lüneburger Heide in July 1970. From the invitations to Eastern Europe and the USSR, only Yugoslavia was represented. Of the international organisations invited - both governmental and non-governmental - only the Council of Europe sent a representative.

## **Programme**

The Forum began with the arrival of participants on 13 July. The excursion planned for the first day was postponed, as it rained 'cats and dogs'. On 16 July, Hans Köpp from the Council of Europe's Environment and Natural Resources Division, gave us an informative talk, focusing on European Conservation Year; this was followed by a stimulating discussion with the delegates. It turned out that he used to live in the neighbourhood of Inzmühlen. He gave us some advice about our planned Declaration, which was to become the focus of our discussions in the remaining days.

It was not all 'work', however, as we made an excursion on the Saturday evening to the picturesque village of Wilsede - accessible only on foot or by horse-drawn coach. There, we were regaled by a concert given by an international group of young musicians, who were also in the Heide at the invitation of Dr Toepfer. The next morning, Alfred Toepfer himself paid us a visit at the Hans Breuer Hof; the rest of the day was free, and several participants took the opportunity to learn more of the history and management of the Lüneburger Heide by joining an excursion with Frank Allmer.

Our subsequent excursions included a short reception by the Mayor of Lüneburg and a guided tour of the town hall, learning about the glorious old days of the town, which flourished through the mining and refining of salt. As this process required a lot of wood, some say that this was the birth of the Heath landscape. We visited a local farmer and learnt from him about the relationship between German farming and the European Common Market. We realised that the farmer has not only a 'production' task but an 'aesthetic' one, which needs to be supported. Finally we viewed some of the landscape restoration work done by the city of Hamburg, under the guidance of Henry Makowski.

Participants left on 25 July, having agreed the Declaration (see inset) which represents a summary of deliberations of the working groups and our discussions with guest speakers and on excursions.

## **Follow-up to the Forum**

Merely formulating the Declaration would not in itself be a totally worthwhile result of our Forum. We tried to decide, therefore, what should be the follow up. Firstly, Mr. Köpp had informed us of two important conferences of the Council of Europe in September, and advised us to present our declaration to them. The Declaration should also be sent by the IYF Information Officer to the various national governments. Of course, we decided that participants should make some 'noise' about it in their own countries, and that the Declaration should preferably be translated into the appropriate language and presented to youth groups and influential people in each country. It was also agreed that the Declaration should be submitted to the Preparatory Committee of the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment, sponsored by IYF in Canada 1971.

As a result of the follow up actions to be taken by participants in the different countries, the IYF

General Assembly, meeting in August 1970 on the island of Terschelling (Netherlands), thought it worthwhile to establish a Working Group on Environmental Action under the chairmanship of Wolter Bos, a participant in the Forum. The results of our Forum were also presented for discussion at the first international conservation camp for young people in Romania, in August 1970.

In September I wrote to the chairmen of the two conferences mentioned by Mr. Köpp, enclosing 100 copies of the Declaration for the conference participants. The first was the Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe concerned with Regional Planning; although I got an acknowledgement, it seems they hardly looked at the Declaration. The second was the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, from which I received no reply at all. In October, I sent the Declaration, together with a French translation, to the Prime Ministers of all the governments in West Europe, Canada and the USA. Acknowledgements of receipt were given by the Prime Ministers of Belgium, United Kingdom, Switzerland and the USA.

Of course, we cannot expect governments to take immediate action, but my opinion about the Council of Europe and their reaction, when youth answers the 'Appeal to Youth' made by them at Strasbourg in February, is maybe better not printed. We were told in Inzmühlen that people are not European-minded enough; well, the participants of our Forum certainly found that out! When is the world going to listen to the answers given by youth to questions raised by adults? It is our heritage they are making decisions about.

More encouraging results are to be found now in the youth organisations. The IYF Working Group on Environmental Action is planning a week of actions from 31 May to 6 June 1971, with the co-operation of member organisations throughout Europe. I also received translations of the Declaration published in conservation magazines and newspapers.

## **Declaration of the International Youth Forum for European Conservation Year 1970**

### **Introduction:**

The International Youth Forum for European Conservation Year was convened by the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation, in consultation with the Council of Europe, at Inzmühlen in the Lüneburger Heide from 13 to 25 July, 1970. In this area, which received the European Diploma for Nature Conservation, the representatives of European Youth reviewed the problems of the environment and discussed the role that young people can play in their solution, as well as considering the results of the Strasbourg Conference. The main task of the Forum was preparatory work for the World Youth Assembly of 1971, and the United Nations Conference on the Environment of 1972.

### **The European Conservation Conference:**

The youth of Europe is pleased that the various governments recognised the importance of environmental problems and came together under the Council of Europe to seek a common solution. However, we are not fully satisfied with the statements made in the Declaration of the Strasbourg European Conservation Conference, and especially regret that the Declaration does not deal with the most fundamental causes of environmental deterioration - population explosion, blind and unlimited economic growth and the lack of environmental education. Nevertheless, we fervently hope that the proposals made in the Strasbourg Declaration will not remain on the conference table, but will be carried out by governments into practical action.

### **Proposals:**

The Forum, bearing in mind the well-being of future generations on this earth as well as our own, urges the European governments and the Council of Europe to enact the following proposals:

1. In view of the increasing demands for high living standards and fulfilment of individual aspirations coupled with the catastrophic effects of rapid population growth on world resources and its threat to world peace, we urge European (and non-European) governments to adopt measures to stabilise or even decrease population, whatever the political and religious pressures may be.

2. The world's natural resources are under pressure and in part running out; this situation is only aggravated by artificially-created consumption in developed countries. This makes it even more difficult for developing nations to secure a proper standard of living. We, therefore, urge European governments to adopt measures aimed at stabilisation of living standards and a limitation of blind economic growth, such as:
  - a. the cessation of continual and often trivial changes in fashion which affect the production of consumer goods;
  - b. the prohibition of advertising of goods which are harmful to the environment and to public health;
  - c. the production of quality durable consumer goods to prevent continual wastage of natural resources; and
  - d. the recycling of waste and the restriction of disposable packaging and containers.
3. There should be amendments to national constitutions which would guarantee a healthy and congenial environment.
4. In each country one Ministry ultimately responsible for the management and protection of the environment should be established.
5. We ask for the establishment of a permanent Council of European Ministers concerned with environmental affairs.
6. In order to preserve the natural environment, we remind governments that all land-use planning should respect the existing ecological conditions. We request that all governments should inform the public well in advance of plans that would affect the environment - so that objections can be heard.
7. An environmental research institute should be set up to advise European governments and to co-ordinate international research.
8. In order that agriculture and forestry may fulfil their multiple social functions, we urge European governments to give them increased financial support.
9. We request that environmental education should be sufficiently included within the required programmes of all levels of education, and: (a) there should be better training for teachers in this field; and (b) teaching methods and method-books need improvement.
10. In view of the proposal in the Strasbourg Declaration for international seminars and other conservation activities for European youth, the Forum asks for the formation of a Council of Europe trust fund financed by the member governments for youth activities in conservation at a European level. And, in view of the practical support given to national and local conservation youth groups in countries such as Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands, the Forum requests the governments of Europe to provide facilities for these groups such as meeting places, equipment and reasonable financial aid via their national and local authorities.

**Conclusion:**

The youth is ready to co-operate with governments in effecting positive policies and actions to conserve the environment and its natural resources on a world wide scale. We are prepared to make sacrifices for a better environment in the future, and are determined to go on in what we believe is necessary to achieve it.

signed by: Theophile Vethaak (Netherlands), President of the Forum;  
Theresia Schindler (Switzerland), member; and  
Börje Sjolander (Sweden), member.

Lunebürger Heide, 25 July 1970.

## Personal memories

### David Withrington

Peterborough, UK, 2010

Luck played a big part in my becoming involved in IYF. In my class at Kingston Grammar School in south-west London, there were six of us who were keen birdwatchers and naturalists. One of us, Matthew Gillett, had attended the Junior Naturalists Club at Chelsea Physic Garden in London. He told us about an independent Field Observers' Club (a founder member of IYF) which had been formed by teenagers, too old to continue at the JNC. We all became members and started to attend - and organise - field trips and study camps. FOC was host in 1964 to an intercamp - that meant it was open to other member organisations of IYF. The camp was held on the beautiful coastline of Dorset in wonderful weather. Matthew and I cycled there all the way from London, stopping at a youth hostel in Winchester on the way. At the age of 17, I had never been abroad or met anyone from a foreign country. At the camp in Langton Matravers were Kari Kulo - a keen birdwatcher from Finland, Plamen Vojnovsky from Bulgaria, and two Dutch girls, Elly and Ninke.

An incident from that camp in 1964 sticks in my memory. As there was a shortage of motor transport, four of us volunteered to cycle to the Nature Conservancy's office in Furzebrook (long since closed down). Plamen rode my bicycle, as he was not used to drop-handlebars. We stopped at the bottom of a long hill, realising that Plamen was no longer with us. We staggered back up the hill and found my bicycle laying against the wall of a public house under a sign saying *Get your High Life here!* The front wheel was completely smashed (how was I going to get back to London?). Plamen had been going too fast to negotiate the bend in the road and cycled straight into a brick wall. Despite a bump on the head, he was all right - being tended to by the publican and his wife. They kindly drove us all to Furzebrook. In spite of this setback, the intercamp was a marvellous experience - and I wanted more.



*Exploring the Dorset coast, 1964: Plamen, David, Nicholas Holliman, Eric Needs, Elly and Ninke.*  
photo: Kari Kulo

In 1965 I helped to lead an international conservation work camp at Chippenham Fen near Cambridge, organised by the other British IYF member, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. In 1966, FOC held an intercamp on the island of Anglesey, North Wales - a good place for seabirds. After the camp, Kari Kulo and Dietmar Glitz from DJN in Hamburg came to stay at my house for a few days. Dietmar watched the football World Cup Final on the television with me and my father: England's first and only victory, after extra time. We remained friends!

By this time, I was at university and considered ready to lead an intercamp. Following an invitation to IYF by Luc Hoffmann, who was then Vice-President of IUCN and chair of WWF, the camp took place in late August 1966 at his reserve - the Tour du Valat - in the Camargue, southern France. The programme involved practical work on the reserve, ringing of migratory birds and censuses of roosting herons. The camp was a success, although I became a little sensitive about my premature baldness, when two of the girl participants from Britain thought that I was a professor at Exeter University, rather than a student.



*Some like it hot!  
Participants in  
front of our  
accommodation  
at the IYF camp  
on the Tour Du  
Valat, Camargue,  
France, in August  
1966.*

*photo: David  
Withrington*



*Alexander Inozemstev at Aston  
Rowant National Nature Reserve.  
He represented the All-Russian  
Society for Nature Conservation at  
the IYF General Assembly in  
1967. photo: David Withrington*

In 1967, the IYF General Assembly was held at Hill End Camp just outside Oxford. Jonathan Holliman of FOC was President of the IYF at the time, and asked me to be Camp President. My first task was to transport all our food and equipment from London to Oxford in a Bedford van and to give a lift to the two Russian participants - Alexander and Andrei. As I was studying Russian at university, we got on well, and I helped to translate for them during the rest of the Assembly. We had a reception from the Lord Mayor of Oxford at the town hall, which made quite an impression on the participants, who made up a song about it to the tune of *St John's Infirmary*: 'let me stay at the Town Hall forever, where the sherry is dry and sweet - sweet and dry'. I was exposed to an IYF tradition, which was to have an evening of entertainment prepared by the delegates. This involved a certain amount of dressing up and a lot of singing. Memorably, a Dutch boy, Ger, played his guitar, swinging on a seat suspended from the roof of the barn at

Hill End, as the whole camp sang the Beatles' hit *All you need is love*. Later, seated round the campfire, there was a magical atmosphere, as Frank Allmer from Germany played *Sentimental journey* on the piano in the background and we talked about life and nature conservation. I didn't want to go to bed - I didn't want it to end.



*IYF General Assembly in Oxford, 1967  
(left to right):  
Elspeth McLaren (UK), Jonathan Holliman  
(UK - President) and Maja Nissinen (Finland  
- Secretary General)*

*photo: Fred van der Vegte*

# Global developments - 1971-76

## Overview of events in 1971

[from the IYF report 'Youth and Environment' 1972]

### Environmental conservation and our future

The growing anxiety about environmental deterioration is reflected in the staging of the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm (June 1972). Public awareness in the industrialised countries has increased - through coverage of environmental problems by mass media, the proliferation of conservation organisations, and through campaigns such as 'Earth Day' and 'European Conservation Year'. More people realised that towns were becoming concrete nightmares of traffic and noise, that the countryside was fast disappearing, and that pollution disasters affected their rivers and coastline.

Yet conservationists, formerly considered eccentric but now accorded respectability, are not satisfied by what they consider to be piecemeal measures. Governments either do not understand, or do not wish to understand, the true nature of the problems facing mankind. Unfortunately, the only factor used to determine human progress and the quality of life is economic growth, occasionally tinged with elements of social justice. Conservationists warn on the folly of ignoring the ecological principles governing the biosphere, and the finite resources of planet Earth which sustain human life. More far-reaching and fundamental changes will have to be initiated, involving a rejection of the materialist ethic in favour of a more aesthetic quality of life, in order to achieve a balanced way of life in harmony with nature for future human generations.

The dilemma facing governments must not be underestimated. On the one hand it must be obvious that, if the population of the world doubles in the next 35 years, it will be an uncomfortable place to inhabit, and providing an adequate supply of food will be challenging when, even today, one quarter of the world is dying from starvation. But in industrialised countries there is the fear of the unknown, the pressure of vested capital interests, the danger of losing political credibility by checking economic expansion and material prosperity. While, in the less-developed countries, governments are trying to provide food and shelter for their people and to emulate the educational and living standards of the industrialised nations.

Nevertheless, the choice is ours: to make the difficult transition to an economic system which offers a sustainable quality of life, or to wait and watch human society decay and bury itself in its own pollution.

### The role of youth

The leadership of the youth conservation movement came from students of natural history and lovers of the countryside, who were the first people to realise the full extent of man's dependence on nature. Now, the movement has been popularised and is gaining strength in all sectors of the community. The voice of youth may lack in experience, but it is usually free from the prejudice, vested interest and attitude of resignation which inhibits the decisions of adults. There is every reason to put your faith in youth, by whose idealistic efforts and willingness to make sacrifices for a better future, the changes essential to the improvement of environmental conditions will be brought about.

### Major youth conferences

In 1971, the commitment of youth across the world was demonstrated in three international youth conferences on conservation of the environment - the first of their kind ever to be held.

## **Austria, Filzmoos, 8-10 August 1971: IYF symposium on Youth Strategy in Environmental Conservation**

This was organised as part of the 16th General Assembly of IYF and was largely a European meeting. It was originally conceived out of concern that the Hamilton conference (see below) might be cancelled due to lack of funds. However, it always had different objectives: these were to provide a strategic basis for the environmental action campaigns recently started by youth groups in Europe. Since the member organisations of IYF had the longest experience in environmental action, and since this work was co-ordinated by the IYF Working Group on Environmental Action (which had already staged a mini *Earth Week* in 1971), there was no need to bring in outside expertise. However, the usual international bodies were invited to send observers.

In order that the participants were fully informed of recent developments, an exhibition was set up, illustrating the activities of the United Nations and its agencies, other international organisations, national conservation groups and IYF member organisations. Reference books were also available. Each participant received an information set of 20 background papers. The Symposium opened with an introduction setting the international scene in which youth was currently operating. After some discussion of the main environmental issues in plenary session, the participants divided into topic working groups, dealing with:

- a. population growth;
- b. economics and natural resources;
- c. the impact of 'civilisation' on the natural environment;
- d. pollution; and
- e. environmental education.

The topic Groups worked with enthusiasm and dedication, producing analyses of the problems and proposals for their solution through environmental action. After this, participants met in regional groups to decide which of the suggested actions could be incorporated in the programmes of their own organisations and how they could be co-ordinated - at least on a regional basis.

This Symposium turned out to be a very successful meeting, because - rather than issuing vague recommendations to governments or international conferences - it concentrated on what could be practically implemented by youth organisations, supported by a basic strategy and defined objectives.

## **Canada, Hamilton, Ontario 20-30 August 1971: International Youth Conference on the Human Environment**

The Conference, known as the 'Hamilton Conference', was held at McMaster University. It was sponsored by IYF, the IUCN and the Environic Foundation International, in co-operation with UNESCO, WWF, the Secretariat of the UN Conference on the Human Environment and the Canadian government. The idea to stage such a conference - the first of its kind at a world level - reached a planning stage in January 1970, when IYF officers met a representative of a concerned group of students from Notre Dame University, Indiana, through the channels of IUCN. Since both groups had planned an international youth conference in 1971 in North America, it was decided to join forces. A Preparatory Committee was set up, with IYF chiefly responsible for programme and participation and the North Americans, who had formed into Environic Foundation International, for funding and facilities. IUCN assisted with sponsorship and participation. The later stages of preparation were undertaken by a semi-professional staff of young people under the direction of Richard Davies (Canada), Royce LaNier (EFI) and Jonathan Holliman (IYF).

The end result of this work, after much uncertainty over funding, was the most representative participation of any international environmental conference. Out of the 166 accredited delegates from 68 nations, 96 came from developing countries. Participants (see list at Annex VII) were young people attending in their own right as environmental specialists and youth leaders

The first two days of briefings from environmental experts added little to the knowledge of participants, and the fact that all the experts came from the USA caused the 'third world' delegates to feel that their own environmental problems were being ignored. Later in the Conference, however, we were to hear from Dr. Perez Olindo (Kenya), Maurice Strong (UN) and Professor Barry Commoner - who gave excellent talks. 'Third-world' participants asked that time should be allotted for them to come together and work out regional presentations of environmental priorities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

At this stage, a few agitators tried to take advantage of the situation and to create an atmosphere of suspicion and political rift. This was further aggravated by the lack of Conference rules of procedure. Considerable dissatisfaction with the staff was expressed, and the running of the Conference was transferred to a six-continent Steering Committee elected from among the delegates. From then on, the Conference ran relatively smoothly.

Working Groups met during the remainder of the Conference and produced some constructive proposals. The topics were:

1. Environmental education and information;
2. Relationship between human population and natural resources;
3. Economic and social aspects of environmental issues;
4. Environmental impact of science and technology;
5. Environmental problems of human settlements; and
6. Environmental aspects of the management and use of natural resources.



*Delegates voting at the Hamilton conference, Canada - 1971*

The Conference Statement reflected in full the concerns of the developing countries. Apart from this, the attention of the Conference was focused, by the efforts of Scott MacLeod and Maurice Strong of the UN Secretariat, on input to the UN Conference on the Human Environment and to parallel youth actions planned for Stockholm 1972. Twelve observers were elected, by continent, to represent the Hamilton Conference in Stockholm. The first task of these observers would be to present a report to the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee of the UN Conference in New York in mid-September. This report included a statement of resolve and 34 proposals for actions by the United Nations. In Stockholm, the statement of the Hamilton Conference would be read to the plenary session by one of the youth representatives.

Although it seemed a bit hectic at the time, in retrospect the Hamilton Conference certainly proved its worth by increasing the environmental understanding between developing and industrialised countries, and by providing the contacts necessary to develop truly international programmes of environmental action.



## Official Statement of the International Youth Conference on Problems of the Human Environment

We, the young scientists and citizens from 75 countries who assembled together in Hamilton for the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment from 20 to 30 August, 1971, have reached a consensus on the condition of the world-wide human environment. We regard this consensus to be a unique diagnosis of the environmental crisis. Considering that a majority of the world's people are suffering from unequal and insufficient access to resources, and hence are robbed of their right to use their environment for their own human needs, we have reached the conclusion that most particular environmental problems are the result of the unequal distribution of wealth and power both nationally and internationally. Contributing to this sense of crisis is the fact that the production of economic goods is for the most part organized, not with regard to human needs and the imperatives of the human environment, but for the sake of private gain or the achievement of military power. Without first admitting these facts and making a prior commitment to bring about a basic change in the present social and economic relations between the developed and the underdeveloped countries and between the rich and the poor, it becomes fruitless to discuss the solution of the problems implied by the agenda of the United Nations 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Problems of the Human Environment.

In each region of the world we find this basic situation occurring in different forms. In underdeveloped countries, it is manifested in poverty, lack of social mobility, and political instability. To the Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans it is inconceivable to discuss the environment before they can control their own economic, political and social life and their natural resources. This lack of self-determination prevents any meaningful discussion of the environment, and the rectification of this situation must take priority over any other proposed solutions to the 'Environmental Crisis'. In Europe, the problem of social and economic inequality expresses itself dramatically externally in the continued exploitation of the underdeveloped countries, and also internally in the relation between the socially, economically, and culturally dominant urban over the rural areas, as well as the domination of highly industrialised Northern Europe over the less developed Southern Europe with high unemployment. Northern Europe imports cheap labour from Southern Europe to do the hazardous and unhealthy work in northern industries. The basic problem in North America is a distorted social and economic system which places private gain far above the social needs of its own citizens, and those of the rest of the world.

Early in the Conference, it became clear that the resolution of this basic premise presents a task of great magnitude, but if we wish to talk seriously about the environment, then we must talk seriously about that discrepancy in order even to discuss the latter. Many sacrifices of ideologies and viewpoints will have to be made. We implore all men to take on the challenge of reassessing those factors which together create the inequalities here mentioned, and thereby the problems of the whole environment.

It is often suggested that the root cause of environmental problems is population; but this argument depends for its strength almost entirely on the standpoint from which it is made. We believe that population is not a single global or biological problem but one which has complex inter-relationship with the social, economic and natural environment of man. In other words, some areas have a population problem relating to too many people. Latin America has the distinct problem arising from urbanisation which leaves large rural areas seriously underpopulated. Whatever may be the numerical situation, in each case the problem is related to the power of an economic elite. On an international scale, the population problems of the underdeveloped countries have arisen solely since the imperial expansions of the last two centuries. At the same time, within the developed countries the need for increased labour forces at the time of industrial expansion has also resulted in the population problems they are experiencing today. That is to say, both situations may be linked to the same cause. The population problem now facing industrial states is accentuated by the rise in capital-intensive technology which renders large numbers of the population superfluous to the productive system.

On the international scale, the removal of the colonial powers' labour-intensive methods for natural resource production has similarly left in its wake an economically superfluous and hence a

marginal population. One of the immediate remedies we see for both situations is a return to labour-intensive methods of production both in underdeveloped and developed countries. Finally, the most fundamental problem of the underdeveloped countries with respect to population is access to resources. The people of the underdeveloped countries must regain full access to their own resources which are vitally important to the improvement of living standards. In this respect population control is at best a piecemeal approach and avoids the fundamental question of social change.

The basic premise of inequality of power relates also to physical pollution and mismanagement of the earth and its resources, insofar as such mismanagement and depredation are the result of non-responsible industrial agents, whose ability to continue these acts is a testimony to the imbalance of power both within and between nations. Consequently, once more it appears futile to discuss serious air pollution or marine oil pollution, pesticides and natural wilderness areas until both national and international systems provide opportunity for checks and balances on the decision-making and organisational processes. The vast machinery existing to perpetuate such acts of depredation and mismanagement, including the massive onslaught of commercial advertising as part of the global consumer society, constitutes a massive obstacle to the dissemination of dissenting information which would serve to bring about both a more balanced distribution of power, and exposure to appropriate ecological information.

We also recognise that modern warfare - together with nuclear and biochemical weapons - is the greatest single threat to ecological survival. No international inter-governmental conference on the Problems of the Human Environment can be considered serious unless accompanied by world agreement for an immediate and unconditional abandoning of nuclear and bio-chemical weapons. One of the chief factors that helps deprive the public of the opportunity to participate in social, political and economic decisions is the tight control on information of vital concern to the public, by governments, international agencies, and private corporations. In the end, the people must be the ultimate judge of matters affecting their own well-being, and only a system which freely yields information to both the scientific and lay communities will give the people a chance for independent evaluations.

Finally, we recognise that the United Nations' system has inherent limitations as a forum for effective action on such vital environmental issues as the threat of nuclear war or the gross maldistribution of resources. The governments represented in the UN are, after all, participants in a worldwide political and economic system which is designed to perpetuate economic competition and the inequality of access to resources. There is an urgent need, therefore, for many independent mechanisms of information dissemination and environmental action.

#### **Resolutions of "The Hamilton Conference"**

1. Maintaining that the environmental problem is above all, not a people problem but a system problem, having profound implications for economic, social and political structure of all societies, we call for action to bring about the needed change.
2. Taking the ecological problems and constraints into consideration, we call for a new production system; one which will be people- and not profit- orientated.
3. Recognising that the proper role of science and technology is to help man to live with nature not to conquer it, we call for the use of ecologically-sounder technologies.
4. Recognising that an alternative approach to population is needed which insists on improving the conditions of the people of developing countries rather than on population control, we call for immediate social reform as a more positive and humane measure to achieve population balance by raising health and living standards.
5. Given that development programs constitute large-scale alterations in the human environment and that these in turn affect the destiny of many people, we demand that international development agencies make environmental impact statements which are open to public scrutiny. The freedom of information regarding the issues and alternatives involved in development programs is essential for enabling the public to arrive at more meaningful decisions concerning matters affecting their destiny.

6. Recognising that there is an urgent need to change the order of priorities in considering the cost-benefit of technological development, we call for a re-ordering of priorities such that the innate ecological characteristics of the affected area and human need are considered first, the economic assessment comes next and the technological feasibility last.
7. Recognising that the greatest and most catastrophic of all environmental crises is that brought about by the development and possession of nuclear weapons, we demand that, as the first step towards an ecologically-sound world, all nuclear weapons be abolished and destroyed in the safest possible way.
8. We demand that ecological considerations, the solutions to environmental problems, all monitoring and controls should be subsidiary to the national life of all countries, particularly the developing nations of the world. Parallel to this, we call for a transfer of means of production to domestic rather than foreign ownership. The foregoing implies a call for a radical change in the present relationship between the industrialised and the poorer countries, where a great deal of the means of production and raw materials are owned by the developed countries.
9. We call for policies that stress agricultural commodities that can be grown in an environmentally-sound way in the developing countries, the processing and finishing of natural products in the developing countries where they are produced and the ownership of the means of production and distribution by the producer nations. In producing these materials, we call for stressing technologies that are environmentally compatible and for the substitution of the use of natural products for the more polluting synthetic products. In connection with this, we call for the present industrialised nations to import a major amount of their needs from the developing countries, and in return for this privilege, to accept all the conditions of dependency (political, economic and other) on the part of the present industrialised nations, which implies a complete reversal of the present dependency system.
10. Although we recognise that the availability of competent ecological experts is essential to developing sounder alternatives, yet we warn against the dangers of a system in which the experts make the decisions without consulting the public. We demand that the conclusions of the experts must be submitted to open debate by the public and its representatives.
11. To help pay the enormous costs of rebuilding both the environment and our social systems, we demand that the present orientation of our economic systems be altered away from favouring and stressing military technology and capability in favour of the humane provision of human needs.
12. We call for an immediate elimination of the use of chemical and biological weapons in plain contradiction to international agreements, and for the destruction of all present stock-piles and means of production of these weapons. The inhuman and anti-ecological war in South-East Asia must be brought to an immediate end. All United States and other foreign troops should be withdrawn from foreign territories and colonies, and massive reparations should be paid to the affected populations for the prolonged damage to the social, psychological and natural environments.
13. Recognising that the right of self-determination is necessary before the people of present occupied areas can begin to build up their standards of living and cater for their own urgent and justified needs, and given that such an improvement in the conditions of living is necessary before such peoples can begin to stabilise the relationship between their populations and the environment in which they live, we demand an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces from occupied territories, and the granting of the right of self-determination to the affected peoples. This position includes situations where a minority is in control of the lives and destiny of the larger population living in the same area, specifically South Africa, Rhodesia, and other similar regions.
14. Given the damage inflicted upon both the environments and the social systems of the developing countries by colonialist and neo-colonialist dominant powers, we demand that the industrialised countries: A) stop further damage and exploitation now; B) concede a more advantageous economic position to the less-developed countries in the arena of international trade without bias and allow the importation of finished products from the developing countries.

## **Contribution to the UN Conference in Stockholm, 1972**

The conference in Hamilton elected 12 representatives to deliver this Statement to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. It was presented to the plenary session by the spokesman, Jaime Hurtubia from Chile. The Secretary General of UNCHE, Maurice Strong, said: "The Hamilton Conference was a unique opportunity for some 200 young scientists, professionals and students to provide inputs to the preparatory process of the Stockholm Conference. Another important aspect of the Hamilton Conference was the development of strategies of action for involving both young and old persons in national, regional and international environmental programmes. My meetings with this group have indicated to me their high level of competence, their zealous concern and their refreshing awareness of environmental problems. We need their contribution as an important component of any potential solution."

## **Switzerland, Geneva, 25-27 November 1971: Seminar of International Youth NGOs on Environmental Issues**

This meeting was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, as a special seminar of the international youth organisations which meet at the invitation of the United Nations on an informal basis every two months. Technical facilities were provided by the UN Centre for Economic and Social Information. Environmental issues had been on the agenda of the regular YNGO informal meetings throughout 1971, and it was felt that a separate meeting was needed to consider action in relation to the Stockholm Conference as well as environmental issues in relation to longer-term youth programmes. In reality, the meeting turned out to be largely a planning seminar for youth activity in Stockholm.

As executive officers of the world's largest youth organisations, the participants possessed the experience to get the most out of three days talking round the conference table. Participants generally displayed a remarkable grasp of environmental problems, though only IYF, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides and the World Assembly of Youth were fully operative in the environmental field. Working Groups were set up on the substantive issues of population, environmental education, development, and direct action and volunteers. These groups - in the few hours at their disposal - produced some fairly stimulating proposals. In general, most of the youth organisations recognised the supreme importance of environmental conservation but did not feel themselves in a position to incorporate environmental action into their own programmes.

We were fortunate to have an up-to-date briefing on the UN Stockholm Conference from its Secretary General, Maurice Strong, who explained, with his usual clarity, vision and frankness, the state of progress, both with the governmental preparations and with those for NGO activities linked to Stockholm. The documentation and paperwork was in its final stages, and the UN Secretariat hoped to soon be in a position to concentrate on a public information campaign, an area in which they knew they had hitherto been deficient.

However, some governments, after realising the economic and political implications of environmental conservation, were beginning to get cold feet. It was obvious that Stockholm would only be the start of a longer process of consultation between the governments of the world. Maurice Strong was not in favour of a new 'super agency' of the United Nations to take over ultimate responsibility for the environment, though a small secretariat might be helpful in facilitating communication between governments and existing agencies. The role of NGOs and particularly of youth organisations was extremely important both in the context of Stockholm and of drawing the attention of their membership to environmental issues. He had been impressed by the Hamilton Conference, and the considerable expertise in the environmental field displayed by youth delegates from all over the world. He hoped that young people and the NGO community would make the fullest use of the 'Environment Forum' facilities to be provided in Stockholm.

Most of the organisations present felt that they should be represented in the Conference proper. They were informed that the 350 seats available for NGOs in Stockholm were currently under-subscribed, and there should be no difficulty in allocating one seat to each applicant organisation: however, preference would be given to those organisations active in the environmental field. The

Seminar devoted much of its time to considering the facilities available in Stockholm for unofficial activities; and here, the input from the representatives of the Swedish Youth Council was invaluable. The activities planned by Dai Dong and Pow-Wow were also discussed. The seminar proposed that the whole youth activity in Stockholm should co-operate with the Hamilton observers and other youth groups, both within the Conference and at the extra-Conference activities such as the *Environmental Forum*. The nature of this co-ordination would be elaborated by subsequent Geneva meetings of the IYNGOs and by exchange of information between the various organisations involved.

## Conclusions

[from *Youth and Environment*, IYF, 1972]

1971 will probably reveal itself as a year of special significance in the development of youth involvement in environmental conservation. The deliberations of the three international youth conferences are of a level of importance which demands their publication and dissemination in order to influence the decision-makers and to spread the message of conservation. Nevertheless, follow-up to these conferences in the form of action programmes will prove the most effective instrument in improving our environment. One of the most encouraging results of the Hamilton Conference was the evolution of plans for regional youth conservation federations in Latin America and Africa. The IYF is proposing to publish an *International Youth Bulletin on the Environment* to provide a contact point for youth in all parts of the world. Of course, the scope of such international youth projects is severely restricted by the availability of finance.

Just before the end of 1971, another important conference was held: the first European Working Conference on Environmental Conservation Education. This took place Rüschtlikon, Switzerland, from 15 to 18 December and was organised for IUCN by their Education Officer, Dr Jan Čeřovský, who also played an important part in the three youth conferences. Specialists from 21 European countries took part in the conference, which through six Working Sections produced some very relevant and practical proposals. Of particular interest, was the Working Section on Out-of-school Environmental Education for Children and Youth, in which representatives of the Boy Scouts, IYF and the Hamilton Conference participated.

Although the UN Stockholm Conference cannot be viewed as a panacea, it should provide a useful focal point for environmental actions. Therefore, IYF is keeping its members informed of the preparations for Stockholm. Beyond this, we must hope that governments meeting in Stockholm will come to recognise the basic elements of the environmental crisis, so that in the years that follow we can work together to implement the essential reforms. Our three youth conferences in 1971 showed no reticence in tackling the problems at their roots. We can take heart in the confident belief that youth will continue to pursue the objectives which it believes are necessary to accomplish environmental conservation.

David Withrington  
London, 1972

# The International Youth Conference on the human environment, 1971 and the UN Stockholm Conference, 1972

Fred van der Vegte

[from an interview with Fred van der Vegte in France on 5 May, 2011. Ed.]

## The 'Hamilton' experience

Just as the planned conference on the Human Environment to be convened by the United Nations in 1972 was to be the first global gathering of Governments on this topic, so the international meeting of young people on the environment in 1971 was the first of its kind to take place at a world scale.

IYF had the idea for an international conference, but it soon became clear that the resources to organise such an event existed in North America. Canada was chosen as the venue, as it was considered more politically neutral than the USA. As the outgoing President of IYF, I had been appointed as IYF's co-ordinator for the UN Conference and this precursor youth event. The conference preparatory committee met in Toronto, with IYF taking the chair, being the only international youth organisation specifically concerned with environmental conservation. The conference organisation was put in the hands of the Environic Foundation international under the leadership of Royce LaNier. Their main job was to secure funding, including travel costs for youth representatives from all the world's continents. The venue selected was McMaster University at Hamilton, in eastern Canada. The conference also received encouragement from the Canadian, Maurice Strong, who headed the UN Secretariat for the 1972 Stockholm conference.

IYF prepared a list of contacts to be invited, representing environmental youth organisations from Europe, Africa, India and few other Asian countries. However, I was concerned that some of the other delegates, invited by the American organisers through government contacts, were not from a background of environmental conservation. So it was that the first part of the conference in Hamilton in August 1971 was spent trying to bring all the delegates up to speed on ecological problems and solutions.



*Fred van der Vegte (left) conferring with Jan Čerovský at Hamilton*

I was to an extent overwhelmed by the formalities of the Hamilton conference - the famous guest speakers like Barry Commoner, the speeches and the mood of the proceedings. I was perhaps naïve in thinking that we were all there to help save the planet. I was not sure whom some of those attending were representing; they seemed to have a political motivation. I was pursued by some Afro-Americans, who seemed not to be interested in the issues before the conference. They accused me of being a CIA stooge. I was happy that Taghi Farvar, the Iranian environmental philosopher, calmed them down with wise words. Not all of the conference staff were pulling their weight, rather they seemed to be trying to sabotage the proceedings. Eventually, the bulk of participants

lost confidence with the way the conference was being run; the staff stood down, and a committee of 15 was nominated to take over proceedings - three participants from each of the major continents.

After that, things went more smoothly, and the conference moved to a successful conclusion. The final statement reflected the mixed composition of the conference delegates. There were those seeking the end to nuclear armaments 'ban the bomb', others concerned about economic exploitation of developing countries, and those - perhaps less vocal and often from IYF member organisations - who wanted a greater emphasis on environmental education, a more sustainable management of ecosystems and conservation of wildlife and natural resources. I felt that the Hamilton statement, with its political overtones, was not the clear ecological message we needed

to persuade politicians in Stockholm to respond with positive actions to an appeal from the youth of the world. But I was to learn that these are the realities of an international conference.

## Preparing for and attending the UN Conference in 1972



IYF was represented in its own right as an IYNGO at Stockholm. Preparations included meetings with other IYNGOs - such as the Red Cross, World Federation of Democratic Youth and the World Assembly of Youth - under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva. Barbara Ward had been commissioned to write the official theme book for the 1972 Conference *Only one earth*. It came to my attention that certain of those seconded to the Conference Secretariat, were seeking to tone down her draft, particularly in relation to the need for energy conservation and to combat pollution. I was able to bring these concerns to the attention of Maurice Strong, the Conference Secretary, as I had the task of fetching him from and returning him to Toronto Airport for his appearance at the Hamilton conference. I was pleased to hear that appropriate action was taken.



*Maurice Strong (on the left) at the People's Forum, Stockholm. 1972*

Maurice Strong was an innovator. He arranged for a People's Forum to run concurrently with the formal intergovernmental conference. The first of what was to become a regular event at UN conferences. I attended the forum, which had a good atmosphere, with Hopi Indians and their teepees and a daily newspaper commenting on events. Quite a contrast to the formal conference proceedings and receptions in the evenings - for instance from the Swedish host prime-minister, Olaf Palme, with an amazing *smorgasbord* in the open air at the waterside in the grounds of the Town Hall, and at the Chinese Embassy, with more oriental food.

IYF was fortunate to have a base in the Stockholm office of our Swedish member organisation, SFU - and their members invited the IYF delegates to stay in their homes. The SFU office became a centre of activity and a meeting place for IYF members from other countries, such as Iceland, as well as friends from IUCN, such as Arturo Eichler of the Commission on Education. This was a busy time for me - preparing papers, working on statements and rushing round Stockholm to one meeting after another.

IYF was able to present a statement to the plenary session of the inter-governmental conference as part of the group of International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations affiliated to the United Nations. As our messages were quite hard-hitting, we chose Tony Murdoch of the World Boy Scouts Bureau as an 'apolitical' spokesman. Nevertheless, both the Chinese and US delegates walked out of the conference hall after we called for a ban on testing nuclear weapons. Somewhat gratifyingly, delegates from some other countries - notably from Africa - came and shook our hands after the presentation.

In many ways, the outcome of the official UN Conference was disappointing. It was boycotted by the Soviet Union and some of its satellite countries in East Europe. The resolutions did not address fundamental ecological problems and action to solve them. Nevertheless, it did put the 'environment' firmly on the world's political agenda, where it has been ever since.

## Statement of Concern to the UN Conference on the Human Environment by International Youth and Student Organisations

*World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts*

*International Union of Students*

*Ex-Volunteers International*

*World Assembly of Youth*

*International Student Movement for the United Nations*

*International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation*

*Boy Scouts World Bureau*

*World Student Christian Federation*

*World Federation of Democratic Youth*

*International Youth Hostel Federation*

*World University Service*

### Introduction

We - the representatives of international youth organisations - have come together to express in this statement our firm belief in the necessity of this Conference. We commend the government of Sweden and the Secretary-General of the Conference and his team for their efforts devoted to the success of this Conference. This statement which we have elaborated together is the outcome not only of the meetings of the past week but also of previous co-operation in environmental and other fields of concern to young people.

We are the representatives of various social and political youth and student organisations, with members numbering hundreds of millions of young people over the whole world. We are a force acting through the implementation of our programmes to create a wider awareness of the imperative facing our and future generations. We are concerned that, only two weeks after the failure of UNCTAD III, this Conference is showing signs of heading in the same direction due to one-sided national and economic interests. The environmental crisis facing mankind has reached proportions which demand radical and long-term solutions which may be speedily implemented in order to ensure a meaningful existence for all future generations on our planet.

### Shortcomings of the Conference

In order to put this Conference in its right perspective, we wish to draw attention to what we believe to have been some of its major shortcomings:

1. We deplore that a number of industrial socialist countries are absent from this Conference because of political manoeuvring aimed against the principle of universality which is indispensable to solving global environmental problems.
2. Immediate action should be taken to end the deliberate destruction of the environment by warfare. The U.S. government's disgraceful war of ecocide in Indo-China and similar wars in other parts of the world should have been dealt with by this Conference.
3. The issue of nuclear weapons testing was omitted from the agenda of this Conference. Nevertheless, those governments that have forcefully raised this issue in connection with the planned French- nuclear tests in the Pacific have our fullest support in this initiative.
4. We regret that sectional interests have caused the suppression of discussion on the environmental problems of supersonic transport.
5. This Conference has in passing mentioned education. Too little attention has been paid to this subject, which is the key factor in promoting public awareness and responsibility about the environment. Several of our organisations are involved in helping young people to respect ecological principles and live in harmony with nature - and to derive a positive enjoyment from this relationship. We ask the United Nations and member states to give urgent priority to the establishment of environmental education programmes in collaboration with non-governmental organisations.
6. We were pleased that the Committee on Environment and Development agreed that environmental measures undertaken by industrialized countries should not be a pretext for discrimination against the exports of developing countries, and that compensation was finally accepted by a majority of countries. We also welcome the call for an examination of the possibility of reducing production levels of synthetic products in favour of natural products which could be produced by the developing countries. However, throughout the debate, the richest of the developed countries continued to manifest the same narrow economic self-interest that was



all too apparent a few weeks ago at UNCTAD III. In the unlikely event that all the recommendations adopted are successfully implemented, and the negative aspects of environmental measures are minimized, this would still not constitute an attack on the fundamental problems such as poverty facing the developing countries.

7. There is an urgent need for an institutional framework within the United Nations system to ensure that the decisions of this Conference and other environmental policies, as ratified by the General Assembly, will be implemented. In any such arrangement, all governments, specialised agencies and international non-governmental organisations must be represented.

### **The basic issues as we see them**

The Conference should appreciate the root-causes of the environmental crisis and conceive solutions which are sufficiently radical to bring about real and lasting improvements in the human environment. We are not satisfied with the present level of discussion, and point out here some of the basic issues which demand action.

Available resources are subject to over-exploitation by economic systems geared to growth and profit instead of real human need. Human welfare depends on the distribution, wise use and recycling of these resources. The present inequitable distribution of wealth between industrialized and less-developed countries and between different sectors of the citizenry within each country is intolerable.

Many industrialised nations have allowed themselves to depend on growth which is achieved by induced over-consumption and exploitation of resources from developing countries, while the latter have not even had the chance to secure a decent standard of living for their people. Instrumental in this process of expropriation are the multi-national corporations which are beyond the control of national governments, and whose profits are not distributed in those countries where they operate. A further senseless drain on available wealth is the vast military expenditures in a continuing arms race which contributes nothing to the advancement of mankind.

The exponential increase in human numbers threatens to outstrip the capacity of the biosphere to provide a decent quality of life for all in terms of food and living space, and hinders the efforts of the human race to secure improvements in this direction. The effect of population increases in industrialized countries is particularly serious because of their irresponsible over-consumption and waste of natural resources.



*Crowds outside the conference building: UNCHE, Stockholm, 1972*

The differential standard of living which exists today between rich and poor cannot be justified on moral, ecological, indeed on any grounds. A solution can only be found within a planned economic system which would mean an end to the notion of economic growth as it is presently understood and its replacement by a new concept, which while providing for man's basic material needs will give him a new 'raison d'etre'. In such a system, employment could be assured by the encouragement of labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive industries. The economic development necessary to alleviate the overriding problem of poverty in the Third World requires that the resources currently tied up by the growth requirements of the industrialized nations be released.

### **Conclusion**

Environmental conservation is not the exclusive prerogative of governments; it is the concern of all people. We urge governments to significantly involve as many people's organisations as possible in carrying out the recommendations to which they will have pledged themselves. The United Nations organisation, in its follow-up arrangements to this Conference, should work closely with and through the international non-governmental and in particular youth organisations.

In closing, we would inform the politicians here that the credibility-gap between most of them and the people they claim to represent is growing rapidly wider. Those who came with high hopes for the success of this Conference have seen it degenerate into conventional politics of the most unproductive kind. To secure the confidence of the people, politicians must apply themselves to the crisis facing the world and collaborate at an international level to find solutions. In the present situation, words would be a good beginning if they meant that real problems were being considered. But, in the end, the only testament will be found in action.

Stockholm, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1972

## Pictures of IYF from 1972 and 73



*Delegates from the French-speaking region at the General Assembly in Herrljunga, Sweden, 1972: Jean-Patrick LeDuc (France) and Jean-Carlo Pedroli (Switzerland)*



*IYF Executive Board and officers meeting at Wilsede, Lüneburger Heide, in late 1973: Julius Smeyers (Belgium), Julian Cummins (UK), Oscar Marleyn (Belgium), David Withrington (UK), Bo Landin, President (in front - Sweden), Kullervo Nurmi (Finland), Lutz Katzschner (Germany), Gerhard Walter (Austria).*



*IYF supporters and multi-national football team at Brasparts, France, during the 1973 General Assembly. We played and lost against the village Fire Brigade and the Sports Club, but gained an honourable draw against the Bachelors' Club.*

## Developments in Eastern Europe in the 1970's

[from the archives]

### Poland

Following the participation of Polish students' representatives in the 17th General Assembly of IYF in Sweden, David Withrington (UK) and Xaver Monbaillu (Belgium) visited Poland on behalf of IYF from 14 to 28 August as guests of the Polish Students Association (ZSP). They left Poland regretfully, having made many friends and experienced a warm hospitality.



The first week of their visit was spent at the first all-Poland students' discussion camp on the environment at Mielno, a holiday resort on the Baltic coast. This camp was organised by the Polish Academic Youth Committee on the Human Environment which was established at the beginning of 1972 to co-ordinate the efforts of the university scientific circles within ZSP. The Chairman of the Committee, Jan Dobrowolski, had attended the IYF General Assembly.



*News item in a Polish youth daily paper on IYF's presence at the Mielno camp*

### Studenci o człowieku i jego środowisku

(W) W Mielnie rozpoczął się ogólnopolski obóz dyskusyjny studentów na temat człowieka i jego środowiska. Podstawowym celem obozu jest zapoznanie młodzieży z problematyką środowiska naturalnego człowieka, form i metod ochrony przyrody oraz udziału studentów we właściwym kształtowaniu otoczenia naturalnego.

Wykładowcami są uczeni z różnych uczelni w kraju, politycy i działacze społeczni. W obozie bierze m. in. udział Dawid Withrington z Anglii — uczestnik międzynarodowej konferencji ONZ na temat ochrony środowiska.

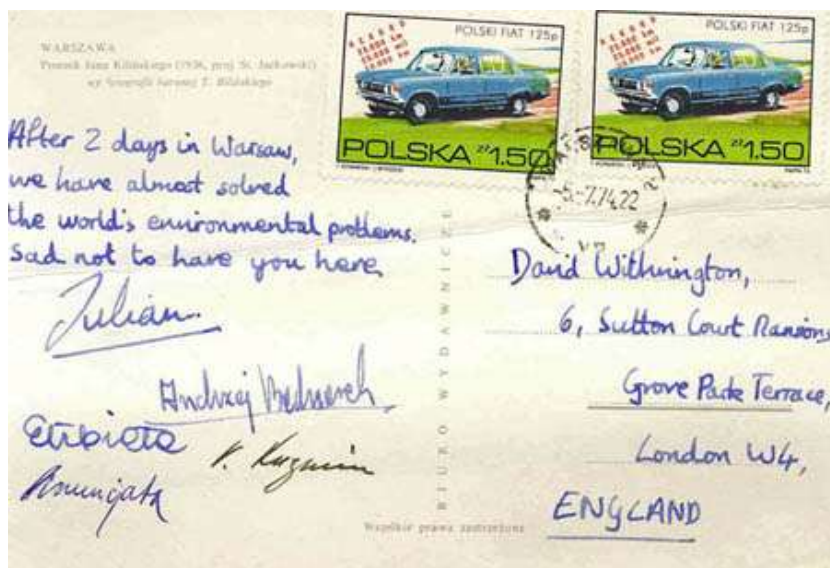
The main purpose of the Mielno camp was to introduce the important problems of environment protection to the 160 participants. Professors, Government Ministers and officials lectured on themes varying from the world crisis which led to the UN Stockholm Conference to Poland's special problems of Baltic Sea pollution and water resources. The broad field of knowledge and progressive ideas of these experts as well as their enthusiasm for improving the environment made a deep impression. Unfortunately, only some 30 participants seemed to have basic ecological understanding and an interest in environmental conservation. Nevertheless, working groups discussed during the camp how to provide a base for ongoing programmes of the Polish Academic Youth Committee on the Human Environment. The Committee is very keen to become a member organisation of IYF at the 18th General Assembly, meanwhile they will co-operate closely with the IYF Nordic Region on the problems of the Baltic Sea. They look forward to IYF participation in the all-Poland student seminar in Krakow in February 1973.

The ZSP organises thousands of student camps in the summer vacation mainly for recreation. Amongst these are several scientific study camps organised by the different universities. The IYF representatives attended one such complex camp in Trzcianka, where students from different disciplines were studying the social, educational, health, agricultural and transport problems of a small town in west Poland. During their stay they were also able to visit two national parks - Wolinski (an island on the western end of the Polish Baltic coast) and Wielkopolski (forest and lakes near Poznan). Although the main purpose of these national parks is to preserve areas of habitat and to provide public recreation, some strict nature reserves have been established within their boundaries. There was also the opportunity to see the magnificent work of reconstruction of the older parts of cities devastated during the war - Gdansk, Warszawa and Poznan.

During discussions with the Deputy Minister<sup>1</sup>, at the newly-created- Ministry of Land Economy and Environment Protection, the aims and programme of environmental work in Poland were presented. The Ministry is also keen to promote student involvement in environmental research and education, with a special emphasis on international co-operation.

With the recognition at many different levels of the need to co-operate closely at an international level to solve the problems besetting our environment, we can look forward to an active participation of Polish students within IYF.

ZSP, September 1972



A postcard sent by the IYF Secretary General, Julian Cummins, from Warsaw in 1974. Other signatories are environmental activists from the Polish Students' Association - Andrzej Bednarek, Elzbieta Szatkowska and Anuncjata Kocjan - and Victor Kuzmin, youth liaison officer at UNESCO.

## Yugoslavia

[from the archives]

Boris Cizej

It seems that, despite all the shortcomings of the Stockholm 'Only One Earth' Conference in 1972, it has had a sound effect on the public's opinion on ecology in Yugoslavia. At least many more everyday people came to realise that there is an environmental problem - although it may not mean that they have gained any real ecological awareness. But, as the media exposure has been so sensational, it could be that the terms 'ecology', 'conservation', and 'protection of nature and environment' - became much better known among people in Yugoslavia.

The first step taken, even before Stockholm, was the creation of the Association for Protection of the Human Environment in the Republic of Slovenia in northern Yugoslavia. This was a citizens' initiative, and the main political party - the Union of Socialist Working People of Yugoslavia - recognised this and has given support to the activities of the young organisation. This year, the Slovenian Youth Organisation formed a Committee on Human Environment, to deal with ecological

<sup>1</sup> Poland, like most of the Soviet Bloc, was not represented at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm; so the Polish Environment Ministry was keen to have a first-hand report from someone who had attended the Conference: David Withrington, the retiring IYF President.

education and information among young people. A similar Committee was established a year ago by the Youth Organisation in the Republic of Croatia, and has become very active. They publish a monthly Bulletin on environment, hold discussion evenings, seminars and other activities. In the Republic of Serbia, there has been for about 15 years a very active youth organisation called Pokret Gorana (which literally translated means Movement of Mountain People). Its main goals have been to get more 'green areas' into our towns, to create new forests or repair damaged ones. They have a very large membership: about 1,200,000 young people. In the last two or three years, their main concern became environmental issues in a broader sense.

These organisations have become the 'ecological consciousness' of the people in Yugoslavia. Their activities on environmental problems had been bringing along the belief that this was not only just a local problem but the one with a much larger aspect. Thus, in turn, it was obvious that a common body was needed at the Federal level to co-ordinate present and stimulate future activities in solving environmental problems in Yugoslavia.

After half a year of preparation, the Yugoslav Board for Protection of the Human Environment was established in Belgrade on 1February. It should be a consultative body rather than an executive one, and not take over any of the duties of state bodies dealing with the environment. It should fully express the ecological awareness of the Yugoslav people - as one of the participants at the founding Assembly said: it is a real 'ecological parliament' of Yugoslavia!

One of the main goals for the Board in the near future is to help to set up Associations for the Protection of the Human Environment in less-developed areas of Yugoslavia: Macedonia, Monte Negro, Kosovo, and Vojvodina. It shall also start work on a documentation centre, to make a survey of the ecological activities carried out by different organisations and individuals, and stimulate the future activities: all in all, to spread the message over the country.

The Board will also establish a Youth Commission, which will deal with education among young people in Yugoslavia, and try to stimulate environmental activities involving young people. Finally, we can say that, at least at the organisational level, the state of environmental awareness in Yugoslavia is satisfactory. Now, we have to wait and see the impact on every-day life of the people living and working in this country.



Boris Cizej (far left) in the IYF football team preparing for the tournament at Brasparts, Brittany, France, at the General Assembly in August 1973

# Report on IYF activities to the United Nations and International Youth Organisations, 1974

[from the archives]

Bo Landin  
IYF President

Since the foundation of IYF in 1956, it has been the only international youth organisation devoted to nature study and environmental protection. In this report, I shall focus on the aims and methods of our work and give examples of youth action in this field. First of all, it is important to define the role of IYF - that is the Executive Board and other elected officers. IYF is a co-ordinator of youth activities and a medium through which national and regional youth organisations can communicate on matters of concern. IYF as an organisation produces action guides – and prints background papers and project results. The execution of the actions and projects is done by the member organisations. IYF consists today of 31 member organisations, comprising some 100,000 members. In Europe, the member organisations work together in regions - based on a regional language. New regions are being established in Asia and Africa.

Officers of IYF work on a voluntary basis - non-paid - and are all under the age limit of 28. This is an important point, because we stress the fact that IYF is a 'youth' organisation: all activities are planned by and for young people and carried out by young people. In the last few years, IYF has seen a considerable expansion of its activities, and the development in the so-called Third World is also very encouraging. To cope with the ever-growing tasks of the voluntary officers, IYF has now decided to set up a World Bureau with paid staff. The Bureau will not change the structure and aims of the Federation, but should increase and improve its services.

## A firm base for environmental action

IYF - its member organisations and individual members - has nature study as the basis for environmental actions. We feel that too many people talk about ecology, but too few know anything about it. Nature study is the best way to learn about ecology - the principal laws of nature - and to gain an appreciation of the different values of intact ecosystems. With this basic knowledge, it is only a short step to environmental action. Educational activities play an important role in IYF's programme.

Each year IYF co-ordinates some 20 international camps (nature studies, investigations and practical conservation work):

**Study camps:** these are often held in remote areas such as islands, national parks and high mountains to give young people experience of different environments from those at home.

**Investigation camps:** these focus on ecological field work, the results of which can be published and used to influence policies eg for location of new national parks (IYF Red Area Book Project).

**Practical work camps:** participants undertake physical management and develop management plans, eg for habitat restoration and recreational use.

In addition, IYF's member organisations organise their own camps at a national level - over 400 a year in Europe alone. These include camps for very young people (in the age-group 7 to 12) where they do 'fun' things and discover the natural world.

Since 1955, an international **youth leader training course** in nature conservation has been held annually on the Lüneburger Heide in West Germany. It is organised by IYF for its member organisations, with support and facilities provided by Verein Naturschutzpark.

## Publications

IYF publishes two periodicals:

**IYF Bulletin:** is printed four times a year and sent to member organisations and individual members. One issue each year is devoted to the presentation of summer camps and courses.

**Taraxacum - International Youth Bulletin on the Environment:** it is published in English, French and Spanish. It aims to stimulate environmental activities of the world's youth, and is distributed to some 90 countries. *Taraxacum* is facing serious financial problems: IYF welcomes the suggestion of the

Environmental Task Force that it should receive support from all IYNGOs - and the UN system - as the main environmental magazine for young people.

In addition, IYF is publishing a series of short handbooks suitable for use by young people. The first, in May 1974, is *Methods in Field Biology Studies*, which captures the knowledge gained from IYF study camps and training courses. The second, due in July, is *Ecology - an introduction to the scientific field*. There are many books on Ecology, but few are written in such a way that they can be used by and for young people. Most of them are so expensive that young people - especially in developing countries - cannot afford to buy them.

### **Environmental action**

This is often, and in my opinion wrongly, called 'eco-action'. Many of the groups which carry out 'eco-actions' are doing so in ignorance of the fundamentals of the science of ecology. Environmental actions cannot be divorced from political, social and cultural actions. A youth group carrying out such actions may not have an affiliation with any political party, but nonetheless they are acting in a 'political' environment.

When we look at the world today, we can see that this globe is facing serious environmental problems. These are visible symptoms which have underlying 'root causes'. It is important to have in mind these root causes when fighting campaigns, for instance to save threatened species. We first seek to save the animal or plant, and then we should move on to tackle the causes which brought about the environmental crisis.

IYF has adopted a policy statement which encapsulates this approach:

"The natural environment must be seen in the context of the total environment, human and social as well as natural. It follows from this that the study and conservation of nature cannot be divorced from social and political action. IYF recognises as root-causes of the environmental crisis:

- overpopulation;
- economic systems aimed at growth through induced overconsumption of natural resources;
- the unequal distribution of wealth between industrialised and less-developed nations and between different sectors of society within each country;
- the senseless drain on human resources in wasteful technology, including military armaments;

These produce the following symptoms:

- alienation of man from his natural environment;
- pollution;
- degradation of ecosystems; and
- scarcity of natural resources (eg food).

IYF is determined to use every opportunity to inform the public about these root-causes and, in its programme, to bring young people into contact with nature and to fight pollution, the degradation of the environment and the exhaustion of natural resources."

### **Methods**

The methods of environmental actions differ somewhat from action to action, but the following strategy plan has been followed by IYF and its member organisations:

1. compilation of background material and circulation of a background booklet with an action plan and timeline.
2. dissemination of information to mass media on the content of the action - press release; press conference; special radio or TV programme.
3. information to governments and to politicians in general on why we have adopted the position presented; proposals for government action; lobbying. Information to the media and politicians will differ, even if the problem is the same. Information to the media should be of general public appeal, while that given to politicians must be very concrete and exact, any facts and figures must be referenced.
4. the action, eg demonstration; surprise action; investigation (ecological, social, economic, political); manifestation on a local, national or international scale; boycott.

## Example: action on waste of natural resources, including energy



Poster distributed by the French-speaking region of IYF

In the report of the Environmental Task Force, IYNGO's were asked 'on which aspects does your organisation focus?'. Of the 15 topics, 'solid waste' and 'energy' were placed at the bottom of the list. By contrast, IYF places great importance on them, and organised a campaign in 1972. IYF's role was to compile an action handbook and background material which could be used by member organisations, some of which have continued their actions up to 1974.

In Sweden, a national action guide was written and distributed to local clubs. The whole action was prepared in secret and not released to the press. The action was based on an action week (in early spring, before the public became engaged in general summer activities) with action highlighted on the first and last days (Monday and Saturday). The problems connected with the waste of natural resources are many, and it was felt that if people were going to listen to the arguments, they would have to be shocked.

- Local clubs were asked to collect empty, non-returnable items found out-of-doors and to prepare parcels and covering letters. A total of 160,000 empty containers were mailed to the Prime Minister, the Head of the National Environment Protection Board and the manufacturer (a monopoly in Sweden).
- Monday - the parcels and letters were delivered in Stockholm and Malmö. Chaotic situation in post offices. Press release and press conference, where the member organisations explained why they had done it, presented background material and made constructive proposals for change to the present national approach to the use of natural resources. The surprise action achieved its purpose: the press and information media became interested and printed the aims of the action.
- Each parcel contained a letter. In this way the recipients in government were obliged to open the parcels and file the letters. They could not just throw the parcels away having realised what the purpose was. Government officials instructed the post offices in Stockholm to open the boxes. This was against the law: the senders had paid a fee to have the parcels delivered; the task of the postal service is to ensure that the posted material reaches its destination. As this was not done, a formal complaint was made against the government. Post office employees wrote a letter to the biggest newspaper in Sweden giving full support to the action and condemning the government for using them as a 'bat' against the protesters.
- Wednesday - politicians realised that public opinion was moving in favour of the suggestions made by the organisers of the environmental action. Some of them presented motions to Parliament. Shops and manufacturers started to advertise returnable containers. Local groups carried out small-scale demonstrations. Five people walking along the street, joined together by string filled with non-returnable items and placards. In shops, members refused to take away unnecessary packaging, which was peeled off and left in the shop. Milk cans were brought to shops, and milk was poured into them from cardboard containers. Other shoppers were informed of the reasons for doing this. (A thought comes to mind: why are tubes of toothpaste put into a cardboard box - and later into a plastic bag??!!)
- Towards the end of the week - public interest in the action had declined. Most newspapers felt that they had written enough about it. It was time for a new 'shock' action: on the Friday night, 5,000 young people walked along the main roads of Sweden (a total of 800 kilometres), picked up litter from the ditches and placed it at the roadside. In the morning, when people were going on their weekend trips they found themselves driving through an



alley of litter. New headlines! And an opportunity to ask: why do we throw away all the valuable natural resources it takes so much energy to produce?

- Saturday - big demonstrations across Sweden. During the week many sectors of society had been touched by this action, and representatives and members from all political parties and other organisations joined in the demonstrations.

The idea behind this form of action was to point up one symptom of a bigger problem. The use of non-returnable cans and bottles is a symptom of a society where the use - or rather waste - of natural resources has no limit. Once people understood what the action was all about, details of the waste of natural resources could then be presented. The results of the action in Sweden were:

1. Several motions were made to Parliament on the waste of natural resources.
2. New policies were adopted by many shop chains.
3. A new look at the whole 'resources' question by politicians and the public, including the connection to aid to developing countries and an equal distribution of natural resources.
4. A connection was made between energy production and the manufacture of unnecessary goods - and accepted by the public. This led to strengthening of the opposition to further exploitation of Swedish rivers for hydro power and against the planned nuclear-power programme.
5. Loss of financial profit for the manufacturer, now obliged by the laws of supply and demand to produce more returnable items and less packaging.
6. The establishment of new community action groups as people realised that this sort of action could be successful.

This was just one example of a successful action carried out within the framework of the IYF. It shows that many questions can be combined in one action campaign and that an action totally planned and executed by young people - between the ages of 10 and 25 - can have a significant impact.

### **Other action themes**

Actions have been undertaken or are planned by the IYF on the following:

- Opinion poll on green areas and recreational facilities close to urban areas.
- Water pollution from phosphates used in detergents and washing powders.
- Surveys of birds on the coast polluted by oil spills.
- Red Area book - ecological and social investigations of natural areas which should be protected as National Parks.
- Protection of amphibians and reptiles (eg toads) which are vulnerable to death by road traffic in their breeding migrations.
- Endangered animals and plants: bird netting; hunting; project Tiger; whaling; proposals for national legislation; dangers of the 'green' revolution to native flora.
- Bike 'n Rail - promotion of alternatives to the high-energy car and road-transport society.
- Wetlands - protection from drainage and pollution.
- Information and education - development of environmental material for schools and other sectors of society, emphasising eg the links between natural resources and the consumer society.

### **Conclusion**

This report has been written to give you an impression of the fields in which IYF is working. It does not claim to be complete - the actions described are just a selection. I hope it will be possible in the future to present more details of IYF and its programme.

The environmental problems of the world are getting bigger and growing worse all the time. Now is the time for action. We will obtain better results if we co-operate on specific actions. IYF welcomes constructive co-operation with other international and regional non-governmental youth organisations. We look forward to hearing comments on this report or environmental actions in general.

Keep your boots muddy!

# Eastern Africa Youth Course in Environmental Conservation 4-16 March 1974, Nairobi, Kenya

Pieter Ketner

Bennekom, NL, 2010

## Background

The idea to stage an African youth course in environmental conservation was discussed during the International Youth Conference on the Human Environment, Hamilton (Canada) in 1971, by representatives of UNESCO, IUCN and IYF, together with African participants. A project outline was drawn up by IUCN in 1971 and modified according to the needs of the day. The proposal was followed up by Pieter Ketner, a staff member of the UNESCO Regional Office of Science and Technology in Nairobi, and facilities were assured in co-operation with relevant Kenyan organisations. The first course of this kind had a regional character, with participation of environmentally-conscious youth leaders and potential youth leaders from eighteen English-speaking East African countries.

## Objectives

The purpose of the course was to promote an understanding of and active involvement in environmental conservation, through illustrating and discussing the principles of ecology and urgent problems of the environment. It was intended to demonstrate ways and means by which such problems could be handled by young African people.

## Organisation

The course was organised by a committee consisting of people who were professionally involved in environmental education, from the Boys Scouts Association, YWCA, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, Kenya Institute of Education, National Museum of Kenya, National Environmental Secretariat in the Ministry of Natural Resources and the UNESCO Regional Office of Science and Technology for Africa. The basic programme of the course was developed by a small nucleus of the organising committee, in consultation with the whole committee, IYF and UNESCO Youth Division, Paris.

The course lasted 12 days including two days' excursion at the weekend. The theme of the first five days was *What are our environmental problems?* The theme for the second half of the course was *In search of solutions*, based on the understanding of the problems developed in the first five days. Presentations as well as written national reports by the participants were the basis for further discussions during the course. The leader of the course was Mr. Nathaniel Arap Chumo, National Organiser of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. In the second week, leadership was taken over by Mr. J. Maikweki, Assistant Education Officer of the National Museum in Nairobi. The leaders were assisted each day by one of the members of the organising committee. A small team of volunteers recorded nearly all the sessions by means of tapes, photos and slides.

## Participants

A youth leader or student, was invited to represent each of the following countries: Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The Councils of Social Welfare in the respective countries were asked to select the delegates. Where this route did not produce nominations, personal contacts were approached to find someone suitable. Participants attended from the following countries: Botswana (1), Ethiopia (1), Mauritius (2) Sudan (2), Tanzania (3), Uganda (2), and Zambia (3). Kenya, as host country, was invited to send delegates from a number of organisations - the following sent representatives: Young Farmers Association; International Student Movement for the University of Nairobi (ISMUN); Forest Department; Animal Health and Industry Training Institute (AHITI); Boy Scouts Association; Girl Guides Association; YWCA; and Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. Hein van Bohemen from the Netherlands participated as a representative of the IYF.



*Course participants at the Co-operative College, Nairobi, where the course was held photo: P Ketner*

Upon arrival, each participant was provided with an Information Kit with items related to conservation and documentation from UNESCO and its environmental programme, Kenyan National Parks, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, East African Wildlife Society, Family Planning, and educational material from National Museums of Kenya. The representatives from each country were asked to present a paper on the environmental conditions in their country. These reports provided a wealth of information to be shared amongst the participants.

## **Programme**

The main talks were on the following topics:

- The importance of youth in environmental conservation, by L. Mhlanga, Fellow of the Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs in Chicago;
- People and the environment, by P. M. Mbithi, Department of Sociology, University of Nairobi;
- Human and cultural development through three stages, by F. Pawelzik, psychologist;
- Socio-economic problems of development in developing countries, by Dr. E. Muga, Department of Sociology, University of Nairobi;
- Conservation of African ecosystems, by H.T. Matiru, Ministry of Natural Resources, Kenya;
- Environment and Development, by J.J. Kisa, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Kenya;
- The population problem in relation to environmental conservation, by C.K. Gbeho, Regional Secretary, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Nairobi;
- Cultural Conservation, by D.W. Phillipson, British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi;
- The International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) by Hein van Bohemen;
- A film about the NJN (Netherlands Youth Organisation for Nature Study), presented by Hein van Bohemen;
- Identifying and using resource personnel, by R. T. Stanek, Information Officer, National Environmental Secretariat, Nairobi;
- Maintaining Environmental Interest, by Sandra Price, Programme Officer, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and D. Dougherty, Education Planning Officer, Kenya National Parks; and
- Conservation of Human Resources, by K.O.A. Nyaga, Boy Scouts Association, Kenya.

The participants were divided into three groups to study the following topics: conservation of renewable resources, conservation of human resources, and socio-economic problems. The groups visited some study sites: Machakos District, Mathare Valley, Friends Centre Ofafa. During the

weekend, the participants had the choice to go on a field trip to Aberdare and Mount Kenya National Parks, as well as Lake Nakuru National Park and Amboseli.

The course had good press coverage. During the course, two people made pictures of the sessions and other activities. A large number of these photographs were included in the final report.

### **Sponsors**

The sponsors of the course were UNESCO, the World Wildlife Fund, the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation and the IYF. With additional financial support of AWLF and WWF, a full report of the course was produced by P. Ketner and R. Stanek and widely distributed.

### **Conclusion**

Although it was intended to hold the course on a regular basis, not necessarily in Kenya, and involving participants from other African countries, this never materialised. For some years I remained in contact with participants of the course. Two of them visited the Netherlands - one from Kenya, Nathaniel Arap Chumo, and one from Mauritius, Kishore Ramgoolam. In 2003, I visited Uganda and was able to contact John Ken-Lukyamuji in Kampala. After a career in journalism, he had become a Member of Parliament and a fervent fighter for the environment.

Ketner, P. & Stanek R.T. (Eds.), 1974. *Eastern Africa Youth Course in Environmental Conservation*. WWF/UNESCO/AWLF. 122 pp.

## Workshop in Environmental Education for Asian Youth: Delhi and Bhimtal, India from 12 to 22 May, 1975

[from the archives]

Desh Bandhu

The organisers of the workshop were the IYF and the Indian Environmental Society (IES). The workshop was one of the series IYF plans to hold in developing countries to educate youth leaders about environmental problems. It is important that young people should understand the fundamentals of environmental conservation and how it can be integrated in the overall process of development. The workshop provided them the opportunity to exchange experience and learn from the experience from others as well as planning their own programmes and actions.

In his inaugural address in Delhi, Mr A D Moddie encouraged young people to work with the less-privileged section of the society, particularly with the rural populations in mountain areas. The second part of the workshop was held in the Kumaon hills and was successful in fulfilling the aim of developing a cordial working relationship with the people living in the region. Although we had some problems during the workshop due to lack of facilities, transport difficulties, the extreme heat and dietary challenges, the event was extremely successful in motivating the participants towards environmental conservation action.

**Participants** : young ecologists and youth leaders between the ages of 19 and 29 from Hong Kong (1), Indonesia (1), Sri Lanka (1), United Kingdom (1) and India (19). Participants arrived in Delhi on 11 May, some of them after several days' train journey. Accommodation was provided in the Guest House of the University. Each participant had prepared a report on the environmental problems of his country or region. These were included in participants' 'conference files' with background papers on environmental problems, on the *Man and Biosphere Programme*, and on the UN Habitats Conference, as well as publications of IYF and IES.



*A few of the participants at Delhi zoo : left to right - David Withrington (UK), Mano Amarasingham (Sri Lanka), Vidya Malhotra, Kamlesh Lula, R V Saraf (all India), Luke Wong (Hong Kong), Soetarto Soewardi (Indonesia)*

*photo: Desh Bandhu*

**Sponsors:** financial assistance was received from the following bodies in India : University Grants Commission, Department of Science and Technology and four commercial organisations.

**Programme:** on 12 May, the Workshop was officially opened at the Indian National Science Academy by Mr. A.D. Moddie (Chairman, Himalayan Club) and Dr. B.B. Vohra (Ministry, of Food and Agriculture). The programme and aims of the Workshop were outlined by the staff members,

Dr. Desh Bandhu (IES) and David Withrington (IYF). The *Asian Bulletin* of IYF was released: this is a new publication designed to serve as a means of communication and information for environmental youth organisations in Asian countries. The afternoon session consisted of an interesting talk by Dr. A.K. Khosla of the National Committee for Environmental Planning and Co-ordination, who explained the work of the Indian Government in the field of land-use planning and pollution control. He called on young people to support this work by putting pressure on polluting industries and working on local environmental problems. In the evening, slides were shown on the Eastern Africa Youth Course in Environmental Conservation and other IYF activities, and a discussion was initiated on the nature and causes of environmental problems.

On 13 May, discussions continued at the University Guest House. David Withrington outlined the UNESCO Environmental Education Programme and asked for input to the section on environmental youth programmes for which he was responsible. An illustrated lecture on ecological principles was given by Dr. J.S. Singh, who explained the science of relationships between living things and their environment which forms the basis of our understanding of environmental problems and our search for solutions. In the afternoon delegates were able to visit Delhi and the Zoological Park. In the evening participants began to discuss their national and regional reports.

On 14 May, the participants were invited to the Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) to discuss with Dr. R.D. Deshpande and the staff of the NCEPC the aims of the Workshop and the problems facing the development of environmental youth programmes in India. Dr. Deshpande offered his department's assistance in printing the proceedings of the Workshop and congratulated the organisers on their initiative and on the results which were already evident in the commitment of the participants. He felt that his department could support a second national workshop in environmental education for youth in a few months to consolidate and expand on the first.

The rest of the day was taken up by an excursion to Sohna to see the village and its sulphur springs. Problems of water supply and sanitation were examined, as well as atmospheric dust from stone crushers, use of topsoil for brick workings and the siting of factories in the industrial belt near Delhi, the benefits of whose products were also questioned. Participants visited a shanty town near Delhi power station, where the ground is covered by ash, and the water extraction point in the river Jamna close to 'nallahs' with untreated sewage. The excursion was accompanied by Dr. Nigam from the NCEPC.

On 15 May, most of the day was devoted to the discussion of participants' reports and the nature and causes of environmental problems. There was general agreement on the need to restrict the size of human populations, to improve standards of hygiene including control of pollution, to practice sound agricultural methods and forest conservation to prevent soil erosion, and to establish a more equitable society. Some participants appeared to accept any industrialisation as beneficial, without questioning the social need for the product, the effect of pollution, the effect on unemployment of capital-intensive industries, or the motive of the industrialist. In the evening, there was a small reception for the Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi and his wife and a discussion on the involvement of students in environmental action for the community.

On 16 May, after further discussion of participants' reports, the Workshop travelled to Nainital in the Himalayas. Participants were able to observe various features of the Uttar Pradesh environment on the journey. During our travel to Nainital, we were grateful to escape unscathed when our bus crashed on a twisting mountain road.

From 17 to 22 May, participants stayed at the tourist home in Bhimtal, further down the lake system from Nainital. During these days, the Workshop studied the problems of this mountain and lake district in the foothills of the Himalayas. Field excursions were led by Dr. Desh Bandhu and by Fredrick Smetacek Jr, a student who is resident in Bhimtal. He presented a background paper on the ecological problems of the area. Deforestation, through cutting trees for fuel, and grazing of livestock has resulted in the disappearance of natural vegetation and the onset of erosion - rainfall had decreased by 25%, and natural springs had dried up. Many species of wildlife had left the area.

The local people had too little water for their crops, no grazing for their cattle and goats, no forestry and poorer fishing, following the eutrophication of the lakes by sewage and falling water levels. This has also affected the availability of water in the north India plains. A poisonous plant *Lantana camaris* had invaded up to 6,000 feet, and was very difficult to clear. Frederick Smetacek showed

that it was possible to maintain areas of natural 'banj' forest with its dominant species *Quercus in-cana*.

Participants discussed these problems with local inhabitants, authorities, school-teachers, the newspapers, and the Vice-Chancellor of the Kumaon University - the latter with a view to mobilising local students to work on these problems. Following our Workshop, the Indian Minister of Energy convened a meeting in Nainital, including Dr. Bandhu (IES), to draw up an action plan for the area. The Indian participants of the Workshop plan to return to Bhimtal in 1976 to carry out detailed ecological research, especially on the aquatic problems.



*Working group discussions at Bhimtal  
photo: David Withrington*

The topics of discussion at Bhimtal also included the practical follow-up to the Workshop in terms of establishing national and regional environmental action groups. The methods of mobilising young people and conducting action programmes were explained. Participants were invited to evaluate and criticise the Workshop before their departure back to Delhi on 22 May.



*The course organiser, Desh Bandhu  
(centre), with Indian participants in  
Delhi: Vidya Malhotra, R V Saraf,  
Shashi Kiran, Desh Bandhu, Kamlesh  
Lula, Pradeep Sankhala  
photo: David Withrington*

## Personal memories

### David Withrington

Peterborough, UK, 2010

#### A year as IYF President 1971-72

Officers of the Federation are elected by delegates of member organisations at an annual General Assembly. In August 1971, the GA took place in Filzmoos, in the Austrian mountains, marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of IYF in nearby Salzburg.



*IYF General Assembly, Filzmoos, Austria*

*above: Josef Spritzendorfer*

*left: dressing up 'Austrian style' - Ulla Liefeldt  
and Charles Bechet*

*photos: David Withrington*

The celebrations included dressing up in traditional Austrian costumes. I remember vividly Ulla - a beautiful Swedish girl - in a 'dirndl' and Charles - an archetypal Luxembourgish - in 'lederhosen'. They made an impressive couple, framed by the alpine scenery. Our host, Josef Spritzendorfer from the ÖNJ, serenaded us on an accordion and made frequent references to the mountain view: "noch eine schöner blick auf der Bischofsmütze". Josef was to become Secretary General of the Federation, a post I had held for the previous two years. I had the honour of being voted in as President, at the start of what was to be a busy and eventful year for IYF and for world conservation. As IYF President, I participated in the following events:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| August 1971   | - International Youth Conference, Hamilton, Canada   |
| November 1971 | - IYNGO environment meeting, Geneva, Switzerland   |
| December 1971 | - European Working Conference on Environmental Education,<br>Rüschlikon, Switzerland (as Rapporteur) |
|               | - IYF Executive Board meeting, Amsterdam, NL   |
| April 1972    | - IYF Executive Board meeting, UK  |
| June 1972     | - UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, Sweden  |
| August 1972   | - IYF General Assembly, Herrljunga, Sweden   |
|               | - First intercamp in Poland, Mielno;<br>and meeting with Polish Environment Minister, Warszawa       |

My day-to-day duties in my presidential year included writing and mailing 514 official IYF letters. All this with no remuneration - though I was re-imbursed postage expenses and the cost of train and boat tickets. For me it was a true labour of love - an honour to do this work on a voluntary basis. However, I am tempted to quote the lyrics from the long-running stage musical *Les Misérables*, which I had the pleasure of seeing in 2010 in the company of my predecessor as IYF President, Fred van der Vegte: "My friends, my friends, don't ask me...what our sacrifice was for".



## Hein van Bohemen

Schipluiden, Netherlands, 20 September 2009

My first experience of IYF was in 1966, when I attended the 10th International Study Course on conservation of nature and natural resources, in the Lüneburger Heide in Germany. Also attending was my friend from the Royal Dutch Society for Natural History (KNNV), Theophile Vethaak, who later became IYF Information Officer and editor of the International Youth Bulletin on the Environment *Taraxacum*. Sadly, he died at too early an age.

The course in 1966 brought together young people (teachers and science students) to discuss and study nature conservation and land-use problems. The programme was divided into three main topics:

1. Why nature conservation?
2. How can nature be protected?
3. How can we personally take part in the work of conservation?

Every participant gave a presentation about his or her country, which provided information about the conservation problems and made us want to find out more about the countries represented. It gave us later a network for exchange of information and international co-operation. All participants were asked to write, during the course, a personal nature-conservation action plan to show his or her future commitment. Especially stimulating was the active participation in studies of the Heide, in workshops and excursions - these made everybody feel 'part of the event'. Its international character gave me an international spirit.

### What I gave to IYF

For some years I gave of my time as a liaison between a Dutch member organisation - KNNV- and IYF. I was an active member of the Federation's Executive Board - as Development Officer from 1970 to 1976 and a regional editor of the *Taraxacum* magazine. I represented IYF at meetings and conferences in order to show the importance of nature - later 'environmental' - studies and conservation education. During my active IYF period, I attended the following events:

- 1969 International Youth Seminar on Conservation near Voronezh, Russia
- 1969 3<sup>rd</sup> Czechoslovakian Intercamp and 2<sup>nd</sup> International conference on Youth and National Parks in Tatra Mountains
- 1970 IYF General Assembly, Terschelling, Netherlands
- 1971 International Youth Conference on the Human Environment, Hamilton, Canada
- 1971 IYF General Assembly, Filzmoos, Austria
- 1971 European Working Conference on Environmental Conservation Education, Rüsclikon, near Zürich, Switzerland
- 1972 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on National Parks, Yellowstone National Park, USA
- 1972 The first UN conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1972 IYF General Assembly, Herrljunga, Sweden
- 1973 IYF General Assembly, Brittany, France
- 1974 East Africa Youth Course in Environmental Conservation, Nairobi, Kenya
- 1975 IYF General Assembly, Dombås, Norway

### What IYF gave to me

While still a student, I gained great experience by meeting people involved in conservation from all over the world, as well as practical knowledge of how to get the message of conservation and youth involvement out to different audiences. Lifelong contacts were established with a lot of people, including the exchange of thoughts, ideas and publications. Learning how to work together in the Executive Board of an independent youth organisation, especially the way you are stimulated by other members to succeed, was also very useful.



*Hein in Norway, 1975  
photo: David Withrington*

It was not always easy to find ways to incorporate in the conclusions of international conferences a recommendation especially devoted to youth and conservation. I remember with satisfaction the resolution adopted - against the advice of some high ranking officials - at the Second World Conference on National Parks, meeting at Grand Teton National Park, USA, in September 1972. I believe its message is still relevant today:

“Recognising the need for environmental education among young people and the special approach involved; and recognising the important role national parks and other protected areas play in environmental education by promoting understanding of, and active involvement in, environmental conservation; the Conference **recommends** to all national park authorities that:

1. environmental education programmes should be organised, including short-term conservation courses and international, regional and national study and work camps;
2. assistance be given to help young people interested in environmental studies and conservation to organise themselves to contribute better to this field;
3. facilities in national parks be made available for youth groups to carry out environmental studies and conservation programmes; and
4. attention be given to special exchange programmes to stimulate international co-operation and understanding about national parks among the young people of various countries.”

### Overall achievements

It is amazing that so much could be achieved with so little money. It should be said that one of the frustrating things was that a lot of applications for funding were sent out: there were nice meetings with officers, and we were occasionally honoured by a small grant from UNESCO, WWF and IUCN, got an offset machine from UNESCO or a travel grant from the Dutch Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Works. Sometimes a private person donated money so that we could invite people from East African countries to attend a seminar in Kenya and people could come from all parts of the world to attend the International Youth Conference on the Environment in Hamilton. But, on a regular basis, there was little interest at that time in encouraging young people to become active in the field of environmental studies and conservation. But here, appreciation should be given to the stimulating work of the Education Commission of IUCN, under the leadership of Dr. Jan Čeřovský. It was also gratifying to see that a *Handbook of Environmental Education*<sup>1</sup>, including a case study of IYF by David Withrington, was published in 1976.

### Conclusions

It is interesting to see that a lot of people who took part in IYF activities have remained active in the field of nature conservation, landscape planning, environmental management and environmental education - either as professionals or on a voluntary basis.

The IYF, together with my work as editor of the publication of the KNNV (Royal Dutch Nature Study Organisation), influenced my life and career in the direction of nature conservation. In The Netherlands, I have had various jobs in the Ministry of Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries as well as in the Ministry of Transportation and Water Management. The experiences of IYF were useful to me when I started operating as one of the founder members of the International Ecological Engineering Society (IEES). I am now in pre-pension but active for two days a week as lecturer at the University of Technology, Delft, in ecological engineering - to study and promote the integration of ecology and civil engineering for the benefit of both. One remark I have to make: although in some circumstances subsidies were given to IYF to run activities, overall it had to be done on a very low budget, and I am grateful to my parents who gave me the time and financial possibilities to do the work on a voluntary basis for IYF.

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<sup>1</sup> Saveland, R.N. ed. (for IUCN). 1976. *Handbook of Environmental Education*. John Wiley & Sons, London, New York, Sydney & Toronto.

## Lutz Katzschner

Kassel, Germany, December 2010

Traditionally, in our German member organisation Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung (DJN), there had been a close link to IYF since its foundation. Like all other member organisations at that time, we were strongly involved in nature observations, but with the feeling that we should do more in conservation strategies. Moreover, this was combined with the experience of self-governing youth organisations. In 1972 I was elected within our Executive Board of DJN as foreign secretary. Our main aim then was to let the other member organisations know what we were doing, in the hope that more international action could be developed. So I travelled to the IYF General Assembly in 1972 in Herrljunga, Sweden. Immediately, it could be seen that international exchange was worthwhile and that international camps and courses were very successful. Of course, I could see this from our DJN international camps, which had lots of international participation, mainly from The Netherlands and Scandinavia.



During my first IYF General Assembly, I was struck by the intensive democratic discussions but also by the need for more exchange at a regional level. So for me it was essential to take care and organise contacts within the German-speaking region and try to improve contacts through camps and courses. Camps and courses always had a strong relation between environmental education at all levels and the need for international actions. Also, it was quite clear that international work needs to be promoted by nominated individuals or a national member organisation. We used the international background to develop potential, which helped to strengthen any activity we did, even on a national level.

In this sense it was logical for me to intensify my international activities inside IYF without losing any contact to DJN on a national level. Further on I took care of international IYF projects as Projects Officer elected at the general assembly in 1973 in Brasparts, France, and later on I was president of IYF between 1975 and 1977 (General Assemblies in Norway and Austria).

It was important in that period to organise training courses. Here, many younger active members got interested in environmental education, nature research and international action. Through international camps and courses, it was always possible to keep close contact between IYF and its member organisations. As Projects Officer, I organised a number of international training courses, continuing the process of the old Lüneburger Heide Course, eg in 1974 again at Wilsede in the Lüneburger Heide, Germany; in 1975 at Teufelsmoor, Germany; and in 1976 at Lilleström, Norway.

A great experience for me during that period was an international workshop on environmental education in Nairobi, Kenya in 1975, which we organised together with UNEP. Here it turned out that our ideas and knowledge on the specific field of nature conservation could be used perfectly. Finally, it proved during my activities in IYF that doing things in a democratic way, independent of any adult organisation, was perfect for stimulating new ideas and action. Even if items and issues have changed, the way of operating remains the same in the present Youth Environment Europe and its member organisations: so this seems sustainable.



*Lutz Katzschner (centre) with Henry Makowski (left) and David Withrington (right) at the Lüneburger Heide in 2009.  
photo: Wim van Muiswinkel*

## Gerhard F. Walter

2010

### How IYF influenced the environmental movement in Austria - a personal reflection

In 1959, when I was 11 years old, motivated by my very committed teacher of biology, I became member of the Österreichische Naturschutzjugend (ÖNJ), which was - and still is - the youth organisation of the Österreichischer Naturschutzbund (ÖNB) and the Austrian member organisation and one of the founding organisations of IYF.

The ÖNB was founded in 1913 as an organisation of bird watchers and teachers, very much led by a somewhat romantic idea of the conservation of nature *per se* and of enjoying its inherent beauty. Observation of nature and identification of species were very much in the foreground of all activities. There was still quite a dominant faction of hunters, mainly interested in preserving their hunting grounds. The ÖNJ which was founded in 1952, had in its beginnings a simple conservationist aim, too, although its young founder, Eberhard Stüber, had already campaigned successfully against the use of the Krimmler waterfalls for an energy plant. Also today the conservationist aspect, thus, young people becoming acquainted with the abundance of nature and learn to love it, is of high importance. In the late 1960s, the situation changed - slowly at first, but later dramatically - because conservationists had several decisive experiences.

*Gerhard Walter (far right) with Lutz and Monika Katzschner and Ilse Präsent, a local naturalist, on the Zirbitzkogel, Austria, 1976.*

*photo: David Withrington*



The beautiful inner Malta valley in the centre of the Carinthian Alps was one of the valleys especially rich in alpine flora and characterised by 30 waterfalls and several mountain torrents due to many glaciers in the surrounding area. There, since the late 1950s, the construction of the largest dam in Austria was planned. Although, from 1965 on, conservationists from ÖNB protested loudly - but in a very formal, not to say too polite manner - to the regional and the federal governments, the construction of the dam was started in 1971 and finished seven years later. The Malta valley was lost. ÖNB and ÖNJ regarded it as a major defeat, and several leading members of ÖNJ decided that similar failures should not happen again.

In 1970 a bridge, which would have been the second longest bridge in Europe, was planned across the Southern part of the large lake Neusiedel (Neusiedler See) near the Hungarian border. The Neusiedler See represents not only an ecologically most interesting and worthwhile steppe landscape, but is also a place of European importance for resting and nesting of birds. The purpose was to provide people living at the Eastern lakeside with a fast connection to the regional capital Eisenstadt on the western lakeside, because due to the then still existing Iron Curtain, it was virtually impossible to take the short route over Hungary. But, this bridge would have crossed through the most worthwhile nesting places of birds. Actions - seen from today's viewpoint as being rather naïve and still very much in their infancy - such as preparing protest leaflets and collecting 200,000 signatures not only in the region were organised by ÖNJ. And, it was possible to gain the support from Bernhard Grzimek, then director of the Frankfurt Zoo and well known in all German-speaking countries because of his success in 1959 with the Oscar-awarded film "Serengeti darf nicht sterben"

(Serengeti must not die) about his conservation efforts in Africa, as well as from Konrad Lorenz, who was a highly-respected scientist in Austria. Shortly afterwards, in 1973, Konrad Lorenz was awarded the Nobel prize for his ethological and behavioural studies. So, the media - and with them a broader public - became alerted, and finally the plans for a bridge were abandoned. The lake area is until now untouched and preserved as a jewel of nature.

But the next challenge and experience followed soon. It was in 1971, the year of preparation for the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm and, by the way the year when I first took part in an IYF General Assembly, which was held in Filzmoos in the Austrian Alps. Quite a number of members of ÖNJ became aware of the concepts of environmental protection; before that time, the word "Umwelt" for 'environment' did not even exist in the German vocabulary. We learnt from IYF, or better from more advanced young people within IYF - I would especially like to mention Hein van Bohemen and Fred van der Vegte from the Netherlands, and David Withrington from the United Kingdom - that the conservationist point of view had to be widened by an environmental approach. Books such as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, *The Limits to Growth* by Dennis Meadows and co-authors commissioned by the Club of Rome, and Barbara Ward's and René Dubos' concept of *Only One Earth: The Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet*, written for the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, became required reading.

However, in March 1971, the Austrian government decided to construct a nuclear power-station in Zwentendorf by the Danube near Vienna, as the first of three planned nuclear power plants. A well-organised storm of protest arose, but the government persisted in its decision. During the six years of construction, the protests never stopped. The power-station was ready in 1978, but because of the unending protests the government proposed a plebiscite, which led to a paper-thin 50.47% majority against the commissioning of the nuclear plant. It was a great success, taking into account that costs equivalent to 1 billion Euros had been blown, and that it was the time before Chernobyl when many people were still enthusiastic about nuclear power. The plant was never commissioned and, in the end, the Austrian parliament passed an Act for an 'atomic-free' Austria.

Due to the commitment of many members of ÖNJ who had grown older within ÖNB, it was possible to elect the ÖNJ founder and IYF co-founder - Eberhard Stüber - as president of ÖNB and, thereby, to convert ÖNB into a powerful environmental organisation.

Five years later in 1983, a project *Rettet die Au* ('save the wetland'), co-ordinated by WWF Austria, resulted a year later in the first peaceful occupation by several hundred people of an area in the Hainburger Au by the Danube. This area had been chosen for the construction of a large water-power station. In subsequent heavy clashes with the police, finally more than 3,000 people took part in the occupation, including a number of prominent citizens, so that the government finally decided to stop the clearance of the wood, which was underway. Today, the Hainburger Au belongs to the National Park Donau-Auen, and it is fully protected.

Zwentendorf and the Hainburger Au were the cradle of the political Green movement in Austria. But, even more importantly, in Austrian civil society the consciousness about threats to nature and the environment - and our responsibility - has grown. IYF contributed to these developments.

IYF played, in a very personal way, the most important and decisive role in my entire life. On 4 August 1974, the first day of the IYF General Assembly in Bokrijk, Belgium, I met Anne Bogaerts. Anne was then Secretary of our Belgian member organisation, *Natuur 2000*. I had been Secretary General of IYF since 1972 and represented at the same time our Austrian member organisation *Österreichische Naturschutzjugend*. I fell deeply in love with Anne, and in 1978 we married. Thus, our three children - Koen born 1980 in Belgium, Wim born 1982 in Austria and Hilke born 1985 in Germany - are, as it were, international offspring of IYF. Anne and I were happy to take part in the planning meeting for this book in September 2009 in the Lüneburger Heide.

Bo Landin  
2011

## From field biology and conservation to global awareness and environmental struggles

When I write this, it is 28 November 2011. Tonight, I have been in an online discussion with a young Egyptian activist, Sarrah Abdelrahman, to whom I was privileged to present the Edberg Award in Karlstad, Sweden, a month ago. The citation read: *"Sarrah Abdelrahman is recognised for her courageous use of social media, giving young people a voice in support of democratic causes that are universal to all people - regardless of age, gender and cultural affiliation, goals that are prerequisites for social justice, human rights and that create a platform to solve environmental problems."* When I reached Sarrah tonight, she had just buried one of her friends, she has seen others being injured and she is occupying the sidewalk outside the parliament building in Cairo, on the eve of the first 'democratic' election in her lifetime. The tear gas clouds shroud her, causing severe pain. She is 22.

Sarrah and the events in Egypt bring to mind the far less violent revolution that shaped my life as a teenager - and in my adult years. I was 19 years old when I arrived in Hamilton, Canada, for the first international youth conference on the human environment in 1971. I represented the Swedish IYF member organisation Fältbiologerna (SFU). In the years leading up to the Hamilton Conference, we staged the first ever environmental demonstrations in Sweden. We wanted to protect the last untouched rivers from hydro electrical schemes, and we argued against phosphorus in detergents causing severe eutrophication of our lakes. In a sense we were fundamentalist ecologists, believing that the only laws to consider were ecological. We were proud of our knowledge about nature and ecology. Our battles were defined by our belief in 'conservation': to keep nature as is. Slowly, we started to realise that there was a political dimension to our conservation issues. But most of us had not yet connected all the dots between our opposition to the Vietnam War, our conviction that imperialism caused suffering for people worldwide and our firm belief that ecological principles guided our survival. And, in retrospect, I feel we were like modern-day 'Luddites', defining 'industry' as our evil opponent.



*Bo Landin (fourth from right) on an environmental protest march with members of the Swedish Youth Association for Field Biology 'Fältbiologerna'*

The Hamilton Conference changed all that. Suddenly, seemingly well-off and well-educated westerners sat eye-to-eye with young people from developing countries. Our ideas about environmental conservation clashed with the realities of survival, malnutrition, lack of resources and of living under nuclear-test clouds. For me personally, the meeting was a true 'revolution' (or maybe a true revelation). I shared my dorm room with Neville Curtis, a white representative of the National Union of South African Students. One day when we returned to the room we realised that someone

had searched it. The same happened to the other representatives from South Africa. At a conference where accusations of CIA infiltration were rampant (and falsely aimed at the IYF leadership, as reported by Fred van der Vegte in this publication), we had no reason to question the fact that the South African secret police had raided the premises.

The black South African representative, Mojaleta Ralektho, gave a presentation and slide show that changed my perception of the state of the world for ever. He showed the rows of small graves constantly being dug in Soweto for daily burials of children dying from malnutrition. He was the one who taught me the word 'kwashiorkor' for the special childhood malnutrition caused by severe lack of protein in the diet. Suddenly apartheid was an environmental problem that asked for my attention, and I felt, in spite of my ecological knowledge and conviction, that I stood naked in front of other people's realities. Mojaleta quickly asked for political asylum in Canada. The other South Africans were detained upon their return to South Africa. Neville Curtis was later arrested, injured and banned by South Africa's apartheid regime. In the year that followed, I helped organise a tour in Europe for the new president of the Student Union. He travelled under the protection of the German and Swedish governments, but when we sat in the basement of my parents' house in Sweden, planning activities to raise money for the struggle in South Africa, we felt like someone was watching us from the outside. Paul Pretorius was arrested upon his return to South Africa, and he too was banned for ten years.

My world and my view of environmental issues had forever changed. I brought back from the USA handbooks on environmental activism (based on the so called environmental teach-ins and the first Earth Day celebrations), and Fältbiologerna soon turned into the first modern environmental organisation in Sweden. The 1972 demonstration (see page 70) against 'waste of natural resources' set a benchmark for ecological activism. Two months later, I was the youngest accredited journalist at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. I saw the representatives from the Hamilton Conference present their statement to world leaders. I saw Indira Gandhi talk about poverty and global inequality as environmental problems, and I heard Swedish Prime Minister, Olof Palme, attack the USA for the war in Vietnam - and wars in general - only to hear the US respond that war has nothing to do with the environment and should not be discussed at the meeting. I was appalled, and could see how the disparities at the youth conference a year earlier were mirrored in the rooms where world leaders were supposed to understand that there was "only one Earth".

It was in these tumultuous times that I came to IYF at the General Assembly in Herrljunga, Sweden, immediately after the UN conference. At the old farm house, where Fältbiologerna had its regional headquarters, the political discussions were intense and, in the years to come, the members would agree on a short but encompassing policy statement that put environmental issues in their political context (see page 69). As IYF's new Information Officer, I quickly spent my study loan (and Marianne - now my wife - claims I spent her money too) on printing and mailing the 600 IYF Bulletins around the world.

*IYF GA, Herrljunga, Sweden, 1972 - the newly elected Executive Board members (left to right):*

*Gerhard Walter, George Bechet, Eva Vendsalu and Bo Landin*



The two years (1973-75) that I served as IYF's President gave me a chance to expand the organisation's activities with a clear focus on broader environmental issues. We wanted to make IYF truly global, and we took the initiative to organise the first workshops in Africa and Asia (see pages

72-77). These were first steps, and lack of resources prevented us from follow-up activities that could have grown the organisation in a better way. But, I am sure that, for those involved then, even these small steps became important.

But I will also always remember our summer days on IYF courses in the Lüneburger Heide, where young people from many countries got together to exchange ideas, carry out ecological field studies and plan for future environmental activities. It was a troublesome period in Germany; radical political movements were creating havoc at the time. I remember when Lutz Katzschner from DJN and I were being followed by German secret police (we were sure they were) outside the nuclear power station and aluminum plant alongside the River Elbe. We happily waved into their cameras as we passed their car, hopefully embarrassing them for being spotted. On another occasion, we challenged a British tank commander and his tanks in the Lüneburger Heide, suggesting that the occupation of Germany was over and that the natural environment should be protected. Standing in front of his tank, he lectured us on the need to practice tank manoeuvres on sandy soils, to prepare for the attack which inevitably would come from the east. We shook our heads in disbelief! We planned for a different world.

We picked our fights, wrote letters of concern to world leaders and argued in favour of people and organisations we felt were discriminated against. At a press conference at the IYF General Assembly in Belgium in 1974, I criticised WWF Belgium for being partial against our Flemish member organisations, not awarding them reasonable grants for their work. I was immediately summoned to the WWF headquarters in Switzerland and, in no uncertain terms, was told that WWF withdrew its financial support to IYF (and this was really the only money we had). Fortunately, the Swedish king and Victor Hasselblad (of camera fame) personally donated the same amount of money, via earmarked donations to WWF, to replace what was lost. WWF could hardly say no to money from the Swedish king, who was also the chairman of the Swedish WWF!

I brought all the experiences from my time in IYF into my professional life, as a science and environmental journalist and film maker, reaching millions of viewers on TV stations worldwide. The fact that so early in our lives we managed to identify the cause and effect of environmental degradation and widen the scope to include social and political dimensions is a testament to our dedicated work back then. It certainly changed my life, and it has guided me ever since.

So, should I be bitter we have not come further? Have 40 years of environmental struggles and arguments been in vain? After all, many of us moved from the ranks of amateur environmental activists into professional careers at the tables of those who make policy and govern. Could we not have done more or better? Did power corrupt, did we forget? I don't think so. There is no doubt that we scored some victories along the way, but the goal posts have moved, and they always will. In our time, we faced ignorance and stupidity. It scares me that Sarrah in Egypt - and many like her around the world today - face guns in their struggle for basic human rights.

The fight continues. I refuse to give up, and to this end life has taught me never to stop using the words I have penned to conclude every letter I have written since the early 70's:

*'Keep your boots muddy!'*



## A change is coming - 1977-83



*IYF Executive Board meeting Exmoor, England, 1977: Hans-Jacob Peters (IYF Office), Justin Cooke (UK), Birgith Sloth (Denmark), Sytze Brandenburg (Netherlands), Espen Waehle (Norway), Jan van t'Hoff (with camera -Netherlands), Monika and Lutz Katzschner (Germany), Han de Vries (Netherlands), Chris Reij (Netherlands), Bengt Cete (Sweden), Rainer Kübler (in front - Germany).  
photo: David Withrington*

### 23rd IYF General Assembly, Netherlands (2-13 August 1978)

[Extract from *IYF Monthly Mailing*]

During the two first weeks of August, the annual IYF General Assembly took place. It was held in The Netherlands at the invitation of the two Dutch member organisations: AJCN and NJN. The GA was held in a small village, Lage Vuursche, which is situated in the countryside in a nice forest environment. More than 60 participants from 20 different organisations in four continents were assembled. One of the positive sides of this GA was that the European dominance is diminishing. This was shown both by the participation and by the decisions made about a new structure of IYF. Contacts are increasing in Latin and North America and in Africa, and IYF has got a good foothold in Asia.

#### **Activities and reports:**

According to the reports presented during the first session, the main activities have been to make new initiatives in new regions, places where IYF is not so strong. Two training courses were held in India, and during the next two years 4-5 more are planned. Considerable efforts have also been deployed to establish the new IYF headquarters office at Klostermolle in Denmark.

Of the projects, the Acid Precipitation project and the Waddensea project were carried out most actively. The GA decided that future projects should be introduced one year before we start working on them, in order to give time for preparation work and planning in the member organisations. The GA also recommended more activities in the projects, as these are the main way of engaging the MOs. Three more projects were proposed: Water Management; Traffic and Transport; and Protected Areas and Endangered Species. Ideas and material concerning these issues are welcome - please send them to the Executive Board.

The afternoons and evenings in Lage Vuursche were used for getting in touch with each other, to talk about experiences, to play folk music and take part in dances. Some hungry people went out to the village to eat the famous Dutch pancakes. This doesn't mean that anybody complained about the food, which was vegetarian and very good.

Halfway through the GA, a three-day symposium was arranged about industrial problems. One day was spent on an excursion to the Rijnmond industrial area near Rotterdam, where kilometre after kilometre is occupied by refineries and petrochemical industries. At Rijnmond, the participants got a realistic smell of what life is like in this kind of industrial area. In the evening, local politicians were invited to take part in a discussion at the GA about the problems of the Rijnmond, but it was difficult to get anything concrete from their rather diffuse answers.

Before the start of the second session the old, traditional IYF chairman's hammer disappeared. Despite a lot of detective work, it did not appear again. (Please send it back!)

### **Changes in our structure:**

In order to make IYF more decentralised, the GA adopted a new structure - which means that, when the different regions become strong enough to govern themselves, they shall have a more independent role and decide their own activities.

A proposal was adopted from Natur og Ungdom (Norway) which postponed the decision about a new policy statement until the 1979 GA, to give member organisations more time to prepare. The GA did not adopt any new full member societies, as information from the applicant organisations was incomplete, and the necessary majority could not be obtained. The NJN underwent a mock dismissal, because of a certain 'affair' with the IYF hammer; but both NJN and AJCN received lots of thanks for the way they carried out the technical arrangements of the Assembly.

The world is now divided into seven IYF regions, more or less following the same pattern as the United Nations. To strengthen the international contacts between the member organisations, the GA strongly recommended the establishment of international sections. Emphasis was put on a network idea - that the member organisations should increase their exchange through bilateral co-operation. A few changes also were made in the Executive Board, which now consists of seven members instead of six. The most bureaucratic discussions were left to the third session, such as revision of the Statutes and Rules in accordance with the legal capacity, and revision of the working manuals for the EB and officers.

Writing this article, we got news about the next General Assembly: we are invited to hold the meeting in Luxembourg, in an old castle, which will provide an opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Jeunes et Environnement, next year's host organisation. We hope for good preparation among the MOs and to see a lot of faces again next summer. A way to start your preparations for the 1979 GA is by studying the minutes from the 1978 GA - they can be obtained from the IYF office at Klostermolle.

### **Postscript - Indians and Mauritians visit Sweden:**

Immediately after the GA, some of the participants from India and Mauritius were invited for a two-week tour by our Swedish member organisation, SFU - Fältbiologerna. This covered everything from lectures and discussions about the environmental situation in Sweden to a press conference and joining in with actions undertaken by SFU local groups. Other bodies concerned with the Swedish environment were visited, including SNF, the adult organisation of SFU. This arrangement was a result of the bi-lateral cooperation that SFU has begun with Mauseco in Mauritius and Gorakhpur Environmental Group in India.

## The birth of an environmental youth group in India

[from the archives]

Hari Singh Panwar, 1978

The Udaipur Environmental Group (UEG) is a youth organisation in India committed to spreading information and awareness of environmental issues through the youth to the general public. The germination of the UEG can be traced back to an ecology teacher, Vijai Narain, inspiring some of us - Laxmi Lal, Madhu Sudan, V K Unnithan and Surajmal - to attend, at our own expense, the workshops organised by IYF at Delhi-Nainital (1975 and 1976). Laxmi Lal also participated in the Sri Lanka intercamp. A motive force was thus created.



On 5 June, 1976 some of us organised a meeting in the biology departments of the School of Basic Sciences and Humanities (SBSH), University of Udaipur, in order to celebrate World Environment Day. The success of that day encouraged the organisers to look for other local youths in an effort to promote environmental awareness in the local area. The idea of forming the Udaipur Environmental Group emerged.

This got strengthened, as meanwhile Laxmi Lal Sharma had been elected IYF Asian co-ordinator and Madhu Sudan as IES regional coordinator for Rajasthan and Gujarat. Subsequently, V K Unnithan was assigned work as IES coordinator for south India, and we learned that the next IES-IYF workshop was to be held at Udaipur during December 1976.

All these combined to bring about the formation of the Udaipur Environmental Group as a reality on 1 September 1976, when 15-20 local youths met on the lawns of SBSH campus to discuss the objectives and organisational structure. The objectives visualized were:

- To encourage young people to study environmental issues at the local level and in a broader perspective;
- To work to establish environmental clubs in different educational institutions of the city, district and State;
- To maintain a close link with the Indian Environmental Society and IYF;
- To co-operate with other local, state-level and all-India organisations - governmental as well as non-governmental - concerned with environmental studies and action programmes;
- To arrange and participate in symposia, seminars and workshops - and to have field trips;
- To publish appeals, newsletters or bulletins whenever necessary and possible; and
- To develop and strengthen the academic wing of the Group for collecting, evaluating and disseminating requisite information - and for promoting environmental education for the larger section of youth through various means.

Any organisation derives its functional role and self-confidence to a certain extent from its financial base. The membership entrance and monthly fee gave the facility to make a start. The UEG members also decided to bring out a souvenir and call for advertisements for souvenir pages. A "support" film show is also being thought of, but has not yet materialised.

The very first consideration in the minds of the UEG members was the preparation for the on-coming IYF-IES workshop in December 1976. Every member of the democratic UEG felt concerned and enthusiastic about the first ever environmental education workshop at Udaipur. The importance of the event increased when we learned that participants from Thailand and Sri Lanka were expected to arrive: we could also wish some youth from other neighbouring countries to join

us. At the workshop, 12 of the 25 participants were from Udaipur; and that was a big help in creating leadership for the local youth and improving their vision. The training at the workshop was a very useful experience, partly as twelve of us undertook a general survey of different aspects of city life in Udaipur and were able to present our observations in the form of workshop papers.

The UEG 'Souvenir 1977', containing the abstracts of papers read by Udaipur participants, is an indicator of the activity and good intentions of the UEG. The UEG has emerged on a firm footing and will obviously take up suitable creative action-oriented program. Gulab-bagh gardens, zoo studies, aquatic ecosystems of the district area, increasing industrialisation and its impact on human settlements, a master plan for Udaipur city and such other aspects will certainly engage out attention. We plan to organise a state-level seminar on ecology and development.

We do want to bring out an UEG publication containing the full texts of the workshop papers of Udaipur participants, provided some financial help can come from IYF/IES and/or other agencies. Such a publication should promote an extended awareness of local environmental issues and act as a historical record of the start of the youth environmental movement in Rajasthan State.

The visit of the IYF Education Group Leader, Birgith Sloth, to India and her five-day stay at Udaipur was a very useful contact-experience for UEG members and advisers. The benefit was mutual, we hope. The central Youth Leader from IYF could learn a good deal about the member organisations, and we could develop an understanding of the youth movement at the global level. Indeed, the UEG should begin to think if some of its members need to move around, at least in India, and develop on-the-spot personal knowledge of the environmental movement in various places. The Asian Co-ordinator of IYF ought similarly to have the possibility to visit different countries of the Asian region.

The UEG celebrated 'World Environment Day' in June 1977 with a fanfare. The programme was organised at the State Institute of Science Education, in collaboration with that institution, Seva Mandir, Aravali Geographers, Zoology Seminar Club and Environmental Awareness Association. A film show was part of the day's programme.

An active UEG found two of its members, Madhu Sudan and Laxmi Lal, enabled to attend a training course in Denmark and the IYF General Assembly in West Germany. Madhu Sudan represented the UEG and Laxmi Lal was present by virtue of his being IYF's Asian Co-ordinator. We have learned that one of the forthcoming IYF workshops is going to be held at Udaipur some time in 1978. That will be another opportunity for the UEG to participate in and strengthen the global effort for environmental studies and conservation.

## IYF celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

David Withrington and Fred van der Vegte (past Presidents) with Eberhard Stüber, one of the Federation's co-founders - outside the Marmorsaal, Mirabell Palace, in Salzburg, August 1981



## Proposals for a new IYF structure

[summary derived from the archives, Ed.]

As we saw from the report of the 1978 General Assembly: "The world is now divided into seven IYF regions, more or less following the same pattern as the United Nations. To strengthen the international contacts between the member organisations, the GA strongly recommended the establishment of international sections. Emphasis was put on a network idea - that the member organisations should increase their exchange through bilateral co-operation."

In 1980, the first General Assembly to take place outside Europe was held in India. Reinhold Pape, in the magazine (*Die Lupe* 4/1980) of his member organisation in Germany, commented "The General Assembly in India, showed that holding global IYF Assemblies on a yearly basis in future will be almost impossible financially. That is why there is now a debate under way about decentralising IYF's structure. There would be 5 or 6 IYF regions with their own General Assembly and independent decision-making bodies. In doing so, it is not yet clear how these individual Regions can still co-operate effectively."

Not only was the number of member organisations from outside Europe increasing, but they were represented among the elected officers of the Federation. Communications between Board members and representation at meetings was relatively easy within the small continent of Europe, especially as it contained the seats of some of the key international organisations to which IYF looked for support: UNESCO (Paris), United Nations (Geneva), IUCN and World Wildlife Fund (Switzerland). Operating successfully on a truly 'global' basis had rarely, if ever, been achieved by a voluntary non-governmental organisation. There was also some concern amongst European members of IYF about exporting their standards and practices to the rest of the world. [see the contribution to the debate from Wouter Freeling on *How to beat imperialism* on page 93].

Realising that a new decentralised structure was not without risk and needed to be discussed by the member organisations, the 1980 General Assembly appointed two 'structure' committees to develop proposals. A 'structure debate' was also launched in the columns of IYF *Monthly Mailing*. As a contribution to the latter, three IYF officers from Europe - Martin Abma, Reinhold Pape and Lucia Rikaki - put forward the following informal proposals in *Monthly Mailing* no. 1/1981 for possible discussion at the 1981 General Assembly (which incidentally was the occasion of IYF's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary):

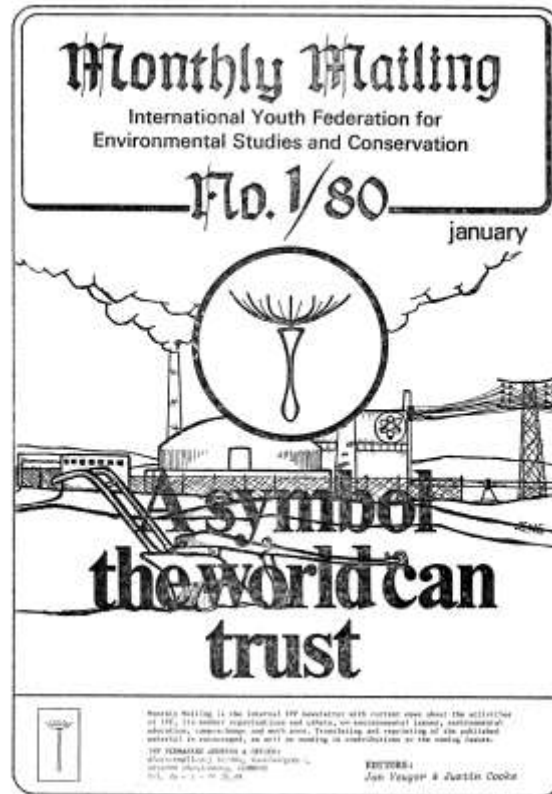
1. IYF should reserve funds to enable four Regional Consultative meetings to be held early in 1982 - Asian General Assembly, European General Assembly, Central American Youth Congress on Environmental Studies and Conservation, and African Regional Meeting - with the task of (a) establishing a working programme, (b) presenting a report on funding possibilities in an independent region, (c) drawing up rules for a future independent region, (d) appointing a regional Executive Board, and (d) appointing two members to a future World Co-ordination Council.
  
2. IYF should appoint a Statutes Commission to present structure proposals to IYF's 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1982 to enable:
  - Regional Executive Boards and a World Co-ordination Council to start working immediately with clear mandates;
  - a World General Assembly to be held every three years, starting in 1985, with the highest authority over the WCC budget;
  - yearly Regional General Assemblies attended by two mandated delegates from each member organisation and having authority over regional budgets;
  - the WCC to meet at least once a year (this may be financially impossible unless eg combined with international conferences); and
  - a clear view on regional boundaries to be established.
  
3. In principle IYF should restrict the mandate of a WCC to:
  - fund-raising on an international level and allocation of the money;
  - appointing a Secretary, eg to produce *Taraxacum* magazine;
  - undertaking development work; and
  - representing of IYF at international conferences.

In addition - the WCC functions should be regularly rotated between the Regions; Regional members of the WCC should have a right of veto on most issues; and they should submit at least two reports a year and be responsible to their Regional General Assembly. The results of the work set in train at the 1981 General Assembly should be adopted, after discussion, by the 1982 World General Assembly.

As a proposal to the first European Regional General Assembly in 1982, they suggest that it should think about setting up a support-group for weak or non-existent Regions.

The following outstanding problems - once the above proposals had been implemented - were identified by the three authors of the informal proposal:

- IYF is, and should stay, a Federation. How can we ensure that the delegates of the member organisations keep in practice more power than individual IYF activists?
- How much should Regional policy statements be allowed to differ from world IYF policies?
- It may be best if new member organisations are approved by the World General Assembly; but, because this could take up to three years, they could first become Associate Members approved by a Regional General Assembly.
- The present language-basis for defining internal regions within Europe should be reviewed.
- At a World General Assembly, one delegate of each full member organisation has voting rights. Delegates from associate member organisations and Regional Executive Boards could be invited as observers.
- On what basis would financial allocations be decided?



## More from the debate in IYF's *Monthly Mailing* ...

### *Proposal for a new structure of IYF or "How to beat imperialism"* – a personal view from Wouter Freeling, the Netherlands

The present structure of IYF is a kind of anachronism. A handful of people in Europe are trying to set up a world-wide structure of democratic self-governing youth organisations for nature study and environmental protection. As the cultural and environmental situation in, for instance, Africa cannot be compared with the situation in Europe, this will lead to increasing conflicts. It is not possible for any European to tell somebody in Uganda how he or she should set up an environmental group, a training course or whatever. Our ways of working do not fit in their way of thinking and their culture, and are therefore doomed to fail. But still, these things are happening. The examples are there: in some places we obviously failed and lost contact. But I am sure that there are even more examples of cases where Europeans tried to start something, but never got any reply because the people one tried to impose one's ideas on did not like that and just let IYF be what it was.

Also, in the process of decision-making on future policies, fund distribution and all other things, the European member organisations are dominating and deciding on those things that concern for instance the Asian member organisations. Does that sound fair? No, to many of us it doesn't, and it is not beyond imagination that many people consider it as a kind of 'imperialism'.

Why is there always such a good feeling when new member organisations are accepted, although sometimes nobody has any experience in co-operating with them, nobody knows what kind of activities (if any) they organise? In the present structure, we will always be confronted with the frustrating fact that the Executive Boards, General Assemblies and Officers want to get something done outside their own continent. But, as they do not know how to get in contact with the right people, what kind of activities are realistic, how to approach the public and numerous other things, they usually fail.

Although various people have tried several times to work in another way - within the present structure - not much has changed, as the tools for a different policy are missing. Obviously, we need a new structure with more rights, tasks and responsibilities for the regions. With regard to two of the present regions, this will only improve their situation. For the European Region, it will mean that they get more time for their own activities, such as projects, training courses, etc. This does not mean that the European Region will not deal any more with other regions; special working groups should be formed in each region to set up bilateral and other co-operative projects. These groups can initiate exchange programmes, projects, etc. for the different regions. They also form a direct background for the international co-ordination board. With this structure, a good co-operation with member organisations in regions without a board can also be established.

For the Asian Region, it will mean that it gets its own funds, an Asian Executive Board and General Assembly. More time and money will be available for setting up activities within the region - and, through a special working group, co-operation with other regions can be initiated and worked out. As soon as there is a need for it, an Asian office can be established. More funds will be available, as it will get its share from the general IYF budget, plus the money from specific Asian funds, which the Asian Executive Board can apply for. The other regions (Oceania, Africa, North and Latin America) should - as soon as possible - get a regional co-ordinator from the region itself. These regional co-ordinators should try to get more individual organisations within the region interested in IYF's activities or, in other words, develop the region.

In order to get world-wide co-ordination, an international Co-ordination Board should be established. In this board, the regional co-ordinators and representatives directly chosen by the regional General Assemblies should have a seat. Maybe the member organisations from regions without an Executive Board and General Assembly should also have a seat together in this board, to give them a platform for their opinions. Also in the board will be a President and a Treasurer; they can be chosen by post or, as an alternative, rotate from region to region so that each year a different region will have the President's and Treasurer's seats. They have few executive tasks, as their main work will comprise fund-raising and distribution, co-ordinating the development work, and employing one or more secretaries. The secretaries have, amongst other things, to produce an international Monthly Mailing with limited distribution. As the board will have nearly no executive tasks, and few responsibilities, which are partly taken care of by the regions, there is no need for a worldwide General Assembly. Contacts between the regions can be maintained through exchanges and working groups.

Whether *Taraxacum* should be kept is rather doubtful, as the quality has never been competitive with any other magazine, and it does not fulfil the function of informing people in 3rd world countries on environmental issues very well. The other function of *Taraxacum* - informing youth about environmental work in other continents - can be fulfilled by putting articles from the international Monthly Mailing, and from the newsletters of other regions, in the magazines of the member organisations, this is mainly their task, and it will reach many more people in the member organisations. If it is kept, it should be produced by the secretaries of the Co-ordination Board, under their responsibility. Also the non-existing regions can have their own magazines, like there is one in the making now for Latin America. Such newsletters reach more people, as they can be written in the continent's (region's) main language, and they will contain much more useful information.

A final discussion point is the timing of this change of structure. It will for a great part depend on the reactions of the out-of-Europe IYF people and member organisations, as the new structure will give them more responsibilities which they have to be prepared for. On the one hand, there is the feeling that there is no point in waiting to change things, if it is already clear how they need to be changed; on the other hand, there may be a possibility for a one-year step between the two structures, so that the 1980/1981 working year could be one with an Executive Board like we have now, and an Asian and European General Assembly.

I hope that this article has given a constructive start to your thoughts about the future policy and structure, and I await a lot of reactions, especially from our friends in Asia, Africa and other continents.



## The establishment of regional federations

[taken from IYF *European Newsletter* - June 1983]

The first European annual meeting to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 1983 will be the Foundation Meeting of a European regional federation. The idea of this federation is a result of discussions on the world structure of IYF at previous meetings. Here is a brief overview of these meetings and what has been decided with regard to the structure of IYF:

1. In June 1981, nine youth and student organisations from 9 African countries met in Cairo and decided to form *African Youth for Environment* (AYE). A committee was elected to arrange for the official foundation of AYE in 1982. Although 3 of the organisations involved are also full members of IYF, the new federation would be independent from IYF.

2. At its 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in August 1981, the structure of IYF was one of the main topics of discussion. Emphasis was laid on 'decentralisation', especially in view of the current European dominance. There was general agreement on a long-term perspective for independent regional federations, co-operating within a global framework. It was proposed that:

- in 1982 the European and Asian Regions of IYF should be transformed into independent regional federations; and
- in 1983, a new global organisation should be created that was acceptable to all of the four, by then existing, regional federations - in Africa, Europe, Latin America and Asia - as a framework for global co-operation.

3. In July 1982, 19 youth and student organisations from 10 Central American countries founded a Latin American youth federation *Federación Latino-americana de Jovenes Ambientalistas* (FLJA). This federation is also independent of IYF, has Spanish as a working language, and at present comprises organisations in Central America. IYF has two full member organisations in South America, which are not members of FLJA.

4. In August 1982, at the European consultative meeting in Singen, Germany, six IYF member organisations decided to formally establish, in August 1983, a European youth environmental federation. The aims of such a federation were discussed, and a proposal for the statutes and rules was put forward. The need for such a federation was seen as a platform for decisions on European activities and to encourage member organisations to co-operate with the third world.

This is what has happened and been decided so far (June 1983). Unfortunately, it is not sure that there will be four regional federations: the second meeting of AYE and the first meeting of an Asian federation have been postponed, and it is not known whether they will be able to take place in the near future. Nevertheless, in August the European Region is supposed to be transformed into a regional federation, independent of IYF.

What would 'independent' stand for?

- in the first place, the European Federation would be a new organisation alongside IYF;
- the present IYF member organisations in Europe would not necessarily have to join the new Federation, nor would member bodies of the European Federation necessarily be members of IYF;
- it is proposed that the European Federation as a whole would become a member of IYF; and
- the European Federation may choose to have a new name, thus placing it in a similar situation to FLJA in Latin America and AYE in Africa.

## The European Section of IYF is established as an independent organisation: YEE - 'Youth and Environment Europe'

From 1 to 6 August 1983, the 1st European Annual Meeting of IYF was held in Stockholm, Sweden. It was attended by 48 participants from 10 European countries - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Germany, Finland, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden - and one from Mediterranean Africa - Egypt. A review of activities in 1982 and 1983 follows:

### Projects

**IYF global project "Environment and Development"** initiated at the IYF General Assembly in 1981: the most important action was the seminar "European involvement in environmental problems in the third world", held in March 1982 in co-operation with the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France, with 30 participants including invited guests from youth environmental groups in Sierra Leone, India and Colombia.

**Youth leader training courses on acid rain** were organised in 1982 in Sweden and 1983 in Germany. Many campaigns over Europe were carried out by local groups during the International Acid Rain Week (April) initiated by IYF. In December 1982, more than 4,500 copies of a topical issue of the *Taraxacum* journal were widely distributed.

**Baltic Sea Boat Action** was carried out by member organisations in the Baltic Sea region. In July 1983, boats from Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden visited many towns along the Baltic coast. They spread information about pollution of the Baltic Sea and promoted the necessary protection measures. Poland also took part in the campaign.

### European Regions of IYF

The operations of IYF in Europe were carried out in regions, divided according to a common language and/or similar environmental problems: the Mediterranean Region, the Dutch -speaking Region, the Nordic Region and the German-speaking Region. Each one organised its own special projects.

### Co-operation with Eastern Europe

At that time, IYF had no full member organisation in East Europe, but the contacts had actively increased, particularly through bilateral exchanges. From the Eastern countries, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia were most involved. In Hungary, a successful East-West camp was held in 1982, jointly with the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

### Publications

As its most important publication in the region, IYF published the yearly European Camp List in 2,300 copies. The IYF European newsletter *Link* appeared four times/year in 400 copies. Other publications issued have been "Environment and War" (translated from Finnish) and the report on the IYF Field-biological Training Course held in Ireland in 1982.

### Finances

IYF's European region had received special grants from the European Youth Foundation and the European Youth Centre.

### Decisions

The meeting agreed to establish an independent federation of IYF member organisations in Europe under the name *Youth and Environment Europe* - YEE. This new organisation should become a member of the world IYF. The European Region recommended to the IYF world General Assembly "that an IYF 'umbrella structure' should be maintained at world level, to be based on equal representation from each region". The meeting further recommended guidelines along which IYF should be organised in the future.

## **Youth Environment Europe**

As outlined above, YEE was established at the meeting of European IYF member organisations in Stockholm in August 1983. Jan Čeřovský examined documentation in the YEE Office in Prague in 2009, and compiled the following information about its situation in November 1983:

### **Membership**

29 full member organisations in 18 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

9 associate member organisations in 6 countries: Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom. 1 organisation under sponsorship in Greece.

### **Steering Committee**

Michael Schulz, FRG (Chairman); Per Anders Bergqvist, Sweden (Treasurer); René Juhler, Denmark (Programme Officer North); Alexandros Papsyannis, Greece (Programme Officer South); and 3 other officers.

Project Coordinators (8 - Hunting, Acid Rain, Environment and Development - Third World Solidarity Group, Pesticide Exports, Tropical Forests, Shell Campaign 1984).

Regional Officers (4 - Dutch-speaking Region, French-speaking Region, German-speaking Region, East Europe Exchange).

### **IYF Office**

Klostermølle, Skanderborg, Denmark

Staff: World Office - Mohan Mathews, Kimberly Engelkes  
European Regional Office - Marianne von Kalmthout

## What happened to IYF as a world federation?

David Withrington

2011

The aspiration, embodied in IYF's original aims, was always to become a truly international Federation. Along the way, there were some reservations; for instance, in the 1960's, delegates at General Assemblies criticised the Executive Board for devoting too much time and effort towards international organisations - such as IUCN and UNESCO - and not enough to getting member organisations fully involved. Nevertheless, expansion into East Europe was becoming a reality.

In the 1970s, IYF was caught up in the maelstrom of global developments, initially centred on the United Nations conference on the Human Environment and on IYF's own precursor event, the first world youth conference on the environment, held in Canada in 1971. After that IYF co-organised a number of training courses in developing countries; the first in Eastern Africa in 1974, and the second in Asia in 1975. Others were to follow to the point where, in the early 1980s, IYF had member organisations in every continent.

How could the members of all these organisations become part of the experience of exploring the natural environment and sharing their ideas with like-minded young people in other countries? This had been the catalyst for the Federation in its early years and an inspiration to those in the national member organisations who were lucky enough to experience it. Their feelings are vividly described in the *Personal memories* sections of this book.

The practicalities of communication, long-distance travel, money and free time became too onerous for volunteer youth leaders to sustain a global involvement. The solution that was developed by 1980 was to divide IYF into independent regions, with their own projects and assemblies, linked through a World Co-ordinating Council with two delegates from each of six continental Regions.

We know from the accounts in this book, that the European Region is still very much alive in the shape of *Youth Environment Europe* (YEE), with member organisations in 28 European countries and an office in Prague. This is not surprising, given the expertise developed in running projects and raising funds by the European member organisations and the emergence of sponsoring bodies with a special interest in youth, such as the European Union and the Council of Europe.

What has been happening in the other regions? They are all geographically much larger than Europe, and travel connections are less well-developed. A report to YEE's second Annual Assembly in 1984, explained the situation in some other regions:

- the *Federación Latino-americana de Jovenes Ambientalistas* (FLJA) had been formed in 1982, but the communication between member organisations is non-existent and, with the resignation of the IYF Latin American Co-ordinator, there is no-one to work at an international level.
- in Asia, a successful regional meeting took place in Bangladesh, but a regional Federation has not yet been established due to lack of financial resources. There is an *IYF Asian Newsletter*, and training courses are planned in Fiji, Bangladesh, India and West Asia.
- after a meeting in Cairo in 1981, an organisation called *African Youth for Environment* was founded as a federation from 9 countries. It has been very difficult to build up a pan-African network because of the different traditions - French-speaking countries in central and West Africa, English-speaking Wildlife Clubs in East Africa, and Arab organisations in North Africa.

Little had been heard from IYF's World Co-ordinating Council, and virtually no contact with the World Office, which was still based in Denmark. Contacts with international bodies like UNEP and IUCN were maintained by the IYF Secretary, from the World Office. Plans were in train to hold a world General Assembly in Mexico in 1985. We know that the Office moved to India in 1984 and

again to Nairobi, Kenya in 1989 - presumably to be near to the seat of UNEP. In 1988, IYF was installed on the UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honour.

The last reference we have found is in the notes of a meeting of UNEP's Governing Council to consider the 1990 draft report on *Children and the Environment* (source: [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)). An unnamed IYF observer was present. He said that his organisation had assisted UNEP in activities to observe International Youth Year 1985. Those activities were not matched by an appropriate level of concern for youth in the speeches of the members of the Governing Council at its current session. It should be recognised that youth organisations made a remarkable contribution in stimulating public concern for the environment and in eco-restoration programmes, as was demonstrated by UNEP-sponsored IYF activities. Youth claimed the right to be heard when decisions were made on matters that concerned the future. He urged the Council to give the UNEP secretariat a mandate to catalyse youth activities around the world as part of a broad NGO programme. When the programme of the proposed 1992 United Nations conference on environment and development was formulated, a youth forum should be included, similar to that held as part of the preparations for the Stockholm Conference. The outcome of discussions for a convention on biodiversity should not, he warned, be the creation of an instrument to legitimize gene robbery by some privileged nations. He expressed the view that inadequate political will was being shown to protect the most vital ecosystem of the planet - the tropical forests - and commented on the irony that some countries in the low-income group would experience an unduly high share of the worldwide sufferings that climate change might cause.

By the late 1990's, according to its then Chairman, Jan Willem van der Vegte, YEE had no knowledge of IYF's existence and certainly did not appoint representatives to a World Co-ordinating Council. So, what had happened?

We can surmise that it became difficult to sustain world meetings: for each regional Federation, working in their own continent was sufficient challenge. And what added value did a world body, with which there was little contact, bring? And so, the concept that had shone so brightly in the eyes of its founders in 1956 came to an end. Or did it? Certainly, the dream lives on in the minds of those who were touched by IYF. And, its legacy can be seen in the creation and expansion of youth environmental organisations that are operating today, not only in Europe but around the world.



## Postscript

### IUCN sponsorship of IYF

The IYF was founded in Austria under the name of 'International Youth Federation for the Study and Protection of Nature' as the culmination of many years of effort by some self-governing youth groups in north-west Europe with encouragement from IUCN.

#### Consolidation of the sponsorship arrangement - 1970

Since 1956, IUCN and IYF have been related by what was called 'IUCN sponsorship'. As the meaning of this term seems to have been rather vague, the following statement has been prepared to define the relationship between IUCN and IYF. (The statement was discussed and approved in draft by IYF's 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in August 1970 and approved by the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IUCN Executive Board in November 1970.)

1	The International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF) is an independent international non-governmental organisation run by young people in accordance with its own statutes and enjoying the sponsorship of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).
2	IUCN and IYF enjoy a relationship based on voluntary co-operation in planning and executing on an international level activities relating to environmental conservation, on the premise that such an association is of mutual benefit in carrying out the basic objects of the two organisations.
3	The permanent seat of the IYF is and shall be at the permanent seat of IUCN.
4	The IYF disseminates and promotes environmental conservation ideas and stimulates conservation through out-of-school activities among young people throughout the world in accordance with the basic objectives of IUCN.
5	The IUCN publicises the aims, tasks and activities of the IYF among its members and also among co-operating international organisations, and encourages these bodies to provide assistance and support to IYF.
6	The IUCN and the IYF consult together in matters of mutual concern. IYF regularly informs the IUCN on its activities.
7	The IUCN invites the accredited representatives of IYF to attend the sessions of the IUCN Executive Board and other conferences and meetings of the IUCN, and the IYF invites the accredited representatives of the IUCN to attend the General Assemblies of IYF and other important conferences and meetings of IYF.
8	The IUCN invites appropriately qualified members of IYF who are accredited by IYF to participate in IUCN Commission activities wherever considered by both parties to be relevant.
9	IUCN and IYF collaborate in joint projects including conferences, meetings, training activities, publications and research, which are duly approved by their governing bodies.
10	IUCN actively assists in obtaining grants for the running costs of the IYF. IUCN makes grants to IYF to assist in carrying out approved joint projects.

#### Withdrawal of IUCN sponsorship - 1984

[background material from Martin Holdgate's *The Green Web - a Union for World Conservation*, Earthscan, London, 1999.]

In 1984, IUCN at its General Assembly in Madrid, withdrew its sponsorship of IYF. The worsening relationship appears to have been connected with the request of the IUCN President - Mohammed Kassas - to the Chairman of the IUCN Commission on Education, Al Baez - to make way for new leadership. Essentially, IUCN's Bureau had agreed to the proposal of its main funding body, the World Wildlife Fund, that the Commission should be

replaced by an Awareness Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of David Attenborough, which would operate through a joint information division. The Commission's Executive Officer, Naseeb Dalani from Jordan, was dismissed. Al Baez insisted that he be allowed to serve his term as Chairman until the General Assembly, which could and should consider such a major decision.

Mohan Mathews from India, Head of IYF's World Office, wrote to the IUCN President expressing support for the work of the Commission on Education and advising that IYF would have to re-consider the terms of the joint sponsorship agreement. The IUCN Council called IYF's bluff and proposed withdrawal of the sponsorship, which dated back to IYF's foundation in 1956. Mohan Mathews was not allowed to speak on the proposal from the floor of the General Assembly.

## IYF finances

As a voluntary organisation, the Federation depended on the annual subscriptions of its members - and occasional grants and donations - to cover running costs, such as postage travel and other expenses of its officers. The costs of producing and distributing publications were a particular problem. At IYF's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary General Assembly in 1966 (see above), the President - Antje Rucker - hailed the publication of the *Information Sheet*, starting in 1960, as possibly its greatest achievement! We learnt that the report of the intercamp and assembly in Finland in 1958 could only be printed in 1963, thanks to a grant from the International Union of Biological Sciences.

Regular financial and logistical support was the key to continuity of achievement by the Federation. The annual IYF International Youth Leader Training Course in Nature Conservation took place on the Lüneburger Heide over a period of 20 years, thanks to the generosity of Alfred Toepfer and Verein Naturschutzpark. The first five General Assemblies from 1956-60 were supported by UNESCO. The Council of Europe gave a few travel grants in the 1960's, and in the late 1970's made available the facilities of the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. At that time, grants also became available from the European Union.

IUCN paid for the printing of a few publications, such as the 1969 IYF Yearbook. IYF felt that the 'sponsorship' arrangement should mean a little more than this, particularly in terms of support for running costs and administrative expenses. In the mid-1960's, apart from a generous personal donation from the then IUCN Secretary General, Joe Berwick, there was nothing forthcoming. Of course, this was a period when IUCN's own financial support from WWF had been substantially reduced. IYF discovered that the World Wildlife Fund had been set up in 1961, not only to fund the activities of IUCN, but also of IYF:

"There will be an international Trust, registered as a charity in Switzerland, under a distinguished group of trustees, closely linked with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, The International Council for Bird Preservation, the International Youth Federation for the Study and Conservation of Nature and other bodies representing the world conservation movement. This Trust will administer funds raised on a world-wide basis by national appeals in different countries, and by a high-level supporting club of leading citizens of many countries." (Extract from the founding declaration of WWF - the 'Morges Manifesto' - 1961.)

Needless to say, the arrangements specified in the Manifesto for supervising the proceeds of WWF's fund-raising were never put in place. After consulting with IUCN and WWF trustees, IYF officers submitted an application in 1970 for an annual grant of \$10,000, plus a one-off grant of \$10,000 for the International Youth Conference planned for Canada in 1971. There was considerable resistance from some WWF staff, but the WWF chairman, Sir Peter Scott, sent a telegram to the IYF General Assembly on the Dutch island of Terschelling in August 1970 with the news that the grant had been approved and that the money should by now be in the IYF bank account. On ascertaining that the funds were not in the account, the IYF Secretary General, David Withrington, telephoned Sir Peter Scott, who was attending a waterfowl conference on the nearby island of Texel. His response was to contact the reluctant WWF Secretary General, Fritz Vollmar, that very evening, and the funds were transferred to IYF the next day. The support from WWF continued intermittently through the 1970's: a grant of \$10,000 is recorded in 1978 - and in that year the Federation was able to set up an administrative office in Denmark.

As many readers involved in national and international charities will know, a lot more of officers' time is spent on preparing and promoting applications for grants than on delivering the actual objectives of the organisation. The burdens on the IYF Executive Board and Project Leaders were especially frustrating, as the grant-giving bodies were not used to dealing with independent youth organisations like IYF.



# Youth and Environment Europe today: projects, challenges and opportunities

Anne Kollien  
Chairperson, 2010



This article aims to describe - and help you understand - some of the current projects, challenges and opportunities in Youth and Environment Europe (YEE). As a subjective article, it makes no claim to be complete - on the contrary, its main aim is to inspire new thoughts and encourage further discussion - among IYF and YEE seniors and current activists - about the future of our organisation. You may recognise topics that never change and that, generation after generation, from yours to ours grows tired of, but other topics might manage to surprise you in a positive way.

## Development of the organisation in brief

Being born in 1983 as the European regional branch of the International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (IYF), Youth and Environment Europe has come a long way since its initial formation. YEE has lived through several relocations of its headquarters, restructuring and even some difficult moments in its history, but it remains relatively stable, has a presence with its projects in the environmental protection world and continues to grow and expand its network of members.

Nowadays, YEE members come from 28 different countries, gathering together under the umbrella of the Federation to exchange and share viewpoints, create new projects and co-operate in various ways so as to further the main aims of Youth and Environment Europe, which are - to protect and preserve the environment, raise awareness and enhance appreciation of nature amongst young people, as well as to rationally manage and use the Earth's resources. Through the organisation of youth exchanges, training courses and campaigns, YEE contributes to building the capacity of, and facilitating intercultural experiences amongst youth throughout Europe and beyond.

## Projects

Most of the collaborative activities are initiated among YEE's member organisations during Annual Meetings, through various working groups, and realised through the organisation of joint actions and campaigns on diverse environmental issues. Since YEE brings together many organisations with a range of focuses and approaches within the environmental sector, totally new topics are brought to the Annual Meeting, and different projects emerge every year.

Sustainable Lifestyle and Development was 'topic of the year' for 2009-2010. YEE held several training courses on this theme: in the UK ("Education for sustainability and practical demonstration eco-centres"); Germany ("Stop Fear - Start Action! European TC against climate change"); Ukraine ("Youth Ambassadors for Sustainable Living: Renewable Energy and Climate Change dimensions"); Poland ("Forest - welcome home!"); Czech Republic ("Conflict Management and conflict resolution" and "Environmental Audit"); and Serbia ("Innovate your life and make it sustainable"). Other activities included youth exchanges in Armenia ("Water and Youth") and Poland ("Learning from each other - games for environmental education"); two issues of the YEE Magazine ("Youth discovering biodiversity" and "Youth organising green

events"); and three campaigns ("Engaging the public through sustainable festivals", "Sunny Campaign" and "Water - its importance in pictures").

### **Communications**

Even though - at first sight - communication may appear to have become easier in the age of mailing lists, screen sharing and internet conferences, the youth of today faces quite a different challenge. The communication flow is fast, but processing the amount of information available on the internet and floating in one's mailbox is time-consuming. Taking a decision on where and when to engage is complex. This explains why the Annual Meeting remains one of YEE's most important events. In order to create projects, people need to talk to each other in person, to share concerns, hopes and visions - instead of just making technical arrangements to facilitate a project.

### **Training in environmental management**

A good example that illustrates YEE's way of working is a project which aims at training youth active in environmental NGOs to be able to apply basic principles of environmental management within their own organisations and spread the word about environmental management systems in their countries - in this case Albania, the Czech Republic, Germany and Macedonia. Titled "Environmental Audit", the project takes place in three phases and includes a training course (this took place in September 2010), five months of local actions and an evaluation meeting. The training course focussed on EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme), an environmental management system developed by the European Community. The EMAS easy method, specially developed for small and medium-sized organisations - and including the so-called eco-mapping method - helped participants to identify the significant environmental aspects and impacts of the Ecocentre Renata, where we were staying. Moreover, participants were familiarised with the legal and other requirements EMAS encompasses: involvement of employees, development of an environmental policy and an environmental declaration for the public. As the planning process for establishing an environmental management system usually takes up most of the time, we laid the focus on the "planning" part. Thereby we sought to enable participants to directly transfer the knowledge gained into a five-month period of local action, which started right after the training course.

Each group and individual decided upon a different strategy for multiplying their knowledge. Macedonia opted for applying the eco-mapping method within their organisation as well as in their place of work. Germany decided to organise an informative event that would make contacts between several companies and an accredited 'EMAS easy' consultant. The Czech Republic intended to try the eco-mapping method in the sphere of ecological festivals and on the ecological farm at Toulcuv Dvur. The aim is to reach at least 100 organisations. Participants documented their action plan and will record and share the information they gathered, the progress they make and the difficulties they encounter. The evaluation meeting, taking place in March, will assess the impact of the project. Moreover a handbook about Environmental Management Systems will be published at the beginning of December 2010. It will be published as a printed booklet and also be made available to download on the YEE webpage.

### **Challenges**

YEE unites many organisations, but not all of our members are as active as we would like them to be. Those volunteers who are particularly devoted to YEE usually stay involved only for a limited period for personal or professional reasons. We are aware of the fact that the commitment of our member organisations at the international level usually depends on the valuable efforts of individual members. This obviously has advantages and disadvantages. It can be problematic when an individual who develops a "personal" project lacks support down the line from their own organisation. But it can work, as long as projects tackle issues that member organisations are working on. Moreover, smooth communication with and between the Board and Secretariat is required.

In order to support volunteers in facilitating on average 20 activities per year on behalf of YEE, the Federation has two full-time employees and one part-time. While in comparison with the past this number might seem large, in comparison with other European networks it is definitely small. This may explain why I think (and I am sure I am not the only one) that YEE has substantial untapped potential to take a stand on issues at the European level. By "to take a stand", I mean to make a

determined effort to defend something or to stop something from happening. At present, YEE does not use its voice and is, therefore, not heard.

Wouldn't it be great if YEE joined and supported international campaigns? Individual voices have even recommended the re-establishment of the link that IYF used to have with its founding sponsor, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). On the one hand, it would make YEE itself better known; on the other hand, it might mean having to accept that the direction of the work of the Federation changes significantly.

*In preparation for YEE's upcoming 30th anniversary, we would like to encourage you to become engaged in:*

- *brainstorming on how to celebrate this event. Please contact me at [anne@yeenet.eu](mailto:anne@yeenet.eu) for further information.*
- *the project "Experts networking" aims to establish contact between former and current YEE members so as to improve the knowledge management and professional performance of the Member Organisations of YEE. We believe that you can help to shape our youth's future; you can be an example for them! If you are interested, please contact YEE's Project Coordinator Michal Svec at [michal.yee@yeenet.eu](mailto:michal.yee@yeenet.eu)*

## Opportunities

Today in YEE, young people - mostly volunteers - have a voice. They can still influence the organisation's direction and they can be really creative, something which is not possible in all organisations. In many cases the organisation forms the individual rather than vice-versa. YEE changes very fast, with dedicated people coming and going. But, in fact, YEE remains a member-oriented Federation, putting great emphasis on supporting the work and efforts of its member organisations. We promote a large exchange of information and experience, and also aim to help co-ordinate the activities of member organisations, as well as encouraging co-operation between them on topics of mutual interest. A focus on specific topics might make YEE more approachable and palpable for its target group. However, creating the kind of coherence that would make it easier for people to identify with YEE remains a challenge.

By means of its projects, YEE supports the acquisition of the eight key competencies of life-long learning defined and recommended by the European Parliament and Council in 2006. Next to communication in foreign languages "which involves ... mediation and intercultural understanding"<sup>1</sup>, YEE helps youth to develop their key skill qualifications in the fields of sense of initiative and entrepreneurship which is about the "ability to turn ideas into action. It involves creativity, innovation and risk-taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives. The individual is aware of the context of their work and is able to seize any opportunities which arise. It is the foundation for ... contributing to social or commercial activity. This should include awareness of ethical values and promote good governance".

In accordance with the principles of active citizenship, YEE started hosting young volunteers from all over Europe in 2003 through the European Voluntary Service (EVS) scheme. This scheme is a unique opportunity for young people to acquire cultural awareness and practice cultural expression, develop their skills and contribute to a project in another European country. The EVS scheme aims to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, making them more active European citizens. Supporting the YEE staff in the office, helping out in the ecological farm Toulcuv Dvur and participation in events organized by YEE offer them a diverse experience in the environmental sector.

As part of the YEE Board or as Project Coordinators, young people gain professional and personal, as well as social and civic competencies. These include, among others, the ability to communicate and co-operate, to identify problems and to solve them constructively. Acting on the personal,

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<sup>1</sup> Europe Summaries of EU legislation "Key competences for lifelong learning"  
[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/education\\_training\\_youth/lifelong\\_learning/c11090\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/lifelong_learning/c11090_en.htm)

interpersonal and intercultural level prepares individuals to participate in an effective and proactive way in social and working life. Civic competence, particularly knowledge of social and political concepts and structures (democracy, justice, equality, citizenship and civil rights), equips individuals to engage actively in the democratic process.

### **YEE as a stepping stone**

YEE also considers one of its functions to be acting as a bridge to create connections between its member organisations. Another function of the organisation is to develop these connections a step further, beyond the local and national level to the international, and to work at the European level. The difficulty lies in motivating member organisations not only to get engaged in YEE, but also to get involved in the organisations that YEE is a member of, such as the European Environmental Bureau and the European Youth Forum. The young people who join our member organisations usually need some time to get familiar with the structure of their own organisation. Then, once they feel comfortable with that one, they are ready to get to know YEE where they face a totally new and different structure. And, becoming active in the international organisations of which YEE is a member calls for yet another step in terms of understanding and participation for our young people ... definitely a process for patient people. At the same time, this process is definitely an asset in terms of work experience. Young people who go through this process within YEE will find it easier to work out the benefits of different structures and adapt their knowledge in any organisation - be it at the voluntary or professional level.

Despite valuing such skills positively, YEE realises that being active in three organisations at a time amounts to fulfilling very high expectations. Seeing the importance of engagement at the international level, YEE also realises that alternatives should also be offered. Currently YEE is perceived neither as an integral part of the environmental scene in Czech Republic nor as an active member of the ecological farm Toulcuv Dvur, where the YEE office makes its home. A new approach by the organisation, therefore, places emphasis on local projects in Prague. The building of a base of local volunteers is still in its infancy, but it will hopefully help YEE to be better represented in the organisations YEE is a member of - since it means direct participation in only two organisations.

In trying to draw a conclusion, I would say that in Youth and Environment Europe young people are given space to learn, they develop "the ability to pursue and organise their own learning, either individually or in groups, in accordance with their own needs, and awareness of methods and opportunities" (from EU key competencies for lifelong learning).

Of all YEE's strong points, I most value the fact that the activities which are organised usually succeed in raising awareness on a personal and practical level. They manage to do so because they are created from very personal concerns. YEE provides young people with the possibility to discover and respect nature, themselves, and their skills, and to take their first steps in the environmental field at the European level. Depending on their own initiative, YEE can serve them as a stepping stone on their way to becoming engaged in high-profile organisations such as UNEP, EEB, YFJ and CEEweb.

For further and current information please visit our web site at [www.yeenet.eu](http://www.yeenet.eu) or contact us or the Secretariat personally at [yeen@yeenet.eu](mailto:yeen@yeenet.eu).

## Annexes

### Annex I: IYF - timetable of main events

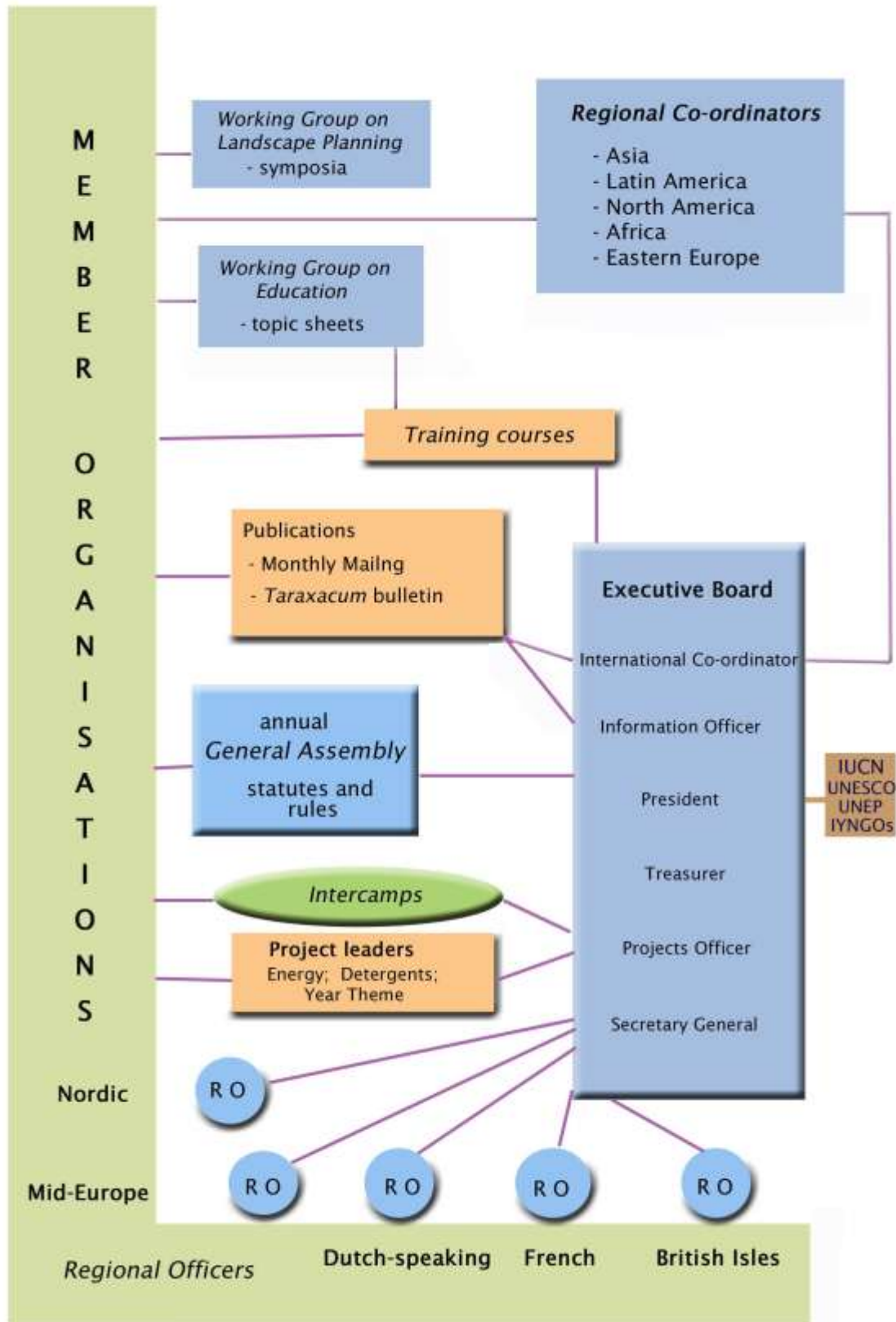
date	event	place
1925	First self-governing youth environmental organisation was founded	NJN, the Netherlands
1950	first intercamp	Terschelling, the Netherlands
1952	intercamp	Houyet, Belgium
1953	intercamp	Hasselfors, Sweden
1954	intercamp	Terschelling, the Netherlands
1955	intercamp first European Youth Leaders' Training Course in Nature Conservation	Fehmarn island, Federal Germany Lüneburger Heide, Federal Germany
1956	IYF was founded on 4 August 6 <sup>th</sup> intercamp	Salzburg, Austria Obersulzbachtal, Austria
1957	General Assembly	Orvieille, Gran Paradiso, Italy
1958	General Assembly	Evo, Finland
1959	General Assembly 5 <sup>th</sup> Conservation Course	Stockbridge, Winchester, UK Lüneburger Heide, Federal Germany
1960	General Assembly	Burggen, Bayern, Federal Germany
1961	General Assembly	Dammarie-les-Lys, France
1962	General Assembly	Bévercé, Belgium
1963	General Assembly and 13 <sup>th</sup> intercamp	Loftahammar, Sweden
1964	General Assembly	Rotenberg, Harz mountains, Federal Germany
1965	General Assembly Spitsbergen expedition 1 <sup>st</sup> intercamp in Turkey	Nemelaer, Noord Brabant, Netherlands
1966	General Assembly and 10-year jubilee 1 <sup>st</sup> Czechoslovak intercamp Ornithological intercamp 10 <sup>th</sup> Conservation Course	Salzburg, Austria Cingov Camargue, France Lüneburger Heide, Federal Germany
1967	General Assembly <i>Taraxacum</i> bulletin launched with <i>Delta</i> issue	Oxford, UK
1968	General Assembly Turkey <i>Taraxacum</i>	Kuusamo, Finland
1969	General Assembly 1 <sup>st</sup> intercamp in USSR	Eisden, Belgium Voronezh
1970	General Assembly IUCN sponsorship agreement formalised Large financial grant from WWF 1 <sup>st</sup> intercamp in Romania International Youth Forum for European Conservation Year	Terschelling, Netherlands  Retezat NP Lüneburger Heide, Federal Germany
1971	General Assembly International Youth Conference on the Human Environment 1 <sup>st</sup> intercamp in Poland	Filzmoos, Austria Hamilton, Canada  Mielno
1972	General Assembly UN Conference on the Human Environment	Herrljunga, Sweden Stockholm
1973	General Assembly	Brasparts, France
1974	General Assembly East African Youth Course	Bokrijk, Belgium Nairobi, Kenya

	Appointment of IYF co-ordinators for each continent <i>Taraxacum</i> Bulletin distributed to 96 countries	
1975	General Assembly Workshop in environmental education for Asian youth	Dombas, Norway Delhi and Bhimtal, India, 12-25 May
1976	General Assembly First intercamp in Sri Lanka	Losenstein, Austria
1977	General Assembly European Youth Leader Training Course	Bacheim, Schwarzwald, Federal Germany Livo, Denmark
1978	General Assembly IYF office opened European Youth Leader Training Course	Lage Vuursche, the Netherlands Skanderborg, Denmark Daverdisse, Belgium
1979	General Assembly IYF Seminar on Conservation and Use of Natural Habitats in Europe	Hollenfels, Luxembourg Strasbourg, France
1980	25 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Central America Youth Leader Training Course in Environmental Education IYF Seminar on Traffic and Transport	Udaipur, India Santa Rosa NP, Costa Rica Strasbourg, France
1981	General Assembly and 25-year jubilee IYF Mediterranean training course	Salzburg, Austria Malta
1982	General Assembly Foundation of FJLA and AYE	Egypt Latin America and Africa
1983	28 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly Foundation of 'Youth Environment Europe' IYF seminar on Environmental Destruction in the Third World	Stockholm, Sweden Strasbourg, France
1984	IUCN withdraws sponsorship IYF world office moves to India YEE office remains in Denmark Second YEE annual assembly Asian Regional Meeting	Purmerend, the Netherlands Dacca, Bangladesh
1988	IYF is enrolled on UNEP's Global 500 roll of honour	
1989	IYF world office moves	Nairobi, Kenya
1990	YEE office moves IYF observer at UNEP Governing Council	Utrecht, the Netherlands Nairobi
1998	YEE office moves to its present location	Praha, Czech Republic

## Annex II: IYF Presidents

<b>Years</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Member organisation and country</b>
1956-59	Jacques de Smidt	NJN, the Netherlands
1959-61	Sylvia Galloway	FOC, United Kingdom
1961-62	Hugo van Swinderen	Belgium
1962-64	Derek Davis	FOC, United Kingdom
1964-66	Antje Rücker	DJN, Federal Germany
1966-69	Jonathan Holliman	FOC, United Kingdom
1969-71	Fred van der Vegte	CJN, the Netherlands
1971-72	David Withrington	CYA, United Kingdom
1972-73	Georges Bechet	AJLECN, Luxembourg
1973-75	Bo Landin	SFU, Sweden
1975-77	Lutz Katzschner	DJN, Federal Germany
1977-78	Birgith Sloth	NU, Denmark
1978-79	Hans-Jacob Peters	NU, Norway
1979-81	Marc Pallemarts	JNM, Belgium
1981 ...		

# Annex III: IYF structure and organisation 1975





## Annex IV: IYF Member Organisations (1956-83)

### AUSTRIA

#### Established member organisations

##### **Österreichische Naturschutzjugend** *founder member*

Founded in 1952 as a youth section of the Austrian Nature Conservation Society, it has more than 10,000 members between the ages of 10 and 25. A major achievement has been the building of four nature conservation centres, which are used for camps and youth-leader seminars. More than 100 study camps are organised each year. Members received the bulletin *Gletscherfloh* (glacier flea) and, more recently, a magazine *Natura Pro*. (*YEE member*)

### BELGIUM

#### Established member organisations

##### **Belgische Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie**

Elected as a member in 1960, BJN was founded in 1959 in the Flemish part of the country: age limits are 12-25. Activities include camps, excursions, research projects and environmental actions.

##### **Natuur 2000 - Wielewaal Jeugdafdeling**

Elected a member in 1969, it was founded in 1967, and has some 40 local groups with 1,100 members between the ages of 12 and 23. Each group organises local excursions, camps, manifestations for nature conservation, lectures and campaigns. (*YEE member*)

**Jeugdbond voor Natuur en Milieustudie** this organisation came into being in 1983, as a fusion of the two member organisations above. At its inauguration it had some 2,000 members between the ages of 12 and 25. (*YEE member*)

#### Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

##### **L'Albatros**

Elected as a member in 1975, L'Albatros was founded in 1973 as a group of some 200 mainly French-speaking members below the age of 28. Activities included anti-pollution campaigns, field biology and publishing, eg a guide on *Determination of Noise Pollution*. The society was dissolved in 1976.

##### **Belgische Jeugdfederatie voor Natuurstudie en Natuurbescherming** *founder member*

##### **Gentse Biologische Kring 't Wormke**

Formed of biology students at the University of Gent, it holds indoor meetings and field excursions, plus expeditions eg to the Camargue. It later became an Associate Member.

##### **Jeugdgroep Natuur en Milieu**

Elected a member in 1975 and founded in 1974, JNM is a small society of young people (average age 16), formerly the only Flemish local group of *Club des Jeunes Amis des Animaux et de la Nature*. It organises excursions, study camps, training courses, environmental actions and fund-raising for endangered species. It has a magazine *Steenuil*.

##### **Jeunes et Nature**

(*YEE member*)

##### **Jeunesse Ardenne et Gaume**

Elected a member in 1968, it was a nature club for young people in the French-speaking part of Belgium. By 1971, it comprised only one small local group.

##### **Jeunesse Scientifique**

Elected a member in 1968, it is the official science club for young people in Belgian schools; it also runs camps during the holidays.

## CANADA

Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

### **Linnaean Society of Canada**

Elected a member in 1969, it was founded in 1965 as a group of students and young people in Nova Scotia concerned with the study of nature. It holds indoor meetings and organises weekend camping trips to bring city children closer to nature.

### **Macoun Field Club**

Elected in 1971, it is the junior section of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

### **Stanice mladych prirodovcov - Slovakia**

### **Ustredni dum deti a mladeze - Czechia**

They were both elected as members in 1968 as the 'Czechoslovakian Co-ordinating Committee for International Co-operation in the Sphere of Related Activities of Youth in Natural Science'.

They held three successful intercamps and an exchange with IYF member organisations in the UK.

## DENMARK

Established member organisations

### **Natur og Ungdom**

Founded in 1959 under the official name Danmarks Feltbiologiske Ungdomsforening, it has some 1,000 members, mainly between the ages of 14 and 24, organised in 23 local groups. Activities include field-biological investigations, land management for conservation, indoor meetings and camps. In addition to the national members' magazine *Natur*, a series of booklets *Danske Naturlokaliteter* are published with the results of studies carried out on a particular locality by local groups. (YEE member)

### **Naturhistoriske Onsdags Aftner** *founder member*

Founded in 1911, its members are current or past students of natural sciences at the University of Copenhagen.

### **Dansk Ornithologisk Forening** *founder member*

The Field Committee was founded in 1952 and organises activities for younger members, including camps to study migrating birds, local surveys and indoor meetings.

## EGYPT

Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

### **Arab Office for Youth and Environment**

## FINLAND

Established member organisations

### **Luonto Liitto** *founder member*

Founded in 1943 and sponsored by the Government, the 'Union for Nature' has over 5,000 members between the ages of 12 and 22 and organises activities for school students and young people out-of-school. These include campaigns for endangered animals, such as eagles, and against water pollution by detergents. It works with other IYF members on Baltic Sea problems. It holds conferences, courses, camps, exhibitions, lectures and film evenings and an annual General Assembly. It has a regular magazine *Molekyyli*. (YEE member)

### **Symbioosi**

Elected as a member in 1959, Symbioosi was founded in 1950 for students of biology and geography at the University of Helsinki. It organises lecture and film evenings, excursions, study tours and parties. It provides instructors for camps of Luonto Liitto.

### **MYY - Ymparistotieteiden Opiskelijat**

A club for students of Limnology at the University of Helsinki.

#### Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

##### **Natur och Ungdom**

Elected as a member in 1979, it is a youth organisation from the Swedish-speaking part of Finland.

##### **Syntaxis**

Elected as a member in 1962, it is the biology and nature conservation club of students at the university of Oulu.

#### **FRANCE**

##### Established member organisations

##### **Jeunes et Nature**

Elected as a member in 1970, it is a federation of some 200 local groups with an age limit of 28 and an office in Paris. It is sponsored by the Fédération Française des Sociétés de la Protection de la Nature.

##### Organisations with short-lived membership

##### **Groupe des Jeunes Ornithologistes**

Elected as a member in 1961, its objectives are the study and protection of birds and their habitats. Activities include monthly reunions in Paris and other large towns, camps and ornithological research projects.

##### **Société des Amis de la Musée d'Histoire Naturelle** *founder member*

A group based in Paris, which gradually evolved into Jeunes et Nature.

#### **GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC**

##### Established member organisations

##### **Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung** *founder member*

Founded in 1950 as an independent youth organisation for those between the ages of 12 and 25 interested in wildlife and nature conservation, it has 25 regional groups and organises scientific investigations, excursions and camps. The magazine *Die Lupe* has been a regular feature, and a number of identification guides for animal and plant groups have been published. (*YEE member*)

##### Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

##### **Deutsche Waldjugend**

Junior section of the Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald for young people from 10 to 25 years old. Activities include establishment of school woods, practical work in nature reserves, camps, courses excursions and an annual congress.

##### **Bund Naturschutzjugend**

Elected as a member in 1977. It was founded in 1975 and comprises some 500 young people in 38 local groups in Bavaria. It is active in the protection of wetlands and wildlife and has organised actions to influence public opinion, eg on re-cycling. (*YEE member*)

#### **GREECE**

##### Established member organisations

##### **Youth and Environment**

#### **HONG KONG**

##### Established member organisations

##### **Youth Environmental Action Group**

Elected as a member in 1977.

#### **ICELAND**

##### Established member organisations

##### **Felag Natturufraedinema**

Elected in 1970, it was founded in 1966 by students of natural sciences at the University of Iceland. It tries to influence the methods of teaching, holds lectures on specialist topics and organises excursions for its 150 members. It started to publish a scientific journal in 1974.

## INDIA

### Established member organisations

#### **Indian Youth Association for Environmental Studies and Conservation**

Elected as a member in 1972, it organised its first study camp in 1971 and went on to hold further camps and campaigns to protect wildlife, eg camp in Tigerland 1973.

#### **National Environmental Association**

Elected as a member in 1979, it is a federation of student groups active in nature conservation.

#### **Indian Environmental Society**

Elected as a member in 1973, the IES was founded in 1972 for young people under the age of 30 by Indian delegates to the World Youth Conference in Hamilton, 1971. It focuses on environment and development and organised an essay competition on 'environmental pollution and Indian youth'. It holds courses and conferences. It publishes a bulletin *Indian Environment*.

## IRELAND

### Organisations with short-lived membership

#### **Dublin Naturalists' Field Club**

Elected as a member in 1959.

## ITALY

### Organisations with short-lived membership

#### **Gioventu Naturalistica Italiana** *founder member*

Based in Milan.

#### **Movimento Italiana Protezione della Natura** *founder member*

Based mainly in Torino, Milan and Trento.

## LUXEMBOURG

### Established member organisations

#### **Jeunes et Environnement**

Elected a member in 1969, it was founded in 1968 as the AJLECN. It has some 350 members below the age of 28, and organises weekend meetings; excursions; practical conservation tasks; scientific studies; and campaigns, eg for a national system of landscape protected areas. It publishes a regular bulletin *Keisecker* (hedgehog).

## MAURITIUS

### Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

#### **Mauritius Society for Environment and Conservation**

Elected as a member in 1979.

#### **Mauritius Youth Council for Environmental Studies and Conservation**

Elected as a member in 1975, dismissed in 1980; it was founded in 1974 by a group of young enthusiasts to counteract the deterioration of the environment in Mauritius.

## NETHERLANDS

### Established member organisations

#### **Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie** *founder member*

Founded in 1920, originally as a link between school natural history societies, NJN was formerly the largest youth society in the Netherlands. Its aim is 'to promote the knowledge and love of nature and the idea of nature conservation among Dutch youth'. The age limits are 12 to 23 years. Activities include - camps; research projects; study groups in ornithology, plant ecology, hydrobiology, entomology, marine biology and nature conservation; exhibitions; excursions; lectures and films; and a large winter congress. (*YEE member*)

#### **Algemeen Christelijke Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie en Natuurbescherming**

*CJN founder member*: begun in 1946 by former members of NJN as a Christian youth organisation; age limits 13 to 25 years. Activities include camps and excursions; ornithological,

botanical, entomological, marine and freshwater research groups; exhibitions; leadership training courses; and a large annual congress. The magazine is called *Trientalis*. **KJN**: elected in 1958 - the Catholic counterpart of CJN. The two organisations merged in the 1970's to become **ACJN** and, in 1988, adopted the name **Jeugdbond voor Natuur- en Mileustudie (JNM)**.

**Koninklijke Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging** *founder member*

The Royal Dutch Society for Natural History: a working group on conservation and education was formed in 1956 and effectively became the focus for junior members. The Youth Section holds weekend study camps and longer ones during the holiday period.

## NORWAY

Established member organisations

**Natur og Ungdom**

Elected as a member in 1973, it is a national organisation of young people in 45 local groups. It organises study camps, seminars and environmental campaigns.

**Naturforvalterlaget**

Elected as a member in 1977: a student group at the Norwegian university of agriculture formed in 1972.

## POLAND

Organisations with short-lived membership

**Liga Ochrony Przyrody**

The youth section of the Polish League for Nature Conservation. (*YEE member*)

## SPAIN

Established member organisations

**Federacion Espanola de Grupos Juveniles para la Iniciacion a la Ciencia - Frente de Juventudes**

*founder member*

Founded in 1940 as an official organisation entrusted with the civil education and physical training of Spanish youth up to the age of 21, it has organised since 1955 national camps for nature study and practical conservation activities.

## SURINAME

Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

**Wildlife Rangers Club**

## SWEDEN

Established member organisations

**Sveriges Fältbiologiska Ungdomsforening (Fältbiologerna)** *founder member*

An independent youth society founded in 1947, it aims to promote the knowledge and love of nature and the concept of nature conservation among Swedish youth. It operates through a network of 180 local groups, with a total of 12,000 members. It organises local surveys of birds, butterflies and plants; actions against pollution; courses; and camps. Six issues a year of *Fältbiologen* ('field biologist') are published as well as bulletins for each local group. (*YEE member*)

Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

**Argaladei**

An organisation promoting outdoor living and an ecological life-style. It holds an annual expedition to remote mountain areas with instruction in outdoor living.

**Skid-och Friluftsförbundet (TVM)**

Their full membership was reduced to Associate, at the organisation's request in 1970.

## SWITZERLAND

### Established member organisations

#### **Groupe des Jeunes de 'Nos Oiseaux'** *founder member*

The youth section of the society 'Nos Oiseaux' was founded in 1947 and engages in ornithological research projects and study camps. The magazine *Le Héron* is published regularly.

## TURKEY

### Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

#### **Tabiati Koruma ve Tanitma Turk Genclik Dernegi**

The student club of the Zoology Department of the University of Ege in Izmir.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Established member organisations

#### **Conservation Youth Association** *founder member*

Formerly the Field Observers' Club, founded in 1953 by senior members of the junior naturalists' club at the British Museum of Natural History. It had a small membership, between 15 and 25 years old, mainly based in London, but played an active part in IYF between 1956 and 1978. It organised excursions, to study all aspects of natural history, and regular summer camps, as well as lectures films and parties. It published a manual for organising camps, based on the experience of 5 previous camp leaders. In 1969 the CYA was formed, in an effort to amalgamate FOC with a number of other local groups in Britain.

#### **Young Ornithologists' Club**

The junior section of RSPB founded in 1942; it was elected to membership in 1960 under the name Junior Bird Recorders' Club, and resigned from the Federation in 1968.

#### **Youth Environmental Action** (formerly Schools Eco-Action Group)

Elected as a member in 1973, SEAG was founded in 1972 and had branches in 25 secondary schools. It changed its name in 1977 to reflect a growing membership from out-of-school youth groups. A co-ordinating centre publishes a monthly bulletin, including action guides for specific campaigns, such as population stabilisation and recycling of waste paper.

### Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

#### **The British Co-ordinating Group of IYF**

Elected as a member in 1959, it was set up by the Council for Nature to enable young members of various British conservation societies to participate in IYF camps and other activities.

#### **Environmental Resource Centre (Edinburgh)**

In 1981, it hosted an IYF training course on 'Practical environmental projects in schools, youth and community situations'.

#### **Exeter University Bird Club**

Founded in 1966 and run by students at the University of Exeter for those who are interested in natural history and nature conservation. It organised regular excursions and tried to provide a field experience for laboratory-bound students of natural sciences.

#### **Survival**

A student action group based at the University of Cambridge, with some 200 members between the ages of 18 and 22; it held its first intercamp in Wales in 1977.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Organisations with recent or short-lived membership

#### **Protect your Environment - Thomas school Group**

Based in Connecticut, this local group of school students was elected to membership in 1970.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

### **Bangladesh**

Service Civil International

Bangladesh Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation (from 1978)

### **Belgium**

Centrum voor Natuurbeschermingseducatie

### **Canada**

Canadian Audubon Society

### **Israel**

Youth Clubs of the Society for the Protection of Nature

### **Lebanon**

Youth Centre of the National Council of Tourism

### **Netherlands**

Instituut voor Natuurbeschermingseducatie

Koninklijke Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging

### **Poland**

Komitet Kształtowania i Ochrony Środowiska ZSP (Union of Polish Students - Committee for the management and protection of the human environment)

### **Portugal**

Nucleo Portugues de Estudo e Protecção da Vida Selvagem (from 1980)

### **Switzerland**

Schweizerische Bund für Naturschutz (from 1978)

### **United Kingdom**

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - Conservation Corps

Environmental Resources Bank

Film Workshop Trust

### **Zambia**

Chongololo Conservation Clubs

## ORGANISATIONS UNDER IYF SPONSORSHIP

### **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation

### **Greece**

Red Balloon

### **Malta**

The Ornithological Society Young Members' Section

### **Sri Lanka**

Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka Youth Section

## Annex V: Study camps - the backbone of IYF and its member organisations

### IYF Camp List - 1978



International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation  
under sponsorship of the  
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Permanent address: c/o IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland Bank account: Société de Banque Suisse.  
Morges. compte no. 543564

*Well, here it is!!*

*Now, you've got the opportunity to go to camps all over the world (well almost), arranged by member organisations of IYF. One of our aims in IYF is to create a feeling of international solidarity in the field of nature conservation and nature studies. And, certainly, you'll find it very inspiring to meet people from other parts of the world who are fighting for the same ideals. In fact, you will find that they don't differ very much at all from the people in your own organisation. So, make up your mind, and go for a camp abroad this year. There are a lot to choose from!*

### AUSTRIA

**Neusiedler See** is an important bird reserve in Eastern Austria. Characteristics of the lake are that it is large and shallow (max. 1.5m deep) and has a zone of reed around it. On this camp, we are going to make excursions round the lake and field investigations of plants, insects and birds.

**Dates:** 29 July to 5 August **Location:** Apetlon, a village near the lake.

**Organisers:** Österreichische Naturschutzjugend.

**Camp leader:** Dagmar Reifenauer, Linke Bruckenstr. 29, 4020 Linz, Austria.

**Application to:** camp leader, before 31 May. **Price:** 30DM.

**Accommodation:** in the new summer house of ÖNJ.

**Equipment:** for field biological research. **Participants:** 35 **Minimum age:** 15.

**Astenschmiede** the aim of this camp is to investigate the plant communities of the mineral-rich mountain area in the Hohe Tauern National Park. **Dates:** 3 to 9 September

**Location:** the ÖNJ house at Astenschmiede, near Bodenhaus, Rauris-Buchebeben, Salzburger Land.

**Application:** before 15 May to Brigitte Beisskammer, Graben 13, 4840 Vöclabruck, Austria.

**Price:** 750 Austrian Schilling, including transport from Salzburg.

**Equipment:** mountain boots, warm clothes, field investigation equipment.

### BELGIUM

**IYF training course in the study and conservation of nature** is our annual course designed for educating leaders in the member organisations. The programme is divided into three parts: introduction to the IYF and international organisations; field biology and ecological methods, with investigations in the area of the course; and environmental strategy and action. The working language of the course is English.

**Location:** in the valley of the River Lesse in the Ardennes.

**Application:** before 1 May to Rainer Kübler, Traubenstr.15a, D-7 Stuttgart 1, Federal Germany. Please write your name, address, age, languages spoken, member organisation and your position in it, fields of interest, and dietary preferences.

**Price:** 70 Swiss francs; includes food and accommodation.

**Participants:** limited to 2 people from each member organisation (unless further space becomes available). Assistance is available for travel costs. **Age limits:** 17 to 22.



**Herentals** this is a practical conservation work camp. **Location:** Snekens pond camp site.

**Dates:** 5 to 13 August

**Application:** before 1 August to Vlaamse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie en Milieubehoud, Natur 2000, Bervoetstraat 33, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

**Price:** 300Bfr (about \$10). **Participants:** 30 **Minimum age:** 15.

**Vierves** a training course in general ecology, including visits to nature reserves and the valley of the River Viroin, with calcareous grasslands and deciduous forests.

**Dates:** 25 August to 2 September

**Location:** near Philippeville in the province of Namur, south Belgium.

**Application:** to Cercles des Naturalistes et Jeunes Naturalistes de Belgique, c/o Leon Wove, 83 Rue de la Paix, 6168 Chapelle-les-Merlaimont, Belgium.

**Price:** 1600Bfr - includes full board and insurance.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

**Zvolen** a field camp for protectors of nature - the 14<sup>th</sup> such camp arranged by the Slovak Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Environment, with field investigations, lectures and discussion groups and two full-day excursions in the surroundings. Official translation will be available, but cannot be guaranteed for the working groups. **Dates:** 8 to 16 July.

**Location:** Polana Volcanic Massif in the county of Zvolen. **Equipment:** tent, sleeping bag, boots.

**Food:** it is recommended that you bring sufficient provisions for the first two days, after that food may be purchased at a mobile shop. A field kitchen will be set up.

**Application:** by 15 May to ONV - odbor kultúry, 960 01 Zvolen, ČSSR. You must send your application as a private person, not an IYF representative. Write your name, age, profession, special interests, language capabilities, permanent address - and your postal address during May and June. Indicate whether you can make a presentation on environmental protection in your country, by eg lecture, slides or posters.

**Price:** 40 CKR (\$4) which covers the cost of excursions booklets and other camp souvenirs. Please note that participants from non-socialist countries are obliged to exchange the equivalent of \$10 a day for the length of validity of their Czechoslovak entry visa.

### *International work camps*

There are five camps organised in 1978, in which participants carry out practical work in return for accommodation and food. There are special arrangements for entry visas to Czechoslovakia.

Please contact the IYF Office, Klostermøllevej 46, 8660 Skanderborg, Denmark. The number of participants is from 15 to 25; age limits are 19 to 35.

**Blansko** 6 to 19 July, creating paths in a nature reserve; **Čimelice** 9 to 20 July, work on a farm;

**Nové Hradý** 23 July to 5 August, creating paths in a nature reserve; **Václavice** 7 to 22 August, work on a farm; **Pálava** 13 to 26 August, creating paths in a nature reserve.

## DENMARK

**Livø** the aim of this camp organised by Natur og Ungdom is to continue the action against the building of summer houses on this island nature reserve, where last year's IYF youth leader training course was held. Co-leader is Birgith Sloth.

**Dates:** 12 to 15 May.

**Application:** before 1 May, to Kent Vangstrup, Jaegersborgvej 2, 9250 Skøping, Denmark. **Price:** 80DKr (\$15), includes boat ticket and food.



## FEDERAL GERMANY

**Bodensee** a hilly region some 40 km north of the lake, with many meadows, bogs and ponds. Studies of plants, birds and insects, and chemical analysis of water quality. A camp of the Deutscher Jugendbund für Naturbeobachtung. **Dates:** 29 June to 12 July

**Accommodation:** in a house or tents. Bring sleeping bag, air mattress, plates and dishes.

**Application:** by 15 May to camp leader - Rolf Knebel, Wiesenstr.10, 6833 Waghäusl, West Germany - with a deposit of 10 DM. **Price:** 70 DM to cover food and accommodation.

**Participants:** 25-35 **Minimum age:** 15.

**Acid precipitation theme camp** the first half will be in the countryside 50km east of the industrial Ruhrgebiet. Participants will undertake investigations on the effects of acid rain and prepare environmental actions. The second half will be the actions to be carried out in the cities.  
**Dates:** 18 to 30 July **Location:** Attendorn in Sauerland, and the Ruhrgebiet.  
**Application:** before 1 June to Ute Simon, In den Stämmen 14, 46 Dortmund-Wellinghofen, West Germany. **Price:** 80 DM, including food and accommodation. If funds can be found, assistance with travel costs may be available. **Participants:** 30.



**Agriculture theme camp** aims to study conventional and alternative ways of farming in both theory and practice. It will also study energy consumption and third-world nourishment.  
**Location:** on a biodynamic farm at Wörme, near the Lüneburger Heide, about 30km south of Hamburg. **Dates:** 31 July to 13 August  
**Application:** by 1 May to the camp leader - Stephan Glismann, Weidenstieg 19, 2070 Ahrensburg, West Germany. **Price:** 80 DM; includes food and accommodation.  
**Equipment:** sleeping bag, boots. **Participants:** 35.

**Waddensee** the aims of this intercamp are: to introduce the ecology of the Wadden Sea, which is important to the North Sea as a whole; to carry out field studies in a threatened area; and to develop information for the public on the impact of building a new dike, as planned by the German and Danish governments. The camp is organised jointly by DJN and NU Denmark.  
**Dates:** 14 to 28 August. **Location:** a camp site near the sea on the Danish/German border.  
**Application:** by 1 July to camp leader Stephan Lutter, Kronshagenerweg 87, 2300 Kiel 1, West Germany - or Bente Refslund, Amager Boulevard 101, 2300 Kobenhavn S, Denmark. Please state your special interests (marine biology, ornithology, etc), what books and field equipment you will bring, and if you will be with a car or bicycle.  
**Price:** 80 DM, including food, accommodation and insurance.  
**Equipment:** sleeping bag, air mattress, boots. **Participants:** 30. **Minimum age:** 14.

## FINLAND

**Nature reserves and endangered species theme camp** the aim is to gain a better understanding of national parks, nature reserves and endangered species in the world, with case studies from the Nordic countries. There will be lectures and excursions to see issues on the ground, such as the establishment of a national park, use of herbicides, forestry and employment, and the protection of wolves and brown bears. The official camp language is English. Organisers are Luonto Liitto.  
**Dates:** 26 June to 6 July.  
**Location:** Ilomantsi in northern Karelia - a region of big forests, peatlands, rivers and lakes.  
**Application:** to Pertti Ranta by sending 50 Finnish Marks to Hameen luontopiiri ry, Kalevankangas 12, 33540 Tampere, Finland before 1 May.  
**Price:** 100 Finnish Marks (\$25), including food and accommodation.  
**Accommodation:** most of the time in a house, but bring a tent and sleeping bag. **Minimum age:** 15.

**Water ecology** a camp to study, fish, water plants, etc. as part of Luonto Liitto's project *Protect the Waters*. **Location:** Haapasaari, an island south-east of Helsinki, which is a proposed National Park.  
**Dates:** 19 to 26 July.  
**Application:** before 1 June to the camp leader - Tarja Lehto, Rusthollinpolku 2A, 00940 Helsinki 94, Finland. Application fee of 50 Finnish Marks.  
**Equipment:** tent (can be arranged if you haven't got one), sleeping bag. **Participants:** 30.

**Kolovesi** is an area of 8,500 hectares in south-east Finland proposed as a National Park. There will be opportunities to study this labyrinth of water, steep rocky islands and cliffs. The rare Saimaa seals are animals of particular interest.  
**Dates:** 1 to 6 June.  
**Location:** the camp site of Heinävesi-Savonranta; accommodation in tents.

**Application:** before 15 May to Savo-Karjalan, Luontopiiri, c/o Pekka Tenhunen, Mäkikatu 3A8, 70100 Kuopio 10, Finland. A series of 33 slides of the area can be ordered free from this address, with only postage to be paid.

**Price:** 30 Finnish Marks, including food. **Participants:** 40. **Minimum age:** 14.

## FRANCE

**Discovering France** this camp is open to young people of all nationalities (with some knowledge of French) to help them understand the influence of the environment on the inhabitants of the city.

**Dates:** 4 to 12 September.

**Location:** the Hauts-de-Seine district of Paris.

**Application:** before 4 July, to Direction Départementale de la Jeunesse et des Sports, Centre Administratif Départementale, 167-177 avenue Joliot Curie, 92013 Nanterre, France.

**Price:** 125 French Francs covers food, accommodation in rooms with 2-3 beds, and learning materials.

**Equipment:** a camera and, if possible, a portable tape recorder.

**Participants:** 20-30 **Age limits:** 18-25.

## HONG KONG

**Youth Environment Forum** the sixth such event organised by the Youth Environment Action Group (YEAG) to promote youth involvement in conservation and to prepare concrete actions. Youth from all parts of the world are invited to join in.

**Dates:** 15 to 19 August.

**Location:** Chinese University of Hong Kong, with easy access to rural areas.

**Application:** by 30 May to the camp leader - Simon Siu, 615 Wing Ka House, Fok Loi Estate, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong. **Price:** \$10 US, including food and accommodation in a students' hostel.

**Participants:** up to 100. **Minimum age:** 17.

## HUNGARY

**The Sárrét** the National Authority for Environment and Nature Protection invites you to a camp with the aim of increasing knowledge of nature conservation and ornithology and contributing to research on the natural history of this region. It is an agricultural area, with pine-woods along the rivers and an interesting bird fauna. In the daytime you will work in groups measuring ecological factors, observing and marking birds, and every evening there will be lectures, slide shows and campfires.

**Dates:** 21 to 29 June.

**Location:** Szeghalom, on the bank of the River Körös, in Eastern Hungary.

**Application:** by 30 April to Dr Andreas Legány, Kossuth ul. 56a, 4440 Tiszavasvári, Hungary.

**Price:** 30 Forint for students, 60 Forint for grown-ups - plus 280 Forint for food (3 meals a day). About 10 - 15 students from IYF could be accepted free (you'll have to pay your travel, though).

**Equipment:** tent, sleeping bag. **Participants:** up to 100. **Minimum age:** 15.

## NETHERLANDS

**Waddensee Intercamp** on the island of Terschelling, as part of the IYF Wadden Sea project. As well as studying the birds and vegetation, the environmental problems of this important intertidal area will be investigated - industrialisation, water pollution, and construction of dikes. On 24 or 25 July, you can leave the island to join the 'international Waddensea cycle tour' going to Germany and Denmark. After the intercamp, you can attend the IYF General Assembly to be held in The Netherlands. The camp is organised by the ACJN.

**Location:** a farmhouse in the centre of the island of Terschelling near the nature reserve of the Boschplaat. **Dates:** 18 to 28 July. **Price:** 85 Swiss Francs. **Participants:** 35.

**Application:** before 1 July to Jaap Jelle Feentra, Houtstraat 18, Utrecht, The Netherlands.



**The Wieden** is a swampy area of approximately 3,400 hectares, influenced by intensive peat-digging, with a special fauna and flora. We are going to make field-biological studies, especially limnology. The camp is organised by ACJN. **Location:** on a farm in the delta of the river IJssel near Kampen.

**Dates:** 4 to 14 July.

**Application:** by 1 June, to Diederik Duyvetter, p/a ACJN, Driebergseweg 16B, Zeist, The Netherlands.

**Price:** 87,50 Hfl. (about \$20), including food and accommodation.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 35. **Minimum age:** 12.

**The Kempen** a former agricultural landscape on diluvial soils, with elements such as lowland brooks, heathland, pine woods and farmed land. **Dates:** 1 to 11 August.

**Location:** in a farmhouse in the surroundings of Eindhoven, sleeping in straw.

**Application:** before 1 June, to Diederik Duyvetter, p/a ACJN, Driebergseweg 16B, Zeist, The Netherlands. **Price:** 87,50 Hfl (\$20), including food and accommodation.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 35. **Minimum age:** 12.

**Boat camp on the Zuiderzee** would you like to study birds from the deck of an old Danish 'Baltic Trader'? The ship's length is 24 metres and the sail surface is 320 square metres. The organiser is a Belgian member organisation: Natuur 2000. **Location:** the boat starts and finishes at the port of Enkhuizen. **Dates:** 12 to 18 August.

**Application:** before 1 June, to Vlaamse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie, Bervoetstraat 33, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium. **Price:** all inclusive - 3,500 Bfr (\$110) plus 100 Bfr bank charges.

**Participants:** 17. **Minimum age:** 15.

**Ooypolder** near the city of Nijmegen. The camp is organised by the NJN.

**Dates:** 29 June to 9 July. **Accommodation:** tents.

**Application:** to Jaap Drijfhout, Rode Kruislaan 1043, 1111 ZZ Diemen, The Netherlands.

**Price:** 75 Hfl (\$17), including food and accommodation.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** up to 50. **Minimum age:** 12.

**Drentse Aa** these camps are in the basin of a small river to the south of Groningen. They will specialise in hydrobiology, and are organised by the NJN. **Accommodation:** probably on a farm.

**Dates:** 11 to 21 July and 23 July to 2 August.

**Application:** to Jaap Drijfhout, Rode Kruislaan 1043, 1111 ZZ Diemen, The Netherlands.

**Price:** 75 Hfl (\$17), including food and accommodation.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** up to 50. **Minimum age:** 12.

**Vlieland** study camps on this small island in the Wadden Sea. Organised by NJN.

**Dates:** 11 to 21 July, 23 July to 2 August and 4 to 14 August. **Accommodation:** in tents.

**Application:** to Jaap Drijfhout, Rode Kruislaan 1043, 1111 ZZ Diemen, The Netherlands.

**Price:** 75 Hfl (\$17), including food and accommodation.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** up to 50. **Minimum age:** 12.

**Zuid Beveland** on the south bank of the Oosterschelde estuary. These camps specialise in marine biology. Organised by NJN. **Accommodation:** in tents.

**Dates:** 11 to 21 July and 23 July to 2 August.

**Application:** to Jaap Drijfhout, Rode Kruislaan 1043, 1111 ZZ Diemen, The Netherlands.

**Price:** 75 Hfl (\$17), including food and accommodation.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** up to 50. **Minimum age:** 12.

## NORWAY

**Acid precipitation intercamp** at Bø in Telemark, organised by Natur og Ungdom.

Devoted to the IYF Acid Precipitation Project, this camp will be divided into two parts: the first on theory, and the second on investigations in the Lifjell mountains, where almost all the lakes are devoid of fish.

**Dates:** 1 to 10 July.

**Accommodation:** the first part in a school, the second in tents.



**Application:** before 1 May, to Tone Holte, Østliveien 15, 1415 Oppegård, Norway.  
**Price:** 100 Norwegian Kroner. **Participants:** up to 30; no age limit.

**Varanger Peninsula** in the north of Norway. If you want to experience desolate vast expanses - where mountains face the sea, where rare Alpine plants grow and where 18 field biologists will spend 3 weeks - then you should join us! This camp is organised by SFU, Sweden.

**Accommodation:** in tents.

**Travel:** will be in two small buses departing from Stockholm. **Dates:** 15 June to 9 July.

**Application:** before 28 April, to the camp leader Thomas Wenninger, Tranebergsvägen 100, 161 32 Bromma, Sweden. **Price:** excluding food, 200 Swedish Kronor.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 18. **Age limits:** 16 to 25.

## SWEDEN

**Aktse** in the mountains of north Sweden. We are going to do some hiking, but also investigate the plants, birds and insects in the surroundings; camp organised by SFU.

**Dates:** 20 June to 9 July.

**Accommodation:** a cottage and a large tent; participants should bring their own food.

**Application:** before 1 April to Pia Agervi, Kurivagen 31, 285 00 Markaryd, Sweden.

**Price:** 580 Swedish Kronor (\$130), including accommodation and travel from Nässjö, Sweden.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 14. **Minimum age:** 14.

**Gotland by bike** why don't you start the summer with a bike camp on the isle of Gotland in the Baltic Sea? The nature of this island is unique, and there will be lots of birds and plants. This camp is organised by SFU. **Accommodation:** in tents; participants will buy their own food.

**Dates:** 12 to 22 June.

**Application:** before 12 May to the camp leader - Annelie Hellberg, Nygatan 37, 732 00 Arboga, Sweden. **Price:** 100 Swedish Kronor; includes accommodation and ferry tickets.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 15. **Minimum age:** 14.

**Baltic Sea** is polluted by seven countries; during the camp we will learn about this important ecosystem and discuss the pollution situation. In the first part of the camp we will have lectures about the Baltic Sea and make marine-biological excursions. The second week's programme is not fixed, but we will visit some nice areas for field-biological studies. We will be based at Kalmar on the east coast of Sweden. This camp is organised by SFU. **Accommodation:** the first week will be in a secondary school, the second week in tents. **Dates:** 26 June to 7 July.

**Camp leader:** Ulf Gunnarsson, Högalidsvägen 7, 381 00 Kalmar, Sweden.

**Application:** before 1 May, to Anders Tunlid, Parentesen C: 322, 223 52 Lund, Sweden, with a deposit of 75 Swedish Kronor. **Price:** 250 Swedish Kronor (\$60), including food and accommodation for the first week and excursions.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 16. **Minimum age:** 15.

**Agriculture Intercamp** will include study visits and investigations into conventional and alternative farming methods, as well as a discussion of the world food crisis. Don't forget that 'agriculture' is the IYF Year Theme for 1977-78! This camp is organised by SFU.

**Dates:** 10 to 21 July. **Location:** Svalöv 20 km north of Lund; accommodation in a school.

**Application:** before 1 May, to the camp leader - Sven Svantesson, Kämnäsv. 13:2075, 222 46 Lund, Sweden. **Price:** 300 Swedish Kronor (\$65).

**Equipment:** sleeping bag and normal field-biological equipment. **Participants:** 20.

**Småland** discover the forests of this part of Sweden, where so many IYF-people come from! We'd like you to come hiking with us, to visit some interesting areas. Sometimes we'll take the bus. This camp is organised by SFU. **Accommodation:** somewhere between Nässjö and Växjö in cottages and barns. **Dates:** 21 to 30 July.

**Application:** before 1 April, to the camp leader - Bengt-Göran Lundahl, Tjädervägen 18, 35239 Växjö, Sweden. Please put your age on the application.

**Price:** 50 Swedish Kronor (\$10) including bus tickets; participants should buy their own food.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 20.

**Canoeing in Västerdalarna** a week of canoeing and field-biological studies in the big forests in the middle of Sweden. You are welcome to join us. You must be able to swim. We start at Malung, paddle along a tributary of the Västerdal River to Lake Venjan and from there along Van River to Vansbro. This camp is organised by SFU. **Accommodation:** in tents.

**Dates:** 23 July to 1 August.

**Application:** before 1 June to the camp leader - Alf Persson, Furuhallsgatan 6C, 77100 Ludvika, Sweden.

**Price:** 150 Swedish Kronor, including canoe and accommodation; participants buy their own food.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 12. **Minimum age:** 14.

**Canoeing in Dalsland** the lake system of Dalsland in the west of Sweden is full of variety. There we are going to spend 10 days canoeing and hiking in the forests, watching plants, birds and maybe elks, if we are lucky. You must be able to swim. This camp is organised by SFU.

**Dates:** 7 to 17 July.

**Application:** before 15 April, to camp leader - Jonas Stenström, Glasmästareg. 22, 41262 Göteborg, Sweden.

**Price:** 100 Swedish Kronor; includes canoes. Participants buy their own food. **Participants:** 12.

## SWITZERLAND

**Aletsch glacier** in the upper part of the Rhone valley, altitude 2,000m. The aim of this camp is to observe and understand nature in the high-mountains. It is organised by the Swiss League for Nature Conservation. Languages are French and German.

**Dates:** 1 to 5 August. **Accommodation:** rooms with 4 - 6 beds.

**Application:** before 1 June to the camp leader - Peter Stünzi, Sekretariat SBN, Postfach 73, 4020 Basel, Switzerland. **Price:** 165 Swiss Francs, including food and accommodation.

**Equipment:** sleeping bag and really good walking boots.

**Participants:** 25. **Minimum age:** 16.

## UNITED KINGDOM

**Conservation work camp in Exmoor, south-west England** half of the day will be spent on nature study, with walks in Exmoor National Park, the other half on practical work in the grounds of a rural study centre.

**Dates:** 11 to 17 July.

**Location:** New Mills Study Centre, Luxborough, Somerset; 15 places in a cottage, the remainder camping. **Equipment:** strong boots and gloves.

**Application:** before 20 May to the camp leader - Rhys Taylor, New Mills, Luxborough, Somerset, TA23 0LF, England. **Price:** accommodation £1 per night indoors, camping free. Food £1.50 a day (vegetarian food available).

**Participants:** 20. **Minimum age:** 18.

**Environmental action and ecology in Exmoor National Park** set in a scenic local environment of uplands, steep river valleys, moorland, deer forest, and farmland with small villages. There will be lectures and discussions on environmental action, practical work on an alternative technology project at New Mills Study Centre, excursions, nice walks and discussions about future activities. This camp is organised by Youth Environmental Action.

**Dates:** 30 July to 4 August.

**Location:** New Mills, Luxborough, Watchet, Somerset - in a cottage.

**Application:** before 1 May, to the camp leader - Steve Joseph, c/o YEA, 173 Archway Road, London N6, England. **Price:** £10, including accommodation and food (vegetarian option available).

**Equipment:** sleeping bag. **Participants:** 25. **Minimum age:** 14.

## Annex VI: IYF publications

The regular publication issued by the IYF Information Officer - and later by the IYF Office - was a Mailing to member organisations. This was stencilled and crudely presented, but contained the latest news. The largest cost was, in the time before email - postage. Once a year, there was a 'camp issue', so that individuals could enrol on one of the many study camps and training courses held by IYF and its member organisations. The main problem for the IYF Projects Officer was getting the information in good time from the member organisations. In some years, the camp list was rather thin for this reason.

The IYF Yearbook was the principal means of recording the proceedings of the annual General Assembly and other important events in the IYF programme. *Taraxacum* was the portmanteau title of a publication series which began in the late 1960s. By the early 1970's, it had become the International Youth Bulletin on the Environment, published in three languages, with its own editorial board and distributed to over 90 countries worldwide.



In 1975, IYF published a *List of Member Organisations' publications and selected environmental education material*. The IYF publications mentioned on the back cover are:

1. *Taraxacum* - official bulletin published 3 times a year.
2. IYF Asian Bulletin - first issue, May 1975.
3. *Methods in Field Biology Studies* - northern European examples for the 10-14 age group, 1974.
4. *Plant Sociology* - for the over 15 age group, 1975.
5. IYF Wetlands Year Theme - background papers and action proposals, 1975.
6. *Environmental Planning and European Integration* - report of IYF symposium in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, 1974.
7. IYF Symposium on Youth and National Parks - report of meeting in France, 1973.
8. *International Youth Leader Training Course* - report of IYF course on Lüneburger Heide, 1974.
9. IYF Lüneburger Heide Course 1955-69 - some chapters in German.
10. *Youth and Environment 1971* - three international youth conferences.

Each of these publications was priced at 4 Swiss Francs, with a reduction for members and other young people in less-developed countries. From 1975, IYF began publishing Topic Sheets; the first was on 'Consumer and Environment'. After 1981, when greater emphasis was placed on regions, the IYF European Newsletter *Link* was issued.

IYF also issued a general publicity leaflet from time to time.





## Annex VII: IYF Phenology Studies

Compiled by Hein van Bohemen, 2011

### Spring Phenology and petal numbers of *Anemone nemorosa*

Through the IYF, several international ecological projects were undertaken. In the years 1959, 1960 and 1961 an investigation took place on the wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) in north-western Europe. The subjects of the investigation were: the start of flowering, flowering of the main population, abundance and the number of petals of 30 flowers chosen at random.

Participant countries were: Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Austria, Federal Germany, Poland, Sweden and Finland.

The results of the investigations in 1959, 1960 and 1961 were presented in 1972 in the *Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift*: "The start of flowering varies considerably, being in England and the Netherlands in the beginning or middle of March, in Sweden in the second half of March and in Finland in April. Different ways of determining 'start of flowering' are discussed." The normal number of petals is 6 but flowers with 5, 7, 8 or even more petals are not uncommon. The abstract informs us that "the number of petals on one flower is 6.40 as a mean value of the entire area, the country-means varying from 6.31 to 6.46. There is no statistical evidence for a geographical variation in petal numbers. The petal numbers for different years were examined. There might be a slight variation between years, but there are no statistically significant differences."

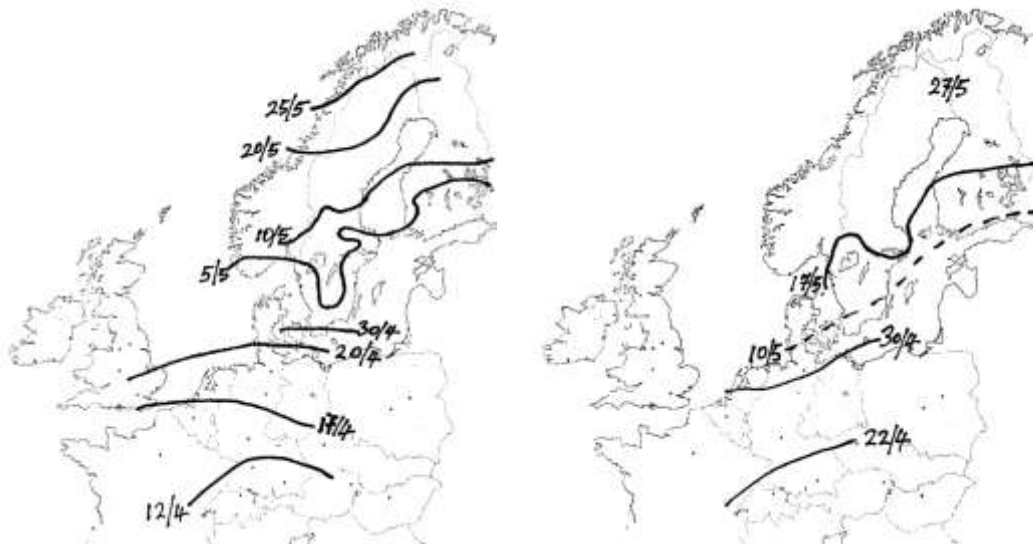


Wood Anemone photo: Hein van Bohemen

### Spring Phenology of seven bird species

During the spring of 1964, IYF stimulated observation of seven species of birds passing through Europe on their migration. The chosen birds were: Crane (*Grus grus*), Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*), Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*), Swift (*Apus apus*), Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) and Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*). The number of participating observers was: Sweden (540), Netherlands (57), Finland (38), Federal Germany (31), Belgium (8), Norway (4), Switzerland (1), France (1), United Kingdom (1).

From the summary we can learn: "From observations of the Cuckoo's migration it shows that the birds migrate towards the north-west. As can be seen from map 1, this is evident in Finland, where the birds generally arrived earliest in the south-eastern part of the country. The investigation also shows how mild southerly winds accelerate the migration and how cold periods put a stop to it. On these occasions it often happens that the zone of common occurrence lies very close to the migration border. This can be seen by the distribution in the last days of April and the first days of May, when the Cuckoo was common in the north part of Germany, it had just reached the southern coasts of Sweden. Map 2 shows that the borders for the common distribution have a southwest-north-eastern direction, a fact which lays stress upon the impression we have received that the cuckoo is migrating towards the north-west."



First observations and common arrival dates of the Cuckoo in NW-Europe, 1964

### The Swift and its phenology

As the Swift (*Apus apus*) is a special bird (flight acrobatics, aerial food supply, few predators, strong weather-condition restrictions), it has been a favourite species for observations in relation to climate and weather. On 18 April 1959 the first Swift was reported from Kampen (The Netherlands), the second observation on 23 April in Antwerp (Belgium). The next week the Swift could be seen at most of the Dutch observation sites. In Sweden the first observation came on 10 May. During the rest of May, Sweden and Finland were occupied, with Rovaniemi, the northernmost place that year, reached on 7 June. In autumn, the Dutch birds leave before the middle of August, while in Sweden and Finland the majority left during the third week of August.

### More phenology observations

Detailed reports have been published mostly concerning the northern countries Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland, like the *Fenologirapport* 1966, with comparison with 1965 data as well as between 1962-1966 and in some cases 1957-1961.

### Conclusions

From the reports, it can be seen that most interest came from Sweden, Finland, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. Most observers were active in Sweden: in 1959, 50 reports and, in 1967, more than 1,000 reports. Further, local nature study groups started their own projects. The projects have shown that phenology investigations stimulated co-operation between members, groups of members and between youth organisation in different countries.

## Annex VIII: participant list of the first international youth conference on the Human Environment, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, August 1971

### AFRICA (15 countries)

Gambia	Emmanuel Goddard
Ghana	John Danquah, Joseph Wiredu
Kenya	Nathaniel Chumo, Zipporah Kittony, Kipng'eno Koech, Kariba Munio, Christopher Muraya
Liberia	Roosevelt Anderson, Philip Nhaway
Malawi	Victor Kachoka
Mauritius	Sureshchandra Fakun
Morocco	El Mostafa Chtaini, Chaoni Abderrahmane
Nigeria	Taiye Abodunde, Babatunde Akinnigbagbe, Rufus Isaac, V. Ninan
Rhodesia	M. Felix Kayihura
Sudan	Mohammed Abdalla El-Rayah
South Africa	Michael Cohen, Neville Curtis, Keith Hackland, Mojaleta Ralektho
Tanzania	Helen Lembariti
Togo	Sylvanus Ahade
Tunisia	Ben Hassine Faycal
Uganda	Kaganda-Rwaikaikara Adyeri

### ASIA (17 countries)

Afghanistan	Noor Sarij, Wahid Zewari
Hong Kong	Luke Wong, Mok Chiv Yu
India	Desh Bandhu, Priyadarshni Davidar, Ramanth Kamath, Shiv Kare, D. Pal, Pradeep Sankhala, Wasif Ahmed
Indonesia	Nazar Nasution, Murasa Sarkaniputra
Iran	Taghi Farvar
Israel	Malcolm Lewis
Japan	Edward Suzuki
Lebanon	Teny Simonian
Malaysia	Anthony Raj, Bhag Singh, Sarjeet Singh, Han Yap
Nepal	Deepak Bajracharya, Hemant Raj Mishra, Prakash Upreti
Philippines	Kwon Yuan Chong, Jaime Banaag, Sultan Ahmed Chawla, Wilfredo Clemente, Jurgenne Honculado Primavera, Serafin Talisayan
Singapore	Thong Goh
South Korea	Jai Ok Kim
Sri Lanka	Kenneth Hanibelr, S.M. Mansoor, Nalini Dawne Parera
Taiwan	Kwang Ping Chao, Alice Wu, Yuh-Jao Wu, Lien T. Jao
Thailand	Nob Satysai
UAR	Nabil El-Khorazaty, Sayed Nour

### AUSTRALASIA (3 countries)

Australia	Ian Hore-Lacey
Fiji	Lua Fuka
New Zealand	Anthony Pearce, Simon Reeves

### EUROPE (15 countries)

Austria	Josef Spritzendorfer
Belgium	Xaver Monbailliu
Bulgaria	Taniu Michev

<b>Denmark</b>	Jens-Erik Holmsgaard, Kim Pilegaard, Nils Kruse
<b>Federal Republic of Germany</b>	Holger Strohm, Hans Bendrig
<b>France</b>	Roland de Miller, Lucien Harmegnies, Bernard Camp, Daniel Bechon
<b>Iceland</b>	Einar Arnason, Bjartmatr Sveinbjornsson
<b>Irish Republic</b>	J. Michael Adams, Anthony Collins, Estelle Feldman, Jerry Kelly
<b>Netherlands</b>	Dick Binnendijk, Hein van Bohemen, Wolter Bos, Dirk Brugman, Auke Bijlsma, Jan Goedman, Jan de Vries, Fred van der Vegte
<b>Poland</b>	Jan Oleszkiewicz
<b>Portugal</b>	Leonel Fadigas
<b>Spain</b>	Santiago Anglada
<b>Sweden</b>	Madeleine Engfeldt, Jan Fjellander, Bo Landin, Christina Skarpe
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Nick Brown, Michael Buchanan, Hereward Hill, Brian Lymbery, Nicolas Holliman, Sherie Naidoo, David Withrington
<b>Yugoslavia</b>	Milan Orožen Adamič

#### **LATIN AMERICA** (14 countries)

<b>Argentina</b>	Oswaldo Moretti, Carlos Ravera
<b>Bolivia</b>	Maria Elena Flores, Gerardo Cordozo Vargas, Jean-Paul Baehr
<b>Brasil</b>	Walter Kilmar
<b>Chile</b>	Jaime Hurtubia, Santiago Torres
<b>Colombia</b>	Constanza Fernandez
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Roberto Chavez-Sanchez
<b>Ecuador</b>	Ricardo Izurieta, Melva Polit, Wilmer Zambrano
<b>Jamaica</b>	Sheila Campbell
<b>Mexico</b>	Sergio Sada, Carlos Yanes
<b>Paraguay</b>	Juan Herken-Krauer
<b>Peru</b>	Carlos Jose Marin, Mark O'Brian
<b>Salvador</b>	Aronette Diaz de Zamora, Mauricio Santamaria
<b>Trinidad</b>	Mohammed Wazim
<b>Venezuela</b>	Fernando Gabaldon

#### **NORTH AMERICA** (2 countries)

<b>Canada</b>	Jean Bigelow, James Bryant, Eric Hamovitch, Monte Hummel, David McCreery, Rosaline Murray, Cathy Read, Georg Rossi, Chris Taylor
<b>USA</b>	Tony Collins, Jeffrey Dooley, Ronald Eber, Edward Goodstein, Tee Lamont Guidotti, Bruce Hasler, Mariette Howell, Nancy Jochman, Stuart Leiderman, Charles Link, Pasquale Nuzzo, Walt Pomeroy, Luis Sagninsin, Joseph Siff, Ross Vincent, Larry Young

#### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

CCIVS; Environic Foundation International; Friends of the Earth; IATA; ISMUN; IUCN; IYF; IPPF; UN Conference on the Human Environment; UNESCO; World Society for Ekistics.