



Environmental Services Group
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-INDIA

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MEMO

To: All Participants of the WWF INDIA Workshop
on the Role of NGOs in Wildlife Conservation
at Indian Social Institute, August 29-30, 1987

Date: December 17, 1987

From: Thomas Mathew

Ref.:

Copies:

Summary Record of Discussion and List of Participants

A number of participants had informed us that they had not received the Record of Discussion and List of Participants of the abovementioned Workshop. We are making a fresh mailing of the same. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

THOMAS MATHIEW
DIRECTOR

WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF NGOS IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

29,30 August, 1987 Indian Social Institute, New Delhi

29 Aug 87

Thomas Mathew- welcomed the participants; expressed the hope that they would make realistic recommendations to the IBWL, and that the discussions during the workshop will be frank. Workshop intended to continue in plenary form.

Duleep Matthai- need felt for a long time to maximize public participation in wildlife conservation. Public must act as "conscience keepers" of the government. Requested participants to limit presentations to within scope of d. paper. Lavkumar Khacher- present-day conservation crusade suffers from problems of awareness, political interference, and immense human pressures on wilderness areas. Recounted unhappy instances of interaction with officials during his 30 yrs. of conservation experience. Forest Deptt. officials mostly unreceptive to NGOs/NGIs and cannot take criticism. On the other hand, good forest officers who take initiative and try to achieve results are transferred on pretexts, and otherwise harassed. Political pressures also used. Nation's biological base severely eroded and sanctuaries & NPs only hope of preserving bio. resources. Need for person-person interaction even when it concerns people and officials. Economic considerations must not weigh down on ecological. Cited cases of firewood poaching in Gir and the Little Rann, because of severe drought conditions for last 2 yrs; poisoning of peafowl by irate peasants whose fields were damaged by the birds; poaching in the Little Rann. Need for emotional involvement and not feeling ashamed about it.

H.S. Panwar- drew attention to the field situation as a resource manager faces it. Emphasized that the surviving Indian forests and wilderness areas are all restricted to or around mountain chains of the subcontinent. The plains and river valley forests, and the plateau forests have almost vanished and do not represent any significant portion. At the same time, people around these areas are solely dependent on forest resources for survival; the entire development process and policy must take note of this dependence and provide viable alternatives if forests and wildlife are to be saved. Joint action by NGOs and govt. can help remove people's helplessness. Education, starting with decision-makers, a must. Current efforts of NGOs limited to metropolises and a few other big towns; must reach out to village communities, esp. rural children. Reiterated that scarcity not so much of resources as of wisdom in using them. There have been other agencies causing more destruction than people in need. Direct conflict results as soon as protection measures are tried. Cited example of "bureaucratic illiteracy": cattle in India. Are so many really needed? A vast majority are non-productive, uneconomical to maintain, and destroy the already scarce grazing resources. Also a stiff competition to wild herbivores. Short-term measures: fodder supplementation; provision of free or subsidized fodder to people to keep them away from grazing their cattle in forests. Long-term, viable measure: shift to fewer, more productive, improved breeds of cattle. But no action at policy level, due to official shortsightedness. NGOs can play leading role in preparing and executing micro-level projects for environmental improvement: small reservoirs, diversion irrigation, cattle improvement, stall-feeding, etc. If many such pilot projects could be established and run by NGOs, they would not only be helping the local communities get over their sole dependence on forests, but ~~XXXX~~ will also be able to convince people of their capabilities. Cited example of a similar proposal for Kanha, now languishing for many yrs. with the govt. Urged that the govt. must implement reports and recommendations of ^{at least} its own boards and committees.

(2)

If NGOs could convince govt. of the relevance of aerial seeding projects, they could surely achieve the same with regard to conservation-oriented projects that directly relate to people's needs and whose benefits accrue to the society. Lavkumar Khacher interjected that local people never get the benefits of any ~~xx~~ schemes; it is the vested interests ~~that~~, benefit. e.g. charcoal makers in the Kutchh region, who take away more forest wood than do people.

Harsh Vardhan- remarked on the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ poor representation by govt. officials. Felt that the main problem was NGO vs. GO and NGI vs. GI at all levels of working, at least in the field of conservation. There was no apex-level forum for NGOs, no guidance. Hinted at the formation of a "federation" so that joint action could start. Suggested that NGOs identify and adopt some critically endangered species. Govt. must realize the need to support, financially and otherwise, the work of NGOs in conservation.

Bittu Sehgal: By and large, NGOs are aware of their "role"; the question is of finding their effectiveness. For ~~this~~ there must be a federation, and a newsletter. Offered to start a newsletter.

Erach Bharucha- Indian NGOs talk too much. Have been preaching conservation to conservationists only. Need to reach out to non-conservation ~~xx~~ groups, e.g. social ~~xxxxxx~~ groups such as Lions, Rotarians, Jaycees, etc.

~~XX~~

E.A. Naidu- WASI has been attempting all the activities listed in the workshop document. Convinced the Karnataka govt. of the need to protect Coorg region as a Biosphere Reserve. Adopted the area for ecological improvement. Associated officials as well as villagers in its programmes. Has been carrying out surveys and monitoring of tanks and ponds in the Bangalore-Mysore region. Also devote^s time to development of tank fisheries. Weekend outings for children. WASI associates with a number of rural development agencies and uses their favourable officers. Smaller NGOs could, similarly, associate with the larger ~~xxxx~~ agencies in the field of env., wildlife protection, forestry, rural dev., and make use of their infrastructure.

S.T. Baskaran- the schism between "science" and "non-science" is an example of "intellectual superstition". Must resolve the science^{v5}/non-science and Govt. vs. non-Govt. conflicts if conservation has to make any headway.

NGOs will have to expand their role from the traditional education-awareness functions they have been performing till now. Rural NGOs must be strengthened in particular. There must be a large effort to produce and distribute vernacular material. Lamented that local people are largely not aware of, and mostly indifferent to, the natural resources of their areas, e.g. the Ranebennur Sanctuary is only six km from the Bangalore-Mysore highway, still the local people are unaware of its value and even its existence. Endorsed the view that emotion plays a great part in people's contribution to wildlife conservation. Science alone cannot save wildlife; the attitudes of the general public are a major deciding factor for the fate of many species. People will have to care for their natural heritage.

Anne Wright- Pity that govt. officials not present. Recounted the work in the eastern and north-eastern region to summarise what NGOs can do: Main thrust of NGOs should be towards education and awareness; development of viable alternatives to the use of natural forest resources; help to the media; liaison and representation with govt. and professional agencies; should press for allocation of adequate funds for schemes having to do with environment; should back up the good work of Forest Deptts; collect money and finance the acquisition of equipment for field work; can sponsor experts; help identify and protect neglected sanctuaries; help identify and protect wetlands, and wastelands; should press for implementation of proposals and recommendations made by scientists. Many NGOs are involved in research and rehabilitation work related to endangered species, but unfortunately their work is not taken seriously enough, and in most cases not acted upon by govt. agencies. Captive breeding should be tried by NGOs only if they have the expertise. NGOs must make use of local media in communication, esp. folk art.

J.C. Daniel- a number of recent instances show that govt. itself is flouting its own laws. Examples of forest destruction in Narmada project; elephant capture in Assam. Need now felt for a legal cell to take up such matters. NGOs must take the govt. to court and fight such cases unitedly. NGOs should lobby with local leaders and create political opinion favouring conservation. To ensure effectiveness, NGOs should restrict their activities to only what they can handle singly and collectively. There is poor implementation of IBWL recommendations, at state level. NGOs should attempt to educate decision-makers not only at national but also at state level.

Vijay Paranjpye- there are two levels at which conservation NGOs can interact: 1. with other conservation NGOs; 2. with NGOs and people in non-wildlife/non-conservation fields such as tribal welfare, rehabilitation, water resources, etc. These agencies must be told that the work of wildlife protection is not anti-people, and actually complements their aims and objectives. A pity that none of the Indian NGOs, not even the premier ones, thought it fit to participate in the important issues such as the debates arising from the Land Use Policy Bill, the National Water Policy, forest and pollution-related legislations, etc, when all these have an integral relation with the future of conservation. Wildlife/conservation NGOs must incorporate such issues in their working, and not try to play safe by isolating their objectives.

Wrong to assume that formally notified reserves are the only wildlife areas; India has a large number of ~~ep~~ non-formal protected areas such as sacred groves, trust properties, village society forests, etc. that exist outside the traditionally defined sanctuaries. NGOs should take active part in their preservation. Must convince religious leaders that wildlife protection ethics ~~and~~ are in line with their religious preachings. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Dilnavaz Variava- One needn't wait for the "federation" to take shape; sheer communication among NGOs themselves can help to a great extent. The Silent Valley campaign was a success because it brought together a large number of people from all walks of life through sheer networking, and the whole movement snowballed. NGOs must learn to use experience from other fields not necessarily related to conservation.

J.B. Sale- must distinguish between what NGOs can get done and what the average NGO or its member can do. NGOs are high on enthusiasm and commitment but low on technical expertise. The bigger NGOs can hire technical expertise to get work done, but most average NGOs cannot handle the delicate situations presented by problems of wildlife management. Diff. NGOs have diff. capabilities; some do have the expertise to take on ~~the~~ biological research, etc. and aid in management, but actual management should be executed by a ~~XXXXXXX~~ trained cadre of professionals working within a definite framework (here the Forest/Wildlife Deptts. and their allied agencies).

The biggest sector where NGOs can help is the establishment and expansion of nature awareness/education programmes and resource material production and dissemination.

There is a great need for at least 4-5 well stocked film and AV libraries in the major cities, to distribute resource material to user-NGOs. Similarly, publications, guides

and even technical literature can be produced by NGOs. Capacity for fund-raising to sponsor/finance professional training, esp. for young scientists.

Debi Goenka- resentment over govt. attempts to control NGO roles or to "assign" them roles, in return for financial or other support. Liaison with govt. tends to be futile and frustrating, because ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ it is inhospitable to NGOs that cause ~~embarrassment~~ or criticize any govt. measures or action. e.g. Humayun Abdulali was dropped from being an Hony. Wildlife Warden because he took action against poachers and caused embarrassment to the Forest Deptt. which itself was not inclined to take action. People's hostility also rises because of instances of corruption in ~~public dealings~~ the govt's public dealings. Experience shows that while federations/associations, etc. get embroiled in petty politics and other problems, individuals can interact much better and get work done. Saw the "pressure group" role of NGOs as very important. NGOs can and should take part in the drafting of legislation related to conservation. Mass awareness can be greatly enhanced if celebrities from the show business could be used to convey conservation messages via the medium of film/ television.

G.M. Oza- need to emphasize habitat preservation at all stages; "marginal lands are green gold"; the diversity and variability of Indian ecosystems unique and must be constantly reiterated.

W.A. Rodgers- Indian wildlife is under threat, but has not yet reached a point of ^{no} return. Pessimistic views only dampen enthusiasm and undo efforts. A good thing about NGOs is that they can afford to be very outspoken. But their problems are that they talk in cliches, preach problems and not solutions, and mostly talk in closed circles without trying to expand their impact. Emotions must be channelled into scientific facts. Habitat conservation must be given high priority; NGOs can support and promote eco-development. NGOs need a coordinating agency.

Sally Walker- personal experience with govt. deptts. positive; however, ~~mutual relations~~ relations among NGOs themselves range from good to very bad. Healthy competition is OK but mutual slander and criticizing do not help anyone. NGOs should stay out of technically sensitive problems until they have proven capabilities to handle the situations. Advantage of NGOs and NGOs is that they can be more easily accepted by communities where govt. officials will be spurned. NGOs, since they are not

conditioned by the "fixed approach" as professional scientists are, will try anything while working out solutions, and many times it might work; on the other hand professional will only try the prescribed methods and maybe not succeed. NGOs must give maximum encouragement to people working in the field. e.g. Zoo Keepers Adoption Programme.

Rosalind M. Wilson- media people usually have an inflated idea of their importance in the sphere of communication; do not wish to devote time to any but the most eminently newsworthy issues. Need to educate them about the importance of their contribution to conservation awareness. Role of media in nature interpretation and communication. Media with the help of NGOs can produce better resource material for park visitors. Emphasis must be given on not just nature information but also ^{on} how to communicate these concepts to the lay person. NGOs can run training courses for media people on nature interpretation.

Samar Singh (High Range)- commercial companies may be encouraged to adopt/finance wildlife reserves. e.g. Eravikulam, run by the HRWPA since 1928 (earlier called the Kanan Devan Estate). Differed with J.B. Sale's view of only "scientific expertise" succeeding in conservation, and felt that in a number of cases even amateurs have succeeded, esp. in managing wilderness areas.

Ashish Kothari- Indian NGOs do not view any issue critically enough. Even the major NGOs play safe, not wanting to oppose anyone. Only a very few small groups have of late started to question some fundamental issues, e.g. the Forest Policy, the Narmada and other dam projects, tribals' rights and related issues of displacement, rehabilitation, etc. Time has come to take stands rather than stay neutral. Lot of NGOs are counter-productive; they only hold seminars and do no other work. Time also to take a critical look at lifestyles— personal/community/professional. Moral/ethical perspective— why not cull useless people, if accept the culling of ^{useless} livestock?

Prakash Amte- described his group's work at the ashram; background of Boudhat-Inchampalli projects; work with tribals. Many tribals brought sick/orphaned/abandoned animals which ~~now~~ ^{constitute} a sizable population at the ashram. Tribals were weaned away from hunting by training them in agriculture. Morcha against environmentally unsound dam projects.

Duleep Matthai- (interjection) WWF-India's action/intervention in Tehri and Bodhghat dam projects.

Ravi Chellam- Need for more publicity to cases such as the work of NGOs in interveningⁱⁿ dam projects, so that more people and agencies could lend support. Watchdog function of NGOs and NGIs not yet emphasized well. A national network will help in this direction.

M.K. Prasad- must attempt to get statutory recognition for NGOs so that their reporting is taken cognizance of by govt. Deptts. and officials withhold information when dealing with NGOs and NGIs; must fight for free flow of information. "Education" a tricky word in conservation; an "educated" bureaucracy cannot function within govt. Suggested loose working and doing things themselves without getting involved in official sanctions, etc, since govt. has a tendency of not doing things and not letting others do them either. e.g. fodder project for Periyar, study not done by govt. despite acceptance of the need, nor allowed to be done by an outside agency. Example of CEE being able to protect its painstakingly developed campus from destruction, by giving villagers free water in return for protection and now even mutual guarding against outside elements harming the area. Professional training to NGOs should be made available free, by WJI and other competent agencies. NGOs should build pressure on govt. to ^{formulate and} adopt a National Conservation Strategy.

Debi Goenka (interjection)- BEAG has fought and won a case in court, for the right to information, of interested groups.

Erach Bharucha- NGOs must look at conservation problems of local areas instead of only thinking about national problems all the time. Give importance to multiple use areas. Current edn. programmes miss out on both pre-school and primary school children, and university students, centering around middle and high school stages only. Need to address both extremes of the scale.

M.K. Ranjitsinh- the comments about NGO-govt interaction are a manifestation of the "Indian and S.Asian character". Indian NGOs love to criticize; cannot take criticism or face unfavourable evaluation of work. Have a flair for giving advice, but do not practise what they preach. Possible roles for NGOs: aid and advice to govt., edn. and interpretation. Direct action: intervention, representation.

Prakash Gole- NGOs can establish credentials only through demonstrating that they can do good work in the field. They must establish practical projects, e.g. plantations or eco-development projects on ^{lands} bought or leased ^{by them}. NGOs should identify conservationists among officials of the various depts. such as irrigation, agriculture, town planning, and work in close association with them. The enthusiasm, currently restricted to big cities, must now be transferred to villages and small towns, preferably by regular NGO meetings in such areas, and by involving as yet untouched target groups.

Parvish Pandya- Larger NGOs should mass-distribute info. to smaller NGOs that normally do not receive anything, e.g. wildlife laws, policies, debates on current issues, major conservation news from India and abroad, etc.

Communication among NGOs themselves should be more effective, so that even far removed groups are aware of what is happening in a particular area. e.g. transfer of J&K CWLW because of his opposition to the clearing of forest land in the ^{Salim Ali} ~~Sanjay Gandhi~~ NP, Srinagar, for making a golf course. Such incidents largely go unreported in the conservation community and no NGOs come forward to take stands. Cited the example of Bombay-based naturalist groups fighting together ~~to~~ for unilaterally banning animal and plant collection for lab/herbarium purposes, without even involving univ. authorities. There are ways of circumventing govt. procedures.

Mahendra Vyas- there should be access to information, incl. minutes, reports and agendas of meetings of Central and State Wildlife Boards and other such bodies. Most NGOs and NGOs do not get to know of what happens at such meetings, and what actions are proposed. Several states flouting the Act by not forming WL Adv. Boards, and where there are Boards, by not holding regular meetings, both mandatory requirements under the Act. Hony. Wardens and Board members (non-officials) more of decorations than effective measures, because the system ^{at large} does not know the powers, duties, and the role of such individuals, e.g. the police has not been made aware of the provisions of the WL Act and the powers of the Hony. Wardens, so they do not bother to aid when the need arises.

R.L. Singh- one advantage of NGOs is that they can work continuously in an area for yrs. and build up very useful data-bases. Forest officers are constantly

operating under too many pressures, are answerable to many people, and get transferred frequently, ^{therefore} cannot provide the requisite continuity to research work. NGOs can help in this regard by carrying out research on their own and in league with the local F. Deptt., university or other institutions. NGOs can also help with legal matters, e.g. cases of planted evidence to harass honest or strict forest officers, legal follow up of poaching incidents and other forest offences. Can help in counteracting political pressures, e.g. poachers, encroachers and their backing agencies. Help with media representation of issues. ^{which govt. officers cannot take to press.} Help publicize the good work being done to keep up ~~enthusiasm~~ morale.

Slide Presentation by
Dr. E. K. Bhattacharya

Presentation of Paper on
National Parks and Sanctuaries in India
IIPA M/s. Shukla Singh & Co.

Summary from circulated note

Recommendations

NGOs should be involved in

- planning and management at diff. levels before setting up a Nat. Park/Sanctuary;
- research
- monitoring of existing parks/sanctuaries

W.A. Rodgers pointed out the limitations of the report. Presents bare data, no evaluation or judgement possible; objectives must be analyzed ^{instead of} ~~just~~ just stating the facts.

30 Aug 1987

Presentation of SANCTUARY FILMS production on the
Indravati Tiger Reserve.

Discussion

Bittu Sahgal- Central Govt., in the panic of losing more states to opposition parties, is hurriedly sanctioning projects like Tehri, Narmada, Indravati, etc., to gain popular support. The govt. has an eye on the next elections and if no public action is taken, a great deal of damage will have been done in the next one or two years. It is crucial that NGOs act now and mount public opinion against such projects. In many cases the forest area to be submerged by the reservoir is far more than the total area to be irrigated by the project.

Television can be a strong medium for creating public opinion about environmental issues such as these. Films such as INDRAVATI can be particularly effective.

Duleep Matthai- in most cases any opposition to govt. projects will mean directly taking the law in one's hand, which must be avoided by NGOs. A legal cell is a must.

Shekhar Singh- DDM has been trying to carry out env. impact studies in the case of many projects but for many years it has been unable to muster up the requisite expertise. ZSI, BSI, etc. have also been unable to help with expertise. The IIPA has been a witness to the Narmada Project in particular, and its offer of assistance in carrying out these studies has been ignored. NGOs in many cases have the expertise or can get it from outside. Such NGOs must build up pressure so that the govt. gives in to their request of letting them carry out such studies on its behalf if the govt. itself is not in a ~~XXXXXX~~ position to do it.

[illegible]

J.C. Daniel: the govt. cleverly sidetracks NGOs which have the expertise to carry out such studies and which, it knows, can say "yes" if asked. BMIS, for example, has never been asked to help with any such impact studies.

G.M. Oza- in the case of the Narmada project, suggestions

for setting up an advisory committee with reps. of conservation groups had been made many years ago, but the govt. set up such a committee after the project had already been cleared and work was in progress.

Duleep Matthai- in the matter of dams, govt. has overruled the DOEn's recommendations.

E.K. Bharucha- set up a central information cell for NGOs (based at ESC/Sanctuary). It should receive, process and disseminate information fed into it by NGOs and other sources. This cell can gradually evolve into a federation.

Anne Wright- one of the bigger NGOs should convene at least two meetings a year, of all Indian NGOs.

Duleep Matthai- there should be a newsletter which will carry authentic information on environmental issues.

M.K. Prasad- NGOs themselves should take up the work of studies of habitats, e.g. the Silent Valley study by KSSP, which was made possible only because some individuals decided to go ahead with it and not wait for any govt. invitation or suggestion to carry out such work. Offered to carry out the floral studies component of the Narmada study.

J.C. Daniel- BNHS would be in a position to take up the faunal study of the Narmada basin and supplement the overall study.

Thomas Mathew- in many projects the pace of damage is such that it leaves no time for studies to be initiated now; there is a greater need for mobilization of people's action.

Dilnavaz Variava- in a way studies are good as they allow one to "buy time".

Vijay Paranjpye- need for "environmental professionals". NGOs are not diversifying when they talk of such studies. Cited example of the Kanha study on alternatives to irrigation.

NGOs must at least appear to be united on issues such as the Narmada, even though there might be differences.

Anne Wright- WWF-I ER got together a team of experts who contributed in the preparation of a report on the Neora Valley, but when it came to decisions, the Irrigation Dept's report was favoured over the naturalists'.

Mahendra Vyas- let the proposed "federation" evolve rather than form it right now. NGOs still need to get over the mutual distrust that exists. Issue-based rallying is needed more than forming a federation.

H.S. Panwar- at least the national group can be formed rightaway. Call it the National Environmental Action Group. A Narmada Chapter may function for issues related to the case and other chapters may start for other issues.

J.B. Sale- there must be a certain kind of framework so that credibility develops and the govt. also takes notice.

R. Grubh- let us at least succeed in setting up an info. cell.

Sally Walker- let's get down to direct action rather than form committee after committee. Quoted the failure of the Indian system in making progress when it came to arriving at a consensus: the federation of Indian zoos, which was to take the form of an Indian Zoo Association, has still not taken shape after 32 years of meetings and deliberations at the highest levels. Hoped the same wouldn't happen to the NGO federation.

Dinavaz Variava- even before the Silent Valley campaign was born, an issue of the WWF-I newsletter had carried news of the threats to the Silent Valley from the ^{proposed} hydro project. But WWF-I was unable to take any action itself, being preoccupied. It was only when a few concerned individuals got together that the campaign was launched and despite being a small people's movement in the beginning, it snowballed and gathered tremendous support. On the other hand, even big names such as the IUCN and WWF carry no weight when it comes to influencing decisions.

Mahendra Vyas- people respond to issues and not to organizations. ~~organizations are not the answer~~

P.A. Joseph- there must be an issue even for a federation to fight for or against.

Duleep Matthai- from the point of view of decision-making,

the govt. must be shown that a movement/federation carries the support of a large no. of people and has a wide-based representation.

Ashish Kothari- the inherent problem with the very concept of "federation" is that it will have reps. from not only diverse backgrounds but also with difference of opinion and ideology^{ies}. There is no need that everyone in a fed. must agree on an issue in only one direction, e.g. some within the NGOFed may want the Narmada project stalled altogether, some will like it okayed with alterations such as provision for proper relocation of oustees. Still others may want to abstain from the debate. Therefore there are going to be problems of unanimity when it comes to a federation of NGOs taking united action. By their very nature, federations tend to be inflexible, monolithic institutions.

Sharad Gaur- to make its nature very clear and also to lend it more weight; the group could have a name such as "National Secretariat". Its functions should be those of a clearing house/apex body/ central storehouse for data and info/platform for joint action. The Secretariat could form federations depending on issues and their concern with groups.

Robert Grubb- no country has so far succeeded with federations.

Harsh Vardhan- let ESG offer its infrastructure to take on the "nucleus" function, and let Bittu Sahgal lead one group on the Indravati issue, and Prof. M.K. Prasad with others lead the Narmada group, so that deliberations over the federation and its structure do not delay work.

J.C. Daniel- there could be two approaches with regard to the fed. One is to have a national body with state/regional subgroups; the other is to have an info. cell with a newsletter, and only a loose network. The former would have to have a proper structure and a letterhead.

W.A. Rodgers- Quoted from Jeffrey McNeely's comments: "coordination is not guidance..."

Mahendra Vyas- the formation of federations should be issue-based.

Thomas Mathew- federations cannot be opened and closed with issues.

W.A. Rodgers- a federation does not have to be formally set up. We could call ourselves a fed. starting now and begin to function as one.

J.C. Daniel- there will still be the need for an organization to do the coordination work.

Chandrakant Wakankar- let the federation work within a loose framework. It may be called a Network of Environmental Organizations. The network can have chapters/task forces as and when issues arise. Every task force/chapter would have a different set of member NGOs/NGIs depending on their support to the particular issue.

Shekhar Singh- forming a federation is a sure way of sabotaging the environment movement.

Bittu Sahgal- the federation should function as an "environmental grid".

J.B. Sale- it could be called a "forum".

Ashish Kothari- linkages among NGOs/NGIs should be in the form of a communication network.

W.A. Rodgers- issues could be of two kinds: 1. env. issues, and 2. issues of adm./ideology/internal problems of NGOs or their federation. The meeting should address itself to both.

Duleep Matthai- let Bittu Sahgal (Sanctuary) be the central point for all NGOs to feed their info to. BS will bring out newsletter. Since information in the hands of vested interests could be misused, the newsletter should be internal.

H.S. Panwar- the whole idea of wider dissemination of info. will be defeated if the newsletter is internal. Issues can be hushed up to the govt's ~~XXXXXXXX~~ advantage.

Bittu Sahgal- the newsletter must have credibility. Yet it can't be self supporting. Money is needed. Let WWF-I or BNHS get the money from the DOEn and Bittu Sahgal will take on the publishing.

Dilnavaz Variava- only strategy-related matters need to be restricted in circulation; general info. must be widely circulated.

Ashish Kothari- two newsletters should be brought out- an internal one and a general circulation one.

Bittu Sahgal-will take care of the general circulation newsletter as well, provided WWF-I or BNHS funds the first six issues or ^{DOES} provides Rs 1 lakh-1.5 lakh per issue to BS. It could be ~~applied for xxxxxxxx~~ a newsletter on subscription.

Sharad Gaur-there is not likely to be ^a market for another newsletter. There is already a good number of newsletter/society journals, many of them floundering even after years of efforts at establishing themselves. Most readers will not go beyond headlines if one more newsletter is put out on the market. Secondly, the new newsletter will have the ~~xxxx~~ same problems to face as the existing ones: finding readers, getting material, a set up, establishing itself over some years, etc. It might be better to strengthen one or more existing, widely-circulated newsletters than to start another. More important will be to consider what set up, staffing, funding, functions, location, etc. the proposed NGO federation will have, because the need for such a body will remain even after the newsletter has been started. Sanctuary will only provide an editing/design/printing service, it cannot take on the functions of an info. centre or an NGO cell.

Robert Grubb- a forum is necessary to guide and advise the smaller NGOs in matter relating to their own and environmental problems.

Mahendra Vyas- even the existing reports/journals/documents are not circulated by their producing agencies, esp. the govt. committees/boards. The smaller NGOs have no means of getting such information. It will be better if IBWL itself makes a beginning by circulating its reports to large and small NGOs alike and not withholding information. Cited the example of the IBWL subcommittee on eliciting public support in wildlife conservation. Its report with recommendations has been gathering dust in the stores of the Min. of Env. and Forests ~~xxxx~~ and ^{a few} ~~some~~ thousand copies will eventually be destroyed after lying around for years, but they will not be circulated to NGOs or others who might need them. Feared that the same might happen to the document originating from this workshop.

Dilnavaz Variava- the ~~xxx~~ proposed newsletter should have

information about such meetings/committees/boards and their reports/documents/recommendations, etc. so that NGOs can acquire them. It should also carry reviews and price lists of new publications in the relevant fields. It must also publicize issues that deserve "alarm calls" being sent out.

Ashish Kothari- the newsletter should also list out ~~xxxx~~ resource material, services, expertise that NGOs and NGIs can provide to one another or to other agencies.

DECISIONS

The Chairman announced that there was consensus on the following matters:

1. a loose network/federation of NGOs should be formed.
2. an internal newsletter should be produced and circulated among NGOs. This will carry NGOs'/NGIs' contributions, besides news and other info. on current env. issues. Bittu Sahgal to produce and distribute the newsletter.

Ashish Kothari- If the workshop decides to form a federation, it must offer justification for ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ such a body. There are already quite a few associations of environmental/conservation bodies in India, and we could just join ~~xxxxxxxx~~ one of the biggest among them, e.g. the Indian Environmental Congress. There seems to be no moral or ethical justification in floating another federation when the existing ones are ineffective.

Shyam Chainani- this is not correct, as there are many apex bodies each in other fields too, and all of them are functional, e.g. various chambers of commerce and industry.

Ashish Kothari- commerce and industry chambers and an environment federation have no common points for comparison.

DISCUSSION ON IIPA REPORT

Shekhar Singh requested NGO help in verification of data, supplementing info., completing questionnaires esp. for states/sanctuaries that do not respond, plus any other addnl. info from such areas. Offered to send computer printouts of sections that NGOs/NGIs help with. Also suggested that NGOs keep up a constant pressure in their areas by keeping vigil, and monitoring trends. Major gaps in the report are in the area of authentic faunal and floral listing and their estimates.

W.A. Rodgers- Will has nearly finished producing a series of manuals with simple monitoring techniques for biological parameters. NGOs should acquire these when they are ready, and use their guidelines for monitoring their respective areas.

Thanks etc. by - Chairman.

Reference to the case of the use of the same is also used.

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