



ANNUAL REPORT

1995



WORLD CONSERVATION
MONITORING CENTRE

WCMC provides information services on the conservation and sustainable use of species and ecosystems and supports others in the development of their own information management systems.

The Centre has many years' experience in this field providing specialist services and advice not only to its three founders and principal sponsors

IUCN - The World Conservation Union;
the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

but to a host of other clients among development aid and financial institutions, UN agencies, international convention secretariats, government and non-governmental organisations, the scientific community, the media, commerce and industry.

WCMC works to a three-year programme, reviewed annually by its international management board.

This provides a framework for planned projects and regular client services, with enough flexibility to allow the Centre to develop a broad range of activities within its field of expertise.

WCMC will actively seek to build on its strengths in 1996 and beyond, developing services and products that meet the real needs of collaborators and clients alike.

WCMC – Information for Conservation



**WORLD CONSERVATION
MONITORING CENTRE**

WCMC - ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR, 1 JULY 1994 - 30 JUNE 1995



FOREWORD by the Chairman

THIS has been a busy year for WCMC's Board and staff with considerable effort going into strategic planning for the Centre's future, building on past achievements.

Fifteen years ago, when WCMC's predecessor the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre began its work, the aim was to compile information needed to convince decision-makers that species were becoming extinct and that this mattered. The situation is now much more positive. Nations around the globe have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, setting their sights on conservation and sustainable use of species, their habitats and their genetic components. Politicians and planners everywhere now understand that the variety of nature, or biodiversity as it has come to be called, is fundamental to us all.

So what is the Centre's role now? Clearly there is still a need for the comprehensive and reliable information products that the Centre has always excelled in and the demand for an authoritative overview is ever greater. But the task of putting biodiversity information into the right hands at the right time, wherever and whenever a decision about lands and natural resources is being made, cannot possibly be achieved by WCMC alone. Indeed, in many cases, it is not an appropriate role for the Centre.

A key focus is therefore to help nations committed to the Convention on Biological Diversity to implement their obligations to inventory, monitor and assess the conservation

status of their biological diversity. As a result the Centre has been planning ways to pass on its skills through capacity-building programmes, including training and education.

The year under review has been generally successful for the Centre, with an expanding portfolio of projects, a wider range of clients and collaborators and growing staff numbers. Nevertheless, there is a need for greater future investment in the development of programmes, in training of staff and in computer resources. Much of this investment will take place during the coming financial year.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Board members, many of whom have served the Centre in a voluntary capacity since its inception. This year we have also been joined by Dr Christoph Imboden, until very recently Director-General of BirdLife International, and David McDowell, Director-General of IUCN, each of whom brings a wealth of experience to the Centre.

As a reader of this Annual Report you are likely to be a user, collaborator or supporter of WCMC. I hope you will find the information presented here useful and stimulating, and that you will join me in helping the Centre to carry out its much-needed work.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Agnew', written in a cursive style.

Rudolph Agnew

WCMC - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

An increasing demand for WCMC services and great opportunities for its future development

Introduction

THE galaxy of intergovernmental initiatives resulting from the Earth Summit and Agenda 21 is continuing to provide an increasing demand for WCMC's services, and offers great opportunities for its future development:-

- The Convention on Biological Diversity has been ratified by 144 states in record time.
- The Commission on Sustainable Development has established an Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.
- UNEP has developed a Biodiversity Programme in which the Centre has been assigned an important role.
- The World Bank is "mainstreaming" environmental concerns into its investment portfolio and is working closely on these issues with multi-national corporations.

Similarly, there is rising demand for support at the national level in capacity-building. Improved skills in information management are needed by many countries pledged to imple-

ment the Convention on Biological Diversity and other environment and conservation treaties. WCMC has moved to meet this demand with the appointment of new staff with experience in this area.

Meanwhile the demands on the Centre from its traditional client base have continued to grow and, in response, WCMC has provided a wide range of products and services to the conservation and development communities. Coupled with increased use of electronic communications over the year, the Centre is now reaching many more people than a year or two ago.

Organisational development

Last year I indicated that WCMC was planning a more strategic approach to strengthening links with its founders and to building future capacity. In the first half of 1995 a number of reviews concerning the Centre's future were completed:-

- IUCN prepared a *Vision of WCMC*.
- UNEP prepared a *Policy Framework for Co-operation with WCMC*.

- The Centre carried out a *Review of Organisational Development*.

The task of harmonising the new perspectives on the work of WCMC which are emerging, and of identifying a pathway for strategic development, are major challenges for the coming year.

Further studies are under way in eight areas: (i) governance; (ii) role and objectives;



Cambridge MP Anne Campbell with WCMC Director Dr Mark Collins at the formal launch of the Centre's World Wide Web server on the Internet, making data available to around 20 million people in more than 90 countries .

WCMC - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(iii) information systems; (iv) communications; (v) project management; (vi) staff management and development; (vii) administration; and (viii) social & environmental issues. These are being pursued in an integrated way by the Board, staff task forces and specialist consultants. Concrete action in all these areas will be taken in 1995/96.

Shortly after the close of the current year, in August 1995, we presented a draft "WCMC Development Strategy 1996-2000" to the Board's Business Committee for comment. This document will be developed in the coming year with the support of a new Programme Advisory Group under the chairmanship of Dr Christoph Imboden.

Financial performance

For the second year in succession the Centre has enjoyed rising income overall and a modest surplus over expenditure. To a large extent these developments result from effective marketing of WCMC's programmes coupled with internal efficiency measures which have brought waste down to very low levels. At this point, however, the Centre must give careful consideration to the long-term effectiveness of its programmes.

While project income is growing satisfactorily, the Centre is confronted with a budget deficit in excess of 50 per cent at the beginning of each financial year; an uncomfortable situation when there are more than 50 staff on the payroll and a building loan of £1.25 million to service. The Centre is therefore beginning to seek more sources of regular and predictable project income, building on the increasing acceptance of WCMC as an international centre of excellence.

Future prospects

Future development of WCMC is closely tied to the needs and aspirations of its client base and its collaborators - particularly IUCN, UNEP and WWF. The strategic planning process will continue into 1995/96 and this, coupled with discussions on new collaborative initiatives, will help determine where WCMC's future lies.

Meanwhile, WCMC is a service agency and in the immediate search for ways to improve performance we must compare what we deliver with clients' needs. The following observations are helping to drive the Centre's development:-

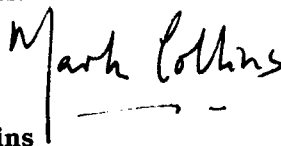
There is a considerable demand for the integrated information services the Centre provides. As yet, we are reaching a relatively small proportion of potential users so are working to make WCMC services more widely, easily and cheaply accessible.

Much of the information held and disseminated by WCMC is not in the best formats for use by clients and collaborators. More effort is being put into adapting and refining our information output so that it can be more easily understood and applied.

- In the developing world, and among nations in transition, the demand is high for technical advice and support on how to manage national biodiversity in a sustainable way. The Centre will contribute by helping to build national capacity for information management.
- Information available is increasing so rapidly that it is becoming difficult to locate and use. WCMC has a clear role in helping people to find relevant information sources, and where necessary help them apply that information.

It is clear that clients and collaborators generally view WCMC as a reliable and technically competent data manager on the cutting edge of technology, and that there will be a gradual increase in our role as data manager and technical consultant on data handling.

The challenge for the Centre in the coming year will be to sustain this level of performance and reputation while planning strategically for future development. Amongst all else this will call for increasing investment in computer and human resources.



Dr Mark Collins

WCMC - PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Significant improvement in WCMC's ability to support national information management systems

AN expanded project programme was carried out in 1994/95 amounting to 93 operational projects, not including miscellaneous minor undertakings around the world. A significant development was an extension of data management services to international agreements:-

- Relationships with the CITES Secretariat were strengthened by a joint evaluation of the services WCMC provides, and through further development of these services.
- Close links with the World Heritage Convention led to a principal role for the Centre in discussions on development of a World Heritage Information Network.

- The Centre put forward a number of proposals for improved data management and capacity-building for UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme.
- WCMC provided advice to the Interim Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular on fulfilling its mandate to establish a "clearing-house mechanism" for the global exchange of biodiversity information.
- An agreement was reached with the CMS Secretariat under which WCMC provides information on the Internet on the Convention on Migratory Species.

Capacity-building

A new Capacity Building Unit was established during the year, and this area of the Centre's work has forged ahead.

Together with UNEP/GEF, the Centre developed a Biodiversity Data Management Project in response to the need for support to countries in building capacity for managing biodiversity data. WCMC was responsible for preparation of various guidelines and supporting documents for the project, most of which were produced during the year under review.

In parallel with this, the Centre executed an EU-funded project to assist in building capacity for biodiversity data management in tropical forest countries. Other capacity-building activities were undertaken in Sri Lanka, India, Ecuador, Cuba, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

A study of the potential for an education and training programme was also undertaken. This involved wide external consultation, at the conclusion of which it was clear that the potential for WCMC contributions in this field is considerable. This was followed by preparation of a costed programme and fund-raising strategy.

Services to Industry

WCMC's services to industry developed satisfactorily during the year, notably with the



Among visitors to the Centre were: (Top) - from Yakut, Russian Federation: Vasily Alekseyev, Minister for National Conservation, and government colleagues Svetlana Yegorova and Valeriy Ageyev. (Above) - from Indonesia, wetland managers on an International Centre for Conservation Education training course.

WCMC - PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

agreement of a three-year sponsorship by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association to improve the Centre's capacity to provide data for environmental planning. The Centre also agreed three projects with RTZ in addition to supplying the corporation with conservation briefing papers for a range of countries.

Increase in collaborative work

While the Centre's work has always been collaborative, this has increased considerably over the last year or two. Examples of major collaborative work this year include:-

- Protected area systems analyses carried out in collaboration with international programmes focused on the tropics, Europe, Russia, Arctic regions and Uganda.
- Studies for the European Union on financial investments in biodiversity conservation were carried out in collaboration with IUCN and seven national organisations.
- Studies of mangrove distribution with the International Society of Mangrove Ecosystems, and development of an international database on coral reefs with the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management.
- Development of an information management programme with the Centre for International Forestry Research.



Visiting Fellows Dr Seppo Kaitala and Dr Igor Lysenko from Moscow State University working at the Centre on mapping the Russian Arctic.

- Support to the European Environment Agency in developing improved mechanisms for reviewing and reporting on European biodiversity and its conservation.
- Collaboration with the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and Environmental Protection and UNEP on a review of proposed new biodiversity indicators.

During 1994, WCMC signed an agreement with the European Centre for Nature Conservation which resulted in the secondment of a member of WCMC staff for two years. Following this, the Council of Europe contracted ECNC, WCMC and the Institute of European Environmental Policy to draft a *Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy*; a major input to the meeting of European Environment Ministers held in September 1995.

Information Services

The BT Community Programme continued to provide generous support to WCMC's Information Services, supplemented by the Centre's own funds. Among other things, this allowed WCMC to launch its World Wide Web server on the Internet in September 1994.



Biodiversity mapping : Serene Ong (right), from the Asian Bureau for Conservation, working with WCMC Technical Assistant Corinna Ravilious (left). Also pictured: Nick Ball, a student placement at the Centre.

WCMC - PROJECTS

Close to a hundred collaborative projects completed or ongoing during 1994/95, varying in duration from a few months to several years

Conservation Atlas of Tropical Forests:

Final volume of a three volume atlas covering the tropical forests of Latin America (to be published in 1995/96).

Monitoring the State of Tropical Forests:

Developing and testing methodologies for maintaining, storing and analyzing information on the management, sustainable use and degradation of the world's tropical forests.

Building Capacity for Biodiversity Information Management in Tropical Forest Countries:

Developing and documenting mechanisms to enhance information management in countries with tropical forest.

CIFOR Data Management: Providing information on forests to the Centre for International Forestry Research by developing a programme to review and augment available information.

Sri Lanka Forestry Support - National Conservation Review:

Supporting the Sri Lankan Forest Department in evaluating the importance of all remaining natural forest in the country for biodiversity conservation and watershed protection.



Chairman Klaus Kohlhase and General-Secretary John Lemlin of the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association with WCMC's Head of Habitats, Dr Richard Luxmoore (centre), at an Oil Spill Conference in Los Angeles.

Forest Resource Accounting: Implementation with the International Institute for Environment and Development of a feasibility study for forest resource accounting in Pakistan.

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Trees: Development of an information service on the distribution, conservation status, local uses and economic values of tree species worldwide.

Coral Reef Mapping: Mapping the world's coral reefs in digital format in collaboration with the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management.

International Workshop on Developing Habitat Indicators: Organised jointly with the World Resources Institute to assist policy-makers in assessing progress on the conservation of biological diversity.

World Atlas of Mangroves: Publication of a world atlas of mangroves for the International Society of Mangrove Ecosystems.

1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants: Preparing and publishing the first-ever world list of threatened plants in collaboration with IUCN's Species Survival Commission and several leading botanical institutes.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Plant Genetic Resources of Central America: Developing and testing methodologies for gathering and using data on plant genetic resources in the region.

Indo-Malayan Protected Areas Systems Review: Supporting the Asian Bureau for Conservation in up-dating an IUCN review of the Indo-Malayan region carried out in 1986.

Support to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme*: Providing information management support to both IUCN and UNESCO on sites forming part of the international network of Biosphere Reserves.

Support to the World Heritage Convention*: Providing information support to both IUCN and UNESCO on natural sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

WCMC - PROJECTS

Enciclopèdia Catalana: Contributing to five volumes of a series - *Biosphere: Humans in Ecological Areas of the World* - published by Enciclopèdia Catalana .

Biodiversity Map Library: Facilitating access by non-expert users to WCMC's global digital map data, with support from the British Petroleum Company and International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association.

Country Data Samplers for Africa: Providing support to the World Resources Institute in the development of GIS-based information sources for planners.

Biodiversity Support Program: Providing information to WWF-US and Conservation International to assist in the assessment of conservation priorities for USAID funding in Latin America.

Development of Supporting Materials for Biodiversity Data Management and Exchange: Providing technical assistance to UNEP in assisting developing countries fulfil their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Methodology for Biodiversity Sustainability Assessments: Identifying methodologies which may be applied in-country to assess biodiversity and the degree to which it is sustainably managed.

Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre: Assisting the establishment of an information centre for India, funded by the UK Overseas Development Administration.

Country Studies: Taking part in UNEP/Global Environment Facility Country Study Project workshops in Cuba and Tanzania.

BT Conservation Information Service: Improving and expanding the Centre's established information service on global conservation.

Trade Monitoring for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)*: Managing information on reported trade in CITES-listed species on behalf of the Convention Secretariat.

Capacity Building for Information Management

One of the key aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity is to enable all countries to benefit from environmentally sound development of their natural resources. Essential support for this is the availability of reliable, up-to-date environmental information in a form which can be readily used by national authorities in formulating resource management policies.

Central to the overall strategy of WCMC, therefore, is the development of a worldwide network of biodiversity information management centres which will help build capacity to collect and apply environmental information vital for decision-making both nationally and cooperatively among regional groups of states.

One current project exemplifies WCMC's expertise in this field: The UNEP Biodiversity Data Management Project, whose objective is to facilitate the building of national capacity for biodiversity data management and exchange as required under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Among outputs of this GEF-supported project is a set of materials to help countries establish data management programmes in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. These are:-

- Guidelines for National Institutional Survey* to assist countries survey and assess the state of their capacity for managing biodiversity data.
- Framework for Information Management*, which introduces principles and techniques for developing national information systems to produce information for decision-making.
- Electronic Resource Inventory*, which documents the growing array of standards in biodiversity data management.

As part of the same project, WCMC held an induction course for developing countries participating in the project, which touched key themes, processes and issues involved in the management of biodiversity information.

WCMC - PROJECTS

Arctic Environmental Database Programme: Compiling mapped environmental data for the Russian Arctic to assist in environmental planning and management.

Lovell Johns children's books: Researching base information for the production of four endangered species/habitats books.

European Union CITES Annual Report*: Maintaining a central database on behalf of the European Commission, contributing to uniform implementation of CITES controls in the EU.

Support to the World Heritage Convention

THE international community is concerned to ensure the preservation of sites of outstanding global importance such as the Victoria Falls, Mt Kilimanjaro, the Galapagos Archipelago, the Great Barrier Reef and many others.

A Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was thus adopted in Paris in 1972, under which areas of "outstanding universal value" are designated World Heritage Sites to foster international cooperation in safeguarding them.

WCMC supports this convention, working with the responsible bodies: the Convention Secretariat at UNESCO in Paris; the World Heritage Committee; and IUCN, which reviews the status of specified sites and provides technical advice. WCMC's contributions include:-

- Support to reviews of nominations.
- Assistance in developing information management.
- Identification of experts to assist in the evaluation of nominations.
- Assistance in reviewing threats to sites and in preparing monitoring reports
- Periodic publication of information sheets, papers and books.
- Response to miscellaneous requests for information on World Heritage Sites.

CITES Significant Trade: Comparing levels of trade in CITES-listed species with information on the status of wild populations so as to help identify species being traded at potentially unsustainable levels.

Natural Environment and Sustainable Development - a Review of Community Action: Collaborating with the European Centre for Nature Conservation to produce a working paper for the EC on sustainable development.

Monitoring Financial Investments in Biodiversity Conservation in Developing Countries: Quantifying how much, and where, money is being invested in biodiversity conservation in developing countries by national and international agencies.

Biodiversity Profiles of the UK Dependent Territories: Assisting the UK Government to develop profiles of each Dependent Territory as a basis for biodiversity action plans.

European Union Species Distribution Database: Compiling data for a comprehensive country distribution database on species included in new EU wildlife trade legislation.

The Biodiversity Information Clearing House - Concept and Challenges: Preparing a background paper for informal consultations with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Global Land Cover Classification: Comparing land cover classification systems in order to recommend a mechanism for harmonising nomenclatures currently used.

Gap Analysis of Circumpolar Protected Areas: Carrying out an analysis of protected areas networks in support of the intergovernmental Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna Programme.

Study on Priorities for Biodiversity, UK: A report to the UK Government on means for identifying priorities for financial investment in biodiversity conservation.

TREES: Producing a CD-ROM (including satellite images, graphics, text and software) on the joint EC/European Space Agency's TREES project (Tropical Ecosystem Environmental Observation by Satellite).

WCMC - PROJECTS

JNCC Checklists Revision: Up-dating the Joint Nature Conservancy Council's four *World Checklists* - (i) *Mammals*; (ii) *Birds*; (iii) *Amphibians and Reptiles*, and (iv) *Fish and Invertebrates* - which provide basic information on species listed in the CITES appendices.

Development of the Biodiversity Database in the National Museums of Kenya: Providing technical advice and assistance on systems analysis and database design.

Private Initiatives in Conservation: Carrying out a pilot survey of the extent of conservation action and initiatives in protected areas management in the private sector in East and Southern Africa.

Investments in Conservation Areas in the Tropics: Identifying priorities for conservation action, based on analysis of habitat protection and of national government funding for protected areas, and related international aid.

Data Provision for Microsoft Corporation: Providing data from the Biodiversity Map Library and species database for Microsoft's *Encarta Encyclopedia*.

Environmental and Cultural Conservation In Inner Asia: Compilation of information on the conservation of biodiversity in the Inner Asia region.

Economic Incentive Measures for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity: Contributing to a report by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Expert Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity.

Feasibility Study on Biodiversity Indicators for Integrated Environmental Assessments: Identifying indicators which describe and assess the state and use of biodiversity together with related causes and societal consequences.

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy: Collaborating with the European Centre for Nature Conservation and the Institute for European Environmental Policy in the preparation of a strategy for submission by the Council of Europe to the European Environment Ministers' Conference in September 1995.

The Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Plant Genetic Resources of Central America

MEXICO and other Central American states have a wealth of plant genetic resources important for sustainable agriculture, forestry, food production and new pharmaceuticals.

Governments of the region have powerful incentive to conserve these resources - reinforced by their commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity - and are concerned to develop a joint strategy to reverse a trend of genetic erosion of plants of actual or potential economic value.

The Centre is working with national authorities and NGOs as well as regional and international organisations. Among long-term objectives are:-

- To assess the status, distribution, uses and threats to the most economically important plants and their wild relatives in Central America.
- To promote conservation of genetic variation amongst the wild progenitors and landraces of agricultural crop plants in the region.
- To build the capabilities of national institutions to identify, evaluate and utilise their plant genetic resources.
- To develop, field-test and refine a methodology for in-country gathering of data and assessing national priorities.

Project funds are provided by the UK's Darwin Initiative and the Swedish International Development Agency.

Support to the European Topic Centre/ Nature Conservation: Provision of advice and information to support the Centre in its first year of operation under the auspices of the European Environment Agency.

Provision of Protected Area Information for the Tropics: Evaluating the latest available information on the types and conditions of vegetation in protected areas for countries of the Indo-Malayan region.

*Recurrent annual projects



WCMC - COLLABORATION

The Centre and its founder organisations continued to review working relationships while carrying out a wide range of joint projects

IUCN

The World Conservation Union

THE Centre has continued to cooperate closely with IUCN, especially with its Species Survival Commission (SSC), which has confirmed WCMC as its data management partner, and the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA), implementing projects in collaboration with both Commissions.

An initiative to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS) was progressed, in particular at a two-day meeting called by the SSC and hosted by the Centre in April. The BCIS concept involves a number of international organisations in an information system which draws on the strengths of all participating organisations, and delivers integrated information products to policy- and decision-makers. The concept continues to be elaborated through a series of further meetings.



RELATIONSHIPS with UNEP advanced strongly as UNEP developed its *Policy Framework for Co-operation with WCMC* as well as its own Biodiversity Programme. The Centre contributed substantially to the programme and strengthened project links seem likely as a result.

Important advances were made with UNEP

during the year in capacity-building for biodiversity data management (as outlined on p.7), and through collaboration with UNEP-GRID on the development of its metadatabase, which records in a systematic way the information that GRID facilities have available. WCMC also collaborated with UNEP on several other projects and supplied information to the UNEP/DHA (Department of Humanitarian Affairs) Environment Unit in Geneva in response to environmental emergencies - in particular for oil spills in the Russian Arctic.



WCMC continued to provide technical support to the development of the Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC), administered by WWF-India and

supported by WWF-UK. Specific help and advice was given on computer systems and demonstrations for IGCMC's official opening. The Centre also assisted in planning the establishment of an information centre attached to WWF-Russia in Moscow, further developed links with WWF-Netherlands, and discussed installation of the Centre's Biodiversity Map Library in WWF-US offices.

WCMC - COLLABORATION

OTHER organisations with which WCMC has a Memorandum of Understanding or formal working links:-

International / Regional Organisations

- Asian Bureau for Conservation
- Asian Wetlands Bureau
- BIN21
- BirdLife International
- Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- Centre for International Forestry Research
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Programme
- Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network
- Consultative Group on International Horticultural Research
- European Centre for Nature Conservation
- European Topic Centre/Nature Conservation
- Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe
- UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, European Union Joint Research Centre
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
- International Tropical Timber Organisation
- TRAFFIC International
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Wetlands International
- World Bank

International Conventions

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- World Heritage Convention

National Conservation Organisations

- Africa Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya
- Arctic Centre, Finland
- Asociacion Centro de Estudios y Accion Social Panameño, Panamá
- Centro de Datos de Conservacion, Peru

- The Chinese Academy of Sciences, Biodiversity Committee
- Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Mexico
- Conservation International, USA
- The Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent, UK
- Environmental Resources Information Network, Australia
- Fundación Natura, Ecuador
- Fundación Venezolana para la Conservación de la Diversidad Biológica, Venezuela
- Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre, India
- Institute of Evolutionary Animal Morphology and Ecology, Russian Federation
- Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, UK
- International Biodiversity Institute, Costa Rica
- Jamaica Conservation & Development Trust
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK.
- Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, Uganda
- Microbial Strain Data Network, UK
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Russian Federation
- Moscow State University, Geographical Faculty, Russian Federation
- The Natural History Museum, UK
- National Museums of Kenya,
- Nature Conservation Division, Department of Environment and Conservation, PNG
- Raleigh International, UK
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, UK
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK
- Russian Institute for Nature Conservation
- Scott Polar Research Institute, UK
- Smithsonian Institution, USA
- State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, USA
- Svanhovd Environment Centre, Norway
- The Nature Conservancy, USA
- Tropical Forest Research Group, UK
- US National Park Service, USA
- Several WWF national organisations.



WCMC - INFORMATION SERVICES

The year saw WCMC Information Services "go live" on the Internet, thus reaching a significantly increased user-base

THE Centre has continued to collaborate with the BT Community Programme on the improvement of WCMC's Conservation Information Services. During the second year of a three-year programme, significant effort has been put into the development of information services on the Internet - and, in particular, development of a WCMC World Wide Web server. In fact the rapid development of the Internet, and the keen interest shown in our



service, has led to the assignment of more time and effort to this activity than was originally planned.

Work on computer communications has not been carried out to the exclusion of all other activities, and WCMC has continued to review and develop its products and services. Highlights include: (i) development of a draft catalogue; (ii) reviews of information needs by partner organisations; (iii) discussions with various treaty secretariats and international organisations on services they need, and (iv) a review of how WCMC might provide a better input in training and education. In addition, WCMC has continued to provide information to clients ranging from private individuals to multinational corporations.

WCMC on the Internet

WCMC launched its World Wide Web (WWW) server in September during a visit by the

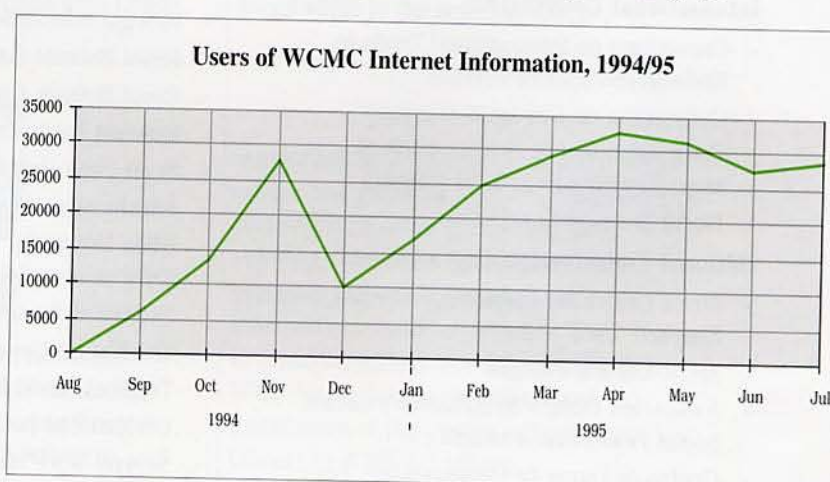
Member of Parliament for Cambridge, Anne Campbell. This provides a range of information direct to users over the Internet and also includes description of WCMC and the services it offers on the "home page".

The WWW server is reaching a substantial number of users, many of them new to WCMC. During the period September 1994 to July 1995 more than 200,000 files were accessed by more than 19,000 computers in over 50 countries.

Both the *United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas* and the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals* have been made available over the Internet interactively and these have proved to be very popular services. The *Red List* is accessed around 2,000 times a month (compared with the availability of 5,000 copies of the printed version).

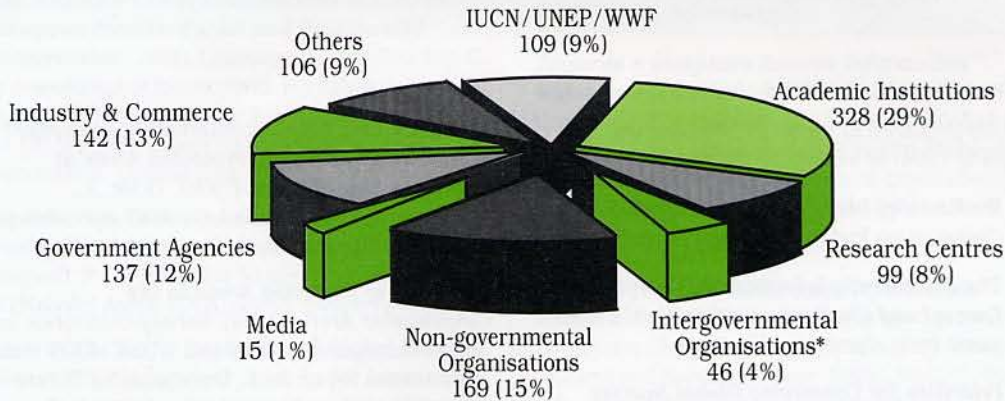
WCMC has also provided direct assistance to both the CITES Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species by putting information about these two conventions onto the Internet on their behalf.

A revised version of the Web server was launched in the spring of 1995 providing a range of new information, including copies of the first three publications in WCMC's Biodiversity Series (see below), as well as an



WCMC - INFORMATION SERVICES

Visitors, 1994/95



*Intergovernmental organisations include development banks and treaty/convention secretariats

index, a comments facility and access to user statistics. The revised version incorporates the WCMC Emergency Response Service, which provides information in response to environmental emergencies such as major oil spills.

WCMC is also making use of other electronic communications tools, including Anonymous FTP and listservers.

The Anonymous FTP area has been populated with information on the Centre and a number of WCMC products, while an e-mail discussion group on CITES initiated by WCMC last year has seen a significant increase in use, particularly associated with the Conference of Parties to CITES.

Consideration is being given to using the list server facility as a means of delivering information on WCMC to those with e-mail facilities but without full Internet access.

WCMC is developing other new Internet services for launch in 1995/96, including a Protected Areas Virtual Library. This is a WWW "home page" which will provide links to all other WWW servers making available significant information on protected areas.

The initiative is the prototype for other services WCMC could develop to assist WWW users navigate their way through the substantial but variable information resources available on the Internet.

Visitors

Since the WCMC building was first occupied in May 1993, there has been a gradual increase in the numbers of people visiting the Centre. This steadied at about 200 per month over the second half of the year.

The chart above illustrates the proportions of visitors from each of the major categories, clearly showing the predominance of visitors from universities and other academic establishments. Many of these tend to be "one off" visits, however, and the incidence of return or repeated visits is much higher for other categories. Over this period visitors to WCMC came from 48 different countries in all parts of the world.

The Centre has also been visited by staff and students from 12 courses during the year, including post-graduate students from British universities and professionals from a range of countries on training courses. The number of such visits has been on the increase since the development of a more focused approach to education and training within the Centre.

Publishing programme

The Centre launched its own publications imprint in 1994 - the World Conservation Press with three titles published so far. These and other publications are listed on the following pages.

WCMC - PUBLICATIONS

WCMC launches a Biodiversity Series to present the results of projects supporting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

TITLES published in the WCMC Biodiversity Series in 1994/95 were:-

- **Biodiversity Data Sourcebook** (1994). World Conservation Press, Cambridge, UK. (ii + 155pp.)
- **The Biodiversity Information Clearing House: Concept and Challenges** (1994). World Conservation Press, Cambridge, UK. (34pp.)
- **Priorities for Conserving Global Species Richness and Endemism** (1994). World Conservation Press, Cambridge, UK. (36pp.)

Other books

Availability of Biodiversity Information for East Africa and Folio Database and User's Guide (1994). Book and disk. FAO, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Checklist of Mammals Listed in the CITES Appendices, third edition (1995). Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, UK. (v + 130pp.)

Checklist of Birds Listed in the CITES Appendices, fourth edition (1995). Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, UK. (xiv + 248pp.)

Checklist of Reptiles and Amphibians Listed in the CITES Appendices, sixth edition (1995). Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, UK. (v + 84pp.)

Checklist of Fish and Invertebrates Listed in the CITES Appendices, third edition (1995). Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, UK. (viii + 198pp.)

Forest Resource Accounting; Stock-taking for Sustainable Forest Management (1994). Final report of an activity for the International Timber Trade Organisation (Forest Resource Accounting: Monitoring Forest Condition and Management). WCMC and the International Institute for Environment and Development's (IIED) Forestry and Land Use Programme. IIED, London. (ix + 81pp.)

Contributions to publications

African Cases in International Business (1995). International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/GATT Technical Paper. (xiv + 259pp.)

Acid Rain and Nature Conservation in Europe: A Preliminary Study of Protected Areas at Risk from Acidification (1995). Tickle, A., Fergusson, M., and Drucker, G. WWF Special Report. WWF-International, Gland, Switzerland. (95pp.)

The State of Protected Areas in the Circumpolar Arctic (1994). Norway-Directorate for Nature Management, UNEP and WCMC. CAFF Habitat Conservation Report No 1., Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim, Norway. (163pp.)

The Impact of Trans-European Networks on Nature Conservation: A Pilot Project (1995). Bina, O., Briggs, B. and Bunting, G. RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK. (61pp.)

Centres of Plant Diversity: A Guide and Strategy for their Conservation, volume 1 (1994). Davis, S.D., Heywood, V.H., and Hamilton, A.C. (Eds). IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. (xiv + 354pp.)

Parks for Life: Action for Protected Areas in Europe (1994). IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. (150pp.)

Protecting Nature: Regional Reviews of Protected Areas (1994). McNeely, J.A., Harrison, J., and Dingwall, P. (Eds). IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. (viii + 402pp.)

An Assessment of Eco-tourism of the Khanas Lake Nature Reserve, Xinjiang, China (1995). Development Evaluation, Appraisal & Programme Support, New Zealand, Report No 84. (vi + 49pp.)

A Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (1995). Kelleher, G., Bleakely, C. and Wells, S. (Eds): (1) Antarctic, Arctic, Mediterranean, Northwest Atlantic, Northeast Atlantic and Baltic; (2) Wider Caribbean, West Africa, and South Atlantic; (3) Central Indian Ocean, Arabian Seas, East Africa and East Asian Seas; and (4) South Pacific, Northeast Pacific, Northwest Pacific, Southeast Pacific and Australia/New Zealand. World Bank, Washington, DC.

Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995). Steering Committee for the Protection & Management of the Environment & Natural Habitats (CDPE), Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Pan-European Biological & Landscape Diversity Strategy. Council of Europe, Strasbourg. (45pp.)

Published papers

The Needs for Geo-referenced Information on European Forests: Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (1994). Luxmoore, R. and Drucker, G. In *Proceedings of International Workshop Designing a System of Nomenclature for European Forest Mapping, 13-15 June 1994, Joensuu, Finland*. European Commission, Luxembourg. (5pp.)

Introduction: Protected Areas in the Modern World (1994). McNeely, J.A., Harrison, J., and Dingwall, P. In *Protecting Nature: Regional Reviews of Protected Areas*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. (23pp.)

State of the Reefs: Regional and Global Perspectives (1995). Background paper for the International Coral Reef Initiative Executive Secretariat. Jameson, S.C., McManus, J.W. and Spalding, M.D. NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Silver Spring, MD. (32pp.)

WCMC's Biodiversity Map Library (1994). Collins, N.M. and Barnes, I. In the proceedings of a UNEP & IUFRO International Workshop on Developing Large Environmental Data Bases for Sustainable Development, held on 14-16 July 1994 in Nairobi. US Government Printing Office, Sioux Falls, USA. (5pp.)

Parks or Arks: Where to Conserve Threatened Mammals? (1995). Balmford, A., Leader-Williams, N. and Green, M.J.B. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 4(6).

Web Server for WCMC (1994). Bennett, D. In *Sun UK User* (30):9

Protecting the Mountains of Central Asia and their Snow Leopard Populations (1994). Green, M.J.B. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Snow Leopard Symposium*. ISLT, Seattle, USA. (14pp.)

An IUCN/WCMC Perspective on Safeguarding the Integrity of Natural World Heritage Properties (1995). Thorsell, J.W. and Paine, J.R. In *ICOMOS Canada Bulletin*, 4(3). (3pp.)

Finding the Information (1995). Harrison, J. In *Parks*, 5(1). (9pp.)

Threats and Priorities in Conserving Swallowtails (1995). Collins, N.M., Tsubaki Y. and Lederhouse, R.J. In *Swallowtail Butterflies: Their Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*, Scientific Publishers, Gainesville, Florida. (13pp.)

Conference and workshop papers

Biosphere Reserves and the IUCN System of Protected Area Management Categories (1995). Bridgewater, P., Phillips, A., Green, M. and Amos, B.

Paper presented to the Second International Conference on Biosphere Reserves, 20-25 March 1995, Seville, Spain (20pp.)

Towards a Biosphere Reserve Information Management System: WCMC's Perspective (1995). Gordon, D.M. and Green, M.J.B. Paper tabled at the meeting of the Commission on Scientific Research, Monitoring and Networking, Second International Conference on Biosphere Reserves, 20-25 March 1995, in Seville, Spain. (5pp.)

Proposal for a World Heritage Information Network: Information Technology in the Service of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1995). Stott, P., Paine, J.R., and Golding, F. (15pp. + annexes.)

Mountain Parks and Reserves in the Andes (1995). Thorsell, J.W. and Paine, J.R. Paper presented to an International Symposium on Sustainable Mountain Development: Managing Fragile Ecosystems of the Andes, 2-6 April 1995, in Huarinilla, Bolivia. Unpublished.

Selected project reports

Assessing Biodiversity Status and Sustainability (1995). WCMC, Cambridge, UK. (Now at Press)

Development of an Integrated Biodiversity Database at the National Museums of Kenya (1994). Appleby, C.E., WCMC, Cambridge, UK. (86pp.)

Provision of Technical and Scientific Support and Advice Relating to International Trade in Wildlife (1994): Report to the CITES Secretariat. WCMC, Cambridge, UK. (17pp.)

Review and Improvement of National Reporting for Trade in Plants Listed in the Appendices of CITES 1990-1992: A Report Prepared on behalf of the CITES Secretariat (1995). WCMC, Cambridge, UK. (32pp.)

Natural Environment and Sustainable Development: Habitats, Species and Human Society (1994). European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC), Tilburg, Netherlands. (25pp.)

Leading International Organisations Active in the Field of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity: Survey and Report for the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (1995). International Television Trust for the Environment.



WCMC - FINANCIAL REPORT

Rising income and good project management provide a sound basis for the Centre's operation

WCMC's total income rose by 4.7 per cent to £1.9 million in 1994/95, while expenditure rose by 4.3 per cent to £1.8 million. (See Figures 1 and 2 below). The operating surplus of £101,000 is a significant increase over the previous year (£90,000), and is a continuation of the steady growth since 1991. After allowing for interest allocations and receipts, the Centre's surplus on ordinary activities was £52,000, an increase of £20,000 over 1993/94 figures.

The Centre's gross external project income rose by 14 per cent to £1.2 million. This was an excellent result, although it must be placed in the context of the nine per cent (£70,000) drop in partners' core funds for the year (now standing at 33.7 per cent of total income).

Project - restricted funds from the partners added a further 6.1 per cent to a total for core plus projects of 39.8 per cent, down from 58.1 per cent in 1993/94. (See Figure 3). However, project-restricted income from other sectors increased, with governmental and intergovernmental sources rising strongly to 37.7 per cent of all income (Figure 3) or 54 per cent of project - restricted income - up by almost nine per cent. (See Figure 4).

An analysis of the expenditure of the partners' contribution to WCMC (see Figure 5) shows that 26.2 per cent has been used for strategic planning and management. Almost 19 per cent was spent on Technical Services, which includes computer purchases and system support, and a further 15 per cent was used for Information Services, including support of the Library and enquiry services.

The overall picture is of steady growth and good financial controls allowing a gradual improvement in the balance sheet and a satisfactory cash-flow position. The Centre was able to hold its charge-out rates unchanged into the 1995/96 financial year.

Set against this is the fact that WCMC has not yet had to pay full interest on the building loan, and is not investing to the extent it should in information systems and staff development. Greater investment in training and computer systems is essential and the Centre must therefore continue to increase its revenue.

Staffing and personal development

Total staff numbers rose from 51 at 1993/94 year-end to 57 at 1994/95 year-end. A training strategy was agreed during the year and a focused suite of training and personal development started.

WCMC continues to support eight students and has been successful in raising funds to cover some of these costs from the Worshipful Company of Salters.

In addition, the Centre has begun to establish a

Fig. 1 - Income Analysis

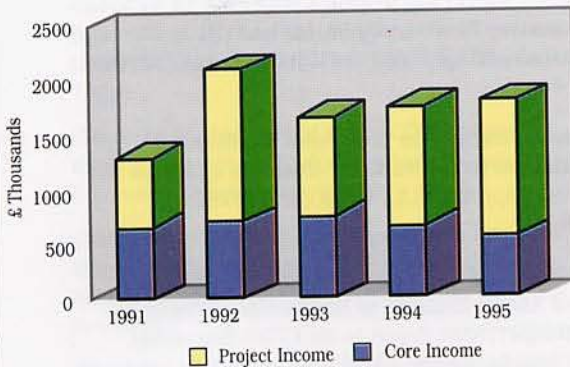
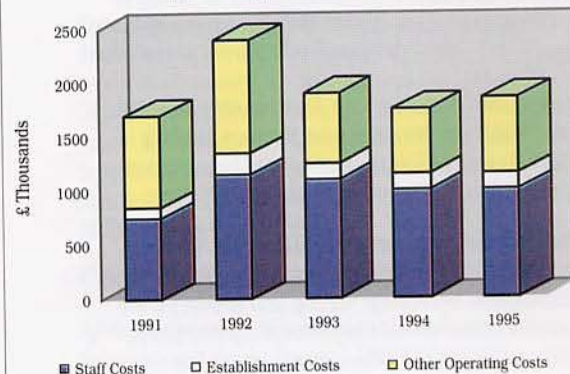
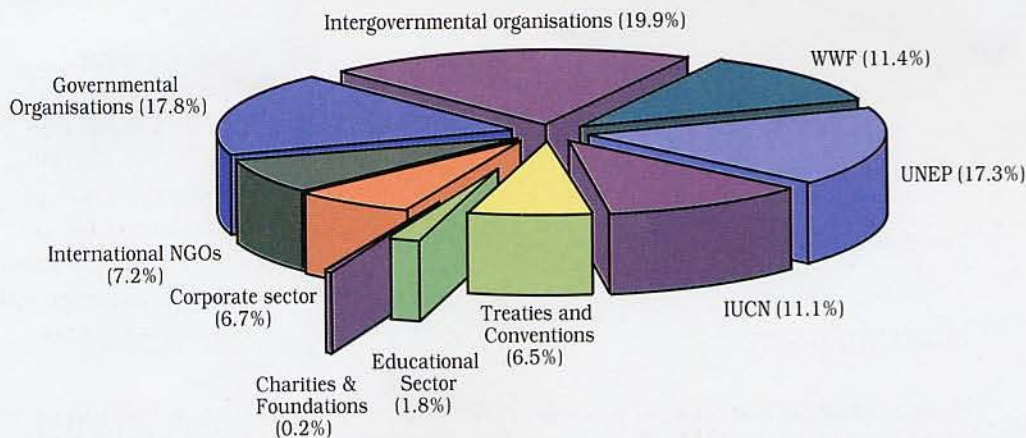


Fig. 2 - Expenditure Analysis



WCMC - FINANCIAL REPORT

Figure 3 - Sources of Income



cadre of consultant advisers retained on special agreements with the objective of ensuring maintenance of working links year by year. This arrangement is proving very beneficial and offers the flexibility the Centre needs to call on special expertise from time to time.

International recruitment

The Centre's UK status and financial position make it difficult to recruit on an entirely international basis. Nevertheless, within the constraints imposed by employment law and our equal opportunities policy, WCMC is successfully attracting nationals from other parts of Europe, North and South America, Australia, Asia and Africa through appropriate advertising. In addition, there are now many

more visiting scientists from overseas working in the Centre under bilateral agreements.

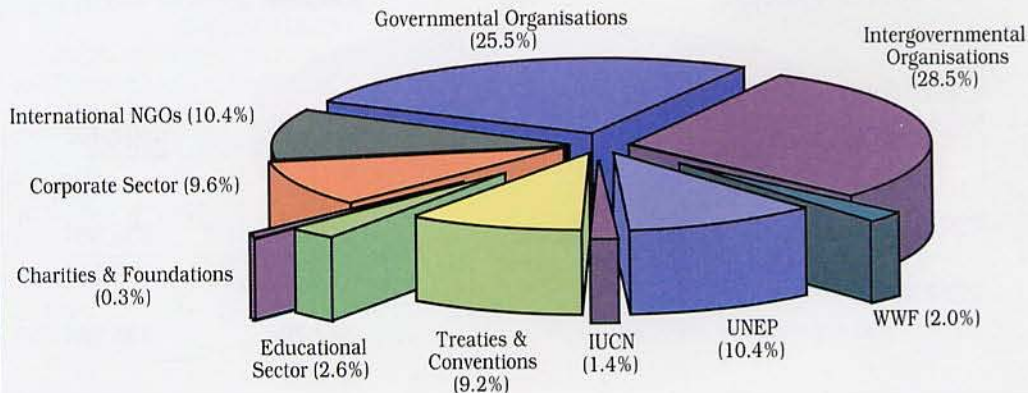
Infrastructure

The Centre's new building has continued to give excellent service and is admired by all. The architects and builders have won two awards for their work.

Equipment

As foreseen last year, an up-turn in expenditure on computer equipment is evident, albeit a modest one. The budget has been further increased for FY 1995/96. This infrastructural underpinning is essential if WCMC is to be a world leader in technical aspects of biodiversity information management.

Fig 4 - Sources of Project-restricted Income



WCMC - FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet - 30 June 1995

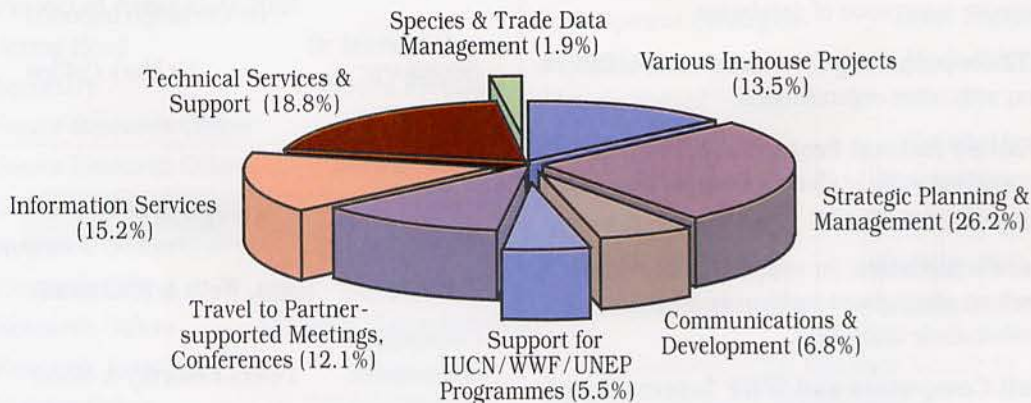
	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	1,756,250	1,826,538
CURRENTS ASSETS		
Work-in-progress on restricted projects	138,455	104,341
Amounts due from partners	155,152	90,729
Other debtors	199,768	242,483
Prepayments	10,910	3,410
Cash at bank and in hand	795,500	500,271
	<u>1,299,785</u>	<u>941,234</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals	211,121	137,967
Deferred income on restricted projects	514,887	260,536
Other creditors		50,000
Amounts payable to partners	26,060	16,136
Taxes and social security costs	24,837	30,084
	<u>776,905</u>	<u>494,723</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	522,880	446,511
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due after more than one year	<u>1,891,426</u>	<u>1,937,465</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	<u><u>387,704</u></u>	<u><u>335,584</u></u>
RESERVES		
Income and expenditure account	<u><u>387,704</u></u>	<u><u>335,584</u></u>

WCMC - FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenditure Account

	1995		1994	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Core income from partners	628,425		698,250	
Restricted project income	1,235,476		1,082,256	
		1,863,901		1,780,506
EXPENDITURE				
Staff costs	976,016		962,603	
Establishment expenses	76,252		74,799	
Other operating expenses	755,045		694,614	
Less overhead recovery	(44,475)		(41,729)	
		1,762,838		1,690,287
Operating surplus		101,063		90,219
Interest payable		(78,577)		(66,790)
Bank interest receivable		29,634		8,842
SURPLUS on ordinary activities for the financial year		<u>52,120</u>		<u>32,271</u>

Fig 5 - Analysis of Core Expenditure



WCMC - DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP

In addition to substantial support from its founders, IUCN, WWF and UNEP, the Centre also received donations and sponsorship from a number of other organisations and individuals

WCMC wishes to thank the following for their contributions in 1994/95:-

For strategic support ...

British Petroleum Company Plc. and the **International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association:** for supporting maintenance and enhancement of WCMC's Biodiversity Map Library.

BT Community Programme: for supporting development of WCMC's Conservation Information Service.

Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc: for supporting development of WCMC's Geographic Information System.

European Commission: for supporting development of WCMC's capacity to help others in building information management systems.

For supporting personnel...

The Salters' Company: for sponsoring undergraduate students working at WCMC.

Baring Foundation: for supporting the appointment of an SSC Liaison Officer.

Dulverton Trust: for supporting work to improve integration of databases.

RTZ: for supporting development and collaboration with other organisations.

Whitley Animal Protection Trust: for supporting work to identify national responsibilities for key species.

Darwin Initiative: for supporting innovative work on plant genetic resources and sustainable utilisation.

Bull Computers and WWF International: for supporting development of indicators of forest condition.

Dutch Government: for supporting a major new initiative on the conservation of tree species.

For other donations...

British Airways: for transporting staff and equipment to meetings.

Bruce Pearson (wildlife artist): for providing many original paintings, displayed at WCMC's Headquarters in Cambridge.

Peters Elworthy & Moore: for providing accounting and payroll services at special rates.

WCMC BOARD

<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr Rudolph Agnew
<i>IUCN nominees:</i>	Mr David McDowell Prof. Adrian Phillips
<i>UNEP nominees:</i>	Prof. Reuben Olembo Mr Anthony Brough
<i>WWF nominees:</i>	Dr Claude Martin Dr Robin Pellew
<i>Independent:</i>	Sir Martin Holdgate Dr Christoph Imboden
<i>Secretary:</i>	Dr Mark Collins

WCMC ADVISORS

<i>Solicitors:</i>	Bates, Wells & Braithwaite
<i>Chartered accountants:</i>	Peters Elworthy & Moore
<i>Auditors:</i>	Price Waterhouse

Director	Dr Mark Collins
Directorate	
PA to the Director	Angela Wacker
Human Resources & Administrative Officer	Yvonne Douglas
Financial Officer	Lynn Kisielowski
Secretary	Michelle Chapman
Accounts Assistant	Verity Saunders
Receptionist	Stuart Douglas-Whitehead
Receptionist	Glenys Neal

Species Unit

Head	Dr Tim Johnson
Secretary	Julie Reay
Coordinator (Animals)	Dr Brian Groombridge
Senior Research Officer (Plants)	Harriet Gillett
Trees Information Coordinator (from May 1995)	Sara Oldfield
Senior Research Officer	John Caldwell
Senior Research Officer (to May 1995)	Dr Helen Corrigan
Senior Research Officer	Tim Inskipp
Senior Research Officer (to March 1995)	Dr Chris Magin
Research Officer	Lorraine Collins
Research Assistant	Neil Cox
Research Assistant	Charlotte Jenkins
Research Assistant	Lesley McGuffog

Protected Areas Data Unit

Acting Head	Dr Michael Green
Secretary	Victoria Freeman
Senior Research Officer	James Paine
Senior Research Officer	Donald Gordon
Technical Officer, GIS	Gillian Bunting
Research Officer*	Graham Drucker
Research Officer	Javier Beltran
Research Officer	Christine Carey-Noble
Research Assistant	Susan Frade
Visiting Fellow	Balzhan Zhimbiev

Habitats Unit

Head	Dr Richard Luxmoore
Secretary	Barbara Brown
Research Officer	Clare Billington
Technical Officer, GIS	Simon Blyth
Technical Officer, GIS	Mary Edwards
Technical Officer, GIS	Jonathan Rhind
Technical Assistant, GIS	Corinna Ravilious
Research Officer/	
Ph.D.Student	Mark Spalding
Visiting Fellow	Dr Seppo Kaitala

Information Services Unit

Head	Jeremy Harrison
Secretary	Trisha Hodgson
Information Officer	Jo Taylor
Data and Communications Strategist	Ian Barnes
Systems Manager	Duncan Bennett
Librarian/Information Scientist	Mary Cordiner
PC Network Manager	Steven Mugeridge
Research Assistant	Esther Byford

Capacity Building Unit

Head	Dr John Busby
Information Analyst	Dr Jake Reynolds
Administrative Assistant	Laura Battlebury

Special Advisors and Consultants

Data Management	Professor Ian Crain
Development Strategies	Colin Watkins
Forest Conservation	Mark Aldrich
Metadatabase/	
Database Design	Gareth Lloyd
Species Conservation	Martin Jenkins
Senior Forest Officer	Dr Valerie Kapos
Plants Database	Dr Kerry Walter
Biodiversity conservation	Dr Martyn Murray

** On secondment to the European Centre for Nature Conservation for two years.*



Digital map from WCMC's Biodiversity Map Library:
Forests and forest protected areas.



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