

ANNUAL REPORT

1996



WORLD CONSERVATION
MONITORING CENTRE

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World Conservation Monitoring Centre

- WCMC is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in the location and management of information on the conservation and sustainable use of the world's living resources.
- WCMC has more than 15 years experience in this field, and provides information services to organizations ranging from UN agencies to multinational corporations.
- WCMC is an independent non-profit organization.
- WCMC was established by three of the key international organizations working in the field of biodiversity conservation, IUCN - The World Conservation Union, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

WCMC Mission Statement

WCMC provides information services on conservation and sustainable use of the world's living resources and helps others to develop information systems of their own.

WCMC achieves this by offering three principal services:

- Information Services that provide and facilitate wide access to information on the status, value and management of biological diversity;
- Capacity Building Services, helping others to gather, manage, interpret and use information on living resources;
- Data Management Services that include secure storage, sharing and management of data on behalf of other agencies and networks.



WCMC – Information for Conservation

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

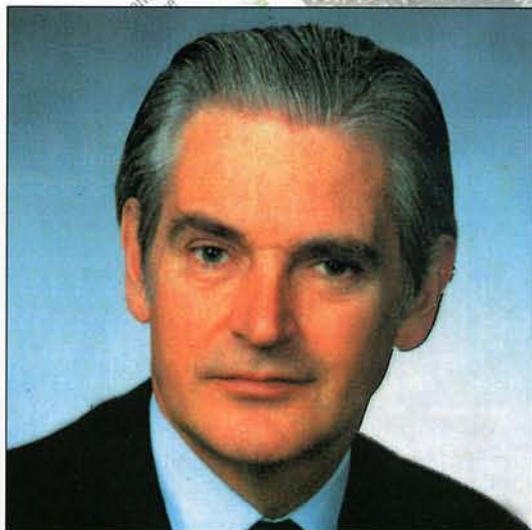
I believe that the next generation will place a higher value on the natural environment. They will appreciate more than we have done that their quality of life is largely dependent upon clean air, an industrial and agricultural landscape in harmony with nature, and a fully safeguarded complement of species and ecosystems. Environmental variables will become more important in decision-making than they are today.

In future we will also see information technology leaping ahead so quickly that we will all be swamped with data. The challenge won't be how to communicate, but how to filter the useful knowledge from the background noise, and how to integrate data into useful information. Data access and quantity will present no difficulties - the big issue will be data quality.

Taking decisions that affect biodiversity will therefore require better quality data and better ways of integrating it into useful information.

One way of achieving this is to build the capacity of data-gathering networks - one of the principles behind the formation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Information System* (BCIS). This consortium of nongovernmental organisations has come together to share data, to ensure its better use by decision-makers, and to improve the quality of data-gathering. I am pleased that WCMC is a founder-member of the consortium, with a central technical role in integrating and delivering biodiversity information.

National governments recognise their global responsibilities for biodiversity conservation and are often party to many international agreements. However, these international efforts are complex and absorb



*For the
Financial Year
1 July 1995 –
30 June 1996*

Improving the integration of data from international conventions will also help decision-makers.

scarce time and energy in hard-pressed government departments. Improved efficiency and effectiveness can be delivered by making better use of emerging technology and by sharing and integrating treaty information for policy development and conservation planning. This is an area in which WCMC can make a major contribution, building on many years of experience in supporting international conventions.

As this Annual Report shows, this has been a very successful year for the Centre. I thank the staff and Board of Trustees for their endeavours as well as our partners IUCN, UNEP and WWF for their continuing support. WCMC is reaching out to many more users of its information services, and I thank all those supporters and sponsors who have helped us. We look forward to serving you in the future.

Rudolph Agnew

Dr Mark Collins
Chief Executive

**Busiest year
since the
Centre's
inception
in 1988.**

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

As nations continue to embrace the concept of sustainable development and recognise the role that biodiversity conservation plays in this process, demand for the Centre's services has continued to grow. As a result 1995/96 was the busiest and most successful year since the Centre's inception in 1988, with a 50% increase in the number of projects initiated. These ranged from a three year multi-disciplinary project encompassing new database development and mapping techniques to minor information provision to the media and business development community. (See Project List pages 9-12.)

Our capacity building and training programmes in support of intergovernmental treaties are proving particularly popular, and there are signs that both non-governmental organisations and corporations are beginning to make more effective use of the public domain databases and information services that WCMC makes available. At the same time alliances are being forged with other organisations around the world, extending the Centre's network of collaborators.

Reviews of WCMC's direction and objectives have been carried out by WCMC and its collaborators, alongside a detailed overview appraisal carried out by the Director. The Centre is now responding with strategic plans, internal infrastructural change, new computer systems, training of staff, and better management systems, all of which are leading to improvements in the Centre's capacity to respond to the needs of clients and collaborators.

The WCMC Programme Advisory Group convened by the Chairman, Dr Christoph Imboden, noted in their report, *WCMC's Role*, that "there is a growing need for technical advice and services in information management to the conservation community, and WCMC has an outstanding opportunity to meet these demands."

Support to International Conventions

Staff and associates have made important contributions to the work of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including advice on development of the proposed Clearing House Mechanism, development of its databases and preparation of technical assessments for its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) remains a prominent user of the Centre's services and WCMC continues to manage the CITES Trade Database on their behalf. WCMC staff are also actively involved in the CITES Plants and Animals Committees as well as the Timber Working Group. The Centre's CITES work to improve wildlife trade controls in the European Union also continues to be very important, with WCMC providing a database of nomenclature and distribution.

Work with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre has been extended to include support in the development of the Internet-based *World Heritage Information Network*. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been agreed with the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals and WCMC helped the Secretariat to develop a World Wide Web site for the Convention.

Collaboration with Founder Organisations

During the year WCMC staff compiled the fifth edition of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals* (published in October 1996) and the first edition of the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants* (now nearing publication), continuing its long term collaboration with IUCN's Species Survival Commission.

WCMC's Protected Areas Programme has continued to strengthen links with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, facilitated by the establishment of joint programming meetings. Links with protected area agencies worldwide have been reinforced, through a programme to develop the forthcoming edition of the *United Nations List*

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

of *Protected Areas*, generously supported by the Norwegian Aid Agency - NORAD.

Work on a five year project to assess biodiversity in Sri Lanka's forests for IUCN Sri Lanka continued, with a member of WCMC staff seconded to the programme. Close links have also been established with IUCN's Netherlands Committee and African offices with the production and distribution of



Visit to WCMC by senior executives of World Bank and GEF Secretariat.

Red Lists

Collation and dissemination of information on threatened species has always been a core element in the work of the Centre.

WCMC has again been central to preparation and production of the latest *IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals*. The information is a result of continuing collaboration between WCMC, the Species Survival Commission of IUCN - The World Conservation Union and BirdLife International. WCMC was contracted by IUCN to assess a number of species, prepare all the category listings that make up the core of the Red List, and produce these in camera-ready form together with a comprehensive index. Much of the taxonomic and distribution information used was extracted from the WCMC Animals Database.

Work on the forthcoming *IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants* is nearing completion. This will be the first-ever world list of threatened plants. The database from which it will be produced has been under development for more than 15 years. More than 10% of the world's estimated 270,000 vascular plants are regarded as threatened at the global level.

The *Red Lists* will be in book form and also available interactively through the World Wide Web, so that all who need this information will have access to the latest and best scientific opinion.

educational and technical *African Rain Forest Poster Maps*.

Work nears completion on the project *Monitoring the State of the World's Tropical Forests*, supported by the Bull Foundation via WWF-International. Strong support and funding by WWF International Forest Programme has enabled the Centre to compile a world forest map which has been used to underpin the WWF *Forests for Life* campaign and the World Resources Institute *Forest Frontiers* initiative.

Testing of candidate indicators of forest condition and vulnerability has also been supported by WWF International and carried out in collaboration with IUCN Sri Lanka, Makerere University in Uganda, and personnel at the Australian

National University and the University of Durham, UK.

Projects with Others

Many notable projects were conducted during the year with an ever increasing number of sponsoring and collaborating organisations.

- The Arctic is attracting greater conservation effort. WCMC is working with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Programme, as a cooperating institution and as a member of the Expert Advisory Group on the Circumpolar Protected Areas Network. An Arctic Environmental Database has been constructed in collaboration with Moscow State University, UNEP-GRID Arendal, the Russian Ministry of Environment and

More than 10% of the world's estimated 270,000 vascular plants are regarded as threatened at the global level.

Natural Resources and the Scott Polar Research Institute.

- This year WCMC has supported more fully the network of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) through the supply of GIS datasets. Two major global datasets, on tropical forests and coral reefs, have been developed and distributed on CD-ROM through collaboration with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management, respectively (both members of the CGIAR).
- The World Bank has supported an analysis of protection status of terrestrial habitats throughout the Indo-Malayan region and an ongoing study of critical natural habitats in Latin America.
- The Capacity Building Programme has undertaken training workshops with governmental and non-governmental groups in Bahamas, Chile, Kenya, and Thailand, under the on-going *Biodiversity Data Management Project* of UNEP/GEF,

and in India with support from the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA). The Centre concluded its work for the European Union on capacity-building for information management in tropical forest countries. Other projects in this sector are being developed and we are confident that this new programme area will quickly mature.

- A new service, *Information Needs Assessment*, has been undertaken in Guyana and Montserrat, the former as part of the Centre's continuing collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the ODA and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in *Forest Resource Accounting*.
- The Centre had a staff member seconded to the European Centre for Nature Conservation, the Netherlands, throughout the period. Close ties have also been retained with the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen, its Topic Centre for Nature Conservation in Paris and the

Trees are some of the most important resources to people, but the conservation status of many species is poorly understood.

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Trees

In this three year project, funded by the Government of the Netherlands, WCMC is working with Specialist Groups of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a wide range of other organisations to develop a Tree Conservation Information Service. This will provide reliable and up-to-date information on tree species worldwide. Working links have been established with the FAO and IPGRI international databases on forest genetic resources.

A wide range of experts have been involved in Regional Workshops held in Zimbabwe and Costa Rica. These have helped to ensure that the developing Information Service is relevant to regional and national needs. In Kenya and Uganda national projects are being supported to mirror the overall objectives of this project.

Major project outputs will be:

- compilation and maintenance of an online database of threatened tree species holding information on conservation status, distribution, ecology, use and economic importance;
- a report on sustainable utilisation and management of trees.

As part of the project WCMC is:

- reviewing whether or not sustainable yield concepts can be applied to tree species;
- developing an early warning system to detect where tree species may become threatened through unsustainable use;
- developing capability of mapping certain tree species of conservation concern.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation in the Tropics

An analysis of the extent of habitat protection in the tropics was made possible by using the WCMC Biodiversity Map Library as part of a wider project (funded by ODA) to assess the extent and effectiveness of investments in conservation areas in the tropics.

This study revealed that:

- the level of protection of habitat types varies widely, to the extent that some are completely unprotected;
- a number of countries have sole responsibility for protection of particular habitats because they only occur within their borders;
- moist habitats such as tropical rain forests are generally better protected than drier zones such as dry forests and grasslands.

Our study of investments also revealed that countries with high biodiversity tend to spend less on biodiversity conservation than lower diversity countries, often a reflection of their lack of economic prosperity. Foreign aid does help address shortfalls in national investments but present levels of intervention remain inadequate.

Where there is already a high proportion of a particular habitat under protection, investments will need to focus on effective management rather than further expansion of protected area networks.

Council of Europe. All three of these agencies and WCMC have established a common European Protected Areas Database and a coordinated mechanism for its regular maintenance and updating.

- Memoranda of Understanding and collaborative links have been maintained with the Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, Russia, the Institute of Evolutionary Animal Morphology and Ecology, Moscow, the Kunming Institute of Zoology in China, and Raleigh International. Also there has been extensive joint project work carried out with the Asian Bureau for Conservation.
- Support for global information networks has been active, including forming closer links with the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) and Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN).

in our IT Programme continuing over a number of years and aiming to underpin the Centre's technical data management role and capacity to support collaborating institutions.

Geographic Information Systems and the Internet have played an important and growing role in WCMC's activities by providing high quality presentation and communication tools. The considerable international contribution WCMC is making in this area has been acknowledged by SUN Microsystems Computers and Relay Business Systems who have provided substantial



Participants on a Biodiversity Data Management Course.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Information systems are strategically important to all of WCMC's activities, and during the year we consolidated our skills in an Information Systems Unit with a new Head. This year WCMC initiated a major investment

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

WCMC's training programme provides a framework for the development of integrated information systems.

Training in Biodiversity Information Management

A WCMC training programme has been developed in response to three interrelated factors:

- international initiatives such as Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Biodiversity Strategy, which identify capacity building as essential to improved management of biodiversity;
- demand from WCMC's clients and collaborators;
- the existence of qualified staff at WCMC, able to deliver a training programme in biodiversity information management.

WCMC's training programme provides a framework for the development of integrated information systems, which are needed for informed decisions in sustainable management of biodiversity resources. Target audiences include national and regional institutions involved in the management of biodiversity information, post-graduate training courses, and mid-career professionals.

A workshop was held at WCMC for participants from ten countries, selected by UNEP, to help raise the profile of biodiversity information in decision-making processes and to help them produce the necessary information for biodiversity strategies and action plans.

During the year WCMC has provided short course training for delegations from Cameroon and China, and to various universities. Work began also in collaboration with the UK Government's Darwin Initiative to 'train the trainers', through the development of core curriculum materials and data management tools to support training.

sponsorship for the new infrastructure in support of the new Information Systems Strategy.

Internal efficiency has been enhanced through the better provision of financial and project management systems more strongly focused on the project manager's and client's needs.

COMMUNICATIONS

WCMC pursues its charitable objectives by providing services to the conservation movement worldwide and by placing as much data as possible in the public domain. The Centre's public information services have continued to benefit from the support of the *BT Community Programme*. This has enabled WCMC to further improve its Internet facilities giving many more people free access to WCMC data. Up to 8000 individual users from 84 countries have retrieved 10 000 megabytes of data per month, representing a five-fold increase this year. In addition, key products are distributed by traditional means including a full range of programme and

project information leaflets and publications (see publications listed below).

Internet Information Services

The booming growth of the Internet has led to development of many new information services on the World Wide Web, and WCMC has worked in collaboration with several key international organizations on:

- development of the *World Heritage Information Network* for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;
- creation of an information service on the *Convention on Migratory Species* for the Convention Secretariat;
- launch of the *Protected Areas Virtual Library*;
- strategic advice to the *European Environment Agency* on the development of WWW information services.

WCMC also worked closely with a number of organizations to develop prototype information services to test applications and assess user needs:

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

- development of prototype *WWF Clearing House Mechanism* pages for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- creation of a *Desertification Information Network* demonstration pilot project for the EU Centre for Earth Observation;
- launch of a pilot *Global Lakes Conservation Database* for UNEP, combining conservation information with remotely sensed data.

VISITORS AND PUBLICATIONS

WCMC welcomed nearly 2500 visitors from 66 countries during the year. About 10% of these visitors were taking part in post-graduate conservation and training courses. As news about WCMC's services spreads the Centre continues to be a popular port of call for visiting scientists and dignitaries from around the world. Visitors from the business and private sector are becoming more frequent. Further titles have been published in the WCMC Biodiversity Series this year, *Assessing Biodiversity Status and Sustainability* and a pre-publication extract of *Biodiversity of the Seas: a regional approach*. Other important publications during the year include four volumes in the World Books *Endangered Species* series; *The Conservation Atlas of Tropical Forests: Volume III The Americas*; and the *Electronic Resource Inventory: a searchable resource for biodiversity data management*. Three poster maps were developed: *The WWF World Forest Map, 1996*, *Coral Reefs and Mangroves of the World* and *Endangered Species of the World*. Fourteen project reports were published and WCMC staff made substantial contributions to



Meeting of the BCIS Membership.

a further seventeen books, most importantly the major volume prepared by UNEP/GEF *Global Biodiversity Assessment*. Staff also presented papers at many national and international conferences.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Total staff numbers have risen from 57 to 64 over the period. The Centre is increasingly cosmopolitan, with staff and visiting scientists from the conservation movement in many parts of the world. During the year WCMC employed and hosted people from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Russia, Rwanda and Spain as well as the United Kingdom. At least 25% of the Centre's total staff complement is from countries other than Britain.

The Worshipful Company of Salters once again sponsored some of the eight students that spent their placement with WCMC forming a very useful group of research assistants. A number of expert consultant

Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS)

By June 1996, WCMC had joined with a number of like-minded organisations in signing an *Agreement of Principles* for BCIS. The founding members are BirdLife International, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, IUCN Environmental Law Centre, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, IUCN Species Survival Commission, TRAFFIC International, Wetlands International and WCMC. These organisations share a common Goal: *To support environmentally sound decision-making and action affecting the status of biodiversity and landscapes at the local, national, regional and global levels through the cooperative provision of data, information, advice and related services.*

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Presentation of Green Award by Chairman of the British Institute of Facilities Management.



advisors further extend the expertise available in key areas.

An extensive programme of management training was carried out by the Industrial Society Training Unit for all WCMC staff.

The Centre's building won two more awards this year: The British Institute of Facilities Management's prestigious Green Award, and the runner-up in the Smaller Offices category in the same competition.

WCMC staff have also taken firm steps to create an environmentally-friendly workplace and have initiated a *Green Action Programme*, designed to minimise the environmental impact of our office practices.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

WCMC is operating in a favourable environment where demand for the services it offers is growing. Ecologically sustainable development, and the economic and aesthetic importance of the natural environment, are recognised as a priority by nations the world over. Nations are faced with enormous challenges in assessing, monitoring, conserving and sustainably utilising biological diversity, and recognise that this is a key measure in achieving sustainable development.

As the Chairman's introductory letter has emphasised, we are entering a new information era, when information technology will open up many more opportunities for public and global involvement in conservation and development planning. The Centre recognises these developments and is actively working to empower governmental and non-governmental agencies to take advantage of these new opportunities.

WCMC continues to focus its services on identified needs, and to develop its human and infrastructural resources, where steady growth is anticipated. Major developments in the coming year will build on initiatives started this year, including the following:

- The Centre will be very actively engaged in the further development of the *Biodiversity Conservation Information System* (BCIS) initiative which aims to focus the information resources and experiences of the collaborating organisations so that they are working together in a coordinated manner to ensure "better data for better decisions".
- WCMC will actively work with the secretariats of the major biodiversity-related conventions to harmonise their information management and reporting process, so as to improve both efficiency and effectiveness of the treaties.
- WCMC, together with BirdLife International and Fauna and Flora International, will extend its plan for an environmental park, focused on the existing WCMC building, providing separate headquarters for each agency and shared training and information resource facilities.
- WCMC will be working with others to develop the information services that help decision makers to locate the information they need, and use it in their planning processes.



PROJECT SUMMARIES

1997 United Nations List of Protected Areas. Update and preparation of the new list.

1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals. Compilation and production of the latest list of globally-threatened animals.

1996 Indo-Malayan Protected Areas Review. Spatial mapping of the natural vegetation and protected areas in the Indo-Malayan region to update the 1986 IUCN review.

1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants. Preparation of the first-ever world list of threatened plants, in collaboration with IUCN Species Survival Commission and several leading botanical institutes.

Africa Data Sampler. Provision of information on African forests, wetlands and protected areas for a CD ROM compiled by World Resources Institute.

African Rain Forest Poster Maps. Production of two poster maps, one with technical information for planners and the second as an educational resource for schools.

Analysis of Low Forest Cover Countries. A report for the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests aimed at conserving existing forest cover, particularly unique types.

Assistance to the Global Environment Facility. Provision of information to support project development by the UNEP GEF coordinating unit.

Biodiversity Conservation Information System. Review of the capabilities and needs of the nine cooperating agencies.

Biodiversity Indicators for Integrated Environmental Assessments. Identification of indicators which describe and assess the state and use of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Data Management. Supporting materials and technical assistance to aid developing countries fulfil their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Biodiversity Hotspots. Identification and data collection on sites of high biodiversity.

Building Capacity for Biodiversity Information Management. Mechanisms to

enhance information management in tropical forest countries.

Centre for International Forestry Research, A Systems Analysis of the World's Forests. Dissemination of information on global forest conservation with CIFOR in Indonesia.

Centre for Earth Observation, Desertification Information Network. Development of a prototype service on the Internet in collaboration with partners in France and Belgium.

Coastal Zone Profiles. Preparation of profiles for Namibia and Mozambique in support of International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association/ International Maritime Organisation *Global Oil Spill Initiative*.

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

Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources, Central America. Developing and testing methodologies for gathering and using data on plant genetic resources.

Conservation Atlas of Tropical Forests. Publication of the last of three tropical forest atlases: Latin America.

Conservation Atlas of Temperate and Boreal Forests. Preparation of an atlas on extent, management regime and conservation threats.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Migratory Species Database. Information on breeding sites of terrestrial migratory species in the circumpolar Arctic.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Gap Analysis. Preliminary assessment of the degree of protection of natural ecosystems in the circumpolar Arctic.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Environmental Database. Mapping environmental data for the Russian Arctic to assist environmental management.

These projects are under way or have recently been completed.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

More than 150 active projects during the year.

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, provision of data from the Biodiversity Map Library. Data provision to all centres of the group.

Convention on Biological Diversity - Scientific Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice. Preparation of preliminary agenda papers for the second meeting.

Convention on Biological Diversity. Development of a pilot *Clearing House Mechanism* on the World Wide Web for the Secretariat.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Report of Plant Trade.

Analysis of CITES annual reports, recommendations for further action and procedures for data collection.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Advice on taxonomy of species in trade.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Timber Working Group. Provision of a timber and botanical expert to act as the European Union Representative.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Data Management. Computerisation of annual report data; development of computer software for data analysis; report on implementation; general scientific and technical advice.

Convention on Migratory Species, Country Profiles. Collation of data on migratory species and production of report on the potential significance of the convention to non-Party states.

Coral Reef Poster. Publication of an educational poster on coral reefs and mangroves of the world.

Coral Reef Mapping. GIS mapping of the world's coral reefs in collaboration with the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management in the Philippines.

Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management. Preparation of a background paper for the *FAO Forest Resource Assessment 2000*.

Critical Natural Habitats in Latin America and the Caribbean. Preparation for the World Bank of a description of the most important sites for biodiversity conservation.

Education and Training in Biodiversity Information Management. Developing a strategy for WCMC involvement at the national level in support of tertiary level education.

Electronic Resource Inventory. Background and reference material on biodiversity data management.

Enciclopèdia Catalana. Contribution to five volumes of Enciclopèdia Catalana's series, Biosfera, published in Catalan.

European Centre for Nature Conservation. Secondment of WCMC staff member.

Green Action Plan

During the course of this year the Green Action Programme was started which aims to ensure that WCMC adopts working practices which benefit the conservation of the local environment and minimise the adverse impact on the wider environment.

The Programme involves the active cooperation of all staff but is run by a steering committee. The focus so far has been on transport, energy and water use, recycling, purchasing of material resources, and waste disposal. A survey has established that over 50% of staff regularly commute to work by bicycle, and to encourage this two bicycles for communal use have been provided. Paper consumption is one of the main targets for conservation effort - we currently use about a quarter of a million sheets per month! With the development of the Cambridge Local Agenda 21 and the enthusiasm of WCMC's staff, it is envisaged that these issues will become an increasingly important part of the Centre's plans.



PROJECT SUMMARIES

European Union Compilation of CITES Annual Report. Production of annual report for 1993 and 1994.

European Topic Centre/Nature Conservation. Advice and information support, particularly on species, protected areas and the development of a framework for a European information system.

European Environmental Agency. Advice to support development of the European Environmental Information Network (EIONET).

Financial Investments. Further study of information on national investments in protected areas.

Forest Resource Accounting - Review. Provision of information on forests and forest monitoring to develop a system of forest management which meets economic, environmental and social objectives.

Forest Biodiversity Indicators. Development and validation of indicators of biodiversity in tropical forest countries.

Gap Analysis of Forest Protected Areas in Europe. Preliminary assessment of the information available and comparative gap analysis.

Global Classification and Nomenclature for Land Use & Land Cover. Developing a global land use and land cover nomenclature system.

Indigenous Forest Knowledge. Preparation of a background paper for the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Indigenous Peoples. Identification of sources of information on the distribution of indigenous peoples of Latin America and South east Asia.

Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre. Capacity building for biodiversity information management in collaboration with Environmental Resources Management.

International Alligator and Crocodile Trade Study. A study on international trade and legislation concerning crocodilians.

IUCN Environmental Law Centre. Establishment of improved links between the IUCN ELC in Bonn, Germany and WCMC.

IUCN SSC Liaison Officer. Development of appropriate services and support to members of IUCN-Species Survival Commission.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Advice and information services on animal species which are traded internationally.

Jordan Evaluation Mission. Consultancy to review institutional capacity for conservation.

Lake Conservation Database. Development of a prototype information service on the Internet in collaboration with the Mullard Space Science Laboratory and UNEP.

Madagascar Biodiversity Data Development. Provision of information.

Mapping Conservation Issues in Indonesia, Cameroon and the Sahel. Production of poster maps to aid conservation planning.

Marine Biodiversity. Compilation of a report on the biodiversity of the world's major marine ecosystems.

Mediterranean Species Information. Lists of threatened wetland species in Mediterranean countries.

Microsoft Corporation. Provision of spatial data derived from the Biodiversity Map Library. Articles and data for the *Encarta Encyclopedia*.

Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation in the Tropics. Pan-tropical gap analysis of habitat protection.

Private Initiatives in Conservation. Review of privately owned protected areas in Southern and Eastern Africa.

Raleigh International. Assistance with biodiversity surveying and information management in Laguna San Rafael National Park, Chile.

Ramsar Poster Map. Development of a global map of Ramsar wetlands.

South America Biotope Classification. Adoption of the CORINE classification system for South America.

*Collaboration,
a major
component of
WCMC
projects.*

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Sri Lanka Forestry Review. Consultancy to help undertake a national assessment of biodiversity within natural forests.

State of the World's Tropical Forests. A case study approach to identify indicators of forest condition

Sustainable Utilisation for Global, National and Community Benefit. Review of the commercial use of biodiversity.

Systems Overview of the World's Forests. Assessment of the state of global forest systems.

Training in Biodiversity Information Management. Training in support of sustainable use of natural resources.

Tropical Montane Cloud Forests Information. Compiling data on the location, extent, conservation status, management and threats to its survival.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Information to help predict the environmental impact of refugee camps.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, Crocodile Skin Production Statistics. Report for the *FAO Yearbook of Catches and Landings*.

WCMC/BT Conservation Information Service. Improvement and expansion of WCMC's information services on global conservation issues.

WCMC Biodiversity Map Library.

Maintenance and enhancement of the data on the WCMC Geographic Information System.

Wildlife Information Network.

Information services for the development of advisory services on veterinary aspects of wildlife conservation.

World Heritage. Assistance to IUCN and UNESCO in evaluating World Heritage nominations and establishment of *World Heritage Information Network*.

World Mangrove Atlas. Data and maps for an atlas of mangroves for the International Society of Mangrove Ecosystems.

World Forest Map. Compilation of the first digital global map showing actual forest extent and protected areas with forested land.

World Bank, Installation of the WCMC Biodiversity Map Library. Provision of training for key staff and installation of BML at the Bank's Headquarters in Washington.

WWF Netherlands Species Accounts. Preparation of information sheets on high profile animal species

WWF Forest Information Support. Provision of information to support the WWF *Forests for Life* Campaign.

Biodiversity Map Library

GIS technology has brought WCMC a wealth of new possibilities in communicating conservation issues. Recently data on coverage of all forests in the world, including the temperate and boreal regions, and global datasets of coral reef and mangrove ecosystems have been completed. This has led to increased ability to carry out analyses of ecosystem extent and protection status. It has enabled WCMC to respond to requests for information, be they for policy development, emergencies or for training exercises.

Since 1995, the development of the Biodiversity Map Library has been supported by generous sponsorship from the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and continuing support from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). The Biodiversity Map Library is now accessible over the internal network to the PCs of all staff, and many new datasets have been added.

Copies of the data from the Biodiversity Map Library have now been placed in twelve centres worldwide including the UNEP, World Bank and WWF-US.

WCMC – COLLABORATION



WCMC continues to work closely with IUCN, especially with its World Commission on Protected Areas (previously the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas) and Species Survival Commission. Significant joint projects in the past year have been the compilation of the *IUCN Red Lists* of threatened animals and plants, and the *UN List of National Parks and Protected Areas*. The year has also seen further development of *The Biodiversity Conservation Information System* (BCIS), building the initial IUCN concept into a real consortium for achieving “Better Data for Better Decisions”. Other new areas of collaboration include working with the Netherlands Committee for IUCN on development of *African Rain Forest Poster Maps*, and working with the World Commission on Protected Areas in the development of a *Protected Areas Resource Centre* concept.



WCMC’s developing programme in capacity building is based heavily on work being done in collaboration with UNEP. The GEF-funded UNEP *Biodiversity Information Management* project is underpinned by supporting materials developed by WCMC, and training courses offered by the Centre. WCMC is also providing the UNEP GEF Coordination Office with information on national priorities and opportunities, to support project development. Other areas of collaboration include a pilot project with UNEP and the Mullard Space Science Laboratory to create a *Global Lakes Conservation Database* on the World Wide Web, and support in compiling the *Global Biodiversity Assessment*.



During the year WCMC has signed an agreement with WWF on the development of information services on the World Wide Web, and has collaborated on several forest-related projects. In particular WCMC has provided support to WWF in mapping forest and conservation areas for the launch of the *WWF Forests for Life Campaign*, including preparation of a *World Forest Map*, and an information service on tropical forests on the WWF World Wide Web site. WCMC is also working with WWF offices on mapping conservation issues in Indonesia and Cameroon, and analysing protected area coverage in forest areas.

WCMC continues to seek opportunities for developing improved working relationships with its founder organizations, through joint programmes and collaborative projects.

Other organisations with which WCMC has a Memorandum of Understanding or formal working links.

International/Regional Organisations

- Asian Bureau for Conservation
- 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 Agriculture Research
- European Centre for Nature Conservation
- European Environment Agency
- European Topic Centre/Nature Conservation
- Fauna & Flora International
- Federation of Nature and National Parks of Europe
- Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, European Union Joint Research Centre
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
- International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
- International Society of Mangrove Ecologists
- International Tropical Timber Organisation
- TRAFFIC International
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Wetlands International
- World Bank

International Conventions

- Convention of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
- World Heritage Convention

National Conservation and Research Organisations

- Africa Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya
- Arctic Centre, Finland
- Asociacion Centro de Estudios y Accion Social Panameño, Panamá
- British Trust for Ornithology
- 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 Resource 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, Jamaica
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK
- Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, Uganda
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Russian Federation
- Moscow State University, Geographical Faculty, Russian Federation
- National Museums of Kenya
- Overseas Development Administration of UK Government
- The Natural History Museum, UK
- The Nature Conservancy, USA
- Nature Conservation Division, Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea
- New York Botanic Garden, USA
- Raleigh International, UK
- Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 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
- Tropical Forest Research Group, UK
- University of Cambridge, Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit
- University of Durham, UK
- University of York, UK
- US National Park Service, USA
- Wader Study Group
- WWF - several national organisations.

WCMC – PUBLICATIONS

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Unless otherwise stated WCMC is the sole compiler and publisher of these project reports and distribution may be restricted.

Bilateral and multilateral donor policies and commitments: a review of aid for biodiversity conservation. 1995. 36pp.

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The global distribution of foreign aid for biodiversity conservation. 1995. 13pp.

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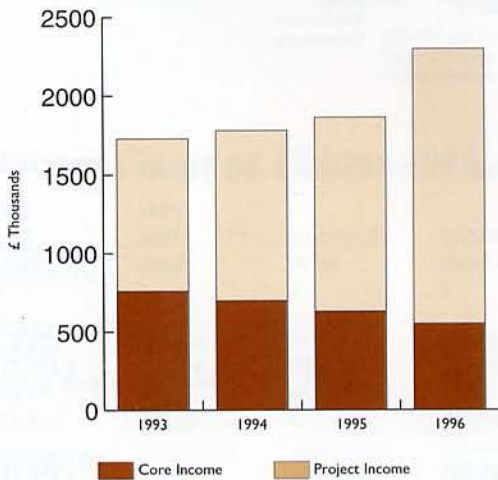
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WCMC FINANCIAL REPORT

An increase in turnover of 22.7% to £2.34 million in 1995-6 was an outstanding financial achievement by staff, allowing the Centre to meet its challenging budget for the year. Careful financial management has ensured that funds are available for future investments in people, training and technology. WCMC cash reserves remain strong, but have been reduced by major repayments of loans made during the year and substantial debts owing to the Centre. Overall income has risen substantially despite a 12.5% reduction of core support from the Partners, (IUCN, UNEP and WWF) in line with Board policy (Fig 1), and expenditure has been well-controlled (Fig 2).

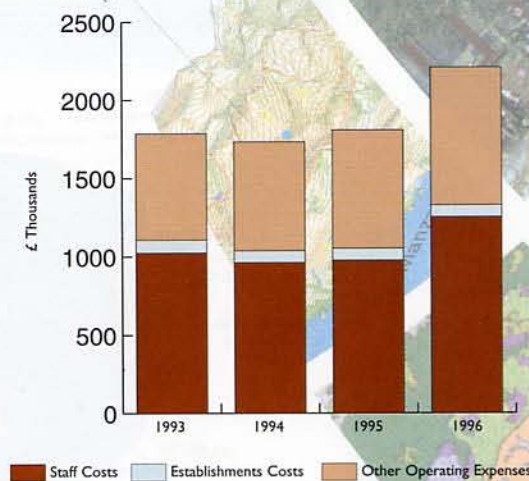
FIGURE 1 Income Analysis



The Centre has a policy of steady growth in project-restricted income, both to meet the increasing demands being placed upon its services, and to replace reducing core support from the Partners. This policy is reflected in the Centre's Business Plan and is essential to enable the Centre to continue investing in the value of its hidden assets: databases and skills.

Overall income has risen by more than £200,000; sources are illustrated in Figs 3 and 4. Core support from the Partners decreased from 33.7% of total income in 1995 to 24.1% in 1996, with additional project work taking this year's total to 38% (39.8% in 1995 and 58.1% in 1994). An analysis of the way in which core income from the Partners was expended is shown in a further illustration (Table 1).

FIGURE 2 Expenditure Analysis



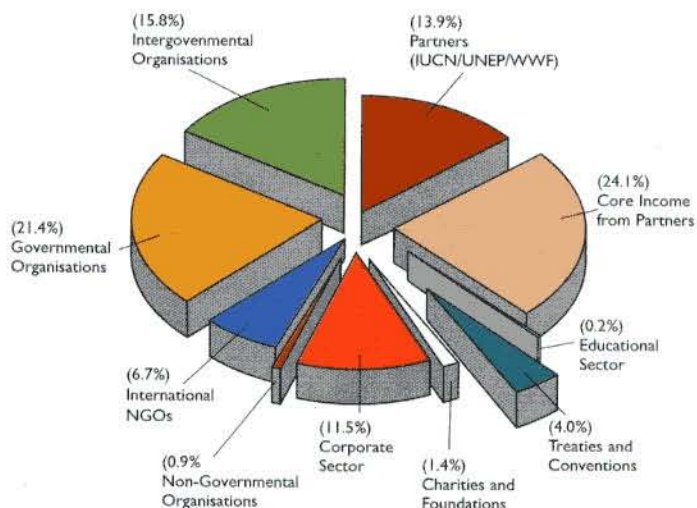
Governmental organisations are important partners in the WCMC programme with grants from this source contributing more than 20% of our income. Intergovernmental agencies such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity contributed project funding of more than 15%. Sponsorship and projects from business corporations have also increased, and at 11.5% is approaching twice the previous year's figure. The notable increase in income over recent years must be sustained in order to support the Centre's current and future levels of service provision. The Centre and its Trustees are addressing this challenge by identifying larger and more secure funding sources. WCMC anticipates with some optimism that the current healthy progress in financial management and achievement will continue.

TABLE 1 Analysis of Core Activities (arranged thematically)

	£
Planning, Management and Administration	213,880
Communications and Development.....	37,824
Support for IUCN/WWF/UNEP Programmes	1,713
Travel to Partner-supported Meetings, Conferences.....	52,010
Information Services	98,143
Technical Services and Support.....	74,146
Species and Trade Data Management.....	7,838
PRG Project Allocation	64,318
Grand Total	549,872

FIGURE 3

Sources of Income Financial Year 1995/1996



The total income received from Partners as Core Income and from externally-funded projects is £2,281,214. This graphic does not include Bank Interest Receivable (£35,676) or Overhead Recovery (£45,289), which increases the total income to £2,362,179.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 1996

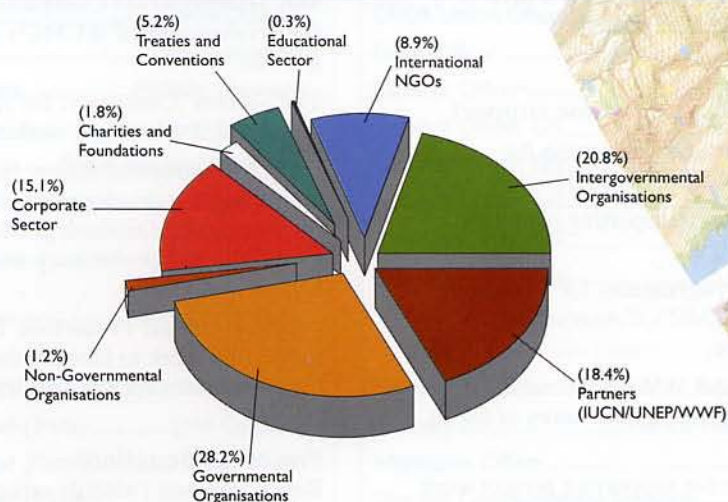
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	1996 Total Funds £	1995 Total Funds* £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Core income receivable from partners	549,872	–	549,872	628,425
Project Income	26,645	1,704,697	1,731,342	1,455,713
Bank Interest Receivable	9,537	26,139	35,676	29,634
Overhead Recovery	45,289	–	45,289	44,475
Total Incoming Resources	631,343	1,730,836	2,362,179	2,158,247
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Direct Charitable Expenditure	172,171	1,352,528	1,524,699	1,165,635
Fundraising and Publicity	10,094	–	10,094	9,359
Management and Administration of the Charity	328,295	412,204	740,499	710,896
Total Resources Expended	510,560	1,764,732	2,275,292	1,885,890
INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR AND NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS	120,783	(33,896)	86,887	272,357
FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD	387,704	376,432	764,136	491,779
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	508,487	342,536	851,023	764,136

The comparative figures have been restated in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice on accounting for charities.

As a result, the surplus for 1995 increased from £52,120 to £272,357 and the total funds from £387,704 to £764,136.

FIGURE 4

Sources of Project-Restricted Income
Financial Year 1995/1996



Balance Sheet at 30 June 1996

	1996		1995*	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible Assets		1,759,429		1,756,250
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	464,911		365,830	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	602,714		795,500	
	1,067,625		1,161,330	
CREDITORS:				
Amounts falling due within one year	298,131		262,018	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		769,494		899,312
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,528,923		2,655,562
CREDITORS:				
Amounts falling due after more than one year		1,677,900		1,891,426
NET ASSETS		851,023		764,136
RESERVES				
Unrestricted Funds				
Designated		112,835		85,000
Other		395,652		302,704
Restricted Funds		508,487		387,704
		342,536		376,432
		851,023		764,136

SPONSORSHIP TO WCMC

WCMC is pleased to thank these organisations for their sponsorship and support during the year.

In addition to the substantial support from its founders, IUCN, WWF and UNEP and funding for products and services, WCMC also received donations and sponsorship from a number of other organisations and individuals.

For strategic and programme support

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

British Airways: for transporting staff and equipment to meetings.

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

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

Darwin Initiative: for supporting project work on: plant genetic resources; sustainable utilisation of biodiversity; and development of WCMC biodiversity education and training programme.

Dulverton Trust: for supporting improvements in integration of databases and a pilot study of private initiatives in conservation.

Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc: for supporting development of WCMC's geographic information systems.

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

European Commission Human Capital and Mobility Programme: for funding Arctic Research Fellowship.

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

Government of Norway: for supporting production of the next edition of the UN List of Protected Areas.

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

Netherlands Committee for IUCN: for sponsorship of production of two poster maps, one with technical information for planners and the second as an educational resource for schools.

Relay Business Systems Ltd: for supporting the development of WCMC's information systems.

RTZ/CRA Group: for supporting programme development.

Sun Microsystems Computers: for supporting the development of WCMC's information systems.

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

UK Environmental Know How Fund: for supporting the development of an Arctic Environmental Database at Moscow State University and preliminary assessment of Arctic habitat protection.

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

For other donations

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

Organon Laboratories Ltd: for support for a leaflet on plant genetic resources.

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 Olembu 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; Mills & Reeve
<i>Chartered Accountants</i>	Peters Elworthy & Moore
<i>Auditors</i>	Price Waterhouse

Chief Executive.....Dr Mark Collins✓

Directorate

Personal Assistant to Chief ExecutiveAngela Wacker✓

Personnel OfficerYvonne Douglas✓

Financial Officer.....Lynn Kisielowski✓

Secretary to Directorate.....Michelle Chapman✓

Accounts Assistant.....Verity Saunders✓

Receptionist.....Stuart Douglas-Whitehead✓

Receptionist.....Glenys Neak✓

Species Unit

HeadDr Tim Johnson

Senior Secretary.....Julie Reay

Coordinator (Animals).....Dr Brian Groombridge

Senior Research Officer (Trade)John Caldwell

Senior Research Officer (Plants).....Harriet Gillett

Senior Research Officer (Trade)Tim Inskip

Trees Information CoordinatorSara Oldfield

Information Analyst.....Martin Sneary

Research Officer (Trade)Lorraine Collins

Plants Data Management Officer.....Charlotte Jenkins

Research Officer (Trade)Lesley McGuffog to 26.4.96

Research Assistant (Animals)Neil Cox

Research Assistant (Trade)Rosemarie Warwick

Protected Areas Data Unit

Head.....Dr Michael Green

Senior Secretary.....Victoria Freeman

Senior Research Officer

(Anglophone Africa).....Donald Gordon

Senior Research Officer (Asia).....James Paine

Research Officer (Latin America).....Javier Beltrán

Research OfficerChristine Carey

Research Officer*Graham Drucker

Research Officer (Francophone Africa)

.....Dr Samuel Kanyambwa

Research Officer (Europe).....Isabel Ripa Juliá

Technical Officer, GIS.....Gillian Bunting

Visiting FellowDr Balzhan Zhimbiev

Habitats Unit

HeadDr Richard Luxmoore

Senior SecretaryBarbara Brown to 29.3.96

Senior Secretary.....Heather Cross from 7.5.96

CIFOR Liaison Officer.....Dr Susan Iremonger

Forest OfficerMark Aldrich

Research OfficerClare Billington

Technical Officer, GIS.....Simon Blyth

Technical Officer, GIS.....Mary Edwards

Technical Officer, GISCorinna Ravilious

Technical Officer, GISJonathan Rhind

Ph.D. Student (Marine).....Mark Spalding

Information Services Unit

Head.....Jeremy Harrison

SecretaryPatricia Hodgson to 9.2.96

Information Officer.....Jo Taylor

Data and Communications Strategist.....Ian Barnes

Librarian/Information ScientistMary Cordiner

Research AssistantEsther Byford

Information Systems Unit

HeadDr Nick Teall from 21.1.96

Systems ManagerDuncan Bennett

PC Network ManagerSteven Mugeridge

Capacity Building Unit

HeadDr John Busby

Information AnalystDr Jake Reynolds

Administrative Assistant.....Laura Battlebury

Special Advisors

Data ManagementProfessor Ian Crain

Development StrategiesColin Watkins

Metadatabases/Database Design.....Gareth Lloyd

Species ConservationMartin Jenkins

Senior Forest Ecologist.....Dr Valerie Kapos

Placement Students

Angela Barden

Carol Boyes

Justin Ellis

Stephen Grady

Alastair Grenfell

Andrea Leppard

Donna Smith

Ronan Smith

* On secondment to the European Centre for Nature Conservation.



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WCMC – Information for Conservation

