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Use and Conservation of the Biosphere:
Proceedings of the Intergovernmental Conference
of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use
and Conservation of the Resources of the
Biosphere, Paris, 4-13 September 1968. Paris:
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization, 1970. 272 pp. Paper, \$6.00 (available
in U.S.A. from Unipub, Inc., P.O. Box 433, New
York, N.Y. 10016).

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BOOK REVIEWS

USE AND CONSERVATION OF THE BIOSPHERE: PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR RATIONAL USE AND CONSERVATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE BIOSPHERE, PARIS, 4-13 SEPTEMBER 1968. Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 1970. 272 pp. Paper, \$6.00 (available in U.S.A. from Unipub, Inc., P.O. Box 433, New York, N.Y. 10016).

The Intergovernmental Conference of Experts on the Scientific Basis for Rational Use and Conservation of the Resources of the Biosphere was sponsored by UNESCO and attended by 326 delegates from 63 nations, 11 international organizations, and 14 nongovernmental organizations. For the purposes of discussion, the biosphere was defined as being that part of the planet earth in which life exists. The resources considered were largely restricted to living organisms; inorganic resources were included only insofar as they provide a medium for the support of plant and animal life. Oceanic resources were left to other international conferences for study.

Use and Conservation of the Biosphere contains the names of the participants in the Conference, the opening addresses, 10 papers developed by the delegates, and a final report. In the final report are 20 recommendations, most of which have within them additional recommendations and many of which overlap with each other. In general, however, they advocate four kinds of activity: research, education, inventories of natural resources, and preservation of natural areas. Entomologists will be pleased to note that the recommendations favor the establishment of "natural areas for the preservation of species, their habitats and representative samples of ecosystems." Although the utilitarian benefits of preservation, such as increasing the world food supply and preventing disease, receive the emphasis in the recommendations, a stimulating philosophical plea for protecting species and ecosystems emerges from a paper drafted by bacteriologist René Dubos. Maintaining that diversity in the environment is crucial to the richness of human existence, Dubos urges that a "civilized nature" be maintained "as a kind of garden to develop according to its own potentialities and in which human beings develop according to their own genius."

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WORLD GUIDE TO TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Paris: UNESCO, 1969. 287 pp. Hardbound, \$6.00; paper, \$4.00 (available in U.S.A. from Unipub, Inc., P.O. Box 433, New York City, N.Y. 10016).

This very useful reference volume is a companion to UNESCO's *World Guide to Science Information and Documentation Services* (1965). It lists and describes the principal centers in each country which provide technical information, either to all investigators or to a restricted clientele. 273 institutions in 73 countries have been included, with an informative yet concise report upon each source. A sample entry lists name of repository in the vernacular, English, French and acronym; addresses; brief history; staff; subject coverage; nature of library; nature of abstracting service; whether bibliographies, literature searches or translations are available; information about photo-reproduction services; and methods of payment for services. The remarkable proliferation of information sources in science and technology makes such guides not only convenient but necessary.

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