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JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Progress report on the implementation of recommendations on regional
programmes in the conservation and management of African wildlife

Addendum

Comments of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Economic and Social Council his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Progress report on the implementation of recommendations on regional programmes in the conservation and management of African wildlife" (JIU/REP/83/3).

Annex

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Progress report on the implementation of recommendations on regional programmes in the conservation and management of African wildlife" (JIU/REP/83/3), published in February 1983, follows an earlier report which was published in 1979 (JIU/REP/79/1) 1/ in which attention was focused on training programmes in African wildlife management at two institutions: the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka, United Republic of Tanzania and the Ecole de faune at Garoua, United Republic of Cameroon.

2. In preparing the current report, the Main concern of JIU has been to review progress on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1979 report. In particular, efforts have been made to evaluate the response of the relevant United Nations agencies operating in wildlife conservation and management and related fields in Africa in giving practical effect to the Inspectors' proposals. However, their concern has also been to provide up-to-date information on trends and problems in the conservation and management of Africa's wildlife. In addition, the Inspectors have made some further useful proposals which are aimed at facilitating a speedier implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1979 report.

3. In reviewing the progress of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1979 report of JIU, the current report highlights the actions taken by the governing bodies of the various United Nations organs concerned with issues of conservation and management of wildlife in Africa. In this connection, resolution 388 (XV) of 12 April 1980, adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at its sixth meeting, 2/ is significant. In that resolution, the Conference of Ministers provided the authority and framework necessary for the programming and mobilization of resources, while at the same time clearly indicating the modalities for co-operation and collaboration among the relevant United Nations agencies. There is no doubt that, by this resolution and through its activities in this field, ECA has greatly assisted in sensitizing the African member Governments to the vital need for the conservation and proper management of wildlife as one of Africa's great heritages.

4. It is to be noted that the ECA legislative organs, in particular the Lusaka-based Council of Ministers of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centre for Eastern and Southern Africa have in recent years attached great importance to the development of integrated regional training, research, conservation and management of wildlife. As a result of this increased interest, the Executive Secretary of ECA is expected to report to the Council of Ministers at each of its sessions on the progress made in the development of integrated training, research, conservation and management of wildlife in Africa. This interest at the political level is unprecedented in the region and calls for the wholehearted support of the international community.

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5. Section III of the report of JIU deals with the contribution of the relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations, such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), to the wildlife conservation and management efforts made in the African region. The role of the non-United Nations organizations has been essentially complementary but unique and vital in many ways. There have been occasions, for example, when they have been the most eloquent in drawing attention to potentially dangerous situations. It is fitting, therefore, to take this opportunity to congratulate all of these non-United Nations organizations on the important contribution that they have made in the past and that they continue to make.

6. Reference has already been made to the increasing awareness among the member States of ECA of the need to conserve and properly to manage wildlife. This welcome trend is very clearly brought out in section IV of the Inspectors' report. In this connection, it is noted that over the past few years there have been a growing number of training, educational and research programmes in this field, both at university level and at the level of training wildlife conservation and management functionaries. Thus, since the publication of the JIU report in 1979, the Inspectors report that training facilities in wildlife management have been established in five African countries in addition to the less formal in-service type training programmes in nine other countries. In addition, there is an increasing number of African universities that offer courses in wildlife conservation and management. These are very welcome developments. The international community will no doubt support these efforts.

7. In their report, the Inspectors express concern with regard to the inadequacy, both qualitatively and quantitatively, of trained manpower in this field. In this connection, the Inspectors rightly place strong emphasis on the development of middle-level manpower which is clearly the backbone of any serious programme for wildlife conservation and management. In the same context, the importance attached by the Inspectors to the proposed regional role of the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka, United Republic of Tanzania, and the Ecole de faune at Garoua, United Republic of Cameroon, is both appropriate and timely.

8. Both the Garoua and Mweka colleges are basically national institutions but admit nationals of other countries on an ad hoc basis. This open-door policy has meant that the Governments of the United Republic of Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania have been shouldering heavy financial burdens. Furthermore, in recent years the two institutions have been experiencing severe financial problems not only with regard to capital development but also in respect of current costs. A more formal arrangement of co-operation with regard to the regional functions of the two colleges would not only mean the availability of training facilities for manpower that is very much needed by African Member States but would also facilitate the effective application of technical co-operation among developing countries by these Governments which would pool resources with a view to achieving an increasing measure of collective self-reliance.

9. The regional programme for Africa (1982-1986) was approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its decision 82/4 A

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of 18 June 1982. 3/ At the end of 1982, the Administrator of UNDP decided that budget levels would only be authorized for up to 55 per cent of the indicative planning figures for the 1982-1986 cycle. Since commitments exceeded the budget levels by close to \$60 million, in-depth consultations were undertaken with the intergovernmental organizations in Africa and the executing agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the executing agency for project RAF-74-056 (Wildlife School, Garoua, United Republic of Cameroon). It was agreed with FAO that an additional allocation of \$US 120,500 would be made available in order to consolidate the Mweka College into a viable institution in the context of technical co-operation among developing countries in Africa. Specifically, the objectives of this new phase of UNDP assistance are:

(a) To advise on the institutional arrangements of the Mweka College with regard to its regional functions and its functions in the context of technical co-operation among developing countries, the constitution of policy-making bodies in particular, and to determine what is necessary to strengthen the institution;

(b) To review the requirements and needs in the field of wildlife management training for the whole of the African region with a view to strengthening other possible mechanisms for co-operation.

It is understood that the funding for the two colleges (Mweka and Garoua) will be restored to its original level (\$1.5 million) as soon as UNDP is authorized to budget up to 80 per cent of the indicative planning figures, which is the assumption under which the regional programme for Africa was formulated. UNDP is also actively pursuing third-party cost sharing for these projects.

10. Apart from the question of resources, there is a continuing need to ensure effective co-ordination and co-operation among the United Nations organizations and agencies active in this field. The mandate given to the regional commissions by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, that is, to "exercise team leadership and responsibility for co-ordination and co-operation at the regional level" is particularly relevant in this context.

II. COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

11. The following specific comments of the Secretary-General on the recommendations of JIU should be read within the context of the above considerations which have guided his responses to these recommendations.

A. Support to training programmes in wildlife conservation at the technical and administrative levels

Recommendations 1 and 2

12. ECA, UNDP and FAO have been engaged in consultation with the Governments of the United Republic of Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania, in which a more formal arrangement for co-operation has been sought in respect of the regional functions performed by the Mweka and Garoua colleges.

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13. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the most suitable arrangement is for the two colleges to continue to operate under their respective Governments' execution, while housing regional programmes. In this regard, the Executive Secretary of ECA will seek appropriate action from the Council of Ministers at its forthcoming session. It should be noted in this connection that national training institutions which are open to participants from other countries and which clearly benefit other countries qualify for assistance from the UNDP regional programme for Africa, irrespective of institutional arrangements.

14. As recommended by JIU, consultations are under way between ECA and FAO, other members of the Ecosystem Conservation Group (ECG) and the Governments of the United Republic of Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania on the objectives, scope and mode of operation of the programmes to be hosted by Garoua and Mweka. Final decisions will, however, have to await the resolution of the format of co-operation, along the lines indicated above.

B. Training programmes at the scientific level

Recommendation 3

15. The Inspectors identify existing programmes at five universities and propose that an approach similar to that advocated for the Garoua and Mweka colleges be followed. The issue will be discussed at a joint consultative meeting of UNESCO and ECA. It is expected that an agreement will be reached on concrete measures for the implementation of the Inspectors' proposals.

C. Integrated regional living resources conservation strategy and programme

Recommendations 4, 5, 6 and 7

16. The Executive Secretary of ECA has already conveyed the request contained in resolution 388 (IV) of the Conference of Ministers of ECA to all agencies and organizations mentioned therein, inviting them to increase the wildlife conservation and management content of their programmes and to co-operate in co-ordinating the implementation of a long-term integrated strategy.

17. The strengthening of the Environment Co-ordination Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), proposed in recommendation 4, is to be considered in the context of the work of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa and the results of the efforts made by UNEP to strengthen the environmental capabilities of the regional commissions. The Governing Council of UNEP, at its tenth session, considered the revised terms of reference of the regional offices of UNEP and the environment co-ordination units in the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, by its decision 10/2 of 28 May 1982, 4/ considered that they were appropriate and would help minimize overlap. The action by the Governing Council of UNEP will go a long way towards realizing the objective in recommendation 4 for a co-ordinated effort in conservation and environmental

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activities by UNEP and ECA for the whole region. The convening of a meeting of experts drawn from member States of ECA to lay down the framework for the regional strategy and programme, proposed in recommendation 4, is being implemented within the framework of part eight of decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983 of the Governing Council of UNEP, 5/ concerning regional programmes in Africa.

18. The Executive Secretary of ECA is in contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), seeking to encourage member States to ratify or accede to the OAU African Convention and related multilateral treaties and agreements and also to convene the meeting of experts to lay down the framework for a regional strategy. It is also expected that such a meeting will result in the formulation of the modalities for the establishment of a permanent technical forum for issues concerned with wildlife conservation and management.

19. The Secretary-General appreciates the considerable and strategic contribution of non-governmental conservation organizations in the past and is determined to ensure co-ordinated efforts in the future.

Notes

1/ Transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under the symbol E/1979/103 and Corr.1 and to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme under the symbol UNEP/GC.8/L.1.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 7 (E/1980/27), part II, sect. D.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1982, Supplement No. 6 (E/1982/16/Rev.1), annex.

4/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/37/25), part two, annex.

5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/38/25), annex.