

becoming more and more marked as the commercial sector reassesses its strategies in the prospect and light of 1992. The voluntary sector should do likewise if it aspires to avoid being increasingly left out of the decision-making process. ECAS will provide a focal point for NGOs and INGOs (international nongovernmental organizations) in their dealings with EC Institutions, and will help them to overcome the national handicaps that deter them from having an effective 'presence' in Brussels.

The future of the voluntary sector lies with those organizations which have strong European links, and, as 1992 approaches, involvement with EC institutions and issues can no longer be regarded as an optional extra. The voluntary sector is increasingly affected by EC legislation, and if NGOs wish to be consulted on matters which concern them, then they need an effective representation in Brussels.

ECAS does not set out to replace existing NGOs, but rather to offer them a service. It will be a 'consultancy' for the voluntary sector, responding flexibly to the needs of its subscribers and encouraging, wherever possible, direct contacts between NGOs and EC. It will have a small, mainly Brussels-based, board of directors and an advisory council which will be as representative as possible of EC countries and of the interests of its subscribers. Subscribers will pay a basic subscription *plus* the cost of any additional services used. There will also be founder subscribers who will have considerable input

into the advisory council in return for helping ECAS to become established.

ECAS hopes to serve European, international, national, and regional, non-governmental organizations that are independent at once of governments, political parties, and commercial interests. It will provide a range of services, including a basic information and documentation centre, regular briefings about EC activities, reports on issues of common concern to a number of NGOs, office facilities, and briefings for visiting subscriber organizations.

Other services will be offered in accordance with demand: monitoring the work of EC institutions, providing lobbying advice to individual organizations, arranging translation and interpretation services for Brussels meetings, assisting with fund-raising at EC, advising on cooperation with NGOs in other EC countries, providing a 'watching brief' in Brussels, providing legal advice, encouraging the setting up of European public-interest groups, and facilitating European campaigns.

ECAS is currently contacting thousands of NGOs in EC and other European countries, to assess their particular requirements. If you think your organization might be interested in such a service, then more information may be obtained from:

ANTHONY VENABLES  
ECAS  
Rue de Toulouse 22  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgium.

### WWF\* Launches Feature Service

In an attempt to meet the growing demand for top-level environmental reporting, WWF has launched a global feature service. Produced by the *WWF News* editorial team, the WWF Feature Service circulars are being sent to major newspapers, magazines, news broadcasters, and film-makers, around the world. WWF's Feature Service provides editors and broadcasters with the latest information available on the critical environmental issues of the day — including tropical forests, wetlands, biological diversity, climate change, pollution, waste management, and energy conservation.

In a pilot series, Donald Allan reports on the death of Barbara D'Achille, a prize-winning environmental journalist, who was killed by 'Shining Path' guerillas while she was on an assignment in the Peruvian Andes. Peter Jackson, Reuters' correspondent in India for nearly 20 years, exposes the violent clashes between rival factions in northeastern India's Assam State that have turned an important Tiger Reserve and World Heritage Site into a battleground. Also in this set of Features, coral-reef

expert Susan Wells reveals that a recent survey shows how 93 of the 103 countries with significant coral communities are suffering from reef damage. Known as the 'tropical forests of the ocean' for their rich biological diversity, coral reefs are disappearing at an alarming rate.

WWF encourages editors and broadcasters to use the Features in their publications and in news reports. Journalists and announcers may also adapt WWF Features to meet their local news needs, and are invited to request additional information, schedule interviews with WWF representatives, and use the graphics that are provided with each set of Features. Journalists who wish to report on WWF activities are also welcome to submit proposals for the Feature Service. Editors and journalists are requested to send press clippings of published features or to notify the Feature Service of broadcast use. Further information may be obtained from the undersigned (Telephone (022) 64 92 22):

ELISABETH KEMPF, *Editor*  
WWF Features  
WWF International  
Avenue du Mont-Blanc  
1196 Gland, Switzerland.

\* WWF continues to be known as World Wildlife Fund in Australia, Canada, and the United States of America; in other countries it is now the World Wide Fund For Nature.

### EuroSolar Association

Introducing EuroSolar, the Association for the Solar Energy Era, '... I do view the energy problem ... as an extensive political, economic, and social, problem existing on a global scale. Mankind has no alternative but to turn to solar energy. ... Solar-energy management must be implemented without delay and as widely as possible ... An abstract consensus already exists in favour of solar energy ... Converting this into a concrete, effective consensus is one of the main tasks of this Association'.

These were the buoyant words of Dr Hermann Scheer, the West German MP who is Chairman of EuroSolar, in his keynote speech to the organization's foundation assembly in Bonn, West Germany, in August 1988. The organization's aim is to do everything in its power to ensure that the world's energy supply is switched away from fossil fuels and over to inexhaustible sources of energy — such as solar energy, wind and hydraulic power, and hydrogen produced by means of solar energy.

This needs to be done on both a small and a large scale — indeed, to the extent that proves possible, globally.

There is wide recognition that the issues involved cannot be treated within a national framework, and so the Association is developing a European network that will be committed to the above aims. It does not duplicate the role of existing organizations, such as the International Solar Energy Society, as it seeks to unite political and economic strategies with the promotion of technical advances. The EuroSolar programme incorporates broad problems of Third World debt and the threatened global climate crisis.

EuroSolar represents an opportunity to introduce solar energy into our economic structures. The dynamism, pragmatism, and vision, of the EuroSolar programme, can provide new momentum for much-improved use of

solar energy in our complex socio-economic and political framework.

The media have at last started to give wide coverage to the alarm of scientists regarding the degradation of our environment. What we need now is a plan for remedial action to counter such scourges as atmospheric pollution, and there is a genuine possibility for EuroSolar to mobilize a consensus for such a plan of action, which so far lacks clear formulation.

ROGER L. EGLOFF  
Office of Cooperation for Renewable  
Energies (COPER)  
1 Rue de Varembe  
CH-1202 Geneva  
Switzerland.

### International Association for the Study of Common Property

This group began in 1983 as a US National Academy of Sciences Steering Committee on Common Property Resource Management. After the conclusion of the Committee's allotted task in 1987, members continued as an interdisciplinary, interuniversity working group of scholars interested in common property issues, networking with others of similar interests. Through the widely distributed newsletter, *Common Property Resource Digest*, the network membership had reached 4,000 individuals and institutions by the summer of 1990.

The surge of interest in common property comes at a time when alternative approaches are being sought, everywhere in the world, to make sustainability properly operational. All too often, it is assumed that users of common property, if left to their own devices, will over-exploit those resources, and that users are incapable of cooperation or of collective action even towards their own mutual benefit. But many recent studies show that this is not necessarily so. Communal property systems do exist, and community-based resource management often shows promise as a basis for sustainable development, if supported or revived.

An institutional design that incorporates the wisdom and the needs of local people, and safeguards for them a share of the proceeds of sound resource-use, can attract their cooperation as willing protectors and responsible managers of the resource. This view contrasts with the conventional top-down, elitist, central government approaches to resource management, and recognizes a diversity of solutions, including those involving responsibility-sharing between governments and local communities. In view of the importance of this task for the future of the world's resources, and in view of the interest for a systematic, interdisciplinary approach (as indicated by network membership), the founding members of the Association met in early summer 1989 at Duke University.

The International Association for the Study of Common Property is devoted to understanding and improving the management of environmental resources that are held or used collectively by communities, in both developing and developed countries. The Association's goals are to encourage exchange of knowledge across diverse disciplines, areas, and resource types; to foster mutual exchange of scholarship and practical experience; and to promote institutional design that is appropriate to sustainable development.

The Association represents an interdisciplinary membership (including anthropology, sociology, history, political science, planning, public policy, geography, agricultural and resource economics, applied ecology and resource management, environmental studies, and human ecology), area specializations all over the world, and various resource sectors — including forestry, fisheries, and wildlife, grazing lands, and water. Members are scholars, government officials, development consultants, and resource managers — all with a shared interest in understanding common property resources in order to avert 'tragedies of the commons'.

Dues are US \$20 for members whose annual incomes exceed US \$15,000 per year, and US \$5 for those with annual incomes under US \$15,000. Members receive the *Common Property Resource Digest* without charge, and also news of Association activities and meetings. Members of the Association are also eligible to apply for travel funds to subsidize the cost of attending the annual meeting; these funds are intended to encourage international participation and will be awarded on the basis of need. For membership, please write to Mr Edward Lotterman, IASCP Secretary-Treasurer, *Common Property Resource Digest*, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, 1994 Buford Avenue, St Paul, Minnesota 55108, USA.

The International Association for the Study of Common Property will hold its first annual meeting during 27–30 September 1990, at Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina, USA. The theme of the conference will be 'Designing Sustainability on the Commons', and proposals for individual papers and entire panels are invited. At this first meeting, panels that combine disciplines, resource types, and/or geographic areas, and that will allow for considerable discussion between panellists and audience, are particularly encouraged. To inquire about the Association's first annual meeting, please write to Dr Margaret McKean, IASCP Program Chair, Department of Political Science, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27706, USA.

FIKRET BERKES, Professor  
Institute of Urban and Environmental Studies  
Brock University  
St Catharines  
Ontario L2S 3A1  
Canada.