

An International Declaration

All over the world today vast numbers of fine and harmless wild creatures are losing their lives, or their homes, in an orgy of thoughtless and needless destruction. In the name of advancing civilisation they are being shot or trapped out of existence on land taken to be exploited, or drowned by new dams, poisoned by toxic chemicals, killed by poachers for game, or butchered in the course of political upheavals. In this senseless orgy the nineteen-sixties promise to beat all past records for wiping out the world's wild life. Doubtless feelings of guilt and shame will follow, and will haunt our children, deprived of nature's rich inheritance by ignorance, greed and folly.

But although the eleventh hour has struck, it is not yet quite too late to think again. Skilful and devoted men and admirable organisations are struggling to Save the World's Wild Life. They have the ability and the will to do it but they tragically lack the support and resources. They are battling at this moment on many fronts and against many daily changing and growing threats.

They need above all money, to carry out mercy missions and to meet conservation emergencies by buying land where wild life treasures are threatened, and in many other ways. Money, for example, to pay guardians of wild life refuges, such as those in the world famous Congo national parks who have no continuing means of support. Money for education and propaganda among those who would care and help if only they understood. Money to send out experts to danger spots and to train more local wardens and helpers in Africa and elsewhere. Money to maintain a sort of "war room" at the international headquarters of conservation, showing where the danger spots are and making it possible to ensure that their needs are met before it is too late.

Hundreds of thousands of people have bought best-selling books and millions have watched films and television programmes about the world's endangered wild life. Many of these have felt: "If only I could do something to help!" They have been frustrated by the lack of an effective simple means of expressing their will to save the world's wild life.

Such a means is now being created with the backing of leaders of all the main international bodies concerned in this world campaign. Under the new arrangements, all existing bodies, national and international, will continue their activities as usual, but as increased resources come in they will be enabled whenever necessary to expand their work and to help one another more. The new organisation will simply offer easy channels for all who want to help to do so by means of a world campaign to raise massive support for the cause and to distribute resources quickly where these are most needed. There will be an international Trust, registered as a charity in Switzerland under a distinguished group of trustees, closely linked with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the International Council for Bird Preservation, the International Youth Federation for the Study and Conservation of Nature and other bodies representing the world conservation movement. This Trust will administer funds raised on a world-wide basis by national appeals in different countries, and by a high-level supporting Club of leading citizens of many countries. These, in addition to contributing substantially in money, will form an active group of men of affairs actively interested in reconciling the twin claims of human material prosperity and the survival of the enduring values of wild life within our developing civilisation.

The emergency must be tackled with vigour and efficiency on the much enlarged scale which it demands. But success will depend not only on the devoted efforts of enthusiasts for wild life but on winning the respect and backing of

other interests which must not be overlooked or antagonised. Mankind's self-respect and mankind's inheritance on this earth will not be preserved by narrow or short-sighted means.

More detailed statements will be issued as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we the undersigned, having considered the world wildlife emergency and the best means of meeting it successfully wish most strongly to urge on all who share responsibility and feel concern over it, to give their support and co-operation in bringing this great and vital project to fruition in the common interest.

Pending the formal establishment of an international body, communications should be addressed to E.M. Nicholson, 19 Belgrave Square, S.W.1.

<i>J. J. Ba</i>	Switzerland	<i>B. Kelly</i>	Germany
<i>Boulin</i>	France	<i>Charles Pender St.</i>	Belgium
<i>C. Jernard</i>	Switzerland	<i>W. Shand</i>	Sudan
<i>Edward H. Graham</i>	USA	<i>Kai Ugg - Lindell</i>	Sweden
<i>W. Goetel</i>	Poland	<i>Peter S. H.</i>	U.K.
<i>Knobel</i>	S. Africa	<i>E. B. Worthington</i>	
		<i>Eric A. ...</i>	Neth. - Party.
		<i>E. C. Meade</i>	

29th April, 1961.

Signatories to Manifesto

11/1/64 1564  
Amelia 1964

- J.G. Baer (Switzerland)  
Professor of Neu~~ro~~ Chatel; a leading world zoologist
- C.J. Bernard (Switzerland)
- F. Bourliere (France)  
Author of several wonderful French picture books and  
Editor of La Terre et La Vie.
- W.E. Burhenne (Germany)  
Secretary of small body which liaises with the German  
Parliament.
- Gerstenmaier (Germany)
- Charles Van der Elst (Belgium)
- W. Goetel (Poland)  
Eminent Polish ?conservationist
- Edward H. Graham (U.S.A.)  
Write of remarkable natural history books; one of  
the leading people in this field.
- Julian Huxley (U.K.)
- R. Knobel (S. Africa)  
Manages the Kruger National Park - the biggest in the  
world.
- Kai Curry-Lindahl (Sweden)  
Director of Scansen, Stockholm. Very eminent scientist  
and editor of Acte Vertibratica (??)
- E.M. Nicholson (U.K.)
- E.C. Nicola (Neth-Switz.)  
Businessman
- Peter Scott (U.K.)  
Director of the Wildfowl Trust. Leading world author  
on ducks and geese.. Eminent painter of wildfowl.
- S. K. Shawki (Sudan)  
Leading figure in Africa
- E.B. Worthington (U.K.)