

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVES

AN International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Mangroves was held at East-West Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii (U.S.A.) from October 8 to 11, 1974. It attracted participants and observers from all over the world including UNESCO. There were 13 sessions which dealt with general aspects of mangroves, geomorphology, biogeography, soils, chemical elements, micro-organisms, physiology, estuaries, communities, systems and synthesis. The management aspects were also covered. About 70 papers were read and discussed.

An interesting feature of the Symposium was the formation of small working groups from among participants. The groups were assigned to list priorities in mangrove research and management. The recommendations of the various groups were gathered, processed and forwarded to the UNESCO-SCOR for further action. A proposal was mooted for an international society for the study of mangroves, and later, promotion of a journal to bring various mangrove-related publications under one roof. It is hoped that this proposal will be taken up seriously in due course.

The Symposium concluded with passing a resolution addressed to the Secretary-General, U.N.O.

It emphasized the catholicity of world's mangrove ecosystems as "valuable resources and . . . governments be urged to promote research to better appraise these ecosystems and . . . exert special care when evaluating actions or proposals that could commit these resources".

We are indebted to Dr. A. G. Pawar, Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University, Dr. S. P. Adinarayana, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University and Dr. R. Natarajan, Director, Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology of Annamalai University, Porto Novo, for their keen support and encouragement; and to the authorities of the respective Universities for permission to their staff to participate as delegates in the Symposium.

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