

The Biological Diversity Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development

The Agency for International Development (AID) is the U.S. government's lead agency for the provision of economic and humanitarian aid to developing countries in support of U.S. foreign policy. With a fiscal year 1987 budget of \$5.4 billion and missions or programs in nearly 60 countries, AID is the largest bilateral assistance agency in the world.

Long active in natural resources development for economic progress, AID has become increasingly involved in forestry, natural resources, and environmental management since the late 1970s. This increased involvement stems from the emerging consensus that sound natural resources and environmental management are necessary underpinnings for sustainable economic growth and development.

The Biological Diversity Issue

The 1980 publication of the Global 2000 Report (Council on Environmental Quality and Department of State 1980) caused heightened awareness in U.S. government agencies of the potential for increased loss of wild plant and animal species and the genetic resources those species contain. In response to this and other concerns, AID, in collaboration with the departments of State, Agriculture, Commerce and Interior; the Council on Environmental Quality; the Smithsonian Institution; the National Science Foundation; and the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program, sponsored a three-day U.S.

Strategy Conference on Biological Diversity in Washington, D.C., in 1981 (Proceedings 1982). The meeting drew on expertise from many disciplines and institutions and included representatives of government agencies, academia, and the private sector. The principal conclusion reached at the conference was that an interagency task force on biological diversity should be established to review current programs, develop comprehensive long-term U.S. goals and strategies to maintain biological diversity, and recommend integrated policies and programs to implement the strategies.

Congress responded to this recommendation by amending the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) in 1983 to incorporate a new section (119) establishing the conservation of biological diversity and endangered species as a component of U.S. foreign assistance programs. Among its other provisions, Section 119 directed the administrator of AID, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate government agencies, to develop a U.S. strategy, including specific policies and programs, to protect and conserve biological diversity in developing countries.

In response to Section 119, AID took the lead in establishing the Interagency Task Force (ITF) on Biological Diversity in 1984. The ITF was charged with reviewing the need for conserving biological diversity, surveying current U.S. government agencies' activities and programs affecting biological diversity in developing countries, and formu-

lating a comprehensive international biological diversity conservation strategy with specific recommendations for action. The result of the ITF effort, the *U.S. Strategy on the Conservation of Biological Diversity: An Interagency Task Force Report to Congress* (Interagency Task Force 1985), was presented to Congress in February 1985. During the course of its work, a strong consensus emerged within the ITF that valuable and productive living resources are generally declining in developing countries. Because biological diversity is both a measure of economic potential as well as genetic wealth, such deterioration, where it is occurring, jeopardizes the basis for sustained economic development. Consequently, the major conclusion of the ITF's report is that provisions for conserving biological diversity must be incorporated into development planning, and a concern for biological diversity should be an integral part of all development programs.

In October 1986, Congress further amended the FAA to require AID to increase efforts to conserve tropical forests and biological diversity. These new amendments specifically earmark \$2.5 million of AID's fiscal year 1987 appropriation for new activities targeted at conserving biological diversity in developing countries.

Current Programs

AID has been involved in an increasing number of biological diversity

projects since 1980. Current programs include:

- The AID Office of the Science Advisor's Program in Science and Technology Cooperation (PSTC), includes a component that supports research on biological diversity as it relates to specific development concerns.
- A small-grants program in biological diversity funded since 1985 by the Asia and Near East bureau of AID through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This program is funding such projects as training to create environmental learning centers at wildlife refuges in Jordan and sea turtle research in Oman. The Science and Technology bureau had a full-time advisor on biological diversity on reimbursable detail from the Fish and Wildlife Service from 1983 to 1987 to provide technical advice to AID on issues related to biological diversity. An education and awareness video on biological diversity is being produced under this FWS contract.
- A program called "Wildlands and Human Needs" linking preservation of biological resources with development activities to meet the needs of the rural poor was begun in 1985 by a grant from AID to the World Wildlife Fund.

New Initiatives

In order to facilitate the use of the 1986 earmarked biodiversity funds, a Biological Diversity Technical Working Group was established within AID. The working group first developed a consensus on the types of activities that meet the objectives of Section 119 of the FAA and then outlined both administrative and ecological criteria for consideration in deciding which projects to fund. The specific activities to be supported by these funds are described

below, arranged by the region and country in which they are located.

Africa

Kenya

A matching grant is being made to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) U.S. in support of the management of existing rhinoceros sanctuaries and monitoring of rhino populations and the status of rhino habitat.

Madagascar

Through another matching grant to WWF, AID will be supporting a program to integrate conservation area maintenance with efforts to meet the needs of several local communities. This will be part of WWF's Wildlands and Human Needs project. The three primary objectives of this project are 1) to complete a general inventory and vegetation map of southern Madagascar, 2) to develop and submit recommendations to the government of Madagascar for a conservation and development strategy for the Beza Mahafaly and Andohohela Natural Reserves, and 3) to complete a conservation training program for selected Malagasy officials and students.

Mali

Through a matching grant to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), AID will be supporting IUCN's Inner Niger Delta—Phase II project. This project seeks to conduct an inventory of wetland areas of international importance and to develop requisite management plans for these areas and for specific woodland areas, focusing on maintenance of wildlife habitats while producing sustained yields of certain woodland products.

Regional

A matching grant is being made to the African Wildlife Foundation in support of Mweka College of African

Wildlife Management in Tanzania. The principal objectives of this grant are to establish a conservation education/extension program with emphasis on the links between conservation and meeting basic human and economic needs of rural populations. The grant will also provide the Mweka library with current technical materials on biological resources conservation and natural resource management, and it will help to upgrade basic classroom and laboratory equipment.

Asia and the Near East

Burma

The purpose of this program, being undertaken in collaboration with the National Park Service, is to assist the Burmese government with the personnel training necessary to establish a national park system and a wildlife management program.

Nepal

A matching grant to WWF will support research on rhino/human interactions in Chitwan National Park and wild buffalo/human interactions in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. This grant will also support the relocation of rhino from Chitwan to Bardia National Park and other activities.

Philippines

The purpose of this project is to produce a biological diversity strategy for the Philippines, in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Haribon Foundation. The survey of the status of biological diversity conservation in the Philippines will contribute to a World Bank assessment of natural resource management needs in the Philippines.

Regional

AID's bureau for Asia and the Near East (ANE) will continue its support

of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Diversity Small-Grants Program in this region. Activities to be supported under this program include development of educational films on biological diversity in India, bird and turtle surveys in the Philippines, an Indo-Malaysian wetlands survey, a training program for Southeast Asia country participants in parks and preserves management with the Israeli Society for the Protection of Nature, and a turtle survey with the Center for Coastal Studies in Sri Lanka. Other small-grants projects will be supported in Jordan, Nepal, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Thailand

A matching grant to WWF will support several activities including sea turtle conservation, public awareness and education programs, and a book on endangered species for public education.

Yemen

AID will fund a study by WWF to explore alternative materials for dagger handles, which are currently the single largest market demand for wild rhino horns.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Belize

A collaborative grant with WWF to the Belize Audubon Society will support implementation of a management plan for the first marine park on the Belize barrier reef. The management plan will provide for protection of mangrove, sea grass, and coral reef habitats while allowing low-impact tourism and fishing in buffer zones along one of the more accessible and species-rich sections of the reef.

Costa Rica

This collaborative grant to the Conservation Foundation and the gov-

ernment of Costa Rica, will provide support for the design and implementation of a management plan for a buffer zone around Corcovado National Park.

Ecuador

A matching grant to the New York Botanical Garden, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and Ecuadorean universities will support the study of the biology, diversity, and economic botany of the plant resources of Eastern Ecuador. The project will assess the current and potential economic importance of plants after they are identified and described. In addition, Ecuadorean scientists will be trained through participation in field expeditions and specimen identification.

Haiti

A matching grant to WWF and the Haiti Department of Tourism will support the establishment and management of a national marine park in the Les Arcadins archipelago. The park has high tourist potential and its establishment could help replenish the overexploited local fishing industry.

Peru

A matching grant to The Nature Conservancy and two counterpart Peruvian nongovernmental organizations will support development and implementation of a management plan for the Yanachaga/Chemillen National Park. Proper park management will conserve endangered species, contribute to maintenance of nearby fragile ecosystems, and provide a source of tourist revenue.

Other Activities

Collaboration with the Peace Corps

The purpose of this activity is to strengthen Peace Corps programming capabilities for the conservation of biological diversity, with in-

creased attention to improved recruitment and better definition of volunteer placements and improved preservice and in-service training of both volunteers and counterparts. There will be an expansion of the number of volunteers participating in protected area, wildlife management, and species inventory work.

Economic Valuation and Incentives for Preserving Biological Diversity

A matching grant to the IUCN will be made to accomplish four objectives: 1) analyze the role of economics in major biological diversity conservation issues relating to development, 2) understand how government policies create incentives and disincentives for activities affecting biological diversity, 3) determine how these incentives/disincentives can be used to promote activities beneficial to conserving diversity, and 4) provide AID with a practical and useful guide on how to build into project designs the appropriate economic incentives/disincentives to promote the preservation of biological diversity. IUCN will be collaborating with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Smithsonian Institution's Biological Diversity Program in this effort.

Program Guidance and Monitoring

A grant to the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, will support an effort to define the conditions, parameters, and procedures necessary to monitor and evaluate properly the effectiveness of AID interventions designed to conserve biological diversity. This work will also allow AID to provide clear and useful guidance to project managers and people involved in project implementation on how to monitor and evaluate the effects of their projects on biological diversity.

Biological Diversity Technical Support

This activity seeks to provide essential information and guidance to AID

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and its overseas missions and the Peace Corps in the design of activities to implement Section 119 of the FAA. This includes matters of wildlife management and plant conservation, protected-areas establishment and management, and inventories and assessments of wild plant and animal species. The activity will be managed by IIED in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and WWF.

Consultative Group on Biodiversity

With the assistance of the National Academy of Sciences, AID proposed the establishment of a consultative donor group on biological diversity. The founding members include nine prominent U.S. philanthropic foundations with current interests or activities in the conservation area. A grant to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund will be used to help establish a secretariat to support the group in its organizational and program development phase. Initial efforts will include sharing information, identifying priority concerns and programs in developing countries in biological diversity conservation that merit donor support, developing information on nongovernmental sources of funds, and providing administrative support for consultative group meetings. The overall goal of the group is to increase the support provided for biological diversity conservation for sustainable development. The other donor members of the group will contribute to these efforts and support other activities, such as the preparation of background papers on relevant topics.

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Anthrax Outbreak in Zambia Threatens Rare Wildlife

An outbreak of anthrax in the Luangwa Valley of Zambia is threatening a crucial enclave of over 100 of the gravely endangered black rhinoceros. The disease has been concentrated largely in the valley's hippopotamus population but has appeared in other species as well. The valley is suffering from an unusual drought, causing the animals of the region to move toward the river, the source of contamination.

Reports of hippo mortality began in early June 1987, and New York Zoological Society pathologist Dr. Tracey McNamara diagnosed the epizootic. The loss in hippo numbers has been estimated at 25 percent along a 22-kilometer stretch of the river; however, this is thought to be conservative, as there have been reports of a great many deaths farther south. Resident biologists Dale Lewis and Richard Bell have been coordinating the response to this crisis from within Zambia, and Wildlife Conservation International has been providing assistance for their activities, including vaccine and emergency funds. Lewis and Bell have expressed concern for, besides

the black rhino, the elephant and the Thornicroft giraffe, an endemic subspecies. As of this writing, a field campaign is being organized for Bell and Lewis to inoculate rhinos, giraffes, and possibly elephants of the valley.

The Luangwa Valley National Park has long been considered one of the three major reserves in Africa for rhino and elephant conservation. As the total African black rhino population of 5000 to 6000 is already declining rapidly because of poaching, any losses caused by additional pressures would be tragic for the ultimate survival of the species. Furthermore, since the Luangwa River drains into the Zambezi, the population of black rhino in the Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe, could be affected by the spread of the disease. It is unknown how the rains beginning in November, which usually induce broad flooding, will affect the spread of the disease.

Archie Carr III

Wildlife Conservation International

International Small-Grants Program Funds Third World Scientists

The Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation of New York City recently awarded a three-year grant to Wildlife Conservation International (WCI) to launch a small-grants program for conservation scientists in developing countries.

Fellowships awarded to promising Third World biologists and zoologists who have recently finished advanced degrees abroad will provide the opportunity for individuals to work as conservationists in their own countries. Once they have completed their studies at North American or European universities, it can be very difficult for them to return to work in their own countries, both because of the high costs of their studies and because few developing nations have the resources

to put a high priority on conservation biology.

This year's fellows include Dr. Ramadhani Senzota, a graduate of Texas A & M University and senior lecturer in wildlife ecology in the Department of Zoology and Marine Biology at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Patricia Majluf, a Peruvian specialist in pinnipeds who is currently finishing her studies at Cambridge University, England; John Kasenene, a Ugandan zoologist who has worked with WCI in Uganda's Kibale Forest since the 1970s and is now finishing his Ph.D. studies at the University of Michigan; Yanling Song, a research associate in the Institute of Zoology at China's Academia Sinica in Beijing who recently received an M.S. from the University of Idaho; and Dr. Sompoad Srikosarmatara, who recently returned to his native Thailand after receiving his doctorate from the University of Florida at Gainesville. He will be studying the little-known clouded leopard in northeastern Thailand.

The WCI fellowship program will provide the means for these biologists and others like them to establish professional careers, become independent of outside support, and provide leadership for conservation efforts in their own countries.

Floristic Inventory in Colombia To Aid Conservation Planning

A recent grant from World Wildlife Fund will support a botanical study in a region of southwest Colombia that preliminary investigations have shown may be one of the most botanically diverse areas in the American tropics.

The primary goal of the project, "A Floristic Inventory of La Planada and the Adjacent Zone," is to provide a floristic data base that can be used for conservation planning. The study is a cooperative effort between the Missouri Botanical Garden and the University of Narino, Colombia.

Bellagio Meeting Calls for International Rainforest Research

A conference held at Bellagio, Italy, on the state of the world's tropical forests has focused world government officials' attention on the deforestation crisis. The first annual Bellagio Strategy Meeting on Tropical Forests was convened under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, World Resources Institute, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Delegates to the meeting endorsed a \$1 billion-a-year plan to replace forest destruction with balanced use and replacement. The plan has been endorsed by forestry leaders of more than 60 developing countries and calls for immediate research to outline the economic, environmental, and human costs of continued deforestation on a country-by-country basis. The study is to include action recommended specifically for each country.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization will act as coordinator of international action under the plan. A second Bellagio forestry conference is scheduled for 1988.

Global Wetlands Conservation Strategy

The IUCN Wetlands Conservation Programme is preparing a global wetlands conservation strategy to build greater awareness of the major problems affecting the world's wetlands, their implications for human society, and the ways through which these problems can be addressed. The document, which will be aimed at administrators, planners, resource managers, and conservation biologists, will be reviewed during the IUCN General Assembly in Costa Rica in February 1988 and published later that year.

Biologists who would like to re-

view a draft of the strategy in early 1988 should write to the Wetlands Conservation Programme Coordinator, IUCN, CH-1196, Gland, Switzerland.

Conservationists Discuss Role of Population Genetics in Conservation

Research and conservation biologists from zoological parks, academia, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) met at the WWF offices in Washington, D.C., in late July to discuss the role of population genetic research in the conservation of endangered species. The workshop was designed to facilitate communication of goals, needs, data, and theory between conservation organizations and population geneticists.

Workshop participants agreed that genetic processes in small, fragmented populations merit serious consideration in the management and recovery of threatened and endangered populations, and stressed the need for careful study of the genetic processes within each population of concern. Participants agreed on a set of recommendations for the application of population genetics to the conservation of wild populations, designed to assist conservation organizations and geneticists in their work.

Park Service Begins Programs Focusing on Biological Diversity

The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) special task force has reviewed the service's role in the conservation of biological diversity. The finished report will serve as a reference for the development of a strategic NPS plan for the preservation of biological diversity.

NPS Director William Penn Mott, considering the ideas generated by the task force, has outlined four components of a program designed to familiarize NPS personnel and

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park visitors with the issue of biological diversity. The program includes 1) development of public education material, 2) inventory and conservation of historic fruit trees in a demonstration of the important role of NPS units in conserving genetic resources, 3) development of an ecosystem conservation data base for use in cooperative management of areas contiguous with NPS areas, and 4) research on boundary influences in NPS units to aid planning and resource management.

The program will also help to develop methodologies for assessing the status of biological diversity in units of the National Park System. The report of the task force will be distributed later this year.

IUCN Issues Plan To Save Africa's Primates

An African Primate Action Plan, 1986–1990, was recently issued by IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) Primate Specialist Group. The plan was compiled by Dr. John F. Oates of Hunter College, City University of New York, with the assistance of dozens of specialists, mostly from Africa.

The main conclusion of the plan is that primate conservation and tropical forest conservation are synonymous. In addition, the group has identified 42 projects in key areas necessary to ensure the survival of all 63 species. Particularly important are the forests of Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, and Zaire.

Work on 28 of the projects has begun; funding for the entire project has been estimated at \$2.2 million. Much more work is needed to raise the necessary support.

The African Primate Action Plan is the first in a lengthy series of SSC specialist group action plans aimed at stimulating high-priority species conservation projects. The plan can be purchased for \$10 from IUCN Publication Services, 219c Huntingdon

Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL, England.

Simon Stuart

• IUCN Species Programme Officer

International Convention Examines Wetlands Conservation

Representatives from some 56 countries and 27 observer organizations met in Regina, Canada, under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance to develop common activities to conserve and develop wetlands resources throughout the world.

Adopted in 1971, the Wetlands Convention is the oldest of all international conservation conventions with some 45 contracting parties. Contracting parties are obliged to use their wetland resources wisely, designate appropriate wetlands to the "List of Wetlands of International Importance," and cooperate in the management of shared wetlands and wetland species.

Important steps were taken at the Regina convention to establish secure secretariat arrangements by creating an independent office to be managed at IUCN headquarters in Switzerland. This office will be assisted by a unit based in the United Kingdom with primary responsibility for technical and scientific matters.

The convention also gave considerable attention to wetlands conservation issues. Detailed examination was made of such subjects as criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance, migratory birds' flyway and reserve networks, and use of the convention as a vehicle for linking wetlands conservation and development.

Convention recommendations were adopted on a variety of topics, including measures to deal with conservation problems for specific wetlands, procedures to enhance development assistance for wetlands conservation, improved criteria for

the selection of wetlands of international importance, and management measures to conserve wetland resources.

A preliminary proceedings volume from the convention will be available from IUCN this fall. The full convention proceedings with scientific papers will appear in spring 1988.

Korup Research Project Receives Grant from World Wildlife Fund

Dr. Duncan Thomas, assistant curator of African botany at the Missouri Botanical Garden, has received a grant of \$4950 from the World Wildlife Fund to support ethnobotany research in the Korup National Park in southwestern Cameroon. His project includes documenting use of vegetation—particularly for food and medicine—by two tribal groups in the park, the non-Bantu Korup people and several closely related Bantu tribes.

Results of the project will be used by Africa's tourism department to help improve the well-being of the people living in and around the rain-forest park.

Announcements

New Computer Network Changes Name

As reported in the August issue of *Conservation Biology*, a global computer service for the conservation biology and environmental community has recently been created. Originally called *BioNet*, the service has changed its name to *EcoNet*. Created by the nonprofit Institute for Global Communications, a division of the Tides Foundation, *EcoNet* is a computer-based communication and data base network that features over two dozen conferences on various environmental topics. Subscribers already include 225 users from over 15 countries.

For more information contact

EcoNet, 3228 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California 94115; (415) 923-0900.

Lowland Heaths Conference Emphasizes Land Use

The 1988 International Conference on Lowland Heaths is scheduled for May 5–7 on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. The meeting will explore the extent, origins, development, management, and conservation of lowland heaths in North America, and it will emphasize the influence of human land use history on all phases of heath ecology.

Nantucket Island, about 30 miles off the New England coast, supports some of the best developed and preserved heaths in eastern North America. Pre- and postconference field trips are planned.

The conference is hosted by the University of Massachusetts Nantucket Field Station, sponsored by the American Society for Environmental Education, and co-sponsored by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

For information contact conference chairman Dr. Wesley N. Tiffney, Jr., University of Massachusetts, Nantucket Field Station, P.O. Box 656, Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554; (617) 228-5268.

Symposium to Cover Biotic Diversity and Germplasm Preservation

The topic for the May 9–11, 1988, meeting of the Beltsville Symposium is "Biotic Diversity and Germplasm Preservation—Global Imperatives." The meeting will be held at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland. Participants will discuss research results and future research needs for diversity and preservation in relation to major national and international agricultural issues. The discussion on

biotic diversity will include plants, animals, and microorganisms.

For additional information contact Dr. Allan K. Stoner, USDA/ARS, Room 127, Building 001, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center West, Beltsville, Maryland 20705; (301) 344-3235.

Ecosystem Management: Rare Species and Significant Habitats

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, in cooperation with the Natural Areas Association; New York State Museum; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation; and The Nature Conservancy, New York, is offering a conference to promote the sensitive management of ecosystems, rare species, and significant habitats.

Scheduled for Syracuse in June 6–9, 1988, the conference is designed as a forum at which botanists, zoologists, ecologists, and natural resource managers can share their research findings, experiences, and viewpoints. Conference topics include inventory and monitoring techniques, life history studies, habitat management and restoration techniques, public involvement and education, and effective interaction among scientists, managers, landowners, and conservancies.

For information contact ESF Continuing Education, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York 13210-2784.

North American Fauna Management Symposium

A symposium on the management of amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals in North America will be held July 18–22, 1988, in Flagstaff, Arizona. Co-sponsored by Northern Arizona University, the USDA Forest Ser-

vice, and the Wildlife Society, the meeting is designed to bring scientists and managers together to discuss habitat requirements, community dynamics, sampling techniques, and management needs.

For information contact Robert C. Szaro or Keith E. Severson, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85287; (602) 261-4365 or (FTS) 261-4365.

Fifth International Congress of Ecology

The Fifth International Congress of Ecology is scheduled to be held in Yokohama, Japan in 1990.

Please direct inquiries to Professor Akira Miyawaki, Research Centre for Environmental Science, Yokohama National University, 156 Tokiwadai, Hodogaya-ku, Yokohama, 240 Japan; tel. 81-45-335-1451.

SCB Call for Papers

Professional papers are called for the 2nd Annual Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology. Please submit a one-page abstract identifying the title, subject description, major conclusions, and author's name, address and phone number to: Daniel Simberloff, Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306-2043. Abstracts are due by February 15, 1988.

News Item Submissions

Conservation-related announcements and news items should be sent to Dr. Bruce Wilcox, International Conservation News Editor, *Conservation Biology*, Center for Conservation Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305. Decisions concerning publication of submitted material rest with the Editor.