

In Korea, a long-range program of research has been initiated, using as an ecological baseline a study area immediately south of the Demilitarized Zone. This area has been rigidly protected over the past 15 years, and provides a key to understanding man's impact on Korean environments. Preliminary studies have led to a proposal for a Korean Center for Environmental Studies, within which an integrated program of research and education in ecosystem ecology can evolve. The design of this program is intended to incorporate into its structure provisions for the accumulation of significant data, for growth of ecological theory, for the strengthening of cooperation within the international scientific community, and for the diffusion of modern ecological thought within the Republic of Korea. The program represents an opportunity to develop some of the basic scientific information Korea requires in its efforts to become self-sufficient.

In Ceylon, under the Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program, a cluster of research projects has evolved, including studies of the behavior and ecology of elephants, studies of Ceylonese flora and vegetation, and investigations of the behavior and ecology of primates. These integrated studies will provide a foundation for conservation practices that are compatible with the development of forestry and agricultural resources. With these projects as a nucleus, the potentialities for a Ceylonese Center for Environmental Studies now exists. All of these projects are being carried out in cooperation with faculty and students at the University of Ceylon.

The concepts and activities described in the preceding paragraphs indicate the manner in which environmentally-oriented studies are being pursued at the Smithsonian Institution. I should now like to discuss those important issues before your Subcommittee that concerns the response of our society to what has been termed the ecologic crisis.

As you have frequently recognized, Mr. Chairman, one of the critical requirements of this nation is for mechanisms which will foster a more adequate understanding of the relationships between society and its total environment. In its report on Environmental Pollution, issued October 21, 1966, your Subcommittee reached several conclusions relevant to our present discussions. It is useful to quote some of these at length:

* * *

Considering the powerful forces for ecological change which are at man's disposal, admitting the impossibility of complete foreknowledge of the consequences of many activities, and granting that a highly technical, overpopulated world must continue to take risks with natural resources, an "early warning system" for unwanted consequences is extremely important. We do not have such a system at present.

* * *

Firmly established criteria and standards for environmental quality are necessary to give industry a basis for planning and action.

* * *

Federal Government scientific activities are not yet channeled to support announced goals in pollution abatement. There is no organization or coordinating group capable of systems analysis