

## The role of networks

### *Networks of people are our conservation force*

### *Networks of vegetation are our conservation resource*

D. SAUNDERS

*CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology*

*LMB No 4*

*PO Midland*

*Western Australia 6056*

An international conference on the above theme will be held in Geraldton, Western Australia from Sunday 15 to Friday 20 May 1994. It is being organized by the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology (Australia), Centre for Conservation Biology Auckland University (New Zealand), Department of Conservation and Land Management (Western Australia) and World Wide Fund for Nature (Australia).

Throughout the world, flora and fauna have suffered from impacts of economic development by clearing and fragmentation of native vegetation and degradation of ecosystems. Most countries have state agencies charged with stewardship and management of animal and plant communities. However, it is only with community support and assistance that conservation will achieve its full potential as government conservation agencies do not have the resources to manage adequately the conservation estate vested in them, let alone manage conservation issues on lands outside their area of influence. In most agricultural and pastoral areas the majority of land supporting native species is privately owned or managed, and needs to be managed in a manner sympathetic to nature conservation if conservation is to be realised. Therefore, scientists and others aware of the need for conservation will only see effective translation of results into action if community responsibility and action are planned from the outset. Community linkages between land holders and other individuals, groups, conservation agencies and conservation biologists are as essential to effective nature conservation at the linkages across the landscape.

Five full day sessions are planned. An invited speaker will begin each followed by contributed papers. Subjects for general sessions will be selected from the following:

- \* The need for community involvement in conser-

vation?

- \* Community driven conservation projects.
- \* The role of indigenous peoples in conservation.
- \* The link between scientists and community groups involved in conservation.
- \* The role of communication and education.
- \* Conservation biology as a discipline and as a force for change.
- \* How do we influence attitudes towards local participation in conservation?
- \* Community networks for conservation networks.
- \* The role of biosphere reserves.
- \* Linkages of conservation areas current understanding.
- \* How to work for change in conservation attitudes within the political/bureaucratic process?
- \* The role of landcare groups (and property owners) in conservation.
- \* The role of conservation pressure groups and non-government organisations.
- \* The role of environmental consultants.
- \* The role of local authorities.
- \* Integrating conservation with production/development.
- \* The role of mining companies in conservation.
- \* The role of the media in conservation.

Proceedings will be published as Nature Conservation: the Role of Networks by Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton, NSW.

The conference is a continuation of theme oriented conferences which have been held in Western Australia and published in the Surrey Beatty Nature Conservation series as:

Nature Conservation: the Role of Remnants of Native Vegetation.

Nature Conservation 2: the Role of Corridors.

Nature Conservation 3: Reconstruction of Fragmented Ecosystems. Global and Regional Perspectives.

*Received 7 January 1993;  
accepted 10 January 1993*