

I CONGRESS: CANTERBURY 1989

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WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY


also serving as Section of Herpetology of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)

NEWSLETTER No. 5: 10 AUGUST 1988.

This newsletter serves a dual function: to provide a means of communication among the Executive Committee (EC) and the International Herpetological Committee (IHC) and, at the same time, be a status report to those organizations and individuals involved in the Congress. Since this is an international effort, I encourage comment from all persons who receive this newsletter, so that the officers can become better aware of the diversity of concerns and opinions.

REQUESTS: Please note the specific requests made below in item numbers 6, 7, and 9

Over the past year and more planning for the Congress has become extremely active, as this newsletter will report. The program is set and registration is underway. Based upon preregistration, we expect over 1000 delegates from some 60 countries. The enthusiasm is very high and we strongly urge that all persons register now because some facilities at Canterbury require that admission be limited to 1000. The Registration Circular was published in June and is available on request from the Secretariat, First World Congress of Herpetology, Ecology Research Group, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NY, United Kingdom. Telephone: (227) 764000, extension 3501. Telex: 965449 UKCLIB G.


 Kraig Adler

1. HONORARY OFFICERS.

At my request, the Earl of Cranbrook organized an outstanding group of the UK's leading naturalists and public figures. This group demonstrates the widespread support for the Congress that exists in Great Britain and makes our activities more visible. We are particularly pleased that H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, President of the World Wide Fund for Nature (before 1988 called World Wildlife Fund) and one whose activities on behalf of conservation are widely known everywhere, has graciously consented to serve as our Patron. It is our hope that he will come to Canterbury officially to open the Congress. Our other honorary officers are as follows:

Honorary President

Professor Angus d'A. Bellairs. One of the world's leading herpetologists, Emeritus Professor of Vertebrate Morphology at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, University of London, and a distinguished anatomist. Consulting herpetologist, Zoological Society of London. Author of *Reptiles* (1957), *The World of Reptiles* (1966), *The Life of Reptiles* (1969), and *Morphology and Biology of Reptiles* (1976). Founder Member, Editor of *Journal* (1948-1953), and now Honorary Member, the British Herpetological Society (BHS). Founder member, Crocodile Specialists' Group, IUCN.

Convenor of Honorary Officers

The Earl of Cranbrook, PhD, DL. Zoologist; formerly Senior Lecturer at University of Malaya. Member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), and present Chairman of the Environment Sub-Committee of House of Lords Select Committee on European Communities. President of the Suffolk Naturalists and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, and of the BHS since 1981.

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Sir David Attenborough, CBE, FRS. Broadcaster and traveller. Writer and presenter of the BBC series *Life on Earth* (1979), *The Living Planet* (1984), and many other natural history programs. Former Director of Programmes, Television and Member of the Board of Management, BBC. Former Trustee, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International and presently of WWF (UK). Vice-President, Fauna and Flora Preservation Society (FFPS).

Professor David J. Bellamy. Writer and broadcaster. Presenter and script writer for television and radio programs, BBC and ITV. Founder Director, Conservation Foundation; Trustee, Living Landscape Trust; President, WATCH, Population Concern, Youth Hostel Association, National Association for Environmental Education and Surrey Wildlife Trust, and Vice-President, FFPS and Marine Conservation Society.

Professor R. J. Berry. Professor of Genetics, University of London. President, British Ecological Society, and Trustee, Percy Sladen Memorial Fund. Former member, NERC, and Past President, Linnean Society of London. Author of *Neo-Darwinism* (1982), (ed.) of Linnean Society publication *Evolution in the Galapagos* (1984), and (joint ed.) of *Encyclopaedia of Animal Evolution* (1986-).

The Most Revd. and Rt. Hon. the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. Robert Runcie, Primate of the Anglican Church. Visitor, University of Kent at Canterbury.

Professor J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson. Emeritus Professor of Zoology at Birkbeck College, University of London, and formerly Professor of Zoology, University of Khartoum (Sudan). Past President, British Arachnological Society and British Society for Chronobiology. Editor, *Journal of Arid Environments*. Author of many works including *The Temperature and Water Relations of Reptiles* (1971), and (ed.) *Sahara Desert* (1984). Honorary Member, BHS.

Mr. Gerald Durrell, OBE. Zoologist, writer, and broadcaster. Founder and Honorary Director, Jersey Zoological Park and Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. His recent expeditions include Mauritius (1976 and 1977), and with his wife, Lee, Madagascar (1981) and the USSR (1986). Vice-President, FFPS.

Mr. Richard Fitter. Author and naturalist. Much involved with the conservation of species as former Chairman and now Vice-President, FFPS. Chairman of the Steering Committee, Species Survival Commission of IUCN (1975-88) and former member, Conservation Advisory Committee of WWF International. A long-standing member of BHS.

Dr. J. F. Deryk Frazer. Former President (for 26 years) of BHS, as successor to Dr. Malcolm Smith, and Honorary Life Member since 1982. Much involved with conservation in Britain as a former senior member of staff, Nature Conservancy Council. Author of several works, among them *Reptiles and Amphibians in Britain* (1983), a successor to Malcolm Smith's standard work (1951, revised 1954) on British species.

Dr. R. H. Hedley, CB. Director of the British Museum (Natural History), 1976-88. Former Trustee, Percy Sladen Memorial Fund, and former Honorary Secretary and Vice-President, Zoological Society of London. A Member of the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature.

Sir William Henderson, FRS. Distinguished virologist and veterinarian, former Secretary to the Agricultural Research Council (1972-78), and Chairman of the Genetic Manipulation Advisory Group (1979-81). President, Zoological Society of London (1984-).

The Countess of Huntingdon. The novelist, biographer, and journalist, Margaret Lane, married to the 15th Earl of Huntingdon. Formerly special correspondent in New York for the International News Service, USA, and *Daily Mail*. Her more recent works include a biography of the snake man, C. J. P. Ionides, *Life with Ionides* (1963), and a children's nature series, including *The Frog* (1982).

Dr. D. J. E. Ingram. Eminent physicist and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent at Canterbury. A Member of the Carnegie UK Trust since 1980.

Dr. R. M. Laws, CBE, FRS. Secretary, Zoological Society of London (formerly Member of Council and Vice-President), and Master, St. Edmund's College, Cambridge. Former Director, Nuffield Unit of Tropical Animal Ecology (Uganda), the Tsavo Research Project (Kenya), and of the British Antarctic Survey up to 1987.

The Rt. Hon. Robin Leigh-Pemberton. Governor of the Bank of England since 1983 and Lord-Lieutenant of Kent. A former Pro-Chancellor, University of Kent at Canterbury.

Mr. Grenville Lucas, OBE. Botanist; Deputy Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Chairman of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN, and of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland. Trustee, WWF (UK) and Appointee in the Order of the Golden Ark (1986).

The Viscount Massereene and Ferrard, DL. Special interests in wildlife and conservation, and Fellow of the Zoological Society of London for many years. Introducer of several Acts in the House of Lords relating to animal welfare, including the Export of Animals for Research Bill, 1968. Involved with several local organizations connected with Kent and Canterbury. Family seats in the Isle of Mull and at Chilham Castle, near Canterbury.

The Baroness Nicol, JP. Former civil servant and Cambridge City Councillor. Opposition Whip in the House of Lords since 1983, and Opposition Spokesman on environmental issues.

The Hon. Miriam Rothschild, CBE, FRS. Involved with environmental aspects of natural history, especially relating to entomology, and a Member of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. Author of a biography on the 2nd Lord Rothschild, *Dear Lord Rothschild* (1983), who was her uncle and a world authority on giant tortoises, keeping a pair in the grounds of his house at Tring.

Sir Peter Scott, CH, CBE, DSC, FRS. Artist, naturalist, conservationist, broadcaster and writer. Co-Founder of WWF (1961), now Honorary Chairman of WWF International Council, Founder and Honorary Director of the Wildfowl Trust, President of FFPS, and of The British Butterfly Conservation Society. Director of Survival Anglia Ltd. Chairman of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN (1962-81), inventor of Red Data Books. Olympic bronze medallist in sailing (1936), British Champion glider pilot (1963), WWF Gold Medal (1986), and J. P. Getty Prize (1986).

Professor Sir Richard Southwood, FRS. Linacre Professor of Zoology and Vice-Chancellor-elect, University of Oxford. Vice-President of the Royal Society, 1982-84. His works include *Ecological Methods* (1966, 2nd edition 1978). He is a former Chairman of the NERC Terrestrial Life Sciences Grants Committee, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, and of the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History). Chairman, National Radiological Protection Board (1984-).

The Lord Swinfen. Member of Direct Mail Services Standards Board, and Member, Council of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral. Chairman, Parliamentary Group Video Enquiry Working Party (1983-85). President, S.E. Region British Sports Association for the Disabled.

Mr. W. H. N. Wilkinson. Banker, and Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council since 1983. A former Member of Council (also as Honorary Treasurer), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. A member of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

I thank Michael R. K. Lambert, acting on behalf of Lord Cranbrook, for arranging these biographies.

2. CO-HOSTING SOCIETIES.

As a further demonstration of the wide support for our Congress, four British and European societies have agreed to act as co-hosts: Zoological Society of London, Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, Societas Europaea Herpetologica, and the British Herpetological Society. In addition, the Canterbury meeting will serve officially as the 1989 annual meetings of Societas Europaea Herpetologica, Herpetologists' League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

3. UK NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

Ian R. Swingland, Conference Director, has appointed a group of British herpetologists to assist in organizing the Congress: Thomas E. S. Langton as Deputy Conference Director and Roger A. Avery as Chairman of the National Executive which includes Henry Arnold, Trevor J. C. Beebee, Quentin Bloxham, Arnold S. Cooke, John E. Cooper, Keith F. Corbett, the Earl of Cranbrook, Peter Davies, Richard Griffiths (stewards manager), Brian Groombridge, Tim Halliday (abstracts manager), Michael R. K. Lambert, Robert Oldham, Peter Olney, Ian F. Spellerberg, David Stubbs, Roger Thorpe (symposia manager), Richard C. Tinsley (posters manager), and Garth Underwood. This group meets regularly and is directly responsible, under Swingland's supervision, for management and planning.

4. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.

The number of national and multinational herpetological societies and organizations that has voted officially to sponsor the WCH continues to grow. Currently the list includes: All-Union Herpetological Committee (USSR), American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Asociación Herpetológica Argentina, Asociación Herpetológica Española, Australasian Affiliation of Herpetological Societies, Australian Society of Herpetologists, British Herpetological Society, Canadian Association of Herpetologists, Centro Pirenaico de Biología Experimental, Chinese Society of Herpetologists, Chinese Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Comité Herpetológico Nacional (México), Czechoslovak Zoological Society (Herpetological Section), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde, Herpetological Association of Africa, Herpetological Society of Japan, Herpetologists' League, Indian Herpetological Society, Israel Herpetological Information Center, Nederlandse Schildpadden Vereniging, Nederlandse Vereniging voor Herpetologie en Terrarienkunde, Polish Zoological Society (Herpetological Section), Societas Europaea Herpetologica, Societat Catalana d'Ictiologia i Herpetologia, Société Batrachologique de France, Société Herpétologique de France, Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and Swedish Herpetological Society. Others may yet be added to this list of 29.

5. CONGRESS PROGRAM.

Planning for the First Congress is well advanced. There are 10 plenary lecturers, 27 topical symposia, extensive poster sessions, 17 roundtables and workshops, plus displays, excursions, film sessions, and meetings of ancillary groups. Subjects of symposia, roundtables, and workshops--which cover all aspects of the research and conservation of amphibians and reptiles--were announced in *Herpetological Review*, vol. 18, p. 46, September 1987, *Bulletin of the British Herpetological Society*, nos. 21/22, p. 67, Autumn/Winter 1987, and in other journals, and a complete list with names and addresses of the convenors of each event is printed in the Registration Circular now available from the Secretariat. The list of speakers will be finalized by 1 November. In addition to a mid-week excursion day, there will be daily trips to Darwin's home, London, Cambridge, Oxford, and other nearby sites as well as to France for those delegates and families who wish, plus extensive pre- and post-Congress tours to all parts of the world. Details including prices are given in the Registration Circular.

The choice of events and convenors was made in the following manner. Suggestions were solicited from the WCH EC and IHC as well as from the UK NE; the combined list was submitted to a vote of the EC with input from the NE, and the final list was made by Adler and Swingland. The nearly 100 convenors are all leading experts in their disciplines and their preliminary outlines and lists of speakers set a high standard for the Congress. As decided some years ago by WCH, participation in symposia is by invitation, although volunteers may yet be included by contacting convenors before November. All persons can be included in the extensive Poster Sessions which will be arranged by topic.

6. CONSTITUTION.

Harold Cogger and his committee (Natalia B. Ananjeva, Richard C. Goris, René E. Honneger, Jay M. Savage, and P. E. Vanzolini) have now completed work on our Constitution (reproduced here, beginning on page 5). They have written an excellent document, subject to ratification at our Business Meeting in Canterbury. It is brief, yet seems to cover all relevant aspects and delicately balances democratic, international, and practical concerns. In the meantime, we would like to have your comments, especially criticisms, which can be addressed to Hal Cogger, Australian Museum, P.O. Box A285, Sydney South, New South Wales, Australia.

I take the position that this as-yet unratified Constitution should govern actions of the WCH on an interim basis. Accordingly, Ian Swingland, as Conference Director, was appointed as an *ex officio* member of our EC. In addition, I hereby solicit nominees for election at Canterbury and venues for the Second Congress (see no. 7).

7. NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND VENUE.

Advertisements shortly will appear in various journals soliciting nominations for the EC and IHC and for venues for our Second Congress. I hereby solicit your nominations as well.

Officers. According to our Constitution *pro tem* seven persons will be elected to the EC and 17 to the IHC by the delegates registered at the Canterbury meeting. All persons are eligible to nominate, with the following Constitutional provisions:

- A. EC. Nominations to the EC must be seconded by any two present members of the EC or IHC (list printed in Registration Circular).
- B. IHC. Nominations to the IHC must be seconded by any two present members of the EC or IHC or by the governing body of an Affiliated Organization (listed in no. 4). In addition, the governing bodies of Affiliated Organizations may themselves nominate to the IHC.
- C. Deadline. All seconded nominations must be received by the Secretary-General by 1 June 1989.

Venue. Individuals or groups who wish to propose sites for the Second Congress (to be held 1992 to 1994) are encouraged to submit formal or informal proposals to the Secretary-General as soon as possible. These need not be detailed, but indicate the facilities for plenary and paper sessions and housing for delegates. Names of those herpetologists who might serve on the local Organizing Committee and special attractions of the site can be noted. Proposals should not exceed one full page, so that they can be copied for distribution at the WCH Business Meeting.

8. AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CHECKLISTS.

The status of these checklists is now in a state of flux, with the recent unilateral decision of the Association of Systematics Collections to withdraw as publisher of the entire checklist series, including non-herpetological titles. I am now involved in discussions with ASC concerning the amphibian volume (copyright, ownership of computer records) and with Allen Press Inc. about publication of future volumes. For the record, WCH has made the following appointments concerning the checklists, all under the general supervision of William E. Duellman.

- A. **Amphibians.** W. E. Duellman, chair; L. J. Borkin, U. Caramachi, A. Dubois, M. S. Hoogmoed, R. F. Laurent, J. M. Savage, M. Tyler, D. B. Wake, M. H. Wake, E. Zhao, and R. G. Zweifel. (Publication of a volume of corrections and additions to the 1985 book is under consideration.)
- B. **Turtles and Crocodiles.** F. W. King, chair; C. Crumly, J. Iverson, J. M. Legler, P. C. H. Pritchard, and H. Wermuth. (A first draft is now under review.)

C. Snakes. J. A. Campbell, chair; D. Broadley, H. G. Cogger, M. S. Hoogmoed, H. Marx, N. Orlov, D. A. Rossman, and A. Stimson. (A first draft is in preparation.)

D. Lizards. No committee is yet appointed.

9. SUBSIDY.

The firm British Wildlife Promotions Ltd. was contracted by Ian Swingland in December 1987 to raise funds for the First Congress, from donations and sales of various products. A very ambitious goal has been set but such an amount has never been attempted before for herpetology and there is no indication yet whether we will be successful. However, we ask all readers of this newsletter to assist by suggesting the names of individuals, corporations, foundations, or other organizations to whom an appeal can be made. Send addresses to Kraig Adler.

Marinus Hoogmoed, WCH Treasurer, was appointed to chair the Subsidy Panel (R. A. Avery, W. Böhme, J. Burton, C. Gans, H. Heatwole, M. R. K. Lambert, R. F. Laurent, and J. M. Savage) which has now established guidelines to distribute funds for travel. Applications should be sent to Rinus Hoogmoed (address on page 1). All applicants must demonstrate that they have already applied for funds locally.

10. WCH BUDGET REPORTS.

Rinus Hoogmoed has submitted the following report (correct to 21 June 1988):

Income

Affiliated Organizations (29), with assessments pro-rated to the size of membership	Dutch florins	10,690.78
Benefactors (24) plus other donations		4,539.24
Royalties from the book <i>Amphibian Species</i> , 1985 (from Allen Press/ASC)		3,000.00
Interest and donation from ABN Bank, Leiden		<u>1,841.96</u>
	Total	20,071.98

Expenses

Loan to First Congress (stationery, First Circular, travel to executive meetings), to be repaid	13,262.49
WCH printing and mailing costs (stationery, newsletters, typesetting, ads, postage)	1,139.62
Telephone and bank charges	<u>281.95</u>
	Total 14,684.06

Thus, the sum of Hfl. 5,387.92 (about US\$ 2,693.96) remains. Note that the budget of the First Congress is quite separate from that of WCH; the meeting is to be self-supporting with any excess being transferred, after all costs are met, to WCH for the Second Congress and other official WCH activities.

11. CORRECTION.

Ian Swingland's telephone numbers were given incorrectly by me in the Third Memorandum to Convenors, mailed in July 1988. His correct numbers are: 227-764000, extension 3537 office; 227-720611 home.

12. DEATHS.

It is my duty to report, with great regret, the deaths of two officers: Ion E. Fuhn, the leading Romanian herpetologist and a member of IHC, and T. A. P. Walker, Chairman of the World Wide Fund for Nature UK and an Honorary Vice-President of the FWCH. Dr. Fuhn died in August 1987 and Mr. Walker last May. We record with gratitude their contributions to the First Congress and send our condolences to their families.

CONSTITUTION (DRAFT)

1 ARTICLE 1. NAME

2 The name of this organisation is the World Congress of Herpetology (hereinafter termed "the Congress").

3 ARTICLE 2. DEFINITION

4 As used throughout this Constitution herpetology is defined as the study of all aspects of the zoological taxa Amphibia and Reptilia.

5 ARTICLE 3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

6 The objectives of the Congress are to promote international interest, collaboration and co-operation in herpetology. These are to be achieved by holding periodic international congresses of herpetology, by establishing specialist committees, by serving as the Section of Herpetology of the International Union of Biological Sciences and by undertaking or encouraging such other activities as will promote these objectives.

7 ARTICLE 4. GOVERNMENT

8 4(i) Size. The Congress shall be governed by an Executive Committee of not more than twenty-one (21) members that shall in turn be advised by an International Herpetological Committee of not more than fifty-one (51) members. Membership of both

committees shall be open to all herpetologists and shall be as representative as possible of herpetological subdisciplines and the geographic distribution of herpetologists.

- 9 4(ii) Term of Appointment of Members. Members of both the Executive and International Herpetological Committees are elected for three inter-congress terms, but will be eligible for re-election by the Congress at which they are due to retire; except that one third of the foundation members of the Executive Committee and one third of the foundation members of the International Herpetological Committee, chosen by lottery, shall retire at the Second Congress while a further one third of the foundation members of the Executive Committee and one third of the foundation members of the International Herpetological Committee, chosen by lottery, shall retire at the Third Congress.
- 10 Except as provided in Article 4(iii) the terms of retiring members shall be deemed to expire at the end of the final plenary session of a Congress.
- 11 Foundation members who are chosen by lottery to retire before the expiry of three inter-congress terms will immediately become eligible for re-election at the Congress at which they are due to retire.
- 12 4(iii) Office Bearers. The executive officers of the Congress shall be a Secretary-General and a Treasurer, both of whom shall be elected from amongst their number by members of the Executive Committee meeting at its first business session following the final plenary session of each Congress; except that the retiring Secretary-General and Treasurer, if not re-elected, and notwithstanding the provisions of article 4(i), shall remain members of the Executive Committee until the end of the calendar year in which their retirement occurs.
- 12a Vacancies caused by the resignation or death of an executive officer between World Congresses will be filled by the Executive Committee, except that the Treasurer shall also act as Deputy Secretary-General and shall, in the event of the position of Secretary-General falling vacant, act in that position until the Executive Committee has appointed a successor.
- 13 4(iv) Election of Members. New members of both the Executive and International Herpetological Committees shall be elected by registered participants assembled at the final plenary session of each World Congress of Herpetology from a list of nominations submitted to the Executive Committee. Where the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies then the election shall be by open ballot.
- 14 4(v) Nominations for Membership. At least eighteen months prior to a congress the Secretary-General shall notify Affiliated Organisations and such herpetological journals and newsletters as he/she may determine, of a call for nominations for membership of the Executive and International Herpetological Committees.
- 14a All nominations for membership of the Executive and International Herpetological Committees must be received by the Secretary-General at least four months prior to a Congress and must be seconded either by any two members of either the Executive or International Herpetological Committees, or, in the case of the International Herpetological Committee, by the governing body of an Affiliated Organisation.
- 15 4(vi) Filling of Vacancies. Vacancies caused by the resignation or death of a member of either the Executive or International Herpetological Committees will be filled by a person appointed by the Executive Committee, except that any vacancy on the Executive Committee will be filled by a member of the International Herpetological Committee. All such appointees shall automatically retire at the next World Congress of Herpetology but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 16 4(vii) Duties. The Executive Committee shall determine the date and venue of each World Congress of Herpetology [Article 5(i)] and shall appoint a Conference Director and Organising Committee for each such Congress. Responsibility for the program for each World Congress is vested in the Executive Committee, which shall delegate authority to the Conference Director and/or Organising Committee to undertake specific tasks and functions associated with each Congress subject to final review by the Executive Committee.
- 17 The International Herpetological Committee shall act as an advisory body to the Executive Committee; it may either respond to specific requests by the Executive Committee or may initiate matters to be considered by the Executive Committee.
- 18 4(viii) Conduct of Business. The Secretary-General shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for co-ordinating the general business of the Congress, including all general correspondence, maintenance of records, the organisation of all Committee meetings and the circulation of minutes of all meetings to members of the Executive Committee.
- 19 The Executive Committee shall meet in business session at least twice during the course of each World Congress of Herpetology, the chairman to be elected by and from the members present. Agendas for such meetings shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and circulated to members at least four months prior to the Congress. Between Congresses the Executive Committee shall conduct its business by post, and on any voting matter the Secretary-General shall allow two calendar months from the date of posting of letters by air mail before forwarding a second copy to members who have not replied during this period. If a member fails to respond to this second letter within one calendar month then he or she shall be deemed to have abstained from voting. Failure to vote on three successive occasions will be taken to signify that a member wishes to tender

his or her resignation.

- 20 The International Herpetological Committee shall not meet nor conduct business independently of the Executive Committee, but shall exercise its duties and responsibilities through the Secretary-General.
- 21 4(ix) Subcommittees. The Executive Committee alone may establish subcommittees, membership of which will be at its discretion, to carry out specific functions or to examine and report upon matters of specialised herpetological interest.
- 22 4(x) Finances. The Executive Committee shall solicit funds from individuals or organisations wishing to support the work of the Congress, shall retain surplus monies from individual Congresses and from the sale of Congress proceedings or symposium publication rights and shall deposit such funds with a body such as a national society or scientific institution which is approved by the Executive Committee and which has its accounts subjected, at least annually, to professional audit.
- 23 The Executive Committee shall expend such funds as are necessary to conduct the business of the Executive and International Herpetological Committees between Congresses. The Treasurer shall keep records and accounts of all monies received and disbursed by the Congress and shall present an audited statement of accounts at the first business meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at each Congress.
- 24 4(xi) Records. The Secretary-General shall cause to be kept such written records as are necessary to ensure the effective management and continuity of administration of the Congress. Such written records are to be passed in their entirety by the out-going Secretary-General to the incoming Secretary-General within three months of the change of incumbency.
- 25 4(xii) Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as shall be determined by the Secretary-General, but shall conduct formal business only at those business meetings provided for in Article 4(viii). At such business meetings decisions will require a simple voting majority of members present; except that changes to the Constitution require the procedures set out in Article 6.
- 26 The International Herpetological Committee shall meet at times and places to be determined by the Secretary-General.
- 27 **Article 5. CONGRESSES**
- 28 5(i) Venue and Date. Each World Congress of Herpetology shall be held not less than three years and not more than five years after the preceding Congress. The venue and date of each World Congress of Herpetology shall be determined by the Executive Committee; except that the Executive Committee shall submit to a preferential vote at the final plenary session of each Congress a list of at least four potential venues for the next Congress and shall subsequently make every effort to put such a vote into effect.
- 29 5(ii) Language. The official language or languages of the Congress will be determined by the Executive Committee.
- 30 5(iii) Participants. Participation in any Congress shall be open to all herpetologists or interested biologists, and is subject only to compliance with registration procedures and payment of the prescribed fee.
- 31 5(iv) Host Institution. The Secretary-General shall undertake all necessary negotiations to obtain a host institution for each Congress, and shall seek the approval of the Executive Committee prior to accepting the invitation of any institution to host a Congress.
- 32 5(v) Organising Committee. The Secretary-General shall undertake all necessary negotiations to establish an Organising Committee for each Congress, the composition of which must be ratified by the Executive Committee.
- 32a An Organising Committee shall complete its work and shall report to the Secretary-General no later than six months after the end of the Congress for which it was established.
- 33 5(vi) Conference Director. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Conference Director for each Congress, who shall be responsible to the Executive Committee through the Secretary-General for all aspects of the organisation of each Congress. The Conference Director is to be an *ex officio* member of the Executive and Organising Committees.
- 34 5(vii) Finance. Each World Congress is to be financially self-supporting and it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Conference Director and the Organising Committee, to determine registration and other fees, auditing requirements, and to approve a Congress budget prior to entering into any contractual arrangements with the host institution.
- 35 The Executive Committee at its discretion may make available to the Organising Committee such funds, either as a loan or gift, as it may determine; conversely surplus funds from any one Congress will be retained by the Executive Committee for the future conduct of business of the World Congress of Herpetology.
- 36 5(viii) Indemnity. The Executive Committee shall ensure that appropriate action is taken under the laws of the host country to

indemnify members of the Executive Committee, the Conference Director and members of the Organising Committee against personal financial liability for any aspect of the Congress and its organisation.

37 5(ix) Sections. The Executive Committee may establish such Sections of a Congress as it deems necessary to meet the needs of specialised subgroups of herpetologists.

38 5(x) Program. Notwithstanding Article 4(vii) the program for each Congress, including plenary speakers, contributed papers and symposium topics and convenors will be developed by a Scientific Program Committee of nine members to be appointed by the Secretary-General, and to include the Conference Director and no more than three other members from the host country. The Scientific Program Committee will elect its own chairperson and will report to the Executive Committee through the Secretary-General. Each symposium convenor will submit a list of proposed contributors to the Scientific Program Committee which, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will arrange for the Secretary-General to issue formal invitations to all proposed contributors. The final program for each Congress will be determined by the Executive Committee.

39 5(xi) Plenary Session. The Executive Committee shall ensure that each Congress program provides for a plenary session of the Congress to be held on the last working day of the Congress. Such a session shall include the election to vacancies on the Executive and International Herpetological Committees and consideration of all Congress resolutions.

40 5(xi) Publications. All rights to volume publications arising from Congress activities and programs, including editorial control, are vested in the Executive Committee. Conversely, the Executive Committee reserves the right to withdraw Congress sponsorship from any symposium planned for or held during the course of the Congress.

41 **ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

42 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any two members of the Executive Committee and/or International Herpetological Committee; such proposals shall be subject to a postal vote among members of both committees and shall be adopted if two-thirds of the members voting favor the proposed amendments.

43 An amendment shall become effective upon adoption unless a later date is specified in the amendment itself.

44 **ARTICLE 7. AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS**

45 The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may confer upon particular international, transnational, national and regional societies or associations of herpetologists in any country the status of an Affiliated Organisation. The governing body of each such Organisation is thereby eligible to submit to the Executive Committee, at least four months prior to a Congress, one nomination for membership of the International Herpetological Committee. No other rights are conferred upon an Affiliated Organisation.

46 **ARTICLE 8. HONOURS**

47 The Congress shall not bestow honour of any kind on individual herpetologists, other than by involving them in the business of the Executive or International Herpetological Committees, or by their involvement in the proceedings of a Congress.

48 **ARTICLE 9. RESOLUTIONS**

49 The Executive Committee shall consider and recommend action by a plenary session of a Congress on properly presented resolutions, whether such proposals are initiated within the Executive Committee, adopted by Sections of the Congress or made by any group of twenty (20) or more persons in attendance at the Congress. Such resolutions must deal only with matters relevant to herpetology and herpetologists, and must not be political in nature. Any individual who wishes a Section to adopt a proposed resolution should whenever possible give notice of intent to the organisers of the Section in sufficient time to ensure that the proposal is included in the program and allotted sufficient time for discussion.

50 The Secretary-General shall received proposed resolutions up to 24 hours prior to the plenary session of the Congress and shall cause the submitted proposals to be announced to the Congress by posting or such other medium as he or she may determine.

51 The Executive Committee shall take whatever subsequent action may be required by resolutions of a Congress, insofar as such action is consistent with this Constituion.

52 **ARTICLE 10. DISTRIBUTION ON DISSOLUTION**

53 Upon dissolution of the World Congress of Herpetology the Executive Committee shall assign to the International Union of Biological Sciences or such other international organisation or organisations as it believes will best serve the interests of international herpetology all assets and accrued income, less any expenses which the Executive Committee or its delegates may incur in arranging such a dissolution.

54 **ARTICLE 11. PROHIBITIONS**

55 Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution which might be susceptible to a contrary interpretation:

56 a. the Congress shall be organised and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes.

57 b. the Congress shall not be organised or operated for any profit other than that which will enable the Congress to pursue its objectives.

58 c. no part of the assets or net income of the Congress shall be put to the benefit of any member or private individual.