

One idea - many helping hands



Dr. P.T. Dang, *President*,
Tropical Conservancy

THE IDEA. In January 2000 Tropical Conservancy (TC) proudly launched its quarterly publication *Biodiversity*. This publication arrived in time to serve into the third millennium, a critically important period, during which, due to carelessness and continued lack of knowledge, a single life form, *Homo sapiens*, and its activities will pose the greatest threat to ecosystems, the environment, and the integrity of life. In participation with global efforts working to avert destruction of biodiversity and to minimize impacts, *Biodiversity* takes an active role in publishing and in distributing information regarding life on Earth to advocate understanding and appreciation of all living beings and their vital roles in maintaining the health of ecosystems, the environment, and the integrity of the Earth's life-supporting systems. A good knowledge of components that make up and sustain life are essential to the conservation and protection of these irreplaceable resources.

THE HELPING HANDS. Because of the importance of this journal, support and contributions from members, conservationists, writers, and scientists from all over the world have streamed in with insightful articles, ideas, and opinions dedicated to increasing the knowledge of the Earth's biological diversity and resources and to advocating their conservation and sustainable use. The success of *Biodiversity* up to this point is also partly attributable to the continued funding support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

In 2002, during the preparation of the special issue dedicated to the Indigenous Peoples of the world, their knowledge, and their perspectives on biodiversity, environment and sustainable development, [volume 3, issue 3] TC partnered with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Centre for Traditional Knowledge, Consilium and a special Aboriginal Board of Editors. We received generous funding support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canadian International Development Agency, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Environment Canada [Aboriginal Affairs and Biodiversity Convention Office], Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the International Development Research Centre. This special issue was launched and distributed to selected participants at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002 and was well received.

THE TC-BIODIVERSITY TEAM. *Biodiversity* has attained its success thanks to a strong international support staff, known as the TC-Biodiversity Team (see listing in the masthead and on our website <http://www.tc-biodiversity.org>).

THE BIODIVERSITY PUBLICATION COMMITTEE: As part of TC's continuous effort to develop *Biodiversity* a Biodiversity Publication Committee (BPC) has been formed. The BPC is chaired by Peter Hall, Executive Director, Biodiversity Knowledge and Innovation Network – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This positive step was taken to ensure the high standard of the journal with respect to its direction, content and appearance. I am confident that, under the vision of the BPC, *Biodiversity* will effectively develop and improve and will continue to cover important issues in the field of biodiversity.

OUR APPRECIATION. WELCOME TO GEOFFREY SCUDDER! Geoff Scudder, D. Phil., is taking on the position of Editor of *Biodiversity* starting in May, 2003. Geoff is a Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. His reputation for excellence in organismal biology research is vast and far-reaching. As a zoologist devoted to the true bugs (Heteroptera), he has published extensively on functional morphology, comparative environmental physiology, evolutionary ecology, systematics, and biogeography. Currently collaborating with scientists worldwide, his research explores the effects of environmental degradation and global warming on Canada and on British Columbia in particular. He is coordinating and promoting conservation studies in the Thompson-Okanagan Valley, a unique hotspot for both richness and rarity for arthropods in Canada, and threatened by rapid urban and agricultural development.

As Head of the University of British Columbia Department of Zoology for 15 years, Geoff has received many honours during his teaching career. He has served in many leadership roles, notably as President of the Entomological Society of Canada and of the Canadian Society of Zoologists. He successfully ran the XVIIIth International Congress of Entomology at UBC, and recently was made a member of The Order of Canada. Dr. Scudder has inspired hundreds of undergraduate students and contributed to the training of well over one hundred graduate students. *Welcome to Biodiversity, Geoff!*

WELCOME TO STEPHEN AITKEN! Stephen Aitken, our News Editor, has now taken on the Managing Editor task. *Biodiversity 4 (1)*, the first issue which he edited, has been well received and has been commented on as among the best issues of *Biodiversity*. Steve will continue to provide us with the exciting Biodiversity News Section!

THANK YOU TO TED MOSQUIN! Ted Mosquin, Ph.D., has served as the Editor of *Biodiversity* since September 2001. After this issue, Ted will leave the *Biodiversity* editorship position to pursue his interest in ecocentrism and deep ecology, but will remain a member of the *Biodiversity* Board of Editors and will serve as a member of the BPC. *Thank you, Ted!*

THANK YOU TO CATHERINE RIPLEY! Catherine Ripley served as Managing Editor from *Biodiversity* 1(1) 2000 to 3(4) 2002 and is a founding member of the *Board of Editors*. She was instrumental in developing the style, format and appearance of early issues of *Biodiversity*. Catherine is now pursuing her career as a writer and teacher in the field of children's literature. She will remain a life member of *Biodiversity*. *Thank you, Catherine!*

Also, on behalf of *TC-Biodiversity*, I express my sincere gratitude to the government departments, agencies, institutions, and organizations listed above for their cooperation and support.

P.T. Dang, Ph.D.
President
Tropical Conservancy

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