2. Protection of Nature and the Countryside

The planning of space is not only necessary for industry, but also, in the future, for the conservation of larger nature preserves. These preserves not only serve humans, but are also important for the preservation of plant and animal species which would otherwise be subject to certain extinction. If a nature preserve has lost its original protective function, it should be restored to its original state through appropriate measures. Up until now environmental protection, which only preserves individual species or designated areas from industrial destruction, is completely inadequate. Environment protection should be practised not only in these isolated regions, but also and importantly where human beings live: in villages and cities and their surroundings.

Die Grünen advocate the following goals:

- Special permission to bypass environmental protections laws is not to be permitted.
- Marsh areas, an important habitat for many species of animals and plants, should be preserved and restored. Further drainage or clearing of these areas should be prohibited.
- Comprehensive protection of the coastline, as well as the bordering salt flats.
- Large waste disposal sites are not to be located in nature preserves or other environmentally important areas; care must be taken that these sites do not influence the ground water (e.g. Grube Messel near Darmstadt).
- The reduction of green and wooded areas, and damage done to the air and water supply, as well as to nature in general, caused by construction must be restored.
- The clearing of land should take place only when ecological advice is considered.
- Development should not encroach upon recreational spaces.
- The inclusion of protected zones (e.g. parks, green areas, lakes, springs or ponds) is obligatory in community development planning.
- Ecological considerations speak against new large transportation projects such as large airports, canals, and highways.
- Environmental protection agencies and offices (including a federal environmental ministry) with qualified personnel (conservationists) and appropriate technical facilities, should supervise and advise at the local and federal level.
- Environmental protection organizations, as well as concerned citizen groups are to have a say in area planning and should have the right to sue.
- We demand the institution of "open planning" and that the entire decision-making process be made public.
- Environmental experts from associations and citizen groups have a right to participate in the planning processes.

ACTIVISM/COMMENT

6. Animal and Plant World (Protection of Species)

As a result of unrestrained human interference, an increasing number of plant and animal species is being exterminated; the number of species has been reduced, and the ecological balance in nature is being destroyed more and more.

Die Grünen demand:

- The preservation and restoration of primitive regions and the reintroduction of extinct plant and animal species.
- The protection of indigenous animals and plants in their natural environment must take precedence over economic development. The natural environment of animals and plants must be guaranteed by a comprehensive system of biotope protection; the Federal Republic should support at the international level the protection of species, e.g., by supporting a
7. Wildlife Protection

Industrial methods for the breeding of livestock and poultry violate present animal protection law, and have led to increased mistreatment of animals: mass breeding of chickens and fur-bearing animals, and the forced fattening of calves and pigs are all instances of such practices.

Thousands of animals are killed daily in scientific experiments, e.g., in animal experiments testing chemicals, weapons, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

Die Grünen advocate the following goals:
- Animals should no longer legally be considered "things", but should receive a special legal status. Cruelty to animals must be severely punished.
- Domestic agricultural animals should be kept in natural conditions corresponding to their species type.
- Cruelty to animals resulting from mass animal husbandry practices should finally be abolished. As an immediate measure we demand that a law be passed requiring the statement of information concerning the origin of animal products, both domestic or imported (e.g., whether the chickens were kept in cages or were left free to roam).
- Keeping animals in accordance with the needs of their species is also in the self-interest of agriculture. This is especially true for smaller farmers, since they are frequently forced out of business by competition from mass-industrialized animal production.
- Stricter rules guaranteeing a natural habitat for animals should also apply to household pets, and are to be officially supervised by experts. Private and public wildlife preserves are to be regulated in a similar manner.
- Rules for the transport of animals, including slaughterhouse animals, with stronger consideration given to animal protection.
- In place of animal experiments we demand proven and feasible alternatives (e.g., experiments with cell cultures or with computer simulation in the area of organic medicine).
- There must be a balancing of legal claims between the use expected from animals and the animal's right to life. Even psychological research using animals is highly questionable.
- The senseless repetition of experiments with animals should be avoided by an obligation to publish results and by the establishment of a centralized agency for the supervision of all authorized animal experiments.
- We reject genetic engineering in animals and humans.
- We will guarantee that the responsibility for protecting animals and plants is transferred from the agriculture ministry to an environmental ministry.

Reprinted by permission of Die Grünen, Bonn

Admirers of George Abbe's writing may look forward to publication, beginning in the Summer Issue of BETWEEN THE SPECIES of portions of Abbe's novel.

To Perish Never.
Plans are to follow this with serialization of Regevit.

BETWEEN THE SPECIES welcomes letters, which we will on occasion publish, from readers. Please limit to 500 words in length. If response warrants, an adjunct newsletter, for discussion, authored entirely by readers and letter writers, will be initiated.