* *The Aims of Conservation*

Between wildlife and humanity, there is a subconscious connection stretching back to the origins of man. Many people sense that wildlife and humans are part of the same living scene and that man should therefore strive to see that the other actors have at least a walk-on part.

For the majority, conservation was initially thought of as only being relevant to endangered species. Their plight could be readily understood, and saving them was the focus point for both moral and public support. Now it is recognized that conservation must also be applied to the environment in which both wildlife and humans live. In wealthier nations, the realization that it is important to protect the whole environment, including the oceans and the atmosphere, as it is to conserve flora and fauna, affects many people’s entire lifestyle. It influences what they eat and drink, what they buy and wear, and for whom they vote.

Protecting wildlife, however, is still the bedrock of conservation. Common to each operation aimed at saving wildlife is the fact that man’s requirements have clashed with and taken precedence over the needs of wild animals and plants. This situation is sometimes justifiable from a human standpoint. Under-privileged people have to make a precarious living from land that is occupied by wildlife. If those people’s welfare, let alone their survival, is at stake, then these must take priority. Occasionally a compromise can be found but, in a world in which over-population is a major cause of starvation and “land hunger,” this is increasingly hard to bring about.

1. The writer says that awareness of conservation issues has

* historically been man’s responsibility
* changed the entire lifestyle of the majority of people
* expanded from initially focusing primarily in animals

1. The writer thinks that the wish to protect wildlife cannot be justified if

* people’s lives are therefore imperiled
* some people continue to starve
* impoverished people hunt the animals to live