

Mueller-Dombois and other scientists have written to Hawaiian officials and to the state's congressional delegation, but they say that most elected officialdom is highly sensitive to the interests of developers. Lamoureux observes, for instance, that "every time a plant is proposed for endangered listing the state government has always opposed the listing" because it doesn't want to tie up land. Peter M. Vitousek, a biologist at Stanford University who has lived in Hawaii, says environmentalists and developers in the state are "tremendously polarized," so civil avenues of communication are in short supply. The Hawaii Nature Conservancy is studiously staying out of the conflict.

The islands of Hawaii are fabulous repositories of plant and animal species that exist nowhere else. Hawaiians take great pride in their natural heritage, but there is not much organized action on its behalf. Researchers are sparse, much of the land has still not been surveyed, and thousands of species still await classification.

As Mueller-Dombois points out, the significance of the conflict goes way beyond the future of Hawaii. "How can we expect developing countries to save some of their tropical rainforests if we cannot even do it in the U.S.A.?" he asks. Hawaii has been cited as potentially an ideal United States model for the successful marriage of economic development and environmental protection. Yet it is doing things that would not be condoned if it were a client of the Agency for International Development.

The 'ohi'a chipping operation offers further irony as a case of bioenergy gone awry. The conversion of renewable biomass and wastes is touted by many scientists as the most environmentally and economically sound way to meet energy needs in the Third World. Indeed, the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii is one of the world's primary centers for bioenergy research. But the center's activities are all directed toward developing countries, and when one of its scientists wrote a newspaper to protest the destruction of nonrenewable resources on the Campbell Estate, he was chastised by a state forester for being a traitor to his profession.

Sanford Siegel, chairman of the University of Hawaii botany department, says the bright side of the dispute is in the evidence that Hawaii may be on the threshold of a public "dialogue" over the environment. Ten years ago, he says, "anybody with an environmentalist label on them was the enemy."

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

## Environmental Leadership in State of Flux

The environmental community has been in flux lately. Several major environmental groups have appointed new leaders, and the Conservation Foundation and World Wildlife Fund may merge.

- The Sierra Club has named as its new executive director Douglas Wheeler, who is currently president of the American Farmland Trust, a non-profit group concerned with soil conservation and the protection of farmland. He was deputy assistant secretary of Interior in charge of the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Ford Administration. Wheeler, a lawyer, will take office on 1 July, succeeding J. Michael McCloskey, who has headed the organization for 16 years.

- National Audubon Society in April named Peter Berle as its new president. Berle, a lawyer and former commissioner of the New York State environment and natural resources agency, will succeed Russell Peterson, who is retiring on 1 August.

- Friends of the Earth in January appointed Karl Wendelowski as its executive director. Wendelowski comes to the post from Nutritional Management, a medical services company in Chicago. He trained in business management and engineering and has managed an Antarctic research station supported by the National Science Foundation.

- The Environmental Defense Fund is now headed by Frederic Krupp, who is a lawyer and was most recently the director of the environmental group, Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

The heads of the Conservation Foundation, William Reilly, and World Wildlife Fund, Russell Train, have proposed to combine the two groups to bring together the foundation's policy-making skills and the wildlife fund's strengths in the natural sciences. The details are to be hammered out this summer before the proposal is put before the boards of the two groups for approval.

The idea for the merger came from Reilly and Train, who have been close personal friends since the early 1970's when Train led the Council on

Environmental Quality and Reilly was a member of his staff. Train was also president of the Conservation Foundation from 1965 to 1969. Reilly is said to be increasingly interested in focusing on international conservation efforts.—MARJORIE SUN

## Stockman Relents on Landsat

David Stockman, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, has apparently abandoned his opposition to the government-subsidized commercialization of Landsat. On 16 May he agreed to send Congress a supplemental budget request of \$75 million for fiscal year 1985 and \$50 million for fiscal year 1986.

The money will go to EOSAT, a consortium of RCA and Hughes that last year survived a bidding process for the right to take over Landsat from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The subsidy will ultimately total \$250 million plus launch costs for the first two EOSAT satellites, and is designed to help the company develop a market for Landsat's remote sensing data.

Stockman, who has opposed the subsidy since it was agreed to last fall (*Science*, 12 October 1984, p. 152), has consistently refused to allow NOAA to request the money from Congress. Most recently, in March, he went to a group of four Republican senators and asked their help in killing the transfer, arguing that the market would never materialize, that EOSAT was putting none of its own money at risk, and that the subsidies would therefore continue indefinitely (*Science*, 19 April, p. 308).

EOSAT officials denied those assertions heatedly. But in any case Stockman's ploy seems to have backfired. One of the four senators was Paul Laxalt (R-Nevada), who chairs the appropriations subcommittee that oversees NOAA and its parent agency, the Commerce Department. After listening to Stockman he took an interest in the Landsat issue, became a strong supporter of EOSAT and the Landsat transfer, and began to press Stockman to approve it. As a close personal friend of President Reagan,