

Present and future role of alternatives

In May/June 1995 the European Centre for Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) held a workshop on the role of replacement, refinement and reduction, ie the Three Rs, in biomedical research and testing. A report and the recommendations of this workshop were published in the journal *ATLA* and have now been reprinted with minor amendments. This 29-page document is a most valuable resource of the current situation re the Three Rs. It covers the origins and the evolution of the three Rs concept, the reduction alternatives, the refinement alternatives and the replacement alternatives. Interwoven with these main themes there are a number of more general items on such matters as: considerations of the scientific and ethical justification of using animals for research purposes; on the validations and scientific barriers to the adoption of alternative methods; and on educating, training and informing scientists and the general public about the use of limitation of the Three Rs approach. The whole is finished with some 58 Conclusions and Recommendations and a 112 item list of references.

This report is a well written, wide ranging and in many ways a wise account of the present and future role of the alternatives – the Three Rs – in biomedical research and testing.

The Three Rs: The Way Forward. European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) Workshop Report II. M Balls and 20 others! (1995). Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments: Nottingham. 29pp. Paperback. Obtainable from ECVAM, TP 580, Joint Research Centre Environment Institute, 21020 Ispra (VA), Italy. Free. Reprinted with minor amendments from *ATLA* 23: 838-866.

Wildlife as a resource for local communities

Whose Eden? is a report to the Overseas Development Administration of the British Government. It presents an overview and analysis of literature on community approaches to wildlife management, with the majority of the information gained from schemes in Africa. The analyses are split into top-down approaches (ownership of wildlife by the state, traditional protected areas, wildlife legislation enforcement) and participatory approaches (involvement of local people and their needs in wildlife management). This latter category is also further broken down into a range from passive participation (donor-funded and compensation schemes) to active participation (community-led generation and distribution of benefits from wildlife utilization). The report also identifies conditions under which uses of wildlife are likely to be sustainable.

It begins with a useful executive summary followed by six chapters: Introduction; Definitions and Background Concepts; Top-down Approaches; Participatory Approaches; Analysis; The Way Forward; and has four annexes which include a list of institutions and individuals working in the field of community wildlife management; and finally, a supporting Bibliography. There are seven tables, 31 boxes and one figure.

The publication defines clearly its use of terminology and is explicit in being utilitarian in its approach. Various uses of wildlife are identified although there are no direct references to the animal welfare implications of wildlife utilization, such as the methods of capture, holding, transportation, killing and disturbance of animals in their natural habitat (Lindley cited in Taylor & Dunstone 1996). They could potentially be encompassed in the suggestions for research and monitoring of human impact on wildlife. Some active participatory schemes