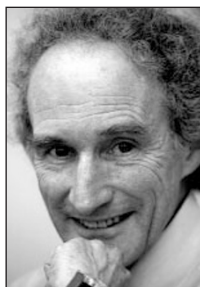


Sir Robert May, Ph.D.

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Robert M. May is currently (1995-2000) Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government and Head of the UK Office of Science and Technology. He holds this position on leave from his Royal Society Research Professorship in the Department of Zoology, Oxford University, and at Imperial College, London. Previously he was Class of 1877 Professor of Zoology at Princeton University (1973-1988) and Professor of Physics at Sydney University (1969-1973). Trained as a theoretical physicist/applied mathematician, for the past 25 years or so he has studied various aspects of the way populations and communities are structured, and how they respond to change, both natural and human-created.

Sir Robert was awarded a Knighthood in 1996 and awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia in 1998, both for "Services to Science". He is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London, and an Executive Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation. Sir Robert is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a Foreign member of the US National Academy of Sciences, and an Overseas Fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences. Notable among his many Prizes and Medals are the 1996 Crafoord Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (this award, worth \$500,000, is intended to complement the Nobel Prizes by cycling on a 3-year basis among mathematics, earth and space sciences, and "biosciences and ecology"; May is cited "for pioneering ecological research in theoretical analysis of the dynamics of populations, communities and ecosystems"), and the 1998 Balzan Prize presented by the President of Italy (this SF500,000 prize was given by the Swiss-Italian Balzan Foundation for May's "seminal contributions to the mathematical analysis of biodiversity, in particular his pioneering work on chaos theory and ecological systems, and the development of a variety of methods for estimating the total number of species alive on earth today and rates of extinction"). He holds honorary degrees from several universities, including Uppsala, Yale, Princeton and Sydney.

Science Advice, Government Policies, and Public Trust

I will discuss the uses of science advice in forming government policies on questions that involve emerging technology. In particular, I will review the UK Guidelines on Science Advice and Policy Making with their emphasis on wide consultation and openness. I will share some personal thoughts on the opportunities and difficulties associated with such open dialogue between policy makers and the public—or many different "publics"—especially when many different viewpoints contend. Much of this discussion will, of course, focus on present and likely future perspectives on agriculture, food, and the environment.