

## INTERNATIONAL

**Pressure on Norway to end whaling**

Norway's scientific whaling fleet ended its 1992 hunt on 11 August after killing 93 out of a planned 110 minke whales in the north-east Atlantic. The pressure on Norway to end whaling is building: the European Community's Fisheries Commissioner, Manuel Marin, condemned Norway's whaling plans and said they could stand in the way of a Norwegian application to join the EC, while fish from Norway has been boycotted by a number of US companies because of the whaling. *Source: BBC Wildlife*, October 1992, 61.

**New whaling organization**

On 11 September 1992 four whaling countries – Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands – meeting in Torshavn, Faroes, agreed to set up an independent, pro-hunting commission aiming to assume management of certain whale and seal stocks in the North Atlantic. The new North Atlantic Marine Mammals Commission will be based in Tromsø, Norway, and has been set up because the whaling nations say that the International Whaling Commission has become dedicated to protecting rather than managing whales. *Source: The Guardian*, 12 September 1992.

**Cruise lines still dumping plastic**

The Washington-based Center for Marine Conservation says that 21 cruise lines are not abiding by a world-wide plastics

dumping ban in effect since 1988. Beach clean-ups in 13 countries found plastic litter bearing cruise-line names and logos. The top four offenders – Royal Caribbean, Norwegian, Holland America, and Carnival – accounted for 65 per cent of cruise-line plastic products picked up by volunteers. *Source: Marine Turtle Newsletter*, October 1992, 20.

## EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

**Logging in Siberia**

Companies from the USA, North and South Korea and Japan are becoming involved in large-scale logging ventures in Siberia. One agreement, between a Soviet corporation and Hyundai, a South Korean company, for logging 2400 sq km of forest in the basins of the Svetleya, Peya, Zeva, Kabanya and Edinka rivers is expected to yield 800,000 cu m of timber a year. A settlement with roads and industrial buildings has already been established but a report of the environmental impact of the project has not yet been produced, although the region contains areas of outstanding importance for wildlife.

*Source: IUCN Forest Conservation Programme Newsletter*, August 1992, 8.

**Siberian tigers poached**

More than 20 Siberian tigers *Panthera tigris altaica* were poached in 1992 in the Lazo reserve north-east of Vladivostok. There were fears that the winter snows would enable poachers to track down many more. The animals were being sold to Chinese and Japanese traders while Customs officers at the now

open borders turned a blind eye. The Lazo reserve is one of several containing tigers in the Russian maritime province of Primorski. There were reports earlier in 1992 that some tigers had been poached to exchange their skins for foreign cars. *Source: Cat News*, 17 September 1992, 20.

**Paanajärvi National Park**

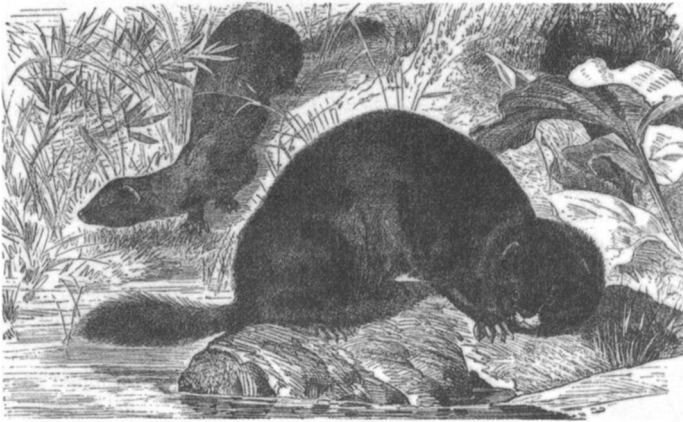
A new national park has been created around the 20-km-long Lake Paanajärvi in Russian Karelia on its border with Finland. The new park, which is renowned for its rare plants and is uninhabited, covers more than 1000 sq km and adjoins the 270-sq-km Oulanka National Park in Finland. *Source: Suomen Luonto*, 51 (7), 50.

**Reservoir to go ahead in Finland**

At the beginning of June 1992 Finnish Government Ministers agreed to the construction of the Vuotos reservoir on the River Kemijoki in Lapland. About 230 sq km of valuable wetland habitat will be submerged and there will be considerable impact on waterways (see *Oryx*, 26, 8). However, the plan still requires a permit from the Water Court, a process that will take some years and whose outcome is uncertain. Some MPs are trying to have the area protected under a separate statute and because only 18 per cent of Finns are in favour of the dam, this has a reasonable chance of succeeding. *Source: Suomen Luonto*, 51 (6), 58.

**European mink captive breeding**

A breeding and conservation committee has been set up for



European mink – one of Europe's most threatened mammals. Captive-breeding may offer some hope for its survival.

the European mink *Mustela lutreola*. Tallinn Zoo in Estonia has given the committee 17 animals and each year some of these will be given on breeding loan to participating institutions. All offspring will remain in the possession of the committee, which will decide which breeding institutions should keep them. Money paid by the participating institutions will be used for field-work, research and European mink conservation. The European mink is the most endangered small carnivore in Europe, remaining in isolated populations in one-fifth of its former range. The main reasons for its decline are habitat loss, prey shortages and competition with the American mink *Mustela vison*.

Source: *Small Carnivore Conservation*, October 1992, 20.

### Seal populations recovering in North Sea

Most of the common seal *Phoca vitulina* populations around the North Sea appear to be recovering well from the drastic effects of the 1988 epidemic of phocid distemper. Surveys in the Wadden Sea, along the North Sea coasts of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark,

revealed a 20 per cent increase in numbers between 1990 and 1991. In the Kattegat and Skagerrak, which connect the North Sea to the Baltic, counts were up from 3000 in 1990 to 4000 in 1991. So far there has been no sign of any recovery in the Wash, the only part of Britain seriously affected.

Source: *Intervet Marine Mammal Update*, September 1992, 4.

### Acid rain damage to protected UK sites

Acid rain has damaged 46 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England and many of these will still be at risk even after the EC Large Combustion Plant Directive reduces acid emissions from power stations in 2003. The study, commissioned by English Nature, looked at 56 sites and found that the worst-hit regions were the Lake District, the Pennines, the far-south-west and high ground in southern England.

Source: *English Nature Press Release*, 29 October 1992.

### Flatworm threat

A flatworm from North America *Phagocata woodworthi*, which was discovered in Loch

Ness in Scotland in 1977, has been shown to be a potential threat to native flatworms. A recent study has shown that its diet overlaps substantially with that of native species whose distributions are already controlled by competition for food. The most probable explanation for the inadvertent introduction of the species is that it travelled as dormant cocoons attached to the underwater equipment imported by Americans in search of the Loch Ness monster.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, October 1992, 12.

### Lead shot phase-out

A 5-year programme to phase out the use of lead shot in wetland areas in the UK started in September 1992. The first 3 years will allow for the development of suitable lead-free shot, followed by 2 years in which a voluntary ban on the use of lead shot in 12-bore guns in wetlands will be in place. Many birds die slowly after ingesting spent lead-shot pellets.

Source: *Joint Nature Conservation Committee*, UK, 12 October 1992.

### Pacific oyster thrives in UK waters

Legislation passed in the late 1980s has led to dramatic reductions in concentrations of tributyltin (TBT) off the coasts of Britain. The chemical, used to keep boats barnacle-free, also had adverse effects on native shellfish. Since 1990 Pacific oysters *Crassostrea gigas* escaping from farms have begun to appear wild off the coast of Devon in south-west England. They bred in unprecedented numbers in 1992 on the mud-flats of the Teign and Dart estuaries. Conservationists fear that

they will have a negative impact on the native species. When Pacific oysters were first grown in Britain the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said that they were no threat to native species because they could not breed in UK waters. It now appears that the the reason was due to TBT suppressing their reproductive processes.

Source: *New Scientist*, 26 September 1992, 4.

### Road threat to Luxembourg forest

Despite protests from large numbers of its people, Luxembourg's Minister of Transport has planned to build a road cutting through the Gréngewald Forest, the country's largest nature protection area. This ancient beech forest contains many species protected by law.

Source: Ligue luxembourgeoise pour la protection de la nature, BP 91, L-2010 Luxembourg.

### Austrian tax on tropical timber

Austria is imposing a 70 per cent import tax on tropical timber to reduce its participation in rain-forest destruction. Even without a tax the 20,000 cu m imported in 1991 represented a drop of 10 per cent from the volume imported in 1990.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, October 1992, 56.

### Another Abruzzo chamois reintroduction

A further reintroduction of the endangered Abruzzo chamois *Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata* has been made (see *Oryx*, 25, 187). On 29 July 1992, exactly 100 years after the last chamois was shot in the area, two females with kids were released into the

new Faunistic Area of Farindola in the Gran Sasso in central Italy. A male, captured from the main population of Val di Rose, was due to be released a few weeks later, and more individuals in September. The operation is a joint venture of the Abruzzo National Park, WWF-Italy, the Italian Alpine Club and the Italian Army. Source: Pier Lorenzo Florio, WWF Italy, July 1992.

### Temporary reprieve for bustards

The great bustard *Otis tarda* has received a temporary reprieve in parts of the Spanish steppes, which support 65 per cent of the world population of the species (see *Oryx*, 26, 191). Villafáfila and Madrigal-Peñaranda, both in Castilla y León province, have been declared environmentally sensitive areas after lobbying by conservation organizations. Talamanca-Camarma, a steppe near Madrid, has been designated as a Special Protection Area under the EC Wild Birds Directive.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, September 1992, 60; *ICBP*, October 1992.

### Flamingos driven off nests by aircraft

The first flamingos to nest in the Ebro Delta in north-east Spain since the sixteenth century were scared off their nests by fire-fighting planes on a training exercise for ICONA, the National Institute for the Conservation of Nature. Hundreds of chicks died after 251 nests were abandoned. The flamingos were part of a 2000-strong colony that nests in the southern province of Malaga; their traditional nesting ground in the Fuente de Piedra lake had dried up. ICONA has apologized for the incident but says

that the nature park, which covers 25 per cent of the delta, was not marked on their maps as a restricted area.

Source: *New Scientist*, 5 September 1992, 7.

### Alien seaweed enters Spanish waters

The alien seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia*, which devastated marine life off the French Riviera, has reached Spain's Balearic Islands, probably attached to the hulls of pleasure craft. This tropical species, which is believed to have been released from an oceanographic museum in Monaco in 1984, contains a toxic chemical, caulerpherin, and has no natural controls in the Mediterranean. It forms dense patches that shade out the native seagrass *Posidonia oceanica*. France launched a £1 million programme to destroy the weed and now Spain has authorized divers to uproot the plant in Majorca and Minorca. Source: *New Scientist*, 17 October 1992, 8.

### Wetland loss would be a European scandal

A river diversion scheme threatens to destroy the Mesolongi wetlands in western Greece, a Special Protection Area and a Ramsar site. Over 100,000 waterfowl use the 630-sq-km wetlands, which contain two of the largest lagoons in the Mediterranean as well as extensive areas of saltmarsh, sandbanks, mudflats and forests. One-fifth of Greece's Dalmatian pelicans *Pelecanus crispus*, a globally threatened species, spend the winter at Mesolongi. The plan to divert the river Acheloos for hydroelectric power will be funded by the EC and the work will be contracted to a consortium of companies headed by Britain's

Taylor Woodrow. No comprehensive environmental-impact assessment has been carried out and if the scheme goes ahead the EC will be breaking its own laws.

Source: *RSPB*, October 1992.

### British tour operators object to helping turtles

In summer 1993 Greece is banning night flights to Zakynthos so that airport lights will not confuse hatchling turtles and lead them inland rather than to the sea. The British Tour Operators Study Group, to which most big operators belong, opposes the plan, saying that if Greece wants tourists it should keep its airports open at night. A Dan Air spokesman argued that instead, Greece could pay fishermen to shine lights on to the sea to guide the hatchlings.

Source: *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, October 1992, 21.

### Cyprus moves to protect turtles

The Cypriot authorities have now banned beach parasols from the sandy beaches of Toxetra and Lara, which were designated as the Lara Protected Region in July 1989, because green turtles *Chelonia mydas* and loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* nest there. It is also now prohibited to spend the night on the beaches or to drive vehicles over them and ships are banned from anchoring in the vicinity.

Source: *Council of Europe natura-opa newsletter*, No. 92-9. 3.

### Poor prospect for Greek wolves

Wolves in Greece are being killed at an estimated rate of 100 a year according to Stamatis Tsoukaris writing in

the *Journal of the Hellenic Natural History Society*. There are few packs left and most wolves now move around alone or in groups of two or three. Wolves seldom fall victim to hunters but frequently take poisoned bait and even some forest officials use this method. The killing is justified by the supposed damage that wolves do and the system of compensation for wolf damage needs to be improved if the species is to have a chance of survival in Greece.

Source: *Grupo Lubo Newsletter*, 7 (5), 5.

### Moroccan road threatens curlews

A new coastal motorway in Morocco, financed by Kuwaiti and Italian aid, threatens a Ramsar site. A slip road will cross the salt marshes of Merja Zerga, which holds important numbers of four globally threatened bird species. It is also the last known wintering site for the slender-billed curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*, which is on the brink of extinction. Conservation organizations are pressing for an environmental impact assessment and for re-routing the road where necessary.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, September 1992, 4.

## AFRICA

### New francolin

A new species of francolin has been discovered in the Udzungwa Mountains of eastern Tanzania by a team of Danish ornithologists. It does not appear to be closely related to any other francolin and has yet to be named. The Udzungwa Mountains are relatively unknown ornithological-

ly and the team also recorded four threatened endemic bird species and three other threatened species, confirming the importance of the recent establishment of Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

Source: *Newsletter of the ICBP/WPA Specialist Group on Partridges, Quails and Francolins*, No. 2, July 1992, 2.

### Zimbabwe deals with drought in park

Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks is dealing with the drought in the south-east Lowveld by using culling, feeding programmes and translocations to give wildlife the greatest chance of survival.

Populations of elephant, buffalo and impala will be halved and up to 1000 elephants are to be moved to areas where the species has vanished. Some buffalo will be penned and fed with the objective of restocking other areas, while sable, waterbuck and nyala will be translocated on a temporary basis. The area has received the lowest rainfall ever recorded and hippo numbers have fallen from 485 in 1986 to 81 in mid-1992. Meat from the culled animals will be made available to local people, who themselves are suffering from the drought. Source: *Zimbabwe Wildlife Trust*, July-August 1992, 8.

### Zimbabwe – shock as rhino count is made

Dehorning teams searching for rhinos in Zimbabwe report that they found only 500 rather than 2000, the official figure. For example, in June a team sent to dehorn the 150 black rhinos reported to live in Matusadona National Park in the Zambesi Valley on the border of Zambia, found only 15. The dramatic decline, which reveals that

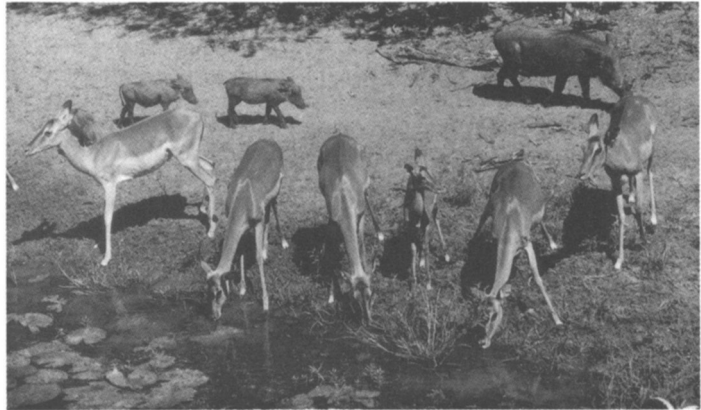
poaching has been much worse than previously suspected, is alarming because Zimbabwe was believed to be the black rhino's last stronghold. Now it appears that the country has fewer rhinos than Namibia (500) and South Africa (770).  
*Source: BBC Wildlife, October 1992, 59.*

### Move to save Lichtenstein's hartebeest

Ten Lichtenstein's hartebeest *Sigmoceros lichtensteini* have been moved 500 km from the south-east Lowveld in Zimbabwe to Carolina Wilderness outside Harare. The move was made because the drought could wipe out the remaining 100 individuals in the country.  
*Source: Zimbabwe Wildlife, July–August 1992, 6.*

### Houseboats polluting park waters

Houseboats on Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe are causing pollu-



Impala were among the species threatened by drought in southern Zimbabwe in 1992; it was expected that populations would be halved  
*(Photograph by Hugh Cressy-Hall).*

tion and disturbance on the Matusadona National Park shoreline. The park authorities allow 50 houseboats to moor there but 100 were present in April, only 18 of which had requested permission. Raw sewage and fuel waste products are reducing water quality. The boats may displace hippos and have an impact on crocodile breeding by forcing

females to leave nests, exposing them to predation. There has been one case of tourists smashing crocodile eggs. National Parks and the Houseboat Association are discussing how to tackle the problem.

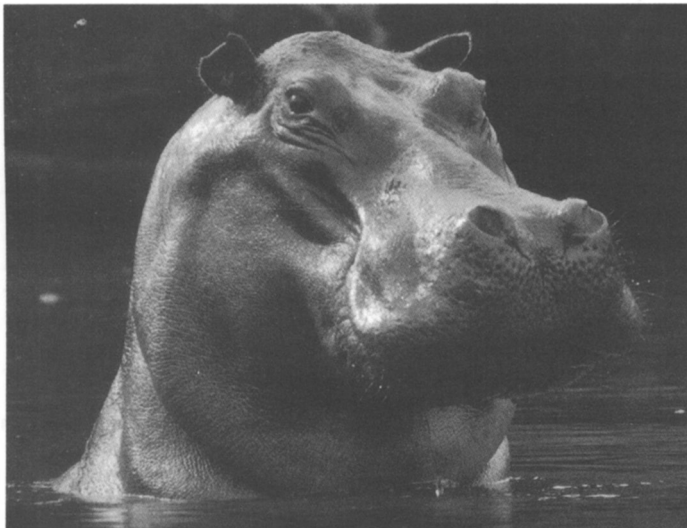
*Source: Zimbabwe Wildlife, July–August 1992, 7.*

### Elephants vaccinated against anthrax

Twenty-one of 29 elephants in the Hoanib River area of Namibia were vaccinated against anthrax after an elephant died of the disease in June. The country's nature conservation department vaccinated 19 elephants with darts shot from a helicopter and two after immobilizing them on the ground (see *Oryx*, 26, 192–193).  
*Source: New Scientist, 10 October 1992, 5.*

### Action for Limpopo's hippos

Drought has severely affected the 120 hippos in the Limpopo River, which forms the border between South Africa and Botswana. At a meeting between the wildlife authorities



Hippopotamus numbers plummeted in parts of southern Africa because of the drought in 1992. Those in the Limpopo River were provided with food by the wildlife authorities of Botswana and South Africa.

of both nations on 3 July 1992 it was agreed that hippos should be left in the river but provided with fodder until the end of the year, assuming that a normal rainy season would occur in October/November. Both parties also concluded that it would be desirable to develop and implement a joint long-term wildlife conservation strategy and management plan for the Limpopo area but that this could only take place with the consent of their respective governments.

Source: *Kalahari Conservation Society Newsletter*, September 1992, 9.

### 'Extinct' plants rediscovered

Two bulbous plant species feared extinct – *Moreaea incurva* and *Lachenalia polyphylla* – have been found in the Tulbagh district of south-western Cape Province, South Africa. *M. incurva*, last recorded in 1932, is now known from a single population on a farm whose owner is aware of its importance. *L. polyphylla*, last seen in 1972, was rediscovered in September 1991 on a patch of remnant veld that had escaped the plough. Both species are now being cultivated at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens.

Source: *Veld & Flora*, September 1992, 72–73.

### Another plant rediscovery

A small population of *Erica alexandri*, believed to have been extinct since 1982, was discovered in a fynbos wetland in the intensively farmed Groot Drakenstein–Franschhoek valley at the foot of the Wemmershoek Mountains in South Africa. The 15-ha Wemmershoekvlei had been recommended as the core of a Natural Heritage Site designed to conserve the last remaining

tract of sand-plain fynbos in the valley. Rare and endangered plant species known to grow there include two other *Erica* species, one possibly new, known from nowhere else. In a survey of the area *E. alexandri* was also found and about 1000 plants are present, scattered over several hectares. The wetlands are threatened, however, by the planting of pines on surrounding land.

Source: *Veld & Flora*, September 1992, 88–89.

### Aye-aye captive breeding

An aye-aye *Daubentonia madagascariensis* has been born to one of six individuals captured by Gerald and Lee Durrell in 1990 on behalf of the Madagascar Directorate of Water and Forests and kept at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. This is the first-ever captive breeding of this endangered primate; although the captive birth of an aye-aye was recently recorded at Duke University, South Carolina, that infant was conceived in the wild (see *Oryx*, 26, 193).

Source: *Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust*, 2 September 1992.

### First park in Mauritius

Mauritius, the first country to ratify the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, has announced the formation of Black River Gorges National Park, the country's first. It will protect habitat for a number of rare and endangered endemic plants and birds.

Source: *CNPPA Newsletter*, September 1992, 10.

### Livingstone's fruit bats in captivity

Six (five males and one female) Livingstone's fruit bats *Pteropus*

*livingstonii* were captured on Anjouan in the Comoros in August and flown to Jersey Zoo where they will form the nucleus of a captive-breeding programme. The FFPS donated £1500 towards this expedition through its Oryx 100% Fund (see *Oryx*, 26, 243 and this issue, pp. 63, 68).

### Anjouan scops owl

The Anjouan scops owl *Otus capnodes* has been rediscovered on Anjouan, an island in the Comoros group in the Indian Ocean. First described in 1886 it had not been recorded by ornithologists since and was presumed extinct, especially in view of the habitat destruction on the island. The rediscovery was made by Roger Safford, who heard its whistling nocturnal calls, taped them, and questioned islanders. A 77-year-old man recognized the calls as those of the *badanga* bird, which he said was very rare and lived in the forest. Another villager led Safford to a hollow tree high in the forest, which contained one of these rare owls.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, September 1992, 4.

### Villagers protect turtles

Although three species of sea turtle once occurred in the waters of the Comoros Islands, now only the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* is seen regularly. Its numbers are declining, however, and now it nests only on Moheli. People from three villages there are successfully protecting the turtles against people from neighbouring Anjouan who were visiting Moheli at night to capture gravid female turtles, believing that the meat from females killed after egg-laying tastes bad.

Source: *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, October 1992, 5.

## ASIA (EXCLUDING INDO-MALAYA)

### Sharjah protects turtles

The municipality of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates has issued a decree prohibiting the catching and selling of sea turtles.

Source: *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, October 1992, 20.

### Leopard survives in Saudi Arabia

In June 1992 the National Wildlife Research Centre in Saudi Arabia obtained a complete skeleton of a leopard *Panthera pardus nimr*, which had been poisoned by shepherds after it killed a camel in the proposed protected area of

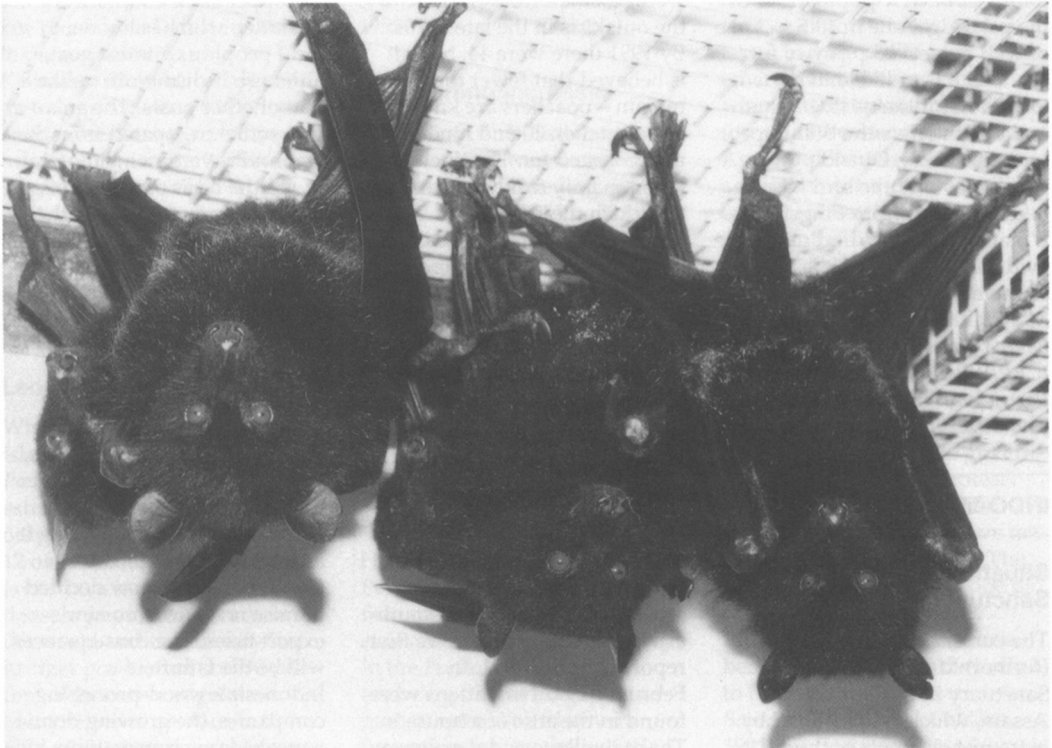
Al Fiqrah, 80 km west of Medina. It was the first confirmed record for 10 years. A follow-up survey found tracks of two individual leopards and reports of sightings by local people. Al Fiqrah appears to contain suitable habitat for leopards, having permanent waterholes and fairly good numbers of ibex and hyrax, the main prey species. Efforts to improve protection are being intensified.

Source: *Cat News*, 17 September 1992, 16.

### Japanese ibises face certain extinction

Japan has given up trying to breed from its one remaining 18-year-old male crested ibis *Nipponia nippon* after it failed to mate with Chinese crested ibis

es at Beijing Zoo. It will rejoin the last remaining female, which is 25 years old, in captivity on Sado Island. The last five wild ibises in Japan, on Sado Island off the main island, Honshu, were taken into captivity in 1981 in a last ditch attempt at captive breeding. Two birds died soon after and a third in 1986. The birds' pink plumage was in demand for stuffing quilts and for feather dusters in the early part of the century and by the 1920s there were few birds left. The species was designated a national monument in 1934 but not enough was done to halt its decline – due, in recent years, says the Japanese Environment Agency, to environmental degradation and agricultural chemicals.  
Source: *New Scientist*, 5 September 1992, 7.



Livingstone's fruit bats – down to fewer than 200 in the wild – may soon be breeding in captivity at Jersey Zoo. Six were collected in 1992 on an expedition that FFPS helped fund. Further capture attempts will be made this year. (Photograph: Chris Clark, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust.)

### Sichuan hill partridge

Mount Huanglian in Sichuan province, China, is one of the last remaining sites for the endangered Sichuan hill partridge *Arborophila rufipectus*. There are no more than 150 pairs left there because logging has reduced the primary subtropical evergreen forest to fragments totalling 10–12 sq km. Discussions are being conducted with officials in an attempt to establish a sanctuary in the remaining forest but about 70 per cent of local income comes from timber and there is resistance to the idea. However, there is some evidence to suggest that the partridge can survive in secondary forest. Surveys in other areas of Mabian county, Sichuan, have found three new populations of the partridge, one in 13.5 sq km of well-preserved primary forest, which is unlikely to be exploited for the next 10 years and which offers the best hope for a sanctuary. Outside Mabian county the bird has been recorded from Pingshan, E'bian and Ganhio and new evidence shows that it is also found at Machuan, Leibo and Meigu.

Source: Newsletter of the ICBP/WPA Specialist Group on Partridges, Quails and Francolins, July 1992, 7.

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### INDO-MALAYA

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#### Situation in Manas Wildlife Sanctuary improving

The current situation in the (former) Manas Wildlife Sanctuary in north-west Assam, which was invaded by extremist elements of the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) in February 1989, is reported to be improving slowly, although

this crucially important area has yet to be restored to the full control of the relevant authorities. However, large-scale timber and fish poaching has been stopped and attempts are being made to prevent smaller scale poaching of other wildlife. Despite these problems, the sanctuary was upgraded to a national park on 7 September 1990 and enlarged from 391 to 500 sq km by the inclusion of the former Panbari, Koklabari and Kahitama Reserve Forests in the eastern sector.

Source: P. Lahan, Field Director, Project Tiger (Manas), pers. comm. to W. L. R. Oliver.

#### Tigers in trouble

The tiger population of Ranthambhore National Park increased steadily after villages were resettled from the core to the outskirts in the late 1970s. By 1991 there were 44. Now it is believed that fewer than 15 remain – poachers are known to have taken 20 and nine are unaccounted for. The tigers are killed mainly for their bones, for which there is a huge demand in China for use in traditional medicines. The police have arrested several poachers who have also killed other species for their skins.

Source: Save Ranthambhore Movement, PO Box 2010, Baroda 390002, India; *Cat News*, 17 September, 1–3.

#### Rusty-spotted cats

More rusty-spotted cats *Felis rubiginosa* have been found in settled areas of Kerala in southern India, where they were first reported in late 1991. In February 1992 two kittens were found in the attic of a house in Thakazi village and a male was found in another attic in Tiruvalla in April. Five rusty-spotted cats are now in captivi-

ty in Kerala. The species is classified as 'Insufficiently known' by IUCN. It is also found in Sri Lanka but is considered to be very rare in India and had seldom been seen until 2 years ago when some were found unexpectedly in the Gir Lion Sanctuary. Their appearance in settled areas far from wild habitat in Kerala is a surprise.

Source: *Cat News*, 17 September 1992, 16.

#### Treasures in Vu Quang

A survey in Vu Quang Nature Reserve in northern Vietnam on the border of the Laotian province of Ha Tinh, found relict populations of rare and endemic species as well as new species of fish, tortoise, sunbird and a large mammal. The survey team found three sets of the upper skull and horns of the latter, which is known to local people as a forest goat, although its horns are unlike that of other goats. The area was somehow spared from the war and is very rich biologically. On the basis of the team's report the government authorities agreed to end logging in the area and extend the reserve. Source: *International Wildlife*, November–December 1992, 27.

#### Indonesia lifts log ban

Indonesia has revoked its 7-year ban on the export of logs, which was designed to derive maximum value from Indonesia's timber by selling it as manufactured goods. The Government has now decided to raise revenue from new export taxes. The consequences will be the failure of Indonesia's wood-processing companies, the growing dominance of large corporations (most of them Japanese), and an increase in the pace of logging, which is already proceed-





More than half of Ranthambhore National Park's tiger population has been killed by poachers: tiger bones are in great demand for medicinal use in China. (Photograph by Zafar Futehally.)

ing at an estimated 12,000 sq km a year. Previously sacrosanct areas, such as the 350-sq-km Tanah Laut Forest Reserve in the southern tip of Kalimantan, are being opened up to loggers: some 80 per cent of this reserve was recently handed over to a state-owned logging company. The World Bank has joined non-governmental organizations in criticizing Indonesia's forest policies. Source: *BBC Wildlife*, September 1992, 59.

### Leopards low in Java

While there has never been an island-wide census of leopards *Panthera pardus* in Java, it is estimated that there may be only 350–700 individuals left in 12 of the island's conservation areas. Java is one of the most densely populated islands in the world and has already lost its tiger population and 90 per cent of its native vegetation. Many reserves are too small to hold viable populations of leopard in the long term and the animals are vulnerable to poisoning when they scavenge

in the surrounding human settlements.

Source: *Tigerpaper*, April–June 1992, 1–5.

### Bali starling increase

The Bali starling *Leucopsar rothschildi* had its second consecutive successful breeding season in 1992 and the wild population now stands at 55, an encouraging recovery from 18 in 1990. The increase is due to staff at Bali Barat National Park, who have significantly reduced illegal poaching.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, September 1992, 5.

### Rare Malaysian palms smuggled to Singapore

Hundreds of palms from Peninsular Malaysia, including rare species such as *Livistonia endauensis*, which is found only in the Endau-Rompin forest, are being sold in Singapore as garden trees. The discovery was made by members of the Malayan Nature Society visiting Singapore and it is believed that some businessmen are

paying people to dig up the palms and smuggling them across into Singapore. Under a state law, which will soon be gazetted as the Endau-Rompin National Forest Enactment, the removal of any plant from the forest areas is illegal.

Source: *The Sunday Times* (Singapore), 13 September 1992.

### Threat to Mount Apo

Rain forest is being cleared in Mount Apo National Park on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines to make way for a geothermal power station.

Opposition from tribal, church and environmental groups had delayed the project for 2 years but the environment secretary gave the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) the go-ahead following the announcement on 27 May 1992 that the Export Import (ExIm) Bank of Japan had agreed to fund it. An environmental impact study, which indicated that the rain forests and watersheds of Mt Apo would suffer serious damage if the power plant were built, has been ignored.

Apparently the PNOC has already destroyed more than the 11 ha designated for clearance and has built a road in an area other than that specified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Local opposition has been suppressed by the government but the level of protests has apparently led the ExIm Bank to say that funds have not yet been fully committed. The rain forest on Mt Apo is one of the last strongholds of the Philippine eagle whose numbers in the wild have dwindled to fewer than 40.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, October 1992, 56; *Common Ground*, a newsletter on Philippine environment and development action, September 1992.

### Project to protect Irrawaddy dolphins

Irrawaddy dolphins *Orcaella brevirostris* in the Mekong River in Laos, recorded there for the first time in December 1991, were being threatened by the modern gill nets now used by local fishermen. To solve the problem a fund has been set up by a coalition of government and non-government bodies to compensate any fishermen who cut their nets to free entangled dolphins. The Lao Community Fisheries and Dolphin Protection Project is also concerned about illegal fishing with explosives in the Cambodian-Lao border zone, which is a well-known spawning area.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, October 1992, 61.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Park on Banks Island

A new national park is to be established on Banks Island in the western Canadian Arctic. Aulavik National Park will cover more than 12,000 sq km and has deep canyons and archaeological sites. Part of the area has already been designated as a bird sanctuary to protect the summer habitat of snow geese *Anser caerulescens* and other waterfowl. Banks Island is also home to some 40,000 musk oxen *Ovibos moschatus*, which almost disappeared from the island earlier this century.

Source: *CNPPA Newsletter*, September 1992, 9.

### Valley bears safe

Approximately 50 grizzly bears *Ursus arctos* in the Khutzeymateen Valley, British Columbia, Canada, are no

longer threatened by logging as a result of the provincial government's decision that a 443-sq-km area should be protected. The valley contains western hemlock and sitka spruce forests rich in wildlife. The decision came after a 3-year technical study concluded that the valley is unique in its importance to grizzly bears in coastal British Columbia, that it would be impossible to harvest timber in the area without substantial risk to the animals and that unregulated public access could have tragic results for both people and bears.

Source: *Canadian Nature Federation Nature Alert*, 2 (4), 4.

### Creek destroyed

Poorly built logging roads were the major cause of a massive landslide into Donna Creek near Mackenzie, British Columbia, Canada, in June 1992. The equivalent of 60,000 truckloads of debris destroyed 3 km of creek and probably killed most fish. The roads should have had more culverts installed to cope with

snowmelt. The company involved, Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd, faces at least \$50,000 in clean-up costs, possible criminal charges for habitat destruction and further penalties for loss of 4 ha of forest land. It is expected that fish populations may take years to recover.

Source: *Vancouver Sun*, 29 August 1992.

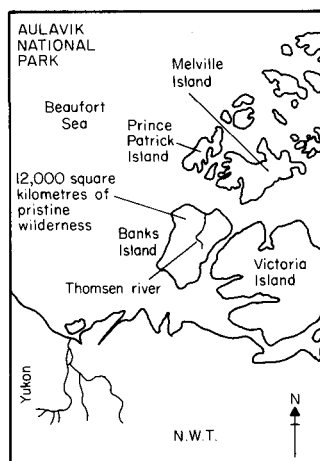
### Reprieve for whale waters

Robson Bight in Johnstone Strait, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, summer home to the largest known concentration of orcas *Orcinus orca*, which was threatened by the logging of the surrounding forests, has been given a reprieve. The Johnstone Strait Killer Whale Committee, set up in 1991 by the Canadian Government in response to controversy over the logging, has released its report recommending a 5-year logging moratorium across half the forest with strict controls over the remainder. The report says that Johnstone Strait is extraordinary killer whale habitat and that highest priority should be given to habitat management for whales.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, November 1992, 74.

### Belugas heavily contaminated

A 3-year research report released on 27 May 1992 confirmed that St Lawrence's beluga whales *Delphinapterus leucas* are very heavily contaminated with toxic chemicals including heavy metals, organochlorines and benzo-a-pyrene. To assist in the recovery of the endangered whales conservationists are calling for an increased rate of implementation for the St Lawrence Action Plan and the inclusion of the pulp and paper



Canada's newest national park on Banks Island has been named from an Inuvialuit word meaning 'where people travel'.

industries, which are at present exempt. The plan's 1993 target of 90 per cent reduction of hazardous substances has already been postponed until 1994–95.

Source: *Canadian Nature Federation, Nature Alert*, 2 (4), 5.

### Seal virus – update and correction

In the July issue of *Oryx* (26, 136) we reported that a virus had been found in seals along the east coast of the US. The source for this information was *New Scientist* (11 April 1992, 12), which stated that it was the same virus that killed 20,000 grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* in the North Sea in 1988. In fact the virus killed around 18,000 common seals *Phoca vitulina* around the North Sea and grey seals were little affected. In the US, in December 1991, routine screening of blood from stranded seals revealed antibodies to the virus in 14 out of 47 individuals. The first definite case was diagnosed in February 1992, in a hooded seal *Cystophora cristata*. Since then 36 common seals handled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been seropositive and 8–9 have shown clinical symptoms of distemper. All cases have been restricted to the haul-out sites around Long Island. Grey seals and ringed seals *Phoca hispida* from the same area have so far been seronegative.

Source: *Intervet Marine Mammal Update*, September 1992, 4.

### Reintroduced ferrets breeding

In July 1992 six young black-footed ferrets *Mustela nigripes* were seen in the wild in Shirley Basin, south-east Wyoming. That some of the ferrets bred so soon after their release in autumn 1991 was unexpected.

Further releases are planned for the autumn of 1992 (see *Oryx*, 26, 75).

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, September 1992, 63.

### Wolves wanted

Six regional public hearings held by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to assess opinion on reintroducing wolves in the Yellowstone area were a resounding success for conservationists. More than 1000 people attended and, of 400 who testified, more than 80 per cent favoured wolf recovery, arguing that wolves are an important missing component of the western ecosystem.

Source: *International Wildlife*, November/December 1992, 25.

### TEDs ruling disappointing

On 1 September 1992 the US National Marine Fisheries Service filed an interim final rule that ignored widespread public and scientific support for the use of Turtle Excluder Devices in all US waters and at all times of the year. Instead it rules that TEDs need be used only by vessels larger than 25 feet (7.3 m) operating in offshore waters in the US Atlantic Ocean. Small vessels offshore and all vessels inshore may either use TEDs or tow times less than 90 minutes (less than 75 minutes from 1 November).

Source: *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, October 1992, 19.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

### More protection for Mexico's monarchs

In June 1992 Mexico's President announced measures to safeguard biodiversity, with emphasis on protecting the monarch butterfly in its three

small winter hibernation sites west of Mexico City. They are threatened by logging for fuelwood by local people and Monarca, a small Mexican non-governmental organization, has been working to protect them for more than a decade. The new government funds will be used to create jobs in the region of the reserves: to establish reforestation projects, small businesses, orchards and tourism initiatives. The area protected for the butterfly was increased to 11,000 ha and a forest management plan has been promised.

Source: *Canadian Nature Federation, Nature Alert*, 2 (4), 1.

### Project to help a porpoise and a fish

The Mexican Government has launched a programme to protect the endangered vaquita porpoise *Phocoena sinus*, which occurs only in the Gulf of California. Only 200 may still survive. The programme also aims to protect the totoaba *Cynoscion macdonaldi*, an endangered fish, which is often caught with the porpoise. Strong new measures of vigilance and inspection have already proved effective, with boats, fishing gear and totoaba catches having been confiscated.

Source: *Fishing News International*, October 1992, 7.

### New park in Belize

In December 1991 the Government of Belize announced the formation of the Chiquibul National Park in the south-west of the country. It covers about 1070 sq km and some of the forest has never been logged. Chiquibul will connect several other protected areas – the Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve, the Bladen Reserve

and the Vaca Forest Reserve. It is also hoped that it will be joined with the Montanas Mayas Reserve in Guatemala to form a transnational protected forest.

Source: *Conservation Biology*, September 1992, 320.

### Central American biodiversity treaty signed

On 5 June 1992, during the XII Summit of Central American Presidents, which was held in Managua, Nicaragua, six heads of state from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, signed the treaty for Biodiversity Conservation and Protection of Prioritized Central American Protected Areas.

Source: *CNPPA Newsletter*, September 1992, 9.

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## SOUTH AMERICA

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### Tanager rediscovered

In May/June a population of gold-ringed tanager *Buthraupis aureocincta* was found on a mountain ridge at Alto de Pisones in Risaralda Department, Colombia. It was previously known only from four specimens taken in or before 1946 about 40 km north in Cerro Tatamá National Park on the Pacific slope of the Western Andes. Alto de Pisones, which comprises virtually virgin forest above 1500 m and may be important for a number of threatened species, would be an ideal reserve.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, September 1992, 3.

### Amazonia to be further opened up

Brazil's environment secretary, Flavio Perri, has announced

that his government intends to open up the Amazon region to economic exploitation in a 'sustainable, non-destructive way'. Cattle-raising, mining and agriculture would all be considered and a government survey would determine which areas are suitable for these activities. Environmentalists criticize the survey and say that most Amazonian states do not have enough researchers to do the work. Also some state governments want development at all costs and may declare whole regions open for exploitation. Former environment minister, Jose Lutzenberger, argues that the Government should first try to regenerate the soil of the 400,000 sq km of the Amazon that have already been deforested.

Source: *New Scientist*, 12 September 1992, 8.

### New marmoset

A new species of marmoset, *Callithrix mauesi*, was recently described by Russell A. Mittermeier, Marco Schwarz and José Márcio Ayres from the central Amazon. It was first discovered by Schwarz during a field trip on 15 April 1985. It is aligned to the tassel-eared marmosets, *Callithrix humeralifer* and *C. chrysoleuca*, but distinguished by its dark coloration and the distinctive shape and position of the ear tufts, which are erect and appear to be 'neatly trimmed'. Its name results from the Rio Maués-Açu, the type locality, and its distribution probably extends south between the Rio Maués in the east and Rios Urariá and Abacaxis in the west.

Source: Mittermeier, R.A., Schwarz, M. and Ayres, J.M. 1992. A new species of marmoset, genus *Callithrix* Erxleben, 1777 (Callitrichidae,

Primates) from the Rio Maués region, state of Amazonas, Central Brazilian Amazonia. *Goeldiana, Zoologia*, 14, 1-17.

### Mercury at danger levels in Pantanal

Dangerously high levels of mercury have been detected in the Pantanal in south-western Brazil. The mercury is dumped by gold miners who use it to extract the gold from river silt. Researchers at the government-run Brazilian agricultural research institute (EMBRAPA) have examined river sediments and more than 1000 fish, molluscs and birds. Concentrations of mercury above the World Health Organization safe limit were found in more than one-quarter of the specimens. Contamination has been detected near the city of Corumba, nearly 600 km downstream from the main gold-mining area. EMBRAPA wants miners to use a device to capture mercury after use, allowing it to be recycled.

Source: *New Scientist*, 12 September 1992, 8.

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## AUSTRALASIA/ ANTARCTICA

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### New park in Australia

On 6 April 1992 the 70-sq-km Jervis Bay National Park was proclaimed on the east coast of Australia about 250 km south of Sydney. The park covers most of Jervis Bay including Bowen Island and all Commonwealth waters in the territory. It has high conservation, landscape and recreation significance and will be managed by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Source: *CNPPA Newsletter*, September 1992, 12.

### Smallest Ramsar site

Australia has designated the smallest Ramsar site in the world. It is believed that Hosnie's Spring on Christmas Island, a spring-fed wetland covering one-third of a hectare, has supported mangroves for 120,000 years.

Source: Council for Europe *Natururopa Newsletter*, No. 92-5, 3.

### Funds to fight feral cat problem

At a meeting in Sydney, Australia, on the control of cats one researcher claimed that feral cats in New South Wales kill as many as 400 million native mammals, birds and reptiles each year. Apparently bells around cats' necks have little effect: in a survey of 700 domestic cats the 59 per cent that took mammals almost all wore bells. State and local governments throughout Australia are considering regulations to control domestic cats, which are the main source of feral cats, following the lead of Sherbrooke Shire in Victoria in 1991 (see *Oryx*, 25, 196). Cats and foxes have killed three-quarters of the 84 ring-tail possums *Pseudocheirus peregrinus* released over the past 2 years in Ku-ring-gai National Park north of Sydney. A recent attempt to reintroduce the rufous hare-wallaby *Lagorchestes hirsutus* to the Tanami Desert in Northern Territory failed when the breeding population was eaten by cats. The Government has allocated \$1.5 million to help control introduced species.

Source: *New Scientist*, 12 September 1992, 9.

### Chalk cress lives on

The Marlborough chalk cress, a plant believed to have been

grazed to extinction by introduced animals, was rediscovered in early 1992 by staff from New Zealand's Department of Conservation. They found 45 plants on steep bluffs on private land in the Chalk Range in eastern Marlborough. The plant is one of seven species of the genus *Cheesemania*: one is restricted to Tasmania and the others are endemic to South Island. The Marlborough species was first discovered by scientists in 1953 and was believed to have become extinct in the 1970s.

Source: *Forest and Bird*, August 1992, 5.

### New weta

A new species of giant weta has been discovered in the Southern Alps of New Zealand by scientists from Victoria University following up reports from walkers. The new weta was found at two sites 250 km apart: Prices Basin, east of Harihari, and West Matukituki Valley, west of Lake Wanaka. It is brown with spiny hind legs, grows up to 70 mm long and weighs up to 12 g. Giant wetas have been exterminated in most lowland areas of New Zealand by introduced predators and survive only in alpine areas and on islands. Seven species are already recognized and four, including the recent discovery, await description.

Source: *Forest and Bird*, August 1992, 3.

## OCEANIA

### Tonga park a first

The Tonga Government has gazetted 449.4 ha of the eastern coastal forest on the island of 'Eua as a national park. This is the first terrestrial protected area in Tonga and one of the

few protected forest areas in the Pacific. The area contains a substantial number of threatened species, including an endemic *Podocarpus*, the banded iguana *Brachylophus fasciatus* and the insular flying fox *Pteropus tonganus*.

Source: *CNPPA Newsletter*, September 1992, 11-12.

## REQUESTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Ecotourism Consultancy

The IUCN has launched an Ecotourism Consultancy Programme to assist people who want to develop tourism as a way of financing or achieving conservation management goals. Donors, governments, NGOs, park managers, investors and entrepreneurs are invited to apply.

Contact: IUCN Ecotourism Consultancy Programme, Héctor Ceballos-Lascuráin, Camino al Ajusco 551, Tepepan, Xochimilco, 16020 México, DF México. Tel: (525) 676 5285 and 676 8734; or IUCN-US, 1400 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Tel: (202) 797 5454. Fax: (202) 797 5461.

## OBITUARY

Dr Boonsong Lekagul died in early 1992. He was Thailand's leading authority on wildlife and in 1951 helped form the country's Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, of which he was Secretary-General for 40 years. He promoted the 1960 Game Law and the 1962 National Parks Act. Today national parks and wildlife sanctuaries cover some 10 per cent of Thailand's territory, a memorial to Dr Boonsong's vision. In recognition of his work he was award-

ed the J. Paul Getty Conservation Prize, was made a Member of the Order of the Golden Ark and was one of seven Members of Honour of IUCN's Species Survival Commission.

*Extracted from:* In Memoriam by Jeffrey McNeely, in *Species*, June 1992.

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## MEETINGS

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**Wildaid Forum: Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation.** 5–6 February 1993, Inverness, Scotland. *Contact:* Grace M. Yoxon, Skye Environmental Centre, Broadford, Isle of Skye, Scotland IV49 9AQ. Tel: 0471 822487.

**African Mountains Association, III International Workshop on Planning for Sustainable Use of African Mountain Resources.** 4–14 March 1993, Kenya. *Contact:* Organizing Committee, AMA 3rd International Workshop, c/o Department of Geography, University of Nairobi, PO Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 254 2 334 244. Fax: 254 2 214 917.

**IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group: 2nd Regional Conference – Eastern Asia, Oceania, Australasia.** 12–19 March 1993, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. *Contact:* Jan Peters or Tracey Mackrow, CSG Conference Coordinators, Conservation Commission of the NT, PO Box 496, Palmerston 0831, Northern Territory, Australia. Tel: (089) 89 4449. Fax: (089) 32 3849.

**International Yew Resources Conference: Taxus Conservation Biology and Interactions.** 12–13 March 1993. *Contact:* YewCon, Attn B. Shimon Schwarzschild, Project Administrator, University of

California Forest Products Laboratory, 1301 S 46th St, Richmond, CA 94804. Tel: 510 231 9456. Fax: 510 231 9535.

**58th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.** 19–24 March 1993, Washington DC, USA. *Contact:* Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street NW, Washington DC 20005, USA.

**The Future of Zoos: Arks or Distractions?** 27–28 March 1993, Oxford, UK. *Contact:* Biology Course Secretary, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA UK.

**Workshop on Horticulture, Conservation and the International Plant Trade.** 7 April, London, UK. *Contact:* FFPS, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Tel: 071 823 8899. Fax: 071 823 9690.

**Symposium/Workshop on the Hydrological and Biological Functions and Importance of Mountain Cloud Forests.** 4–8 April 1993. *Contact:* Dr Lawrence S. Hamilton, EAPI, East-West Center, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96848, USA.

**Tropical Rain Forest Research: Current Issues.** 9–17 April 1993, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. *Contact:* Rainforest Conference Organizer, Registrar's Office, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Bandar Seri Begawan 3186, Brunei Darussalam. Tel: 673 2 427001. Fax: 673 2 427 003.

**Conference on Reintroduction Biology of Australasian Fauna.** 19–21 April 1993, Victoria, Australia. *Contact:* Melody Serana, Healesville Sanctuary, PO Box 248, Healesville,

Victoria 3777, Australia. Tel: 059 62 4022. Fax: 059 62 2139.

**1st International Black Stork Conservation and Ecology Symposium.** 19–23 April 1993, Jurmala, Latvia. *Contact:* Latvian Fund for Nature, Project 'Black Stork', PO Box 677, 226047 Riga, Latvia.

**East Asia Pacific Mountain Symposium.** 2–8 May 1993, New Zealand. *Contact:* Dr Lawrence S. Hamilton, EAPI, East-West Center, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96848, USA.

**Cultivating Green Awareness. II International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens.** 3–8 May 1993, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. *Contact:* Jardín Botánico Canario 'Viera y Clavijo', Excmo. Cabildo Insular de Gran Canaria, Apartado de correos 14 de Tafira Alta, 35017 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.

**Biodiversity and Environment – Brazilian Themes for the Future.** 6–7 May 1993, London, UK. *Contact:* The Executive Secretary, The Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ, UK.

**Whales and Dolphins: Ecology and Behaviour.** 7–9 May 1993, Oxford, UK. *Contact:* Biology Course Secretary, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA UK.

**Tropical Montane Cloud Forests: International State-of-Knowledge Symposium and Workshop.** 1–5 June 1993, San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Contact:* Dr Fred Scatena, Institute of Tropical Forestry, Call Box 25000, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico 00928 USA. Fax: 809 250 6924.

**5th International Conference on the Conservation and Management of Lakes.** 17–21 May 1993, Stresa, Italy. *Contact:* R. M. Società di Congressi s.r.l., Via Ciro Menotti II, 20129 Milano, Italy.

**Global Aspects of Coral Reefs: Health, Hazards and History.** 7–10 June 1993, Miami, USA. *Contact:* Global Reef Meetings, University of Miami, 4600 Rockenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149–1098, USA.

**Conservation Through Cultivation: The Third International Conference on Cycad Biology.** 5–9 July 1993, Pretoria, South Africa. *Contact:* Natt Grobbelaar, PO Box 15357, Lynne East, 0039 South Africa. Tel: 012 808 0995.

**International Union of Game Biologists' XXI Congress: Forests and Wildlife ... Towards the 21st Century.** 15–20 August 1993, Nova Scotia, Canada. *Contact:* Dr Steven W. Buskirk, Dept. Zoology and Physiology, PO Box 3166, Laramie, WY 82071–3166, USA. Tel: (307) 766 4207.

**Sixth International Otter Symposium and IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group Meeting.** 6–11 September 1993, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. *Contact:* Dave Rowe-Rowe, PO Box 662, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 South Africa.

**International Wildlife Management Congress: Integrating People and Wildlife for a Sustainable Future.** 19–25 September 1993, San Jose, Costa Rica. *Contact:* The Wildlife Society, IWMC Secretariat, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814–2197, USA. Tel: 301 897 9770. Fax: 301 530 2471.

**Workshop on Conservation of Mahoganies.** 30 September 1993, London. *Contact:* FFPS, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, UK. Tel: 071 823 8899. Fax: 071 823 9690.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Welfare Guidelines for the Re-Introduction of Captive Bred Mammals in the Wild**

Available at £2.50/\$US6 (including p. & p.) from Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 3QD, UK. Tel: 0707 58202. Fax: 0707 49279.

### **Arachnida: Proceedings of a One Day Symposium on Spiders and their Allies**

This symposium was held at the Zoological Society of London on 21 November 1987. Its 207 pages contain contributions on taxonomy, care in captivity, breeding, health and disease, ecology and conservation and it is fully illustrated. Edited by J. E. Cooper, P. Pearce-Kelly and D. L. Williams it was published in 1992 by Chiron Publications Ltd, Keighley Business Centre, South Street, Keighley, W. Yorks BD21 1AG and is available from them for £12.50 plus £2.50 postage and packing.

### **TRAFFIC International Reports**

TRAFFIC International has launched a series of reports under the general title *Species in Danger*. Titles include: *The Smuggling of Endangered Wildlife across the Taiwan Strait* (1991); *The Control of Wildlife Trade in Greece* (1992); *The Horns of a Dilemma: The Market for Rhino Horn in Taiwan* (1992);



Cover illustration from TRAFFIC International's report *The Control of Wildlife Trade in Greece*.

and *Perceptions, Conservation & Management of Wild Birds in Trade* (1992). Further information from The Director, TRAFFIC International, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL. Tel: 0223 277427. Fax: 0223 277237.

The Editor welcomes contributions to Briefly. Deadlines for announcements are about 8 weeks before first date of month of issue: the deadline for April 1993 is 5 February.