

## Oryx 100% Fund

The latest grants by the Society's ORYX 100% Fund are:

**£500** to Miss Stella Brewer for the rehabilitation of confiscated chimpanzees in Senegal's Niokolo Kobo National Park. Council considers this an important project. The future in the wild of many endangered species may depend on the restoration of captive-bred specimens, about which very little indeed is known. Stella Brewer has worked with Jane van Lawick Goodall, and has already returned three chimpanzees to the wild in this park;

**£500** to Professor J. D. Skinner, Pretoria, to collect and publicise facts about the status of the cheetah ('vermin' in several provinces) and the skin trade in order to get the species protected. 'Five cheetah were shot recently in the Transvaal, and the ensuing uproar gives a new urgency for meaningful research', he writes. The FPS cheque was presented on December 17th by our President, Lord Willingdon, who is in South Africa;

**£500** to the Botswana Government for educational booklets, for both adults and schoolchildren, on the country's national parks and reserves, the value of wildlife, and the dangers of overgrazing and other malpractices. This is part of a recently launched Wildlife Conservation Education Programme;

**£400** to Mr Arjan Singh for anti-poaching equipment in his Tiger Haven sanctuary, in north India, which has both a viable tiger population and the largest and most important herd of the endangered northern swamp deer—see *Oryx*, May 1973, page 41;

**£250** to the Ghana Department of Game and Wildlife to start a much-needed technical research library;

**£200** to Sr Lobao Tello for a survey of the Lebombos Mountains, in south Mozambique, where there are no reserves and settlers are coming in, to investigate the status of endangered antelopes there, including mountain reedbuck, klipspringer and Sharp's grysbok, and hopefully find a good untouched area to recommend to Government for a reserve; we are indebted to John Aspinall for £100 for this project—see also page 310;

**£100** (second grant) to the Nepal Game Department for the drive against rhino poachers—see page 310;

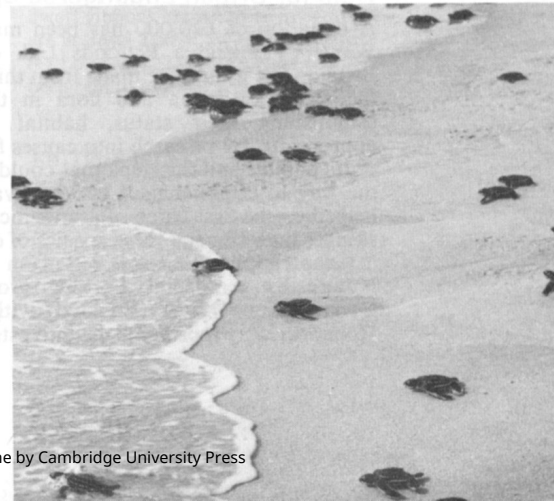
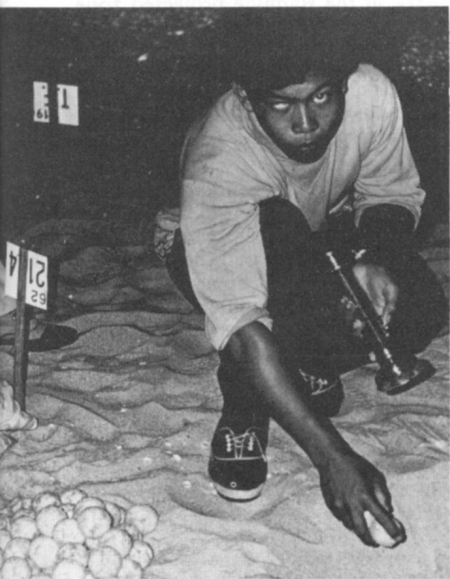
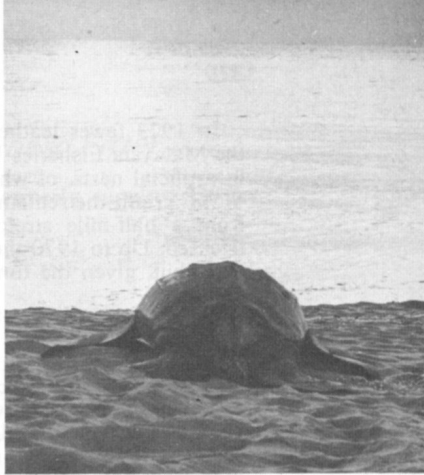
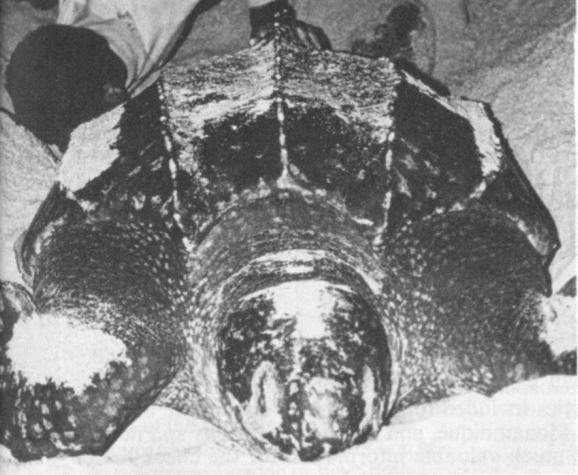
**£45** to the Botswana Wildlife Department for books to stock a small reference library for staff use.

### Earlier Grants

#### Leathery Turtle in Malaysia

A grant of £250 was made in April 1973 to buy leathery turtle eggs for the hatchery at Trengganu. This is done because the right to take turtle eggs on this 13-mile beach is subject to tender each year and only by buying some and hatching them artificially can any young turtles be assured.

The pictures opposite show the eggs being removed while the leathery turtle is laying; the turtle returning to the sea at dawn; the eggs being placed in the artificial nest; part of the fenced-off area containing the nests; the newly hatched turtles ready to be counted and released; and the final scamper for the sea. (*Photographed by Dr H. R. Bustard—1, 3, 4; and Ken Scriven—2, 5, 6.*)



In 1973 fewer leathery turtles laid, but 72,208 eggs were removed by the Malaysia Fisheries Department to the hatchery, where they are planted in artificial nests, of which 32,890 were paid for by the FPS money and a WWF grant; the remaining eggs cost the Department nothing as they came from a half-mile stretch of beach that the State Government had de-licensed. Up to 1970 the hatchery had never held more than 15,000 eggs a year, but, given the funds, the Department hopes in a good year to take 150,000.

### **Mozambique Survey**

Sr Tello's first grant in 1972 was for his survey of the little-known Save-Limpopo area. His discoveries included four mammals, one reptile and one fish hitherto unrecorded in Mozambique, and one fish, a *Barbus* sp., new to science. In addition he got much valuable information for the check-list of mammals now being prepared, and hopes that his records will contribute both to the establishment of a national park in the Banhine protected zone and to the protection of several species, including Lichtenstein's hartebeest *Alcelaphus lichtensteini*, which is extremely rare and endangered, sable *Hippotragus niger*, and tsessebe *Damaliscus lunatus*, now practically extinct in Mozambique.

### **Rhino-poaching in Nepal**

Following the grant of £250 in April 1972 to combat the rhino poachers in the Chitawan National Park, John Blower writes: 'As a result of the rewards we offered we are having considerable success, and so far twelve persons have been arrested. Three are known to have killed rhino and the others are receivers or have been involved in the theft of Government firearms to use in poaching. We are extremely grateful to FPS for this valuable contribution and assure you it is having a marked effect and being put to very good use'.

### **Double Your Money**

The ORYX 100% Fund needs constant replenishment. If you think this work is worthwhile and would like to contribute, please send your gift to the Hon. Secretary. All the money you give will go to help wildlife—the Society pays the administrative expenses—and moreover your gift (up to £5000) will be doubled by a matching gift from the FPS funds. Please help now.

### **Help for British Endangered Species**

A donation of £20,000 has been made to the British National Appeal of WWF by Pedigree Petfoods Ltd. earmarked for endangered species in Britain. The grants are made from this donation for two purposes; to survey the status of fauna and flora in the United Kingdom with a view to establishing their status, habitat and range, to be followed, where appropriate, by research into causes for the rarity or depletion of the species or its habitat and the steps that could be taken for its conservation, pointing the way to establishment of conservation projects. The endangered species helped by the first batch of grants include the natterjack toad, the chequered skipper butterfly and three species of orchid.

Grant applications are vetted on behalf of WWF and the Council for Nature by a special working group, chaired by Dr Bruce Forman, Conservation Officer (England) with the Nature Conservancy. The FPS Hon. Secretary represents the interests of mammals on this group.