

Oryx 100% Fund

At its meeting on 18 February 1993 the FFPS Conservation Committee agreed to fund the following Oryx 100% Fund applications.

£3300 for a project on land surrounding Kabore Tambi National Park, Burkina Faso

Naturama, a non-governmental organization in Burkina Faso, is working with people living around the Kabore Tambi National Park in the south of the country. It is establishing a network of clubs of Friends of the Park in order to involve villagers in sustainable management of the park's resources and to resolve conflicts arising from rising demands for land. The grant will be used to buy and maintain a motorbike for use in setting up a pilot project, organizing seminars, monitoring and evaluating the project and buying educational equipment. (Project no. 92/35.)

£1500 for a survey of endemic birds in Cebu

The bird populations of Cebu in the Philippines have declined as a result of massive deforestation. Many species are endemic and some are already extinct. A team from the Philippine Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Foundation will survey forest patches in the province to collect information on endemic birds and make conservation recommendations. The findings will be used as the basis of an awareness campaign and to promote further studies. (Project no. 93/2.)

£3500 for Action Comores

This is a follow-up project by a team from Bristol University, which in 1992 succeeded in locating a new roost of Livingstone's fruit bat *Pteropus livingstonii* in the Comoros Islands between Madagascar and the east coast of Africa. The team also helped catch some bats for the captive-breeding programme at Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (FFPS Project no. 92/13). Securing a future for this species is one of the highest priority recommendations in the *Action Plan for Old World Fruit Bats*. The work

in 1993 will focus on introducing a programme of environmental education, surveying remaining forest habitat to make a faunal inventory and studying the ecology of the fruit bat. Attempts will be made to capture further individuals for the captive-breeding programme. (Project no. 93/6.)

£3500 for a study of the effects of habitat fragmentation on armadillo communities in Argentina

An Argentinian team will study armadillos in fragments of subtropical dry forest of the Chaco in northern Argentina to establish their conservation status. Two of the species reported from the area – the giant armadillo *Priodontes maximus* and Burmeister's armadillo *Chlamyphorus retusus* – are listed by IUCN as threatened. The effects of habitat fragmentation on the populations will be studied and, because local people hunt armadillos for subsistence and handicraft manufacture, wildlife management and education programmes will be designed in co-operation with local management authorities. (Project no. 93/12.)

£3250 for a study of the conservation and biology of the African wild dog in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

Joshua Ginsberg leads this project, now in its fourth year, which is studying various aspects of the conservation and conservation biology of the African wild dog *Lycaon pictus*, one of the world's most endangered canids. Data on hunting success, patterns of mortality, parasite infection and genetics have been analysed and in 1993 the focus will be on areas adjacent to Hwange National Park, where wild dogs appear to be recolonizing areas recently returned to wildlife management. The FFPS grant will be used to purchase specialized equipment and assist in the production of educational materials to be distributed both within and outside the park. (Project no. 93/14.)

Further information on and application forms for the Oryx 100% Fund can be obtained from the FFPS, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

***Sarracenia* pitchers used in floral display**

Investigations conducted by several individuals and organizations in the USA (*Oryx*, 24 (4), 201–207) uncovered the wide use of the white-topped pitcher plant *Sarracenia leucophylla* in floral displays. Between October 1991 and May 1992 I conducted additional research into the industry while based at Atlanta Botanical Garden, Georgia, USA.

The aim of the project, which was funded jointly by the Bentham–Moxon Trust, Kew, the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and the FFPS (Project no. 91/31), was to investigate the dynamics and scope of the industry and produce a pictorial documentation of the harvest. It appears that the number of harvesters and incidents of poaching have increased in recent years resulting in the fragmentation of the industry and a fall in prices and sales on the American domestic market. Despite these factors, the industry still poses a serious threat to wild populations of *S. leucophylla*, from which the majority of pitchers are cut, because of the annual removal of the main photosynthetic and nutrient-supplying organs of the plant. However, harvesters may often be instrumental in conserving populations through the implementation of land-management techniques favourable to pitcher plant habitats, such as the use of fire to control invasive woody plant species.

Falling prices on the American domestic market have resulted in the exploration of new markets, especially in the Far East. In 1988 Japan imported 72 per cent of all pitchers exported from the USA. This figure rose to 82 per cent in 1989. Bunches of 10 pitchers can fetch up to \$US37.50 in these markets, whereas they may sell for only \$US4–5 per bunch in American markets.

Despite an investigation into the sustainability of this industry and new conservation efforts having been initiated with the full cooperation of several harvesters, a programme of habitat restoration and conservation is paramount to the survival of all *Sarracenia* species because there has been an estimated 97 per cent loss of pitcher-plant habitat.

Madeline Groves, FFPS Assistant Botanist

The Indigenous Propagation Project helps an endangered crocus

The future of the golden *Crocus olivieri* ssp. *istanbulensis* has been made more secure following work by FFPS's Indigenous Propagation Project (IPP). The crocus is restricted to a single site on a hillside on the outskirts of Istanbul. We surveyed the locality in 1992 and found about 20 plants restricted to an area of 2 ha. This subspecies is the most threatened of Turkey's 32 *Crocus* taxa and perhaps the most endangered of all the members of the country's diverse bulb flora. This extreme localization seems to be related to the soils of the region – the small area where the plant grows overlies limestone in an area largely dominated by ancient igneous rocks and acid sands and is in general extremely rich botanically.

While the plant is afforded some protection because it grows within state-owned land managed as a picnic area for the people of Istanbul, much of the surrounding area has been afforested. This resulted in the cessation of grazing over the whole site and scrub invasion threatened to overwhelm the crocus.

In March this year IPP and Department of Forestry staff cleared scrub from over 0.5 ha. The forestry staff are now very keen to clear further areas and to maintain the site in partnership with the IPP.

While such clearance work for particular species is commonplace in countries such as Britain, to our knowledge this is the first example of this type of work undertaken solely of the purpose of saving a severely endangered species anywhere in Turkey. We are especially delighted that the Department of Forestry has responded so positively and with practical assistance.

*Sema Atay and Andy Byfield
Indigenous Propagation Project, Turkey*

FFPS Annual General Meeting

The FFPS Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 October at 6.30 p.m. in the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London. Please see the insert in this issue.