

Good Start for Oryx 100% Fund

The Oryx 100% Fund, launched in September 1971, got off to a splendid start with two anonymous donations, one of £1000 and one of £500 earmarked for the founding of a breeding stock of the highly endangered Indian lion at Jersey Zoo. Other donations so far received total £224, including covenants which, even disregarding the income-tax repayable, will bring in an annual income of £82.

The initial balance in the Fund was £6727, comprising £4027, representing the balance of the FPS/WWF Revolving Fund after reinvestment of the Society's original capital; £2200 for two earmarked grants for the Kouprey Project and a landrover for the Baharini Research Station at Nakuru, Kenya; and £500 allocated from the Society's general funds.

During the year Council has approved the following grants (some of them made in advance of the actual launching of the Fund):

- £600 to the Baharini Research Station, Kenya, for a landrover, which was also used for hippo research in East Africa by Mr. R. Olivier, and subsequently (including earmarked grant of £500);
- £400 to Mr Jack Frazier, Oxford University Zoology Department, for a survey of the turtle populations of the Gloriosa Islands, off N W Madagascar;
- £360 to enable Mr Jeremy Mallinson, Deputy Director of Jersey Zoo, to visit Assam to make arrangements for the welfare of the pygmy hogs captured there in summer 1971;
- £294 to the Nuffield Unit for Tropical Animal Ecology for repairs to their aircraft, which is a vital tool in their conservation research;
- £290 to enable Mr A. Harcourt and Mr G. Groom, of Caius College, Cambridge, to visit Rwanda to assist Miss Dian Fossey in the conservation of the mountain gorilla in the Parc des Volcans;
- £250 to the South African National Committee for the Conservation of Coastal Birds towards important research and rescue work on jackass penguins and other seabirds;
- £200 to IUCN towards the cost of printing the Proceedings of the Symposium on Wildlife Conservation in West Africa, held at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in April 1970;
- £140 to Dr Michael Crawford, for surveys of the status of the northern white rhino and giant eland in Uganda;
- £100 to Mr Melvin Bolton to enable him to undertake a survey of the wildlife of the Ogaden region of Ethiopia (see p. 227);
- £100 to Mr S. R. Severinghaus towards his survey of the Mikado and Swinhoe's pheasants in Taiwan;
- £100 to the Fiji Museum for facilities for the breeding and display of the banded iguana;
- £84 towards the cost of the preparation of the Seal Bill, now the Seal Conservation Act 1970;

- £75 to the Uganda National Parks for a further supply of crocodile leaflets at Murchison Falls National Park;
- £50 to Mr T. Hodd for the printing of his reports on the vegetation of the Gir Lion Sanctuary, India;
- £20 to Mr. T. J. Kingston, New College, Oxford, for a survey of Kirk's red colobus monkey in Zanzibar;
- £19 to IUCN for a set of Red Data Books for the Cuban zoologist, Sr. Varona.

In addition grants totalling Rs 2690 were made from the accumulated FPS Funds in Pakistan towards four WWF Projects for surveys of the food preferences of the blackbuck (which is being re-established in the Lal Suhanra reserve) and of the status of the houbara bustard and the western tragopan. These funds arise because in countries where the export of currency is difficult, all money due to FPS for subscriptions, sale of goods and other receipts, is paid into a bank account in that country, under the supervision of an authoritative local conservation body, and then used for conservation projects in the country itself. In Pakistan the Pakistan National Appeal of the World Wildlife Fund looks after the FPS account.

Deer Sanctuary

The British Deer Society now has its headquarters at Hay Bridge in the Furness Fells, between Windermere and Coniston Water, where Mrs Herbert Fooks has created a 200-acre sanctuary for the red and roe deer in memory of her husband, who was internationally known for his work in deer conservation. The reserve also has a beautiful small museum, which houses his collections, designed for the use of students, school-children and naturalists. Here the Deer Society's Secretary, Jim Taylor Page, has his office and also acts as Curator of the Museum. The red deer of the Furness Fells, which are a particularly fine large stock, have been declining in numbers as a result mainly of habitat destruction and overshooting.

Taste of Things to Come?

Discarded oil drums are so common on the Alaska landscape that they have been named the unofficial 'state flower', according to the US Wildlife Management Institute. Some 300,000 barrels blot the landscape at Point Barrow, 15,000 of them filled with frozen human wastes. The 100,000 in the Arctic National Wildlife Range are scattered mainly on the beaches. Authorities estimate it will cost \$800,000 to clean the mess up. A \$2 million incinerator is being considered to help dispose of litter accumulated in the Arctic region. The Navy Department, whose projects contributed to the littering, has offered \$1.2 million to start.

Conservation Careers

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