

## Gambian President's Declaration

'I solemnly declare that my Government pledges its untiring efforts to conserve for now and posterity as wide a spectrum as possible of our remaining fauna and flora', said the President of The Gambia, Sir Dawda Jawara, at the National Independence Day celebrations in February. In what is now known as the Banjul Declaration, he also said:

'It is a sobering reflection that, in a relatively short period of our history, most of our larger wildlife species have disappeared together with much of the original forest cover. The survival of the wildlife still remaining with us and the setting aside of protected natural habitats for them is the concern of all of us. It would be tragic if this priceless natural heritage, the produce of millions of years of evolution, should be further endangered or lost for want of proper concern. This concern is a duty we owe to ourselves, to our great African heritage and to the world.'

FPS has written to congratulate the President on his important announcement. FPS has been closely connected with conservation in The Gambia since our Vice-President Sir Landsborough Thomson discussed wildlife conservation with Sir Dawda in 1970 and wrote in *Oryx*, September 1970, about the small recently declared Abuko Nature Reserve, to the fencing of which FPS contributed. The credit for starting this reserve goes to the Forestry Development Officer, E. F. Brewer, our FPS Consultant in The Gambia. Now, with the help of WWF, a Wildlife Conservation Department has been established and new conservation laws passed, the Abuko reserve has been developed, and a Conservation Centre was inaugurated by the President during the Independence Day celebrations.

### Oryx 100% Fund

The following are the latest grants from the Oryx 100% Fund:

- £500** to Dr J. Frazier for an aerial survey of turtles on the Sudan coast;
- £500** to Professor Peter Jewell for giraffe studies in the Serengeti;
- £500** to Robin Prytherch, to assist Dr K. E. L. Simmons in conservation work on Ascension Island, including protection of nesting turtles and seabirds;
- £500** to Dr T. Schultze-Westrum, for compensation payments to Greek fishermen for damage by monk seals to nets and catches (see *Oryx*, Feb. 1977, page 421);
- £300** to Carlos Hidalgo, El Salvador, for a ciné projector for educational work in the Parque Zoológico Nacional y Jardín Botánico;
- £300** to L. I. Leontiades, Cyprus, to extend an enclosure for the Cyprus mouflon;
- £300** to J. R. Malcolm, of the Serengeti Research Institute, for a census of the endangered Simien fox in the Bale mountains of Ethiopia;
- £291** to the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust to bring a breeding stock of pygmy hogs from Assam;
- £250** to Dr Gerardo Budowski, Costa Rica, for an analysis of endangered Central American fauna;

- £250** to R. Jingu for equipment for Tanzanian game scouts;  
**£250** to Professor Robert Rush Miller, Chairman of the Survival Service Commission's Freshwater Fish Group, for removal of introduced large-mouth bass from a spring in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, where they threaten to exterminate two endemic fish;  
**£250** to Juvenal Rendzaho, Director General of Rwanda National Parks, for boundary marking in the Akagera National Park;  
**£250** to Richard Schuster for behaviour study of the Kafue lechwe;  
**£100** to the Serengeti Research Institute to buy books for the library.

## Legacies and Gifts

FPS is most grateful for the following gifts of £20 and over, totalling £5155, and for other smaller gifts received between December 1976 and March 1977:

### Legacy

Mrs R. E. S. Bell £100

### Gifts

Anonymous £2,000

Ofenheim Charitable Trust £100

F. W. Bernard £50

Mrs M. J. Hayne £50

K. Richards £20

Thomas Lilley Memorial Trust £25

In Memoriam Lady Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe £221

### Oryx 100% Fund

Elvetham Charitable Trust £1,000

Miss M. E. Gibbs £500

St Katharine's Fund £300

F. W. Bernard £100

Miss W. Felce £100

B. Prescott £25

Anonymous £23

St Katharine's Fund (for East African Wildlife Society) £400

Walter J. Foster (for Galapagos) £100

Gepps Cross Girls' High School, Australia (for Ketamba orang-utan rehabilitation station, Borneo) £31

J. A. Goodman (for Galapagos) £20

## In Memoriam

Lady Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe, a member of FPS since 1959, died on December 15 last. The family asked that gifts in her memory be sent to FPS. The Society is most grateful to those who contributed a total of £1221, including £1000 from the Elvetham Charitable Trust for the Oryx 100% Fund.

## Buffalos in Mozambique

Dr J. J. R. Grimsdell points out that the 25,000 buffalos in the Marromeu reserve in Mozambique (*Oryx*, July 1976, page 346) do not constitute 'the largest concentration in the world'. The Serengeti National Park in Tanzania contains some 74,000, and the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem has a combined population of over 90,000.