

INTERNATIONAL

New fishing treaty

More than 2 years of negotiations have been successfully concluded with the unanimous approval of an international treaty to bring strict conservation standards and strong enforcement to the management of fisheries on the high seas. The UN General Assembly will vote on its adoption in December and then it will be open for signing by UN member nations. *Source: New Scientist*, 12 August 1995, 7.

IWC update

This year Japan killed 330 minke whales *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* under its scientific whaling programme in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. It was caught in the act by Greenpeace, but this did not stop it going to the IWC meeting (29 May–2 June) with a proposal to increase its catch to 440 next year. The IWC responded by adopting a resolution calling on governments to undertake and collaborate in a programme of research in the sanctuary using non-lethal methods and to refrain from issuing permits for research that involved killing whales. Norway's claim that it was not harming stocks in the north-east Atlantic was disproved: an analysis of data showed that the Norwegian scientists had erred in their interpretation of their figures and that there were only half as many minke whales in the north-east Atlantic as Norway claimed. Norway's scientists admitted the mistake but said they had found another error, which compensated for the first one, and Norway's

whalers set out to whale before the IWC Scientific Committee had reviewed the figures. The IWC called on Norway to 'halt immediately all whaling activities under its jurisdiction' and to 'reconsider its objection to the IWC's commercial whaling moratorium'. However, both Norway and Japan said they would continue to whale. *Source: BBC Wildlife*, July 1995, 62.

Agreement for waterbirds

On 16 June, at a meeting in The Hague, more than 60 nations signed an Agreement for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds under the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species. It is hoped that the agreement will come into force before the turn of the century. Conservationists welcomed the agreement but expressed concern that it allows hunting of some birds with an uncertain conservation status and for some, including in the breeding season. *Source: European Environmental Bureau News*, No. 67, 7.

Little hope left for the tiger

The tiger *Panthera tigris* will be virtually extinct in the wild by 1999 unless India and other range states declare open war on poachers and illegal traders and throw all the resources required into the battle, according to Peter Jackson, Chairman of the SSC Cat Specialist Group. Poaching is accelerating and there are well-organized illegal trade networks. Seizures show that hundreds of tigers are being killed every year in India alone, primarily for Chinese medicine. Two new organizations have been established in India to engage in the battle for tiger conservation: Tiger Link and the Wildlife



Tigers are in urgent need of help – new groups have formed to come to their assistance.

Protection Society of India (see pages 242–243). *Source: Cat News*, Spring 1995, 2–3 & 6.

US lifts sanctions against Taiwan

On 30 June President Clinton announced that the US was lifting the trade sanctions against Taiwan after finding that substantial steps had been taken by that country to halt the commercial trade in rhinoceros and tiger parts. Wildlife products from Taiwan, valued at about \$25 million a year had been prohibited from entering the USA since 20 August 1994. *Source: African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1995, 4.

Lufthansa to stop carrying primates for research

Under pressure from German animal rights activists, the airline Lufthansa is to stop transporting primates destined for medical research. Last year the airline carried 5700 monkeys from Indonesia and the Philippines through Frankfurt to the US. *Source: New Scientist*, 3 June 1995, 11.

TRAFFIC in Russia

On 1 April 1995 TRAFFIC Europe opened an office in Moscow. Russia and the other countries of the former Soviet

Union are experiencing severe problems in the control and management of wildlife trade and the creation of a permanent TRAFFIC presence in Russia will allow closer monitoring of local wildlife markets, enable the provision of assistance to CITES authorities and facilitate investigation of the international trade in wildlife species and their products.

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 15 (2), 55.

EUROPE

Red kites take off

Nine young red kites *Milvus milvus* from Spain were released in a secret site in the Midlands, England, in July as part of the successful programme to restore the UK population of the species, which died out in England and Scotland in the 1880s and 1890s, respectively. It persisted only in central Wales where the entire current population appears to stem from two birds. Since 1989 young red kites from Spain, Sweden and Wales have been released in England and Scotland where numbers are now up to 120 and 70, respectively. While some kites have been killed illegally, their presence is slowly gaining acceptance among farmers and landowners. This year sees the start of a tourist programme centred on the birds.

Source *BBC Wildlife*, June 1995, 56; Forestry Commission News Release, 24 July 1995.

Reptile trader imprisoned

The owner of a pet shop, Reptiles-R-Us, in Cardiff, UK, has been given a 4-month prison sentence for importing

17 sand boas and 67 spiny-tailed lizards from Pakistan. Customs officers, who discovered the reptiles during a routine luggage search, estimated their value at £5700. This is the first such sentence given by a British court.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, August 1995, 60.

Raid on taxidermist species finds endangered species

A Customs and Excise raid on a taxidermist's premises in Newtown, Powys, UK, discovered whole specimens and parts of a large number of endangered species in freezers, bottles and other containers.

The species included red panda, chimpanzee, Philippine eagle and Komodo dragon. The raid followed an international operation across Europe and the Far East. A 40-year-old local resident was arrested.

Source: *The Times*, 17 August 1995.

Tiger medicines on sale in Europe

In February a raid on 12 oriental pharmacies and supermarkets in three British cities seized half a rhino horn, several containers of bones labelled as tiger bone and hundreds of medicines purporting to contain tiger bone, rhino horn or bear bile. Also in February, Belgian authorities carried out similar raids in 30 medicine shops in seven cities: in 25 they found products containing or purporting to contain banned wildlife-derived ingredients.

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 15 (2), 52–53.

Motorway to drive through protected valley

The European Commission has given the go-ahead for a

motorway through the Recknitz and Trebel Valley in Germany, despite the fact that the valley is protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. An Environmental Impact Assessment predicted that the development would have significant negative effects but the EU upheld Germany's claim that the project should be approved on the grounds of 'overriding public interest'. Conservationists fear that the decision will set a precedent that will undermine the effectiveness of the Directives.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 17 (2), 3.

Future uncertain for Poland's primeval forest

After mounting pressure from the Polish Senate and public, as well as the international conservation community, the general director of national forests in Poland announced a moratorium on 5 July on old-growth logging in Bialowieza forest. The decision came after the second international day of action on the issue, which saw pickets at Polish embassies in Europe. The ban applies to hardwood species over a specified diameter and rare species. Demands for national park protection for the entire forest have still not been met.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, July 1995, 57; September 1995, 57.

New park in Poland

Poland has created its sixth national park in the Polish Carpathian Mountains. Magurski National Park was officially opened in 1 January 1995 and is situated in a relatively low part of the mountain chain over 100 km south-east of Cracow near the small town of Gorlice. The park was established to protect extensive forests with a rich

large-mammal fauna, including lynx, brown bear, red deer and wild boar. The park's birds include lesser spotted eagle *Aquila pomarina*, short-toed eagle *Circetus gallicus*, honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus* and Ural owl *Strix uralensis*.

Source: *Nature and National Parks*, 1995, Vol. 33, No. 125, 36–37.

Sea turtles on Zakynthos

The speedboat ban in the Bay of Laganas on the island of Zakynthos in Greece allowed turtles to swim ashore to nest more safely in 1995 but there are still problems of enforcement because the Port Police have not yet received a patrol boat. The illegal tavernas, houses and beach furniture did not operate on the island's Daphni Beach in the summer of 1995: the buildings are to be demolished in October and the owners will receive compensation. On the negative side, owners of the buildings on Daphni bulldozed a road to Sekania Beach, one of the most densely nested loggerhead *Caretta caretta* beaches in the world. After 13 years of campaigning by conservationists, the government has presented a management plan to make Laganas Bay a marine park.

Source: Sea Turtle Protection Society, Zakynthos, 10 July 1995; *BBC Wildlife*, September 1995, 57.

AFRICA

Importance of Lake Nasser

A preliminary survey of Lake Nasser in Egypt has revealed its importance for birds: around 25 per cent of the lake was

surveyed and over 55,000 waterbirds counted. The lake was created as a result of the completion of the Nile High Dam in 1969 and it is believed that it has absorbed many of the birds that used to winter in other Egyptian wetlands, which are shrinking.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 17 (2), 2.

Wild ass – a war casualty

There are only several hundred wild asses *Equus africanus* left in Ethiopia and Eritrea, according to recent surveys, compared with several thousands in the 1970s. Many Ethiopian animals suffered from overhunting in the Ethiopian civil war, which lasted from the late 1970s to 1991. Although all hunting is now banned, the wild ass needs some positive conservation action.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, August 1995, 56.

New nightjar

A new nightjar, the Nechisar nightjar *Caprimulgus solala* has been described from one wing discovered on a road in Ethiopia. The nightjar is larger than most other African nightjar species with a wingspan of 60 cm and has a distinctive white patch halfway along the wing.

Source: *Ibis*, 137, 301–307.

Large numbers of turtles found in Libya

A survey in June–July discovered that the eastern coast of Libya is among the main nesting areas for loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* in the Mediterranean. On 1000 km of coastline 380 tracks of female turtles were found and 205 nests. The survey was jointly organized by the Technical Centre for Environment Protection, Libya; Marine

Research Centre, Tajura, Libya; WWF International; the Mediterranean Association to Save Sea Turtles (MEDASSET); and the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas.
Source: MEDASSET, 24 July 1995.

Northern bald ibis

Monitoring of the world's only surviving population of northern bald ibis *Geronticus eremita* indicates that there are 74 breeding pairs left in two areas in south-west Morocco. Most of the birds occur in the Parc National Souss-Massa, where a management plan is being developed and temporary wardens have been appointed to prevent disturbance to the colonies.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 17 (2), 5.

An abundance of butterflies

A survey in March 1995 in the Oban division of Nigeria's Cross River National Park has shown that it is home to around 950 species of butterflies, including several undescribed taxa. The survey showed that the park is richer in butterflies than any other locality in Africa and contains one-quarter of the continent's butterflies.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1995, 6.

Tanzania bans elephant hunt

Tanzania has placed a temporary ban on the sport hunting of elephants along its border with Kenya and in the Longido Game Controlled Area where the controversial killings of three old bulls took place in late 1994 (see *Oryx*, 29 [2], 80). The ban will be lifted after Tanzania and Kenya agree on how best to manage tourist

hunting along the border.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1995, 4.

Rare mongoose discovery

The uncommon subspecies of bushy-tailed mongoose *Bdeogale crassicauda omnivora*, known as the Sokoke bushy-tailed mongoose, has been recorded for the first time in the Shimba Hills National Reserve, south of Mombasa, Kenya. Specimens have been collected or sighted from only a few other localities in Kenya and Tanzania and the subspecies appears to be endemic to a rapidly decreasing narrow coastal belt of forest. The discovery of the mongoose in the Shimba Hills increases the urgency of attempts to stop *Pinus* afforestation in this reserve, which is important as the last major refugium for more than 1100 higher plant species and an unknown number of animal species.

Source: *Small Carnivore Conservation*, April 1995, 12–13.

Kenya's dugongs need help

An aerial survey covering 500 km of Kenya's shoreline to determine the occurrence and distribution of sea turtles, dugongs, whales, dolphins and whale sharks recorded very few dugongs *Dugong dugon*. This is probably the result of poaching and pollution, and measures are needed to protect known dugong habitats in Ungwana and Manda Bays. Source: *The Pilot*, June 1995, 4.

Controversial road proposal in Congo

The Government of Congo is said to be considering a road-improvement project that could have serious impacts on wildlife in the north of the country.

The government is considering funding the road improvement from Makoua to Ouesso by selling the rights to exploit natural resources (timber and minerals) on each side of the road. A Chinese consortium is said to be interested. Up to 780 sq km of primary forest could be clear-cut under the proposal and the resulting swath of degraded land, approximately 4 km wide and 200 km long would effectively divide the northern forests of the Congo into two. Despite heavy hunting along the existing road to supply the Makoua and Ouesso meat markets, recent travellers have reported sightings of many species including gorilla, elephant, bongo and leopard. Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1995, 3.

Baboons threatened

Yellow baboons *Papio cynocephalus* in Zambia may disappear from their natural habitat within the next 10 years unless poaching is halted. Poachers are capturing the baboons, which are smuggled to other countries for sale to zoos or as pets. Others are killed for their skins, which realise a high price in South Africa. Source: *Zimbabwe Wildlife*, April–June 1995, 8.

Penguins recovering after oil spill

Surveys this year have revealed that jackass penguin *Spheniscus demersus* numbers off the coast of South Africa may be little changed despite the killing of an estimated 11,000 by the *Apollo Sea* oil spill in 1994. On Robben Island scientists found about 500 fewer nest sites, a 20 per cent reduction from 1994 but on Dassen Island, where more than 17 per cent of the

world's jackass penguins live, there were more active nests this year than last year. Reasons may include more abundant food in 1995 and good recruitment to the breeding population. Among other findings were that about 2000 of the 4300 penguins treated, marked and released have been re-sighted on Dassen and Robben islands and at other locations and a high proportion of these birds bred successfully. Scientists tracking released penguins were impressed by the success of one oiled penguin from Robben island. It had two small chicks in its nest when captured and it was released after a month of cleaning and rehabilitation. Within a day of release it was found back at its nest with much larger chicks, its mate having reared them single-handedly in its absence.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1995, 7.

South African fish extinct

The first extinction of a fish species in Africa this century has been recorded in the Eastern Cape, with the disappearance of the river pipefish. The river pipefish was a small estuarine species first described in 1963 from specimens collected in three Eastern Cape rivers: Bushmans, Kasouga and Kariega. The long-snout pipefish is common in these rivers and used to coexist with the river pipefish.

Source: *Zimbabwe Wildlife*, April–June 1995, 8.

Flamingo first from Aldabra

In April research scientists on Aldabra discovered three complete greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* nests and three partial nests in a pool where up to 19 individuals had

been seen roosting. A chick was also sighted, the first recorded for Aldabra. The flamingos fled when the scientists were 150 m away so appear to be extremely sensitive to human presence. *Source: Birdwatch* (Seychelles Bird Group), No. 14.

ASIA (EXCLUDING INDO-MALAYA)

Oryx and sand gazelle reintroductions

Having successfully established a self-sustaining wild population of Arabian oryx *Oryx leucoryx* in Mahazat as-Sayd protected area, Saudi Arabia's National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development decided to carry our further reintroductions in the 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid protected area. Between January and March 1995, 20 captive-born oryx from the National Wildlife Research Centre in Taif were moved to the core of the reserve and four wild oryx were moved from Mahazat as-Sayd to diversify the genetic and age structure of the founder population. In March sand gazelles *Gazella subgutturosa marica* were also reintroduced into an unfenced wild area in 'Uruq Bani Ma'arid. Only two other populations are found in the wild in Saudi Arabia: in the Harrat Al Harrah and Al Khunfah areas in the north of the country. *Source: Re-introduction News*, No. 10, 1995, 10.

Houbara bustards in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's houbara bustard *Chlamydotis undulata macqueenii* reintroduction project has



A greater flamingo on Lake Nakuru, Kenya. This species has been recorded as breeding for the first time on Aldabra (*S. Sassoon*).

achieved a major step forward with the first recorded breeding of captive-bred reintroduced houbara. In April two nests and one brood of chicks were found in the Mahazat as-Sayd protected area, where captive-bred houbara had been released. This is the first time in over 30 years that houbara have been recorded breeding in south-eastern Saudi Arabia. *Source: National Wildlife Research Center, Taif, Saudi Arabia.*

Turkmenistan takes a stand on sport hunting

Earlier this year several sheiks from the United Arab Emirates

arrived in Turkmenistan to hunt despite the fact that the Ministry of Nature Use had turned their request down, saying, 'during spring, while they are breeding, animals must not be disturbed, and therefore such a hunt is impossible.' The hunters, who had been welcomed in previous years as guests of the President, were fined \$40,000. This was the fourth incident of Ministerial action against foreign and local poaching in 6 months and reflects a growing more positive stand towards conservation in Turkmenistan. *Source: Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly*, Spring 1995, 13.



Houbara bustard and chick: reintroduced birds are breeding in Saudi Arabia.

Saving Przewalski's gazelle

Przewalski's gazelle *Procapra przewalskii* is found only in central China and there are fears for its continued survival. Thousands were killed in the 1960s, according to reports of local herdsmen. The gazelle is now confined to the area around the northern half of Qinghai Lake (36°23'–37°15'N, 99°36'–100°47'E), where it survives as three populations on the eastern, northern and western shores. Human population density in the area increased from about 20,000 in 1949 to 90,000 in 1987; during the same period the number of domestic animals increased threefold and the area of farmland increased twentyfold. In 1986 it was estimated that only 350 gazelles survived; estimates in 1994 suggested that fewer than 200 are left. Poaching continues, there is no reserve for the species and none is held in captivity. Chinese scientists are searching for funds for research and conservation measures to save the species.

Source: *Species*, No. 23, 59–60.

Chinese elephant poachers arrested

In December 1994, 51 people were arrested in China for killing 16 elephants and injuring four others in a rain-forest reserve in the south-western province of Yunnan. The alleged poachers included communist party and government officials, foreign and local businessmen, farmers and criminals.

Source: *Swara*, January–February 1995, 12.

Panda poacher in jail

A Chinese peasant farmer, who shot and killed a giant panda *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* and tried



A giant panda in Sechuan, China. A new plan gives hope for the species (S. Sassoon).

to sell its skin, has been sentenced to life imprisonment. Three accomplices were jailed for shorter periods.

Source: *The Times*, 27 June 1995.

Project offers last hope for panda

An ambitious attempt to save the last giant pandas *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* from poachers, land clearance and inbreeding is being started by British conservationists and the Chinese Government. The scheme involves increasing the number of reserves from 13 to 27 so that 65 per cent of the world's last pandas are in protected areas. A string of manned protection outposts will boost prospects for pandas outside the protected areas and up to 17 wildlife corridors will link reserves. Only 1000 giant pandas are left in the wild, with no more than 100 found in any one place and some are in groups of only 10. The positioning of armed guards and boosting the number of conservation staff will also benefit other wildlife.

Source: *The Times*, 3 July 1995.

Whalemeat trade in Japan

Illegal whalemeat in Japan is commanding prices of up to \$500 per kg, according to investigations by TRAFFIC. Whalemeat was found on sale in 51 premises in 13 cities surveyed and traders said that it came from Bryde's *Balaenoptera edeni* and pilot whales *Globiocephala* spp. as well as minke whales *B. acutorostrata*, which Japan continues to hunt under the guise of scientific whaling.

Source: *WWF News*, Summer 1995, 4.

Stork to return to Japan

Plans to reintroduce oriental white storks *Ciconia boyciana* to the wild in Japan are moving forward. A reintroduction site of 90 ha has been identified in Hyogo Province and the 90 owners of the site have agreed to make their lands available for the project. The last stork was removed from the wild in 1971 to join the captive-breeding programme and now storks are bred in four Japanese zoological facilities.

Source: *Re-introduction News*, No. 10, 1995, 2–3.

Kuril Islands development threatens unknown species

The Russian Government is offering businesses incentives to relocate to the Kuril Islands, partly to strengthen its position in a dispute with Japan over ownership. The Kurils, 56 islands stretching from the northern tip of Japan to the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East, are poorly known biologically but a 5-year survey just started has already uncovered 40 new species. The survey team's scientists are concerned that development could destroy many species

before they are even described.
Source: New Scientist, 1 July 1995, 7.

INDO-MALAYA

Dam threat lifted

The World Bank has decided not to fund the Arun III Dam in Nepal, which threatened 450,000 people and 100 rare species. The decision followed Nepalese environmental groups informing the Bank's Inspection Panel that the Bank ignored its own environmental policies. The Panel eventually agreed and the Bank pulled out.

Source: BBC Wildlife, September 1995, 57.

Tiger census methods

In 1989 there were said to be 4334 tigers *Panthera tigris* left in India and in 1993 numbers had fallen to 3750. These apparently precise figures may not be accurate because they are based on survey methods involving taking impressions of paw marks. A new technique is now being used involving two cameras set on either side of a tiger trail, which will count the tigers as well as distinguish between individuals.

Source: New Scientist, 13 May 1995, 8.

Call for leopard cull

The principal chief conservator of forests in the state of Himachal Pradesh in India has asked the federal environment ministry to sanction the killing of around 270 leopards *Panthera pardus* because of the increasing number of leopard attacks on people and cattle. The conservator recognizes that destruction of the leopard's

habitat is at the root of the problem but says that the remnant forests of the state's lowlands, where people are concentrated, can only support 245 leopards. Conservationists have called for a survey to collect reliable data before any decision is made and point out that leopards are still threatened – 1000–1500 are poached every year.

Source: New Scientist, 12 August 1995, 10.

Gazelle sanctuary reduced

The Gujarat State Assembly has stripped protection from more than 40 per cent of the Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary in Kutch, reducing it from 766 to 444 sq km. The sanctuary is the main stronghold of the chinkara or Indian gazelle *Gazella bennetti*. The boundaries of the smaller sanctuary exclude rich limestone and mineral-bearing areas. Environmental groups say cement manufacturers seeking new sources of limestone were the main driving force behind the state government's action. In July 1993 the government issued a decree abolishing the original sanctuary and establishing a new one, one-eighth of the size of the original consisting of 16 disjointed patches. In a court case brought by environmental groups, the Gujarat High Court quashed the decrease but refused to comment on the desirability of the reduction of the sanctuary. The Centre for Environmental Law is planning to challenge the decision. More than 40 of India's national parks and sanctuaries face the threat of invasion by commercial interests.

Source: New Scientist, 26 August 1995, 10.

Saving medicinal plants in southern India

Plant conservationists, botanists and practitioners of traditional medicine in the southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala have joined forces to identify and protect native medicinal plants. With funding from the Danish International Development Agency, the Agency for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions in Bangalore has launched a medicinal plants conservation programme. It is establishing 30 *in situ* conservation sites representing all the major forest vegetation types of southern India and 15 *ex situ* conservation sites administered by regional environmental and health non-governmental organizations.

Source: Plant Talk, March 1995, 16–17.

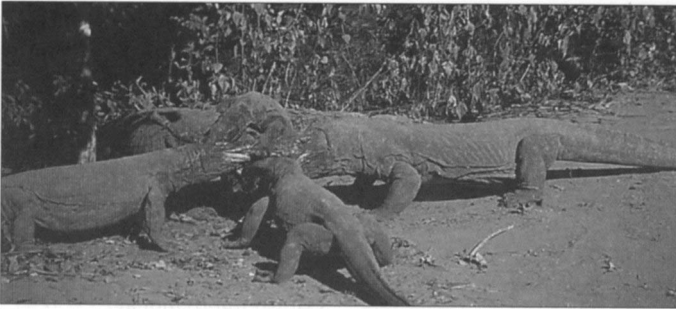
Asiatic lion park to be enlarged

In order to give more protection to the Asiatic lion *Panthera leo*, the 1412-sq-km Gir National Park in Gujarat State, India, is to be enlarged by including the surrounding areas of Barda, Alek, Jasdan and the Girnar mountains.

Source: BBC Wildlife, August 1995, 57.

Fishing cat in peril in Java

In Java the fishing cat *Prionailurus viverrinus rizophoreus* is estimated to contain fewer than 50 breeding individuals and appears to be confined to a few isolated coastal wetlands in the Indramayu area in the north and in Ujong Kulon National Park in the west, according to a recent survey. The cat's prime mangrove habitat now covers



Komodo dragons on the island of Komodo, Indonesia. Some may be moved to establish a second population on Padar Island (S. Sassoan).

only 11 per cent of its original extent and additional threats include pesticide run-off from rice fields, hunting and trapping. The survey report calls for immediate conservation measures, including bans on hunting and implementation of existing legislation.

Source: *Cat News*, Spring 1995, 18.

Komodo dragons to be translocated?

A feasibility study of the re-establishment of the Komodo dragon *Varanus komodoensis* on Padar Island, Indonesia, has concluded that Komodo dragons should be translocated from Komodo Island to Padar Island, which provides sufficient food to sustain the deer that are prey for the reptiles.

Source: *Re-introduction News*, No. 10, 1995, 19.

ASEAN endorses plan to stop forest fires – by felling the trees

In June the Indonesian Environment Minister announced that the Indonesian Government plans to allow the development – conversion to agriculture and coal-mining – of fire-prone areas of Kalimantan and Sumatra to curb the threat of forest fires. Last year huge forest fires

burned for several months in these parts of Indonesia, enveloping parts of the region in a smoke haze. Other measures will include early detection of fires, deployment of ground forces and prohibition of burning off vegetation in the dry season. The announcement was made at a meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations convened to find solutions to the growing threat of pollution in the rapidly industrializing region.

Source: *Bangkok Post*, 19 June 1995.

Rescuing endangered primates in Vietnam

The Endangered Primate Rescue Centre (EPRC) in Vietnam's Cuc Phuong National Park has been set up under a Memorandum of Agreement between government and conservation groups. It aims to support action against the illegal primate trade by taking care of confiscated primates and setting up breeding groups of the most endangered endemic taxa. The EPRC currently maintains: five Delacour's langurs *Trachypithecus delacouri*, of which fewer than 250 are believed to remain in the wild in seven or eight isolated populations; five Hatinh

langurs *Trachypithecus francoisi hatinhensis*; six crested gibbons *Hylobates leucogenys siki*; one pileated gibbon *H. pileatus*; three pygmy slow loris *Nycticebus pygmaeus* and one slow loris *N. cougang bengalensis*. The two langurs are the only legally held specimens in the world.

Source: *International Zoo News*, 42 (4), 236–240.

Mekong to be dammed

Hydroelectric dams impounding 1000 km of the lower Mekong River could result from an agreement creating a Mekong River Commission signed by Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in April. Brokered by UNDP, the new agreement pushes forward development in the region. Six proposed dams on the Mekong, one of Asia's least developed rivers, would displace at least 16,000 people. No comprehensive assessment of the dam's environmental and social impacts has yet been made.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, June 1995, 59.

Cambodia bans timber exports

The Cambodia Government has banned all timber exports following the exposure of the thriving timber trade across the border to Thailand. The outlawed Khmer Rouge, which controls parts of the border with Thailand, is selling logs to finance its activities and Thai companies are collaborating. One 1300-year-old Maka tree has been the subject of competing bids from a dealer who wanted to turn it into conference tables and a Thai ministry that wanted to place it outside its headquarters in Bangkok. At the current rate of destruction the Cambodian

hardwood forests could be wiped out in a few years. Cambodia's ban will be difficult to enforce because the Thai Government and military officials have denied that the trade is happening.
Source: BBC Wildlife, July 1995, 57; The Times, 24 June 1995.

NORTH AMERICA

Kodiak areas protected

Under agreements signed by the US Interior Department, State of Alaska and Alaska Natives, 42,900 ha of land have been returned to Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. Another 18,600 ha are protected under conservation easements. The lands, which were among 125,500 ha taken by Native selections after the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, are being bought from the Natives and returned to the refuge with money extracted from Exxon Inc. as a result of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in 1989. The purchase will help restore species injured by the spill. The returned lands and streams are habitats for pink and sockeye salmon, Pacific herring, bald eagles, river and sea otters, marbled murrelets, harlequin ducks, pigeon guillemots, harbour seals and brown bears.
Source: Outdoor News Bulletin, 24 July 1995, 3.

SHARE for salmon

Efforts to restore Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* to freshwater rivers of North America since the mid-1900s have met with little success to date. As a result of a petition to list the salmon as endangered, US wildlife and fisheries authorities, private landowners,

research and conservation groups, local businesses and representatives of academia set up Project SHARE (Salmon Habitat and River Enhancement) in 1994 in Maine. It is formally organized as a non-profit corporation, and management projects completed or under way include the development of Geographic Information System maps delineating salmon habitat, the removal of natural blockages to spawning areas, repair or replacement of specific water control facilities and the installation of temporary population monitoring stations in selected streams. Research projects are being designed and education projects have started.
Source: Endangered Species Bulletin, May/June 1995, 18–19.

Peregrine falcon safe

The peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* in the USA is about to be removed from the endangered species list because of its dramatic recovery. It was almost wiped out by the pesticide DDT but today there are 1300 nesting pairs across the country.
Source: New Scientist, 22 July 1995, 12.

15 more species listed...

In February, 12 California plants restricted to serpentine soil outcrops in the San Francisco Bay area were listed as endangered or threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The southwestern willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*, a small bird restricted to remnants of riparian habitat in southern California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, southwestern Colorado and extreme north-western Mexico, was

listed as threatened. The spruce-fir moss spider *Microhexura montivaga*, which is known from only four populations in high-altitude spruce-fir forests in the Appalachian Mountains in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, was listed as endangered. This tiny arachnid has a specialized habitat in damp mats of moss, which are drying out with deterioration of the forest canopy. In March, a Puerto Rican shrub, *Gesneria pauciflora*, was listed as endangered because of its low numbers, restricted range and vulnerability to habitat loss.
Source: Endangered Species Bulletin, May/June 1995, 22.

... and listing suspended

In early April, the US Congress passed a moratorium on listing species under the Endangered Species Act until the end of the fiscal year, 30 September 1995. The measure, which prohibits final determinations listing species as endangered or threatened (including emergency rules) and designations of critical habitat, was attached to a Department of Defense supplementary spending bill signed by the President on 10 April. The bill also rescinded \$1.5 million from the budget allocated to the Fish and Wildlife Service listing programme.
Source: Endangered Species Bulletin, May/June 1995, 23.

Pearly mussel's only breeding population

Following the recent discovery of the world's only known reproducing population of the purple cat's paw pearly mussel *Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*, in Killbuck Creek of Coshocton County, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is working

with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and Ohio Department of Transportation to conduct species surveys and bridge-replacement activities in Coshocton and Wayne counties of Ohio.

Source: *Endangered Species Bulletin*, May/June 1995, 20.

Swamp pink site protected

Wetland supporting a large, vigorous population of swamp pink *Helonias bullata* has been purchased for inclusion in the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. It is the first swamp pink site to be included in the refuge system. The plant, the only species in its genus, was listed as threatened in 1988, mainly because of habitat loss.

Source: *Endangered Species Bulletin*, May/June 1995, 21.

Deaths of introduced wolves

A \$6000 reward has been offered for information on the deaths of two wolves *Canis lupus* released in the Rocky Mountains as part of a reintroduction programme. One dead wolf was found shot next to the carcass of a domestic calf. The calf was believed to be dead before the wolf was shot. The carcass of the second wolf has not been found but its radio collar was discovered.

Source: *New Scientist*, 13 May 1995, 11.

Florida panther boost

A female Texas cougar *Puma concolor cougar*, imported to help restore the depleted genetic make-up of the Florida panther *P. c. coryi*, launched the programme prematurely by escaping from a holding pen on 29 March. It was already radio-collared and monitoring started

immediately in the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve on the west coast of Florida. A second female was released later and a further six were expected to be released. There are 30–50 adult Florida panthers left in the wild and nine in captivity. Sixteen are being monitored by radio-telemetry.

Source: *Cat News*, Spring 1995, 16.

Bear moves back to Texas

The Mexican black bear *Ursus americanus eremicus* has returned to Texas after an absence of nearly 50 years. It was eradicated by hunters and predator-control programmes in the 1950s. Biologists believe that the recolonization is due to a 1986 ban on bear hunting in Mexico and several good breeding seasons, which swelled populations and pushed them north. Now there is a resident population of 10–12 bears in the Chisos Mountains in Texas's Big Bend National Park.

Source: *Audubon*, May–June 1995, 22.

Brush for ocelots

In southern Texas an innovative agreement between Bayview Irrigation District 11 and the US Fish and Wildlife Service is helping conserve brushland and ocelots *Felis pardalis*. District 11 owns 160 km of irrigation and drainage ditches in Cameron County, the heart of the ocelot's remaining US range. Brush growing along the ditches is important cover and dispersal habitat for the ocelots but in the past much of this habitat was lost when the banks were cleared during the removal of silt and debris from the ditches. District 11 modified its maintenance procedures, conducting clearance work

from only one side, leaving brush on the other intact. Local people are supportive of the ocelot conservation programme because wildlife tourism boosts the region's economy.

Source: *Endangered Species Bulletin*, May/June 1995, 9.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Grassroots protection for Mexican forest

After an armed rebellion in 1994, indigenous people in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, have gained control of the Chimalapas forests, which were threatened by illegal encroachment from loggers, cattle owners and drug growers, often backed by the Chiapas Government. Now the indigenous residents are resisting government pressure to declare the land a biosphere reserve and, instead, the 40 communities involved are developing their own management plan for local self-sufficiency and nature conservation. Each community will control its own agricultural land and a surrounding forest reserve. The core of virgin forest will be left untouched.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, June 1995, 59.

Salt plans threaten whale

A salt company, Compania Exportadora de Sal, which is jointly owned by the Mexican Government and the Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan, is planning to extend its operations in the State of Baja California Sur, Mexico, to San Ignacio Lagoon, the only Eastern Pacific grey whale *Eschrichtius robustus* breeding lagoon unaffected by human activities. The San Ignacio

Project would turn over 52,150 ha of the Vizcaino Desert Biosphere Reserve to the company and each month eight ocean-going ships would dock at a 1.6-km-long pier to be built 19 km from the mouth of the lagoon. The Environmental Impact Statement ignored the fact that non-stop pumping of sea water out of the lagoon at the rate of 25,000 l per second would lower its temperature and salinity. Three Mexican government decrees protect the lagoon, which is also a World Heritage Site and, bowing to pressure from Mexican environmentalists, the National Ecology Institute rejected the Environmental Impact Statement. The salt company, whose ex-officio chairman of the board is Mexico's Secretary of Commerce, has filed to have the ruling reversed, claiming that with this project Mexico could corner the world salt market in the 21st century. *Source: Global 500 Forum Newsletter*, No. 14, May 1995, 10.

Macaw rehabilitation in Guatemala

A rehabilitation and breeding centre for scarlet macaws *Ara macao* confiscated by the Guatemalan Wildlife Service or donated by individuals and businesses, has been set up by the Asociación de Rescate y Conservación de Vida Silvestre. Depending on their condition the macaws are either rehabilitated and released into the wild, used as breeding stock or kept at the centre as behavioural models. *Source: Psittascene*, 7 (2), 6–7.

Black howler monkey reintroduction in Belize

Over the past 3 years in Belize, 63 black howler monkeys

Alouatta villosa have been translocated from the Community Baboon Sanctuary to the 40,470-ha Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary. Eighty-five per cent of the translocated animals survived and are now breeding. The species had been wiped out from Cockscomb Basin by a combination of yellow fever in the 1950s, a hurricane in 1961 and logging and hunting in the 1970s. *Source: Re-introduction News*, No. 10, 1995, 19.

Puerto Rican parrot numbers rise

The endangered Puerto Rican parrot *Amazona vittata* increased its number of fledged chicks in 1994 by 20, just two fewer than the 1993 record, bringing the total population of wild and captive birds to an estimated 114. Improved management has contributed to the success of the programme: using DNA fingerprinting information to select the most genetically distinct individuals for mating; and making structural improvements to nesting areas. *Source: Captive Breeding Specialist Group News*, 5 (3), 11.

SOUTH AMERICA

Black caiman – need for sustainable use

Recovery of the black caiman *Melanosuchus niger*, which was brought to the brink of extinction by hunting for its skin, is being hampered by a number of factors throughout Amazonia, including uncontrolled alternative human uses. In northern Bolivia the caiman is being hunted for its feet as trophies and for the tail meat as fish bait. Illegal markets for

skins and meat exist in Leticia, Colombia, and on the Rio Pucacuro in Peru local people use rotten black caiman meat to trap tortoises. If the caiman is to survive, sustainable exploitation programmes must be introduced. The last meeting of the Parties to CITES approved Ecuador's proposal to start a ranching programme for black caiman, which may serve as a model for other Amazonian countries.

Source: Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter, 14 (2), 4–5.

Crocodiles in Venezuela

Between 1990 and 1994, 1066 captive-raised, 1–4 year-old, Orinoco crocodiles *Crocodylus intermedius* were released at seven localities in Venezuela including Cano Guaritico Wildlife Refuge and Santos Luzardo National Park. Regular monitoring has confirmed that many of the released animals survive and appear to enter the population, although some migrate long distances away from the release sites and out of the protected areas. Some problems have been experienced: some rural people have killed crocodiles because they are perceived to damage fisheries and in one area the programme suffered as the result of general political upheaval when the project facilities became the target of vandalism.

Source: Re-introduction News, No. 10, 1995, 15–16.

Suriname's forests threatened

Suriname may be about to give up more than a quarter of its territory to Asian timber businesses. The country is in financial crisis, with 500 per cent inflation and no foreign exchange reserves. The

majority of Suriname's people live on the coast but the forests of the interior are home to at least five Amerindian groups and five 'maroon' tribes (descendants of escaped African slaves). The ancestral homes of the Ndjuka and Paramaka maroons and Mayana Indians may be the first lands sacrificed to fulfil foreign timber contracts but the 10,000 members of these groups have indicated that they are prepared to defend their land from seizure – again. In 1992, after a prolonged civil war, the Suriname Government signed a peace accord that promised recognition and demarcation of tribal lands – a promise it never kept. *Source: World Watch, May/June 1995, 6.*

A new park for Brazil

The Rio Negro State Park was decreed by the Governor of the State of Amazonas, Brazil, in April. It is located on both sides of the Rio Negro, north-west of Manaus and covers 436,042 ha. Two Environmental Protection Areas (EPAs) were created around the State Park to serve as buffer zones: Left Bank of the Rio Negro (740,757 ha) and Right Bank of the Rio Negro (554,334 ha). The new protected areas are contiguous with existing protected areas and the complex covers a total of 3,056,060 ha with a further 1,259,091 ha of EPAs, the second largest continuous area of parks and reserves in the Amazon Basin and the entire South American continent. *Source: Neotropical Primates, 3 (2), 53–54.*

Brazil's largest green turtle nesting ground

Fieldwork since 1982 has confirmed that the island of

Trindade is the main nesting ground for green turtle *Chelonia mydas* in Brazil. The island has some 1800 nests per year on 3 km of sandy beaches. Since April 1994 a permanent staff has been maintained on the island to patrol beaches, tag and measure nesting females and estimate hatching success as part of Brazil's National Marine Turtle Protection and Research Programme. *Source: Marine Turtle Newsletter, No. 70, 1995, 2.*

A first for the golden conure

A golden conure *Aratinga guarouba* hatched at Sorocaba Zoo in São Paulo State in Brazil offers hope for this endangered macaw. It is the first time that the species has been bred in a zoo. However, the birds continue to be captured illegally – sometimes traders are caught with 30–40 chicks at a time. Specimens fetch around \$500 on the black market in Brazil and birds smuggled out of the country sell for up to \$1800. *Source: New Scientist, 1 July 1995, 11.*

Lone macaw gets a mate

A female Spix's macaw *Cyanopsitta spixii*, donated from a captive collection, was released in March to join the only Spix's macaw, a male, left in the wild, in northern Brazil. The release followed months of careful research and preparation by the Spix's Macaw Recovery Committee led by the Brazilian wildlife authority IBAMA and is part of a strategy for the survival of the species, which includes protection of the wild birds and management of the 30 or so in captivity. *Source: World Birdwatch, 17 (2), 4.*

Bridge the gap for primates

A pole bridge built 6 m above a road where endangered primates had been observed to be crossing regularly has proved to be an effective way to protect them from collisions with vehicles. As soon as it was built, in the Fazenda Rio Claro in São Paulo State, Brazil, black lion tamarins *Leontopithecus chrysopygus* and capuchins *Cebus apella* started to use it. *Source: Neotropical Primates, 3 (1), 13–15.*

New nighthawk...

A new species of nighthawk has been discovered in Bahia state, Brazil. A group of five to six individuals were seen in dry *caatinga* vegetation at Manga, close to the village of Queimadas on the left bank of the Rio São Francisco. The species has been named *Chordeiles vielliardi*, after the ornithologist Jaques Vielliard. *Source: World Birdwatch, 17 (2), 2.*

... and a new owl

A new pygmy-owl *Glaucidium parkeri*, named in honour of the late Theodore A. Parker III, has been described from humid subtropical forest up to 1975 m on the eastern side of the Andes in Ecuador. *Source: World Birdwatch, 17 (2), 2.*

AUSTRALASIA/ ANTARCTICA

Flood of banned medicines

Medicines derived from endangered species are flooding into Australia and New Zealand despite regular seizures by Customs officials. The products, whose trade is banned under the Convention

on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), are openly sold in Asian communities in both countries according to a TRAFFIC covert survey. Two-thirds of 119 outlets visited by a Cantonese-speaking undercover agent in Australia sold products claimed to contain extracts from animals protected under CITES and of 30 premises visited in New Zealand, half sold illegal products. Between July 1991 and March 1995 Customs authorities in Australia seized 42,917 items containing extracts from endangered species. TRAFFIC says the law must be changed so that anybody found with these products must prove that they did not know the products were illegal: at present people can claim innocence and escape charges.

Source: *New Scientist*, 17 June 1995, 6.

Woodchipping in Australia

Large areas of old-growth forest in Tasmania and Victoria, Australia, previously earmarked for conservation have been released for wood-chipping. The federal government announced in March that it would protect 264 'coupes' averaging 40–50 ha each from an original list of 500. Most of the protected areas are in New South Wales, where the new Labour state government has taken a strong stand on protecting the remaining forests. The areas released for wood-chipping to supply Japan's pulp and paper mills include the East Gippsland forest of eastern Victoria and many areas in Tasmania, which have been identified as having World Heritage value.

Source: *Forest & Bird*, May 1995, 11.

Rats by other names

In order to enhance the effectiveness of fund-raising for conservation of endangered rodents in Australia, scientists with the government's Division of Wildlife and Ecology have compiled a list of original Aboriginal names of the country's 55 surviving native rodents. The Aboriginal names are far more attractive, say the scientists: the false water rat is known as the *yirrkoo* and the long-haired rat as the *mayaroo*. Seven Australian rodents have become extinct since European settlers arrived and another 12 are endangered or vulnerable. Many are threatened by live-stock trampling or introduced predators, and rodents are often poisoned when they eat bait laid for foxes. The Australian public has a very poor knowledge of native rodents, which they wrongly blame for destroying grain.

Source: *New Scientist*, 12 August 1995, 7.

Tuatara breeding programme

Brothers Island tuataras *Sphenodon guntheri* are being bred at the San Diego Zoo as part of a captive-breeding programme whose goal is to return captive-hatched individuals to New Zealand. The tuatara is one of the world's most primitive and endangered reptiles; it is estimated that there are only about 300 *S. guntheri* left in the wild, all on one small island.

Source: *Zoonooz*, June 1995, 22.

Rescue of an orchid

The trim leek orchid *Prasophyllum concinnum* in Tasmania, Australia, can be moved off the endangered species list, thanks to a

recovery plan by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

Seeds are now lodged with the National Botanical Gardens in Melbourne and the orchid itself has been located in three more regions. It is now known to occur in three protected areas – Labillardiere State Reserve on Bruny Island, South-West National Park; and a reserve near Mt Brown on the Tasman Peninsula. It will be downlisted to the category of 'rare'.

Source: Tasmanian Department of Tourism, 7 July 1995.

OCEANIA

Megapode move success

A transfer of eggs and chicks of the Niuafuou megapode *Megapodius pritchardii* from Niuafuou to Fonualei island in the Kingdom of Tonga seems to have been successful: an adult bird has been sighted on Fonualei. Once more widely distributed the megapode became restricted to Niuafuou where fewer than 1000 remain. Between March 1991 and April 1994, a total of 76 eggs and chicks were transferred to Fonualei.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 17 (2), 5.

Solomon islanders fight for forests

Local people on Pavuvu in the Solomon Islands armed themselves and marched into a Malaysian logging camp, blocking the site to prevent the delivery of machinery and then burning three bulldozers. Police later disarmed the men and arrested the leaders. Logging continues under police guard and some 3000 cu m of timber have already been shipped to Japan. The government has imposed a media

black out on Pavuvu while the burnings are investigated but there have been disturbing reports of police intimidation of suspects. Half of Pavuvu was taken from traditional owners in the 19th century and much of it handed over to Lever Brothers. Now only the interior of the island retains its original rain forest cover and the Solomon Islands Government plans to fell it for agricultural development. When the new Solomon Islands Government took office in November 1994 it was told that the country was logging at more than 10 times the sustainable rate. The Prime Minister's response included cutting the tax on unprocessed logs from 65 to 35 per cent and extending the deadline for the phase-out of large-scale logging from 1997 to 1999, by which time it is estimated that all loggable forest will have been fully exploited. The Prime Minister is a director of a logging exporting company and at least two of his ministers are or have been directors of logging companies. *Source: BBC Wildlife*, June 1995, 57.

PUBLICATIONS

International Journal of Batrachology

Alytes, founded in 1982 as the journal of the French Batrachological Society, has become the journal of the International Society for the Study and Conservation of Amphibians. It publishes original papers in any discipline dealing with amphibian biology and conservation. Papers are published in English, French or Spanish. Details from: ISSCA, Laboratoire des Reptiles et Amphibiens,

Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, 25 rue Cuvier, 75005, Paris, France.

Abstracts Journal 'Zoology'

An English-language version of the Russian *Abstracts Journal 'Zoology'* is to be published quarterly, with about 200 abstracts per issue. *Contact: Westarp Wissenschaften, Uhlichstrasse 6, 39108 Magdeburg, Germany. Tel/Fax: (0391) 3 56 20.*

Protected areas publication

Protecting Nature: Regional Reviews of Protected Areas, edited by J. A. McNeely, J. Harrison and P. Dingwall (IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK, ISBN 2 8317 0199 8, 402 pp.), is based on information provided at the IV World Parks Congress in Caracas, Venezuela in February 1992. The book is an extensive and authoritative review of the world's protected areas. It is the result of an exhaustive round of consultations, meetings, submissions and discussions held in many parts of the world and is packed with information and analysis.

Megapode action plan

Megapodes: An Action Plan for their Conservation 1995-1999 has been published by IUCN, Gland, Switzerland (ISBN 2 8317 0223 2, 41 pp. Compiled by René W. R. J. Dekker and Philip J. K. McGowan, it is one of three action plans to result from the Galliformes Conservation Assessment Workshop in Antwerp in 1993. *Partridges, Quails and Francolins* is in press and *Pheasants* will be published by the end of 1995.

NEW GROUPS

New Chinese Department of Conservation Biology

A new Department of Conservation Biology has been established in the Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica (Chinese Academy of Sciences), co-chaired by Dr Zhigang Jiang and Professor Yanglin Song. The department will focus on biodiversity conservation and *in situ* and *ex situ* preservation of threatened and endangered species in China. Currently faculty members are carrying out research on the preservation of brow-antlered deer *Cervus eldi hainanus* and wild-life trade in southern China. The department welcomes any initiatives and proposals to conduct co-operative studies on China's threatened species. *Contact: Dr Zhigang Jiang, Department of Conservation Biology, Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Beijing 100080, China.*

New research facility in Costa Rica

The Caribbean Conservation Corporation has completed construction of The John H. Phipps Biological Field Station on the northern Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Situated in a biological corridor connecting Tortuguero National Park and Barra del Colorado Wildlife Refuge, the field station offers excellent research opportunities. *Contact: Caribbean Conservation Corporation, PO Box 2866, Gainesville, FL 32602-2866. Fax: 904 375 2449.*

New tiger protection organizations

Wildlife activists in India have established two new Delhi-

based organizations to save the tiger:

Tiger Link, c/o Ranthambhore Foundation, 19 Kautilya Marg, New Delhi 110 021. Tel: +91 11 301 6261; Fax: +91 11 301 9457; e-mail: tiger.linking@axcross.net.in
Wildlife Protection Society of India, Thapar House, 124 Janpath, New Delhi 110 001. Tel: +91 11 332 0573; Fax: +91 11 332 7729.

PEOPLE

Keith Corbett, a British wildlife conservationist, has been awarded an Honorary Academic Doctors Degree by Göteborg University in Sweden for his efforts to protect species of amphibians and reptiles and their habitats.

Professor Grenville Lucas, FFI Vice-President and one of the world's leading plant conservationists, retired as Keeper of Kew Herbarium at the end of July. He is taking up a new post at Kew as Head of the newly created Information Services Department.

George B. Schaller, Director of Wildlife Conservation International, has been awarded UNEP's Global 500 Roll of Honour. Schaller and his staff have helped establish more than 50 wildlife reserves around the world.

DEATHS

Christopher Cadbury CBE, wildlife conservationist and long-time supporter of FFI, died on 25 June, aged 86. He was instrumental in setting up

the county-based nature conservation trusts in the UK and was President of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation from 1962 to 1988. He had a special skill in saving areas of special conservation interest and through his charitable trusts was able to provide the seed money for their purchase. There are 50 important UK sites that owe their reserve status to his direct action as well as Aride Island in the Seychelles. He was appointed CBE in 1975 for his contribution to the conservation of wildlife; other honours included the Golden Ark Award from Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

MEETINGS

12th OKOMEDIA International Ecological Film Festival. 8–12 November 1995, Freiburg, Germany. *Contact:* OKOMEDIA Institute, Angela Lüthje, Habsburger Str. 9a, 79104 Freiburg. Tel: +49 761 52024; Fax: +49 761 555724; e-mail: oekomedia@gaia.cl.sub.de

The International Wildlife Film Festival. 17–19 November 1995, Lamotte-Beuvron, France. *Contact:* FIFFS, 18 Avenue de la République, F-41600, Lamotte Beuvron. Tel: +33 54 88 21 75; Fax: +33 54 88 57 52.

The Conservation of Wetlands in a North-South Perspective: the East-Atlantic Migration Route. 25–28 November 1995, Seville, Spain. *Contact:* Hilde Bigaré, FoE-Spain, San Bernardo 24 3^o, 28015 Madrid, Spain. Tel: +34 1 5233186; Fax: +34 1 5230915; e-mail: foespain@nodo.50.gn.apc.org

Primate Society of Great Britain Winter Meeting: Biology and Conservation of New World Primates. 29 November 1995, London, UK. *Contact:* Hilary O. Box, Department of Psychology, University of Reading, Reading, Berkshire RG6 2AL, UK. Tel: +44 1734 318523 ext. 6668; Fax: +44 1734 316604.

16th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. 27 February–2 March 1996, South Carolina, USA. *Contact:* Thelma Richardson, Symposium Secretary, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, USA. Fax: +1 706 542 6040.

48 Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission. 24–28 June 1996, Aberdeen, UK. *Contact:* IWC, The Red House, Station Road, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1223 233971; Fax: +44 (0)1223 232876.

Ethics, Development and Global Values. 25–28 June 1996, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. *Contact:* Nigel Dower, Development Ethics Conference (1996) Organizer, Departments of Philosophy and Politics and International Relations, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2UB, UK. Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1224 272369; e-mail: phl001@aberdeen.ac.uk

4th International Conference on Fertility Control for Wildlife Management. 8–11 July 1996, Great Keppel Island, Queensland, Australia. *Contact:* Fertility Control Conference, c/o ACTS, GPO Box 2200, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia. Fax: +61 6 257 3256.