

INTERNATIONAL

New World Heritage Sites

Four new natural sites have been added to the World Heritage List. Shirakami Mountains in northern Honshu, Japan, include the last undisturbed remnant of cool-temperate forest that once covered the mountain slopes of northern Japan. Yakushima, on Japan's Yaku Island, has a rich flora with a mixture of oriental and palaeartic elements and is famous for its ancient Japanese cedars. The Tubbataha Reef Marine Park, containing the most intact and diverse of the Philippines' remaining coral reefs, covers 33,200 ha. The El Vizcaino Whale Lagoon in Mexico's Baja peninsula contains major breeding and wintering sites for the grey whale, as well as protecting sea lions, elephant seals, marine turtles and wildfowl.

Source: *IUCN Bulletin*, 1994 (2), 29.

Global forum for tigers

Eleven of the 14 tiger range countries agreed in Delhi on 4 March to establish a Global Tiger Forum for co-operative efforts to save the tiger from extinction. The Forum aims to: eliminate the use of tiger bone and other derivatives in medicine; increase the protected area network; promote a comprehensive legal framework; provide necessary financial and infrastructural capabilities for effective conservation; implement eco-development around protected areas; promote training, scientific research and awareness building; set up mechanisms for the implementation of field programmes; elicit support from governments, inter-govern-

mental and non-governmental organizations and individuals; and promote bilateral co-operation among range states. A participatory trust fund is to be set up and efforts made to secure additional finance from the international community. All range states were asked to prepare National Action Plans for Tiger Conservation. The countries represented were Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. The other range countries – China, Laos and North Korea – were not represented.

Source: *Cat News*, 20, 2.

Another state for Ramsar

On 29 March 1994 Estonia deposited the signed ratification of the Ramsar Convention (on Wetlands of International Importance) with UNESCO, thus becoming the 81st Contracting Party when the Convention entered into force there on 29 July. Estonia has named Matsalu State Nature Reserve as its first Ramsar site. Matsalu was first designated a Ramsar site in 1976 by the former USSR; it has a rich flora, including 700 species of vascular plants and is an important bird nesting and migration staging site. It was reported in *Oryx* (28 [3], 149) that Turkey was the 81st Ramsar Party but, while Turkey has ratified the Convention, the signed instrument of ratification has not yet been deposited with UNESCO. Source: *International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau News*, July 1994, 2.

Agreement for migratory birds on the way

The long-awaited Agreement on the Conservation of African–Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

took an important step forward at the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Bonn Convention in Nairobi in June. Seventy-six of the 115 range states in the Africa–Eurasia region attended, giving unanimous support to the development of the Agreement. The final draft should be ready next year. The Agreement will cover Africa, Europe, parts of north-east Canada and eastern Asia, and will focus on 170 migratory waterbird species with an unfavourable conservation status that have so far been listed on Appendix II of the Bonn Convention. The Agreement will contain an Action Plan, to be updated every 3 years, describing the conservation actions to be undertaken to improve the status of the species covered.

Source: *International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau News*, July 1994, 1 & 3.

Wildlife trade with Taiwan banned

On 11 April the USA announced that it would restrict imports of wildlife products from Taiwan because that country had made insufficient progress in eliminating trade in products made from tigers and rhinos. At the same time the USA warned China that the situation there would be reviewed in December 1994. On 21 April Taiwan announced a \$US38 million programme to strengthen protection of endangered wildlife over the next 3 years – the funds will be used to combat smuggling of wildlife products.

Source: *Cat News*, 20, 2; *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XIX (3), 1 & 10.

Coral reef fishes review

The IUCN/SSC Coral Reef Fish

Specialist Group is preparing an overview of the global status of coral reef fishes and their habitat. Among the early findings are that coral reef fishes off the coasts of Gabon and Rio Muni in West Africa have very high levels of endemism: 28 of 42 species were endemic to this area. Also, although many species have broad Indo-Pacific geographic ranges, a considerable proportion are endemic to relatively small areas, putting them at risk from local or regional human impacts. *Source: Sea Wind*, 8 (1), 2–6.

Whale sanctuary

Almost the entire Southern Ocean was declared a whale sanctuary by the International Whaling Commission at its meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 23–27 May. The Southern Ocean is used by seven species of endangered whales. The boundaries of the sanctuary are 40°S except for dipping to 60°S around South America to alleviate concerns of national sovereignty and in the Indian Ocean, where it abuts the existing Indian Ocean Sanctuary. *Sources: The Pilot*, No. 10, 1–3; *Animal Welfare Quarterly*, 43 (2), 4–6.

Whaling procedure agreed

Over the last 5 years the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee has been working on the development of a new procedure to calculate allowable catches of whales – the Revised Management Procedure (RMP). This makes up part of the Revised Management Scheme (RMS) still being developed. A resolution at the IWC meeting in May acknowledged completion of work on the RMP and detailed

additional steps required to complete the RMS, which would be implemented only if the moratorium on commercial whaling were to be lifted. The IWC will meet in Dublin, Ireland, in 1995, when it will address the remaining elements of the RMS. *Source: The Pilot*, No. 10, 1–3.

Norway continues to whale and Iceland may rejoin IWC

On 7 June the Norwegian Government announced its plans to kill 301 minke whales, 189 for commercial purposes. This 1994 quota is an increase over the 296 of 1993, of which 226 were killed. In that year the US President did not impose trade sanctions, as he is empowered to do under US law, for the violation of the moratorium, deciding instead to rely on 'good faith efforts to persuade Norway to follow agreed conservation measures'. Iceland is reported to want to resume commercial whaling in 1995 but faces an obstacle in that the UN Law of the Sea requires countries to whale only in collaboration with the appropriate international agency. Iceland left the IWC in 1992 in protest over the moratorium on commercial whaling so now Iceland's foreign minister is calling for Iceland to rejoin the IWC.

Sources: Animal Welfare Quarterly, 43 (2), 4; *The Pilot*, No. 10, 1–3; *New Scientist*, 25 June 1994, 11.

EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

Bear population plummets

The bears of the Kamchatka peninsula, which numbered 15,000–20,000 individuals at the

start of the 1960s, have been hunted regularly as trophies – many hunters killed 10–12 a year in the past. The government regional hunting department issued licenses for a small fee and, in contrast with other areas, allowed hunters to kill bears as they emerge from hibernation. Since the region opened up in the 1990s, businessmen and tourists have also hunted bears, often from helicopters. A scientist at Kronotsky Nature Reserve says that in the past 3 years more than 5000 bears have been killed illegally, half the estimated population. Some skins go to western Europe, others to Korea and Japan. Gall bladders fetch high prices: in Japan they are the ingredient of a preparation claimed to increase male potency.

Source: Animal Welfare Quarterly, 43 (2), 10.

Siberian tiger hit heavily by poachers

The Amur or Siberian tiger *Panthera tigris altaica* in the Russian Far East was hit hard by poachers in the winter of 1993–94. Russian authorities estimate that they may have lost 20–25 per cent of the population between November and March, leaving current numbers as low as 150–200. The Russian Government launched a new antipoaching campaign – Operation Amba – at a ceremonial burning of confiscated tiger skins and bones in Ussurisk in Primorsky Territory. Funding from two foreign conservation groups has enabled rangers' salaries to be increased and the purchase of new uniforms and vehicles, but funds for fuel and radios are still short. Amba officers were recruited from the park ranger service and the military. They will operate on two

fronts: patrolling poaching problem areas and conducting investigations in cities and border areas where wildlife smugglers are known to operate.

Source: *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XIX (3), 8–9.

New parks for Estonia

Estonia has established three new national parks. The Suomaa National Park (360 sq km) in the south-east is a mix of wetlands and woodland; the Karula National Park (100 sq km) in the north protects an upland area with numerous lakes and forests; and Vilsandi National Park (80 sq km) on the west coast includes a number of islets and the western part of the island of Saaremaa.

Source: *Nature and National Parks*, 32 (120), 35.

European mink decline in Belarussia

The European mink *Mustela lutreola* is declining rapidly in north-east Belarussia, according to a survey carried out in 1993 on nine rivers in the Tver region, which is considered to be the centre of the species's current range. All the lengths of rivers surveyed (200 km) are relatively undisturbed and in areas sparsely populated by humans. Mink densities ranged from one individual per 20 km to two individuals per 10 km of river bank, compared with 4–10 individuals per 10 km of bank in a relatively stable population before 1989. American mink were found in the area and appear to be part cause of the declines.

Source: *Small Carnivore Conservation*, April 1994, 10–11.

Wolves spread

Wolves appear to have re-established in Sweden and Norway.

There are now 20–25 individuals in the two countries. The first proved breeding south of Sweden's Arctic Circle, after a century's absence, was in 1983. There now appear to be three separate wolf packs and several lone individuals.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, June 1994, 60.

Native woodlands 'discovered' in Scotland

The 'discovery' of 27,000 ha of native woodlands during a Forestry Commission survey in the Highlands has increased the size of Scotland's native forests by 35 per cent.

According to the new figures, there are at least 104,876 ha of genuinely native woodlands in the Highlands. However, these last remnants of the boreal forest that once blanketed the region cover only 2 per cent now and are suffering from browsing by deer, sheep and cattle. Because of this few show signs of regeneration and the 19th-century plantations of Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* are often of greater conservation value.

Source: *New Scientist*, 6 August 1994, 4.

Pollution affects whelks in North Sea

A study of whelks *Buccinum undatum* from the open North Sea found imposex in some of the females; 20 years ago whelks from the same area did not show signs of the condition, in which female gastropods develop male primary sexual characteristics. Some years ago exposure to tributyltin (TBT) was found to cause the condition in dogwhelks in intertidal waters and as a result antifouling paints containing the chemical compound were banned on boats smaller than 25 m. Larger vessels had been exempt be-

cause of the low levels of TBT in offshore waters but this might have to be reconsidered because in this latest study the frequency of imposex was found to increase with shipping intensity in the open sea.

Source: *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 28 (5), 311–313.

Plans to relieve pressure on Europe's fish

In an attempt to remedy current overexploitation of stocks, overcapacity of the fleet and the marketing problems associated with the fishing industry, the European Community has created a new fund, the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance. Aid will be given for permanent withdrawals of the fleet, creation of joint ventures, modernization of vessels and equipment for improved fishing techniques, and for research into and expansion of aquaculture. The measures are intended to help relieve the pressure on declining fish populations in Europe's waters and to boost the industry's economy.

Source: *The European Community and the Fishing Industry – A Practical Guide to Structural Aid*, 1994.

Massive seabird strandings on North Sea coasts

Around 70,000 seabirds were washed up on the North Sea coasts of Shetland, Orkney, Scotland and England as far south as the Thames estuary in February. Dead seabirds, mostly juveniles, are regularly washed ashore in winter but this year the numbers were an order of magnitude greater and involved adults and juveniles, all showing signs of death by starvation. While the cause is not known for sure, environmental groups fear that over-



Prime habitat of the sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* – a species that is declining in the UK – was threatened by golf course construction in southern England (Joe Blossom/ICCE).

fishing, particularly of sprats and sand eels, may be creating problems, not only for birds, but for predatory fish.

Source: *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 28 (6), 342.

Fined for destroying sand-lizard site

A Japanese company – the London Kosaido Company – which ignored a planning refusal in 1993 and started work to extend its Old Thorns golf course in West Sussex, UK, across 120 ha of Weavers Down Common – a prime sand-lizard *Lacerta agilis* habitat and proposed Site of Special Scientific Interest, has been fined £4000 and ordered to pay £2000 costs to the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals, which brought the prosecution.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, August 1994, 56.

New protected wetland site in UK

Sixteen meres and mosses across the north-west Midlands of the UK have been collec-

tively designated a Ramsar site. They cover more than 500 ha in the counties of Cheshire, Staffordshire and Shropshire and are important for aquatic plants and insects. This designation is the first part of a two-stage programme to list more than 30 Midland mere and moss Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) as a Ramsar site: the second group should be designated in 1995. Whixall Moss SSSI in Shropshire has also been designated a national nature reserve.

Source: *English Nature*, July 1994, 2.

France seeks bears

France has asked Slovenia for three or four brown bears *Ursus arctos* to boost its threatened Pyrenean population of about eight individuals, despite the fact that a study found that Swedish bears would be closer genetically (see *Oryx*, 28 [3], 152). The French environment minister said transporting bears from Slovenia would be easier.

Source: *New Scientist*, 9 July 1994, 13.

Spanish steppe protection

The Spanish Government has announced that it will designate a national park at Los Monegros in the Ebro Valley, Aragon Province in 1995. It will be the first steppe national park in the country and will protect the last population of the great bustard *Otis tarda* in Aragon as well as other steppe birds.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 16 (2), 2.

Four more prospective parks for Spain

Spain's Instituto Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ICONA) has selected four areas as national Parks: Roque Nublo on the island of Gran Canaria, Monfragüe in Extremadura, Cabañeros in Castilla-La Mancha, and the Picos de Europa, a mountain range in the north. The process of declaration, however, could take some years.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, July 1994, 60.

AFRICA

Rhino numbers update

More than 9000 rhinos survive in Africa according to a report of a meeting in May of the African Rhino Specialist Group of IUCN/SSC. Black rhino numbers were estimated at 2550 and white rhinos at 6750. Black rhino numbers appear to have stabilized, indicating in part that the sanctuary/intensive protection zone strategy in use in most countries appears to be succeeding. White rhino numbers continue to rise, due mostly to vigorous growth of the southern white rhino populations in South Africa where 95 per cent of the species survives. Much of the meeting was



The last remaining population of the great bustard *Otis tarda* in Aragon Province, Spain, will benefit from a new national park at Los Monegros (D. Hinrichsen/ICCE).

devoted to developing an improved conservation programme for the northern white rhino – only 32 survive in the wild, all in Garamba National Park in Zaire, where poaching and other human pressures threaten them.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1994, 3.

African states unite to fight wildlife crime

Nine eastern and southern African states are establishing an organization to fight international wildlife crime in Africa – the Task Force for Co-operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. Participating countries will designate an existing national wildlife law enforcement agency as its 'National Bureau', each of which will send at least one officer to Task Force headquarters. Officers will be able to travel within the territories of countries that are part of the agreement in the course of

investigations but will not have powers of arrest. It is hoped that the initiative will help in the attempts to combat international wildlife smuggling syndicates – at present hampered by the inability of national law enforcement agencies to conduct effective cross-border investigations. Source: *African Wildlife Update*, May–June 1994, 1.

Lions succumb to distemper

An outbreak of canine distemper in Serengeti National Park in Tanzania has killed around

70 lions of a group of 250 that has been intensively studied for decades. Although dead or sick lions have been observed throughout the park, it is not known how many of the estimated 3000 lions that live there have been affected.

Examination of blood samples collected in 1985 from the same population found antibodies to canine distemper in some samples, indicating that the disease has been present for several years. Some scientists have suggested that the current epidemic has occurred because the population is at or near its all-time high and that it could



Canine distemper is killing lions in Serengeti National Park but it is expected that the population, which is at an all-time high, will recover losses in a few years (Norman Myers).

recover from its losses in a few years.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1994, 3.

Human conflict threatens wildlife in Sierra Leone sanctuary

Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary in southern Sierra Leone is probably under serious threat. In 1982 the island was developed as a wildlife conservation area, an ecological research site and a site for ecotourism through collaboration between local communities, Sierra Leonean and American universities and the Forestry Division of the Sierra Leone Government. In 1991 fighting and instability resulting from the incursion of rebel forces engaged in Liberia's civil war forced researchers and US Peace Corps volunteers to leave and by May 1994 most residents in the area, including the two Paramount Chiefs who had supported the project, had moved to the relative safety of nearby towns. Reports have been received of soldiers hunting monkeys in Tiwai – the sanctuary has exceptionally high densities and diversity of rain-forest primates – and much wildlife is probably at risk because most domestic animals in this part of Sierra Leone were killed and eaten early in the fighting.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1994, 2.

Ivory seizure in Zambia

In August Zambian authorities seized 216 elephant tusks and arrested the Zambian army officers who had transported the ivory from the west of the country to the capital, Lusaka, under a lorry-load of beef. A Lusaka businessman who had

bought the tusks was also arrested. The ivory came from Angola, where the war has taken a heavy toll on the country's wildlife.

Source: *New Scientist*, 6 August 1994, 11.

Zimbabwe elephant move ended

The Gonarezhou elephant capture and translocation exercise in Zimbabwe ended in December 1993, with 657 animals being moved to new homes in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Twelve elephants died during the exercise.

Source: *Zimbabwe Wildlife*, April–June 1994, 7.

Santa Lucia Wetland Reserve

The parks board in Natal Province, South Africa, is in the process of creating the country's third largest nature reserve – the Greater Santa Lucia Wetland Reserve. It will combine the existing Santa Lucia and Maputaland marine reserves, Sodwana State Forest and Mziki Game Reserve, eventually linking with the Maputo Elephant Reserve in southern Mozambique. It will protect grassland savannahs, coral reefs, coastal dunes and extensive wetlands.

Source: *Wildlife Conservation*, May/June 1994, 8.

Collecting threat to strawberry everlasting

Many species of the South African fynbos flora are harvested for the dried-flower trade, including the strawberry everlasting *Syncarpha eximia*, a medium-sized shrub whose young flowerheads resemble clusters of strawberries. It grows on south-facing slopes of the mountains of the southern

Cape. In 1988 approximately 50,000 stems of this species were harvested compared with 1000–1500 in 1993, possibly indicating a serious decline in populations. Research is needed to investigate whether the harvest is putting the species at risk and what levels and methods of commercial harvest should be allowed.

Source: *Veld and Flora*, June 1994, 53–55.

Smallest known moss reappears

The world's smallest moss, the Cape pygmy moss *Ephemerum capensi*, has been rediscovered in Lesotho in southern Africa. Only slightly larger than a pin-head, it was first found in samples of South African soil in the 1950s but the precise source of these was not known. A team of botanists has now found the moss in samples from flower-beds of the botanical gardens at the National University of Lesotho and more in the wild. The best place to find the moss is bare soil left uncultivated, but the soil needs to be moist for at least 2 months for the plants to establish.

Source: *New Scientist*, 30 July 1994, 13.

Cape fur seals die – cause unknown

There has been a mass mortality among Cape fur seals *Arctocephalus pusillus* in Namibia this year. Some 100,000 of 200,000 pups born in late 1993 died and the survivors are very underweight. Thousands of adults have also died. Tests are being conducted to discover if the mortality is associated with a morbillivirus.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, August 1994, 55.

Kruger elephant translocation update

The translocation of elephants from Kruger National Park to other reserves in South Africa ended in May. A total of 145 elephants were translocated as intact family units and an additional 95 juveniles were sold to buyers who did not want adults. Seven died during the translocation effort. As a result of the translocations and the deaths of 51 elephants from encephalomyocarditis, the 1994 culling quota for Kruger was reduced. In previous years some young elephants had been moved to other areas but adult translocations were made possible by a new technique developed by a team in Zimbabwe, which led the Kruger exercise.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, May–June 1994, 5; July–August 1994, 8.

Oil spill kills penguins

Nearly 10,000 jackass penguins *Spheniscus demersus* were rescued after an oil-spill off Cape Town in mid-June. About 7400 received veterinary care at a facility run by the South African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds and were to be released when restored to health. Some 2200 penguins died soon after capture, due to stress, ingestion of oil, infections and respiratory malfunction. The apparent source of the oil was the Apollo Sea, which was carrying 2500 tons of heavy fuel oil when it sank on 20 June between Dassen and Robben Islands, killing all 36 crew. The spill occurred during the main nesting season and most eggs and chicks were lost. Dassen Island and Robben Island supported about 39,000 adult penguins – 22.5 per cent of the

world population. About 50 penguins were also rescued at remote Vondeling Island, north of Dassen, but rough seas prevented further collections.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, July–August 1994, 1.

Madagascar serpent eagle captured and released

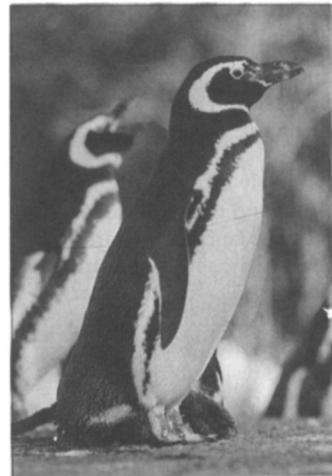
Biologists working for the Peregrine Fund in north-east Madagascar captured, ringed and released a Madagascar serpent eagle *Eutriorchis astur* on 14 January. A transmitter was attached to the bird to enable scientists to track its movements. The last known capture was in 1930, when a bird was killed by a collector for a Paris museum. Nothing was known about the behaviour or biology of the species but now at least it is known what calls it makes.

The serpent eagle is one of the many species likely to benefit from the integrated conservation and development project on the Masoala peninsula, which aims to create a 300,000-ha national park and provide sustainable alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, May–June 1994, 8.

Seychelles moves to stop turtle-shell trade

In July 1994 the Seychelles Government started to buy existing local turtle-shell stocks from artisans. This is the most recent stage in a programme launched in 1992 to phase out the trade gradually, providing artisans with alternative occupations and compensation. The artisans have 6 months to clear existing stocks and then a new law will ban disturbing, catching, injuring and killing sea turtles as well as trading, selling or purchasing shell or eggs. Working with turtle shell is a



Thousands of jackass penguins *Spheniscus demersus* were rescued after an oil spill off Cape Town, South Africa, in June (Mark Boulton/ICCE).

traditional activity in the Seychelles and, although a Party to CITES, which bans the international trade in turtle-shell, craftsmen continued to use the shell, selling the products to tourists who exported it illegally.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Planning and Environment, Republic of Seychelles.

Inaccessible Island becomes a reserve

The Island Council and Administrator of Tristan da Cunha have decided to declare Inaccessible Island a nature reserve. It is one of the three main islands in the Tristan da Cunha archipelago in the South Atlantic and is globally important for its many endemic terrestrial species and as a breeding site for seabirds. Millions of seabirds of at least 16 species breed there, including the northernmost population of wandering albatross *Diomedea exulans*. The island is

also the only breeding site for the spectacled form of white-chinned petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*. The Inaccessible Island rail *Atlantisia rogersi*, the world's smallest flightless bird, is entirely restricted to the island and there are three other endemic land birds shared with other islands in the group. The island is also home to a large number of endemic plants and invertebrates. There are no human residents, no introduced species and only a few introduced plants and invertebrates. Tristan islanders will retain the right to collect driftwood and guano but other access will be restricted and all living resources protected. With Gough Island already a reserve, 44 per cent of Tristan's land area is now set aside for conservation.

Source: Peter G. Ryan, Tristan Conservation Officer.

ASIA (EXCLUDING INDO-MALAYA)

Siberian crane numbers high at Poyang Lake

On 6 December 1993, 2877 Siberian cranes *Grus leucogeranus* were counted at Poyang Lake Nature Reserve in China: the high numbers were probably due to the fact that a year previously the reserve gained control over two of its most important wetlands and was able to retain ample water. In the past the wetlands have been drained rapidly to catch the fish. Substantial habitat-improvement work is also going on at East Dongting Lake Nature Reserve, the only other site where Siberian cranes (38 in 1993/94) winter.

Source: *The ICF Bugle*, May 1994, 6.

Restoring a wetland

Cao Hai Nature Reserve in China's south-western Guizhou Province is one of the most important wintering areas for the endangered black-necked crane *Grus nigricollis*. About 400 of these birds winter there along with tens of thousands of other waterbirds. Severe ecological damage has occurred there as a result of human activity and a new scheme has been introduced to restore the reserve and meet the needs of the villages around it. Grants are being given to small groups of people to start businesses compatible with conservation and these are administered by the director of the reserve, in co-operation with other local agencies. Later the International Crane Foundation and Chinese conservation agencies will be contributing funds to create a Community Trust Fund for each village, which will provide long-term support for villagers setting up businesses in the form of repayable loans.

Source: *The ICF Bugle*, May 1994, 1 & 4-5.

South Korea prohibits sale of tiger bones

South Korea's Ministry of Environment has announced that the sale of tiger bone will be prohibited from November and a ban on the sale of tiger-bone derivatives will be effected in March 1995.

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14 (3), 83.

New bird reserve in Japan

The Wild Bird Society of Japan has bought one of the most important areas for wildlife in Hokkaido for a reserve. The 365-ha marsh is one of the last breeding sites in the country for the globally threatened red-

crowned crane *Grus japonensis*, estimated to have a world population of 1650-1800.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 16 (2), 3.

Can the Iryomote bats be saved?

An agricultural development project on the small island of Iryomote, in Okinawa, Japan, threatens internationally important populations of two endangered bat species - a horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus imaizumii*, and a leafnosed bat, *Hipposideros turpis*. The plans involve clearing the bats' forest feeding sites near their roosting and breeding caves. After protests from a Japanese Diet member and a small team of biologists and lawyers, the Okinawa Prefectural Government, which is concerned that publicity about the plight of the bats might jeopardize local co-operation between farmers, environmental groups and government, is proposing to retain the caves and 13.7 ha of land in the eastern part of the island that was earmarked for development. Development in the western part of the island is being delayed until research on the flight paths of the bats is completed in 1995.

Source: *Bat News*, No. 4, July 1994, 4-5.

INDO-MALAYA

Gazelle sanctuary saved

When the Gujarat Government in India denotified the Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary, reducing its area from 765.79 to 94.87 sq km in order to lease out land for mining and other commercial ventures, it was challenged in the Gujarat High Court by conservation groups. On 10 December 1993 the judge

ordered that the sanctuary should retain its original area. The chinkara or Indian gazelle *Gazella bennetti*, which the sanctuary protects, is not in as desperate situation as the original report suggested (see *Oryx*, 28 [3], 156). Although only about 1300 survive in Gujarat, the species is still widespread in Rajasthan and in protected areas in central India.

Source: *Gnusletter*, 13 (1 & 2), 18.

Rajasthan park devastated by quarrying

Large areas of Sariska National Park in Rajasthan, India, have lost their tree cover and been turned into a waste of rubble due to more than 400 illegal quarries in the heart of the park where blasting takes place for marble, dolomite and limestone. In the early 1980s, when Rajasthan decided to ignore both state and national conservation laws and allow quarrying, there were 40 tigers. In 1992 the official estimate was 22 – the reality may be far worse. The tribal people of Sariska say they no longer see or hear tigers and report that forest officials preserve tiger pugmarks with plaster of paris and ‘forge’ them for tourists. In 1991 a campaign by local people resulted in the Indian Supreme Court ruling that quarrying contravened several laws and must cease immediately. In response, the quarry owners introduced round-the-clock working, the state government issued more licences and environmental activists have been threatened. Despite continuing protests, many quarries are still in operation and campaign leaders have almost given up hope of Indian government action.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, August 1994, 56.

Plea for civet farming to be legalized

Small Indian civets *Viverricula indica* are kept in cages in many households in parts of Kerala State in southern India in order to collect ‘civetone’, which is produced by the animal’s anal glands. The substance is sold to Ayurvedic physicians for medicinal use. Currently about 250 households hold about 500 civets in captivity but the practice is illegal and the animals are kept in secret and without veterinary care. Mortality is quite high and animals are replaced from the wild (they are not known to breed in captivity). The civet population is also declining through habitat loss and the Conservation of Nature Trust thinks that one way to save the civet would be to make civet farming legal, registering civet farmers and making welfare and veterinary care available.

Source: *Small Carnivore Conservation*, April 1994, 13.

Southern extension of macaque range

The stump-tailed macaque *Macaca arctoides* has been recorded in Mata Ayer Forest Reserve, Perlis – the first confirmed sighting in Peninsular Malaysia for 20 years and represents the most southerly limit of the species’s range. The forest adjoins Thaleban National Park in Thailand where the species is nearing extinction.

Source: *The Malayan Nature Journal*, 467 (3), 319–320.

New Biodiversity Foundation

The Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation was established in Jakarta on 10 January. It will be largely independent of both the Indonesian and US

Governments (the US has committed \$20 million to setting it up) and will be directed by a seven-member international board headed by Indonesian citizens. The primary function of the foundation will be to make grants for conservation work: it will set aside \$15 million in income-producing endowment funds and use the remaining \$5 million for the first 5 years of institutional development.

Source: *Conservation Biology*, March 1994, 15.

Spratly Islands: a way out of a dilemma?

The Spratly Islands, a system of several hundred coral reefs in the South China Sea, are breeding grounds for sea turtles, birds, marine mammals and fish. Strategic concerns and the possibility of hydrocarbon deposits have led the Philippines, Taiwan, China, Vietnam and Malaysia – all of which claim all or part of the islands – to station troops in the area, resulting in violent confrontations and environmental damage. If instead the islands were declared an international marine park, it could generate \$US1 billion annually from tourism and could safeguard substantial populations of tens of thousands of species and help ensure a steady supply of recruits to regional fisheries.

Source: *Ambio*, 23 (3), 181–186.

New tree kangaroo

A black-and-white kangaroo – called *bondegezou* by local people – discovered in the Maokop mountain range of New Guinea in June, is puzzling scientists. It has characteristics typical of both arboreal and ground-dwelling kangaroos. Tim Flannery of the Australian Museum in Sydney,

who led the Australian/Indonesian expedition of discovery to Irian Jaya, the Indonesian part of New Guinea, thinks the animal is a tenth species of tree kangaroo because it has broad, flat feet suited to tree-climbing, legs of equal length and a skull that more closely resembles *Dendrolagus* species than ground-dwelling kangaroos. However, it lacks some of the features typical of tree kangaroos, especially the long tail needed for balancing. Reports from local people indicate that it is a poor climber and spends most of its time on the ground. It weighs about 15 kg and is 1.2 m tall. Its apparent lack of fear makes it easy prey for hunters. *Source: New Scientist*, 30 July 1994, 8.

NORTH AMERICA

Lichens a key

The epiphytic lichens in British Columbia's old-growth coniferous forests may hold a key role in the current debate over the future allocation of unprotected land into the province's park system. The government wants to expand the protected area from 6 to 12 per cent by the year 2000 and the future of hundreds of protected area proposals await decision. Conservationists, loggers, miners and the general public are all struggling to substantiate their points of view. However, recent studies on the colonization of lichens using a Revised Index of Ecological Continuity have revealed evidence of links between stand age and lichen abundance and diversity. It is hoped that the index will prove reliable enough to act as an indication of forest continuity and may

allow a standard method of decision making to be established. *Source: Nature Canada*, Summer 1994, 14–21.

US threatened species list additions

Sixty-six plant and animal taxa were added to the US List of Threatened and Endangered Species in February and March 1994. They include 56 Hawaiian plants, the tidewater goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi* and Hungerford's crawling water beetle *Brychius hungerfordi*. The goby is a small fish endemic to the freshest of the brackish water habitats in coastal lagoons along the California coast, where development has eliminated it from nearly half the lagoons it once inhabited. The beetle is found in low numbers in two Michigan streams and a river in Ontario in Canada.

Source: Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, XIX (3), 18–19.

Bald eagle success

The national bird of the US – the bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* – is to be reclassified to 'threatened' from 'endangered' because of the species's recovery. Since the late 1980s the eagle's breeding population has doubled in the lower 48 states to 4000 breeding pairs. The key to the eagle's resurgence was the banning of DDT in 1972. Toxic residues have dropped markedly in most bald eagles and it is unusual to find a carcass carrying a lethal dose. One eagle population merits remaining as endangered: the south-western population has only about 30 pairs, most of them along Arizona's desert rivers, and DDE is still found in their tissues, a reminder that enormous amounts of DDT

were used in Arizona to treat cotton, a crop not subject to the same spraying restrictions applied to fruit and vegetables. *Source: Audubon*, July–August 1994, 36–40.

Wolves to be released in Yellowstone

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended that about 100 grey wolves from Canada be released in Yellowstone National Park and national forests in central Idaho. The proposal is to introduce 'experimental populations' of wolves into the two areas by 2002. The animals would be controlled to 10 breeding pairs (about 100 wolves) per area. By labelling the populations experimental, wildlife managers would be able to kill or harass wolves preying on livestock or threatened wildlife. The proposal also encourages private conservation groups to compensate landowners who suffer losses to wolves. There is a third wolf reintroduction area in north-west Montana but wolves are already moving naturally there from Canada and about five packs are present. This 'natural' population is protected totally under the Endangered Species Act.

Source: Outdoor News Bulletin, 20 May 1994, 1.

Another condor death

Yet another endangered California condor *Gymnogyps californianus* has fallen prey to human hazards. The bird, a 14-month-old male, one of five released last December, died after flying into a power line, a fate that has befallen three other birds since reintroduction started in 1992. As a result of the earlier deaths the birds had been moved to remote Lion

Canyon in southern California but young condors can travel long distances and the latest casualty met its death in the town of El Camino Cielo, 40 km away.

Source: *New Scientist*, 9 July 1994, 13.

First fly listed

The Delhi Sands flower-loving fly *Rhapiomidas terminatus abdominalis* from southern California, is the first fly to enter the US endangered species list. Its habitat has been reduced in recent years by 97 per cent to little more than 200 ha. With eyes that change colour with reflected light, it has been popular with collectors. A closely related taxon, the El Segundo flower-loving fly, vanished in the early 1960s. Source: *Wildlife Conservation*, July–August 1994, 10.

Whales tagged

Scientists from Oregon State University and Cornell University are attaching electronic tags to blue whales *Balaenoptera musculus* off the coast of California so that they can track their movements by satellite. It is hoped that the tracking information will discover if whales communicate along the Sofar channel – a region of the deep ocean where low-frequency sounds travel particularly well – and if they avoid low-frequency sounds from ships and seismic disturbance. The research should give a clearer idea of the probable impact on whales of controversial plans to measure the temperature of the oceans by creating loud explosions on the California coast.

Source: *New Scientist*, 6 August 1994, 18.

Endangered palm: one in the wild; 22 in cultivation

Only one individual of the endemic Hawaiian palm *Pritchardia muroi* survives in the wild, on the island of Molokai. It is the same plant used to describe the species in 1921 and is now surrounded by a wire enclosure to prevent further damage by pigs, goats and deer. An expedition in 1975 collected seeds, which were sent to 16 institutions in various parts of the world and to the Palm Society Seed Bank for distribution to its members. A recent survey has found that there are now 17 plants of *P. muroi* from the 1975 seeds in cultivation and five more from subsequent collections.

Source: *Botanic Gardens Conservation News*, 2 (3), 28.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Sustainable development project threatened by logging

A plan to create a model of sustainable development along the Nicaraguan–Costa Rica border – the *Si-a-paz* (yes-to-peace) project is threatened. It was launched in 1988 and was intended to combine conservation of the area's tropical forests with forms of cultivation and timber extraction that did not deplete forest resources. However, settlers have poured into the region and cleared forests for agriculture in the buffer zone while officials in Nicaragua's department of the environment have suggested that a major logging concession inside the project area be granted to a Korean timber company. Other logging proposals are under consideration. Ninety per cent of Si-a-

paz's 12,700 sq km lie in Nicaragua with the Indio-Maiz Biological Reserve, a 2500-sq-km rain forest, at its heart. The rural development organization CIPRES is promoting better land husbandry in the settled areas and trying to prevent farmers moving deeper into the buffer zone but, if the logging concessions are granted, the trust of the farmers would be betrayed. The logging proposals, which lack commitment to sustainable logging practices, are on such a large scale that there is not sufficient forest in the buffer zone to meet them and the core reserve would be at risk.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, June 1994, 58.

SOUTH AMERICA

Tenth anniversary of lion tamarin programme

The 31 May 1994 was the tenth anniversary of the reintroduction of the first captive-born golden lion tamarin *Leontopithecus rosalia* to Brazil's Atlantic forest. The multinational, multidisciplinary programme is a good example of interactive management of *ex-situ* and *in-situ* populations. Since its inception a 20 per cent increase of the known wild population has been recorded, with about 17 per cent of golden lion tamarins living in the forest being reintroduced, captive-born individuals and their descendants. The reintroduction programme has also resulted in a 38 per cent increase in protected forest area. Source: Jeremy Mallinson, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust.

More woolly spider-monkeys

In 1993 fewer than 2000 woolly spider-monkeys or muriquis *Brachyteles arachnoides* were believed to exist in 15 widely scattered localities but the results of several years' work on biological inventories has revealed their occurrence in a further 14 localities in the states of São Paulo, Paraná and Rio de Janeiro in south-eastern Brazil. The records for Paraná are the first for the state and extend the species's known distribution further south. A large forest tract in São Paulo state, represented by the Alto Ribeira Park, Fazenda Intervalles and the Carlos Botelho State Park, probably holds the largest population and is the most promising area for its long-term survival. There is a possibility of enlarging the already large protected area to 1800 sq km through the addition of several privately owned areas. *Source: Neotropical Primates*, 2 (2), 12–15.

Bird rediscovered after 161 years

Pelzeln's tody-tyrant *Hemitriccus inornatus* has been rediscovered in Brazil 161 years after the sole record of the species was made. The rediscovery was made in forest on the east bank of the Rio Negro and several other populations have now been found in the area. *Source: World Birdwatch*, 16 (2), 5.

Plea to save Brazilwood

Brazilwood, or pernambuco, *Caesalpinia echinata* is threatened by property developers in the few remaining tracts of Atlantic forest in Brazil. Some of the tree's most important

habitats are on the coast east of Rio de Janeiro, an area where many of the city's residents have second homes. The city's Botanical Gardens is trying to persuade local authorities to create some reserves for the tree. The wood is extremely valuable, fetching a higher price than mahogany; its density makes it the most suitable wood for violin bridges and it is often smuggled out of the country for that purpose. *Source: New Scientist*, 13 August 1994, 11.

Whale alert in Argentina

Golfo San José in the province of Chubut, Argentina, was declared a provincial marine park in 1974, providing a sanctuary for the breeding of southern right whales *Eubalaena australis*. It is feared that government plans to start aquaculture in the park may now threaten these whales. In addition more than 30,000 tourists now visit the Peninsula Valdés annually and hundreds of small boats leave the small village of Puerto Pirámide on whale-watching trips to the whale's calving grounds. Without any idea of the effect these activities have on the animals, the government of Chubut recently issued 10-year permits to private whale-watching businesses. *Sources: The Pilot*, No. 10, 15; *Wildlife Conservation*, May/June 1994, 6.

Effort to protect otters in Chile

The Chilean National Committee for Protection of Fauna and Flora (CODEFF) has launched a fund-raising campaign to purchase 45 ha of coastal farmland 800 km south of Santiago. Approximately 10 families of marine otters *Lutra felina* have managed to survive

there but are now threatened by a road, which will provide access to timber companies and other potential exploiters. The group of marine otters is one of the last in southern Chile. *Source: The Pilot*, No. 10, 4.

AUSTRALASIA/ ANTARCTICA

Artificial nests for the red-tailed black cockatoo

The red-tailed black cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii* is a well-known and sometimes common bird across much of northern, western and eastern Australia, but the small, isolated population *C. b. graptogyne* in the south-eastern part of the country is endangered. Fewer than 1000 individuals remain and habitats are fragmented and threatened. A particular problem is the past clearance of brown stringybark forests and lost of nesting hollows by the felling of dead standing Red River gums on farmland. A restoration project started in 1988 has employed a network of volunteers to monitor nests, placed artificial nest holes on dead trees and disused wooden electricity poles, and encouraged land managers to leave dead and live hollow-bearing trees. Future work will involve radio-tracking individuals from their nests to feeding and roosting areas, genetic studies focusing on the possibility of inbreeding, and placing microchips in nestlings as a deterrent to illegal poaching and trade. *Source: Psitta Scene*, 6 (2), 4–5.

Australian plan to exploit native species

The Australian Government's Bureau of Resource Sciences

has issued a report proposing that many species of native wildlife should be exploited to boost export earnings. The proposals, which have been met with protest from some quarters, include exploiting: kangaroos and wallabies for game meat, pet food, furs and leather; the brushtail possum for furs; the short-tailed shearwater for meat, oil and feathers; crocodiles for skins and meat; and emus for skins, oil and meat. The Bureau also recommends exploiting introduced species, including the cane toad, European rabbit, wild boar, feral horse, Arabian camel, European red fox and feral cat.

Source: *New Scientist*, 21 May 1994, 7.

Hope for headwater fish

A new research aquarium at the Australian National University could be of crucial importance to the survival of some of Australia's endangered native fish species. It will be able to reproduce conditions in freshwater alpine streams and enable scientists to look at the behaviour of fish that live in such habitats. The findings should increase the understanding of what happens to those fish species when their habitat is modified and when introduced species appear and should help improve management practices so that more native fish species survive.

Source: *Fish Farming International*, 21 (8), 37.

Kiwi conservation: good and bad news

Kiwi recovery appears good in parts of New Zealand. In Hawkes Bay, Department of Conservation surveys found far more birds than expected and there are new records on the

east coast. Farmers in Northland are positive about the recovery programme, which aims to promote farm practices that could benefit kiwis. On the downside, the Department has for the first time, obtained visual proof that stoats attack nesting kiwis in their burrows. From the seven breeding pairs of the rare Okarito brown kiwi (a population of 60–100 birds) only three chicks were produced and they were all killed by stoats. Possums were also seen harassing kiwis by invading burrows and breaking at least one egg. The breeding failure is in an area that includes an extensive stoat and possum trapping programme. The Department is considering removing eggs or chicks and rearing them in captivity until they are large enough to be safely returned to the wild.

Source: *Forest & Bird*, May 1994, 5.

New Zealand's 13th park

New Zealand acquired its 13th national park in April. Covering 500,000 ha in north-west South Island, Kahurangi National Park is the second largest after Fiordland and contains forest and river systems from the coast to the mountain tops.

Source: *Forest & Bird Conservation News*, May 1994, 2.

New nesting sites of the magenta petrel

New nesting sites of the Chatham island taiko, or magenta petrel, *Pterodroma magentae*, New Zealand's most endangered bird, have been discovered by using spotlights to induce nine of the birds to land at night near the coast, fitting them with radio transmitters and tracking them when they flew inland to nesting

burrows. Prior to the study only two productive pairs were known and had to be protected from a range of introduced predators. Now the New Zealand Department of Conservation is deciding whether to protect all taiko with a far more extensive trapping programme covering most of the south-west forested area of Chatham Island or to develop a method of attracting birds into a protected artificial colony.

Source: *Forest & Bird*, May 1994, 5.

Saddlebacks moved

Twenty-five South Island saddlebacks *Creadion carunculatus* have been reintroduced to the Marlborough Sounds after a long absence. The birds – 10 females, 10 males and 5 juveniles – were transferred from two islands in the Titi group near Stewart Island to Motuara Island in Queen Charlotte Sound in March. Only about 400 South Island saddlebacks exist.

Source: *Forest & Bird*, May 1994, 3.

No repairs to controversial airstrip

The French Government has abandoned plans to repair the controversial airstrip near the Dumont d'Urville base in Antarctica, which was damaged by a violent wave in January. Construction of the airstrip destroyed up to 35 per cent of the breeding sites of five seabird species, including Adélie penguins, petrels and Antarctic skuas, and critics of the scheme have always maintained that landing large transport aircraft on the strip would disrupt breeding.

Source: *New Scientist*, 16 July 1994, 5.

OCEANIA

Mountain management area

Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area has been officially gazetted by the government of Papua New Guinea. The area will protect more than 4140 sq km of pristine, biologically diverse habitat and test culturally acceptable development and conservation tools for sustained economic growth in remote mountain villages. The land was donated by local landowners – Gimi and Pawaiian people. Scientists and ecotourists pay fees to the landowners and hire local people as guides and supply technical assistance for alternative non-timber revenue sources. *Source: Wildlife Conservation, May/June 1994, 16.*

Solomon Islands logging to double

Despite government pledges to end them, log exports from the Solomon Islands were expected to double in 1994. The logging is most intensive in Western Province, an archipelago of rain-forested islands ringed with clear coral lagoons. At Marovo lagoon, a proposed World Heritage Site, villages have set on fire bulldozers belonging to the Malaysian Golden Spring logging company and police were called in to protect the loggers' equipment. Although it is government policy to issue no new log export licences, saw-milling licences are being issued for small-scale, value-added processing. The environment minister is tagging 'log export quotas' on to saw-milling licences, supposedly to capitalize the cost of setting up the sawmills. More than

1 million cu m of log exports were licensed for 1994 – against an estimated sustainable yield of 300,000 cu m. The Malaysian logging company operating in Vangunu in southern Marovo is illegally mining live coral to surface its logging roads. *Source: BBC Wildlife, June 1994, 57.*

Rat problem for petrels on Henderson

To provide a safe breeding site for the endangered dark herald petrel, a plan is being considered to eradicate introduced Polynesian rats from Oeno, a 65-ha coral island near Henderson Island, a UK dependent territory in the Pacific and a World Heritage Site. It is believed impractical to eradicate rats from Henderson Island itself, the petrel's main stronghold, because of its size – 37 sq km. *Source: New Scientist, 23 July 1994, 8.*

OPPORTUNITIES

Winston Churchill fellowships

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust offers opportunities for British citizens to travel overseas to undertake study projects related to their trade, profession or particular interest. Categories for the 1995 awards include: the rural economy – agriculture, forestry and conservation; projects in China; ancient remedies and alternative medicine; and individual exploration and adventure. Closing date for applications is 24 October 1994. For further information send a sae to: The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace,

London SW7 5PR. Tel: 071 584 9315; Fax: 071 581 0410.

Neotropic fund

The Lincoln Park Zoo Scott Neotropic Fund was set up in 1986 to support *in situ* conservation efforts throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. It supports new initiatives that: have direct impact on wildlife conservation or conservation biology; the participation of graduate and/or undergraduate students; the involvement of students and/or field assistants from Latin America; or links with the Lincoln Park Zoo animal collection or the conservation interests of the zoo curators. Each year it supports 5–15 projects, each being awarded \$US3000–5000 a year for a maximum of 2 years. *Contact: Lincoln Park Zoo Scott Neotropic Fund, Director of Conservation and Science, 2200 North Cannon Drive, Chicago, IL 60614–3895, USA.*

Catalysts for rural conservation

Community Conservation Consultants (CCC) aim to establish community wildlife sanctuaries, enabling local people to manage their own lands with minimum outside interference. The CCC started as Howlers Forever, Inc. in 1989 to aid the Community Baboon Sanctuary in Belize, which was established by rural subsistence farmers to protect the black howler monkey *Alouatta pigra* and has become a model for other projects. The CCC is currently involved in setting up four other projects in central America and the US and is interested in providing a service to groups wanting to protect forests and wildlife. *Contact: Robert H. Horwich,*

CCC, Box 96, Gays Mills, WI
54631, USA. Tel: (608) 735 4717.

PUBLICATIONS

Plant Conservation News

The first issue of *Plant Conservation News, the SSC Newsletter for Plants*, was published in May 1994. *Contact:* Clive Jermy (Editor-in-Chief), The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK. Fax: 071 938 9260.

Shark News

The first issue of *Shark News: Newsletter of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group*, was published in June 1994. It aims to provide a forum for exchange of information on all aspects of chondrichthyan conservation matters for use both by Shark Group members and other readers. *Contact:* Sarah Fowler, Newsletter Editor, The Nature Conservation Bureau, 36 Kingfisher Court, Hambridge Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5SJ, UK. Fax: 0635 550230.

NEW ORGANIZATIONS

New Chilean organization for wetlands

A new non-governmental organization has been formed in Chile to promote the conservation and management of wetlands in the context of sustainable development. *Contact:* Elier Tabilo Valdivieso, Director Ejecutivo, Corporación Ambientes Acuáticos de Chile, David Lewelling No. 870, El Llano, Coquimbo, IV Región, Chile.

Wildlife Information Network

The Wildlife Information Network was set up to design and implement an international system for the dissemination of wildlife veterinary and animal husbandry information. Collection and dissemination of information is primarily through information centres, currently located in Asia and Europe. A bimonthly newsletter is also produced and a wildlife database provides access to veterinary and animal husbandry information. A wildlife consultancy service is provided for large-scale welfare and rescue projects. *Details from:* Wildlife Information Network, The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, Camden Town, London NW1 10TU, UK.

PEOPLE

Adelmar F. Coimbra-Filho has retired as Director of the Rio de Janeiro Primate Centre, which he founded in 1979. Today it is the most important breeding centre in the world for Atlantic forest primates, especially lion tamarins and other callitrichids. The Centre has more than 75 breeding enclosures, a museum, library, laboratories and accommodation for visiting scientists. FFPS helped fund some of the original breeding enclosures in 1983 through its Oryx 100% Fund (*Oryx*, 17 [2], 107). Coimbra-Filho will continue his research and campaigning for the conservation of the Atlantic forest and its primates. The new director is Alcides Pissinatti.

MEETINGS

II International Congress on Managing Amazonian Wildlife

7–11 May 1995, Iquitos, Peru. *Contact:* Richard E. Bodmer, International Coordinator, Tropical Conservation and Development Program, University of Florida, 304 Grinter Hall, PO Box 115531, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA. Tel: (904) 392 6548; Fax: (904) 392 0085, or I. P. Andrés Urteaga Caverro, Coordinador Nacional, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana, Pl. Serafín Filomeno s/n, Iquitos, Perú. Tel: (51 94) 23 6121; Fax: (51 94) 23 4723.