

Minorities. The tamarau is the Association's first project. On April 15th President Marcos flew into Mindoro and officially 'opened' the project at Mount Iglit, the central one of the three sites. The Deputy Director of Parks and Wildlife, Mr J. Alvarez, has been seconded to head the project on the ground. Special warden teams are on guard in each of the three areas, and two graduate biologists are doing ecological studies on Iglit where the existing sanctuary area of 8956 hectares is to be extended to at least five times that size. The Philippine Constabulary are assisting as well as a Special Forces unit. Because of the rugged terrain a light aircraft is likely to be needed, and it is desirable to establish radio links between the three areas. Tamarau numbers had got so low that it will be a long struggle to retrieve them, but at least there is now some hope.

New Red Book Species

SIXTEEN new species have been added to the IUCN* Red Data Book of Endangered species, two of them on pink sheets indicating that they are critically endangered. These are the Sinai leopard, about which all that is known is that it is very rare indeed, and the Amur leopard described as 'practically extinct in Manchuria and Sichote-Alin and now almost entirely restricted to North Korea' (about which nothing is known). However, in the latest IUCN Bulletin, the Russian scientist Dr A. G. Bannikov lists a number of places in the Soviet Far Eastern Territory where leopard can be found today, but concludes that 'there are in all probability no more than 10-15 individual animals in the entire region'.

The fourteen species which have been added on white sheets - indicating that they are not immediately threatened with extinction although so reduced in numbers and/or restricted in habitat that they could quickly disappear - are Perrier's sifaka, Indo-Chinese lar gibbon, giant anteater, Ebian and Wilson's palm squirrels, thin-spined porcupine, small-eared dog, Syrian brown bear, La Plata otter, three Madagascar endemics - Malagasy civet, falanouc and fossa (a civet) - marsh deer and Rio de Oro dama gazelle.

Revised sheets for other seriously endangered animals (on pink sheets) include the Bali and Javan tigers. The Bali tiger is believed to be extinct, but the Javan is reported as still occurring on the Blambangan peninsula, south of Malang, on the lower slopes of the Semeru volcano, along the Glidek river and in east Java, in the South Djember district; it is no longer in the Udjung Kulon reserve, as already reported by Dr Schenkel in *ORYX*, September, 1968. The Kashmir stag (the hanglu) continues to decline. The revised pink sheet quotes George Schaller's 1968 estimate of the numbers as about 50 animals in their main concentration, and also his comments: 'The main cause of decline is unquestionably poaching, which is very heavy. During my visit (October 1968) I twice saw military personnel shooting at stags in the Dachigam Sanctuary. The staff make no attempt to control the area or to prevent poaching. It is imperative that poaching be stopped if the hanglu is to be saved from extinction'.

*International Union for Conservation of Nature.