



Briefly . . .

INTERNATIONAL

Strong to Direct Bureau of IUCN

Maurice Strong has become Chairman of IUCN's Bureau, which at the Extraordinary General Assembly in April was given power to act on behalf of the full Council when the latter is not in session. He was formerly Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and remains Chairman of Petro-Canada, Calgary.

Loudon Heads WWF

John Loudon of the Netherlands has been elected President of the World Wildlife Fund, succeeding Prince Bernhard, the founder President who retired after 15 years at the end of 1976. A former Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell, he is Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Atlantic Institute for International Affairs and of the Board of the European Institute for Business Administration.

Trade Convention Ratifications

Seychelles, the USSR, Guyana, Denmark, Nicaragua, the Gambia and Botswana are the latest countries to ratify the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), bringing the total ratifications to 41.

World Fish Catch Down

The world fish catch declined in 1975 by nearly one million tons to 69.7 million, according to the current FAO Yearbook. Japan leads the world in overall catch – 10.5 million tons – followed by the Soviet Union with 9.8 million, a 50 per cent increase since 1971. The EEC accounted for 5.2 million, Peru 3.4m, USA 2.7m, Norway 2.5m, India 2.3m, South Korea 2.1m, Iceland 0.99m, and all of West Africa 1.4m.

Inbreeding and Behaviour

Almost all of the brown-eared pheasants *Crossoptilon mantchuricum* in the West – the species is native to a small area of northern China – are descended from a male and two

females captured in 1864, and lately almost all brown-eared pheasant eggs have been infertile. While inbreeding is obviously to blame, experiments at Cambridge have shown the weak gene to concern not sterility, but behaviour. 53 per cent of eggs laid by artificially inseminated hens turned out to be fertile. This means that both sexes were fertile, but cocks were showing no interest in mating.

EUROPE

Crafts Committee Bans Ivory

The Crafts Advisory Committee, set up by the Department of Education and Science to promote Britain's artist craftsmen, has announced that, because of the decline of the African elephant, it will no longer buy for its collections any object made of ivory or in which ivory has been used.

Puffin Increase in Scotland

Between 1960 and 1975 the Isle of May puffin population increased from a few pairs to more than 3000, mainly because of immigration from the Farne Islands off the Northumberland coast.

White Stork Decline

White stork *Ciconia ciconia* populations have declined sharply in Spain, Alsace, south-west Germany, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Westphalia, Netherlands, Schleswig-Holstein, and Denmark, and may be extinct in the Rhine area between Basle and Holland, according to an ICBP collation of reports from bird-watchers. There have also been general declines in middle Europe, especially Rumania, the Baltic states except Estonia, the Maghreb, and parts of the Middle East. Isolated increases were shown in East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia. In Japan the bird is extinct.

Cavtat Obstacle

Most of the cargo of the *Cavtat*, the Yugoslav ship which sank in the Adriatic in 1974 with 300 tons of lead tetra-ethyl and lead tetra-methyl, will probably never be recovered because the cutting gear needed to reach the ship's hold could cause the lead tetra-ethyl to explode. Toxicologists at Rome University say the chemicals are a

danger to marine life, and there is general concern about what will happen when the drums in which the chemicals are stored eventually corrode.

Parnassius Enigma

Two species of Finland's parnassius butterflies, *Parnassius apollo* and *P. mnemosyne*, have declined drastically in recent years for no apparent reason. Their food plants remain plentiful, and their habitats are not unduly threatened; nor is there any convincing evidence of disease, parasites or unfavourable climate. They now have legal protection to prevent unnecessary collecting, but entomologists are at a loss to suggest any other conservation measures.

Few but no Fewer

Finland's white-tailed eagle population has held steady since the beginning of the decade, with about 70 adults in some 35 territories and a consistently low reproductive rate. Though they have been fully protected on state-owned land since 1924, none of the birds breed on state-owned land.

Woodland Reindeer

The 1250–2300 woodland reindeer *Rangifer tarandus fennicus* along the Fenno-Soviet border are threatened by habitat encroachment from both sides. This wild population needs old spruce forests for calving and peatlands for summer grazing. A reserve on the Finnish side is probably too small to prevent extinction, and there are now plans to translocate some to western Finland.

Nordic Wolves

In the winter of 1977 there were 23 wolves in Finland, six in Norway and one in Sweden. More wolves have recently been crossing into Finland from the Soviet Union – probably because of habitat encroachment – and some 20 were killed illegally early in the winter, most in reindeer husbandry areas.

Pelican Hunting Ban

Greece has announced a ten-year moratorium on the shooting of two species of pelican *Pelicanus onocrotalus* and *P. crispus*.

Flowers Protected in Moscow

Picking wild flowers in the Moscow region has been prohibited. One out of every five species of wild flowers in the Soviet Union is in danger of extinction, according to Komsomolskaya Pravda.

Netherlands Trade Act

The sale of endangered exotic animals, dead or alive, is punishable by up to three months imprisonment, or a fine of up to 1000 guilders, under a Netherlands law which came into force in July.

NORTH AMERICA

Animal Dealers Indicted

A Philadelphia grand jury has indicted 12 animal dealers for violations of the Lacey Act (prohibiting traffic in wildlife contrary to the laws of the exporting countries), the Endangered Species Act and Customs regulations. The indictments are the result of a two-year investigation following the discovery of 75 Australian and New Guinean lizards, tortoises and snakes buried near Medford, New Jersey. Most of the dealers' customers are alleged to have been various reputable US zoos.

Whooping Crane News

Spring hatchings brought the world total of whooping cranes *Grus americana* to 126, the highest number since the conservation programme began. The 69-bird wild flock at Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada produced 34 eggs, of which 16 were flown to Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Idaho to be incubated by sandhill cranes; 12 survived. Of the remaining 18 in the wild, 2 fell to predators and 15 hatched, of which 11 chicks survived. Of 22 eggs produced by the 19-bird captive flock at Pautuxent, Maryland, 5 chicks survived.

City Alligators

A growing population of Florida alligators (protected since 1966 and recently reclassified from endangered to threatened) and continued urban encroachment on their habitat have resulted in their moving into Miami, where they have been found in swimming pools, on golf courses, in back yards and even on downtown street corners. Game wardens have been seconded to the

Briefly

police with orders to catch as many as possible and return them to the Everglades.

Murky Future for Lake Erie

No measures to halt eutrophication in Lake Erie will ever be entirely successful. The basin at the western end already has a phosphorus concentration so high that even the stopping of phosphorus pollution entirely (by 1985, it is hoped) will not enable it to recover completely.

Grass Carp an Outlaw

Thirty-three states have specifically prohibited the introduction into their waters of the grass carp, an efficient weedkiller but a disaster for native fish, and in two others the practice has been declared illegal under existing laws.

Nova Scotia Bans Budworm Spraying

Spruce budworm spraying, which kills many animals besides budworms and may be a cause of a frequently fatal children's disease, has been halted in Nova Scotia, despite protests from timber companies, woodlot owners and truckers. In Canada only New Brunswick continues to allow the practice.

Winter's Toll

The Canadian Wildlife Service estimates that the severe 1976/77 winter may have reduced winter bird populations by 50 per cent or more and that many of Canada's common summer birds, such as thrushes and finches that winter in the US, have also been affected. Insectivorous birds, such as warblers and flycatchers, which migrate far enough south to have avoided the blizzards, came off best.

Wilderness Declarations

In 1976 2.2 million acres were added to the US National Wilderness Preservation System, more than in any year since the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964. They include 500 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Bobcat Trade Ban

The US Endangered Species Scientific Authority has banned the export of bobcat *Lynx rufa* pelts taken after August 30 1977. Because of the international trade



BOBCAT, by George Founds *Reprinted from Defenders, August 1976*

convention's embargo on spotted and striped fur, Bobcat fur became by default very valuable, particularly in Europe, and in the US North-west, where there are virtually no bobcat hunting regulations, its numbers were crashing (see *Oryx* July 1977, page 7).

Exotics in Texas

Axis deer and mouflon, numbering 19,518 and 15,254, are the most plentiful exotic hoofed animals harboured on Texas ranches. A 1974 survey by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department also found 7339 blackbuck, 4483 fallow deer, 3531 aoudad, 3042 sika deer, 2786 nilgai, 495 red deer and 116 llama, as well as a few eland, barasingha deer, sambar, gemsbok, scimitar-horned oryx, sitatunga, kudu, ibex, gazelles, addax and sable antelope.

Ontario's Endangered Wildlife

Ontario has added eight new species to the province's Endangered Species Act: piping plover, Eskimo curlew, golden eagle, white pelican, West Virginia white butterfly, eastern cougar, Lake Erie island water snake and the small white lady's slipper orchid.

Unsafe Fish

A report prepared by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources says that nowhere in the Great Lakes surrounding that state can a fisherman eat whatever he catches. A map included in the report showed that every inch of the lakes around Michigan falls under one warning or another against eating certain fish.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Aggressive Bees Move North

Brazil's 'killer bees', the disastrous result of an attempt to improve honey production by crossing a Tanzanian breed with a Brazilian one, have now spread into French Guiana, Surinam, Guyana and Venezuela and, since they appear to follow the north-east trade winds, may soon reach Trinidad, Tobago and the rest of the Caribbean, and the USA in ten years.

Colombian Loopholes Plugged

Two private actions brought against Inderena, the Colombian Government conservation agency, have put teeth in the 1973 law banning exports of endangered wildlife species. Dealers were being allowed to get rid of stocks acquired before the law was passed, and these were apparently so large that there was still a thriving trade in 1977. The Council of State granted an injunction against further export of these 'stocks' pending a final judgment, and Inderena has not appealed. In the other case, the Council overruled a 1976 Inderena authorisation for the export of 13,000 caiman hides and 1852 live animals taken in 1975. In its judgment, the Council commented, 'It is surprising that agencies charged with wildlife protection act in disregard of the laws passed to preserve wildlife'. Both actions were brought by FPS consultant Alberto Donadio.

Condors Seen in Venezuela

Two Andean condors *Vultur gryphus* were seen in Venezuela on July 7 1976, the first since 1912.

Lizard Listed as Endangered

The St Croix ground lizard *Ameiva polops*, which exists only on two tiny islands off the coast of St Croix in the Virgin Islands, has been listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. At one time the lizards also inhabited St Croix and Buck Islands but were wiped out after the introduction of the mongoose, ostensibly for rodent control. Now only the 11-acre Green Cay and 4-acre Protestant Cay are free of mongooses. There are an estimated 300 lizards on the two islands.

Panama Declares Third Park

Panama has declared its third National Park, the Portobelo, comprising 10,000 ha on the north central coast, between the Canal Zone and the Darien Gap. It includes both marine and terrestrial ecosystems: coral reefs, islands and rain forests. The other two parks are Altos de Campana and Volcán Barú.

Shrinking Forest

Between 1970 and 1975 a third of the 37,399 sq km of broad-leaf forest in the Petén region of Guatemala was converted into agricultural and grazing land.

Protection for Ridley Turtle

Mexico has established a refuge for the Atlantic ridley turtle *Lepidochelys kempi* on its principal nesting beaches at Rancho Nuevo. Taking of the turtles is strictly forbidden, as is any commercial fishing in the area between April and August, and the military is on hand to enforce the regulations. There has been international concern about the fate of the ridley, whose numbers have fallen from 160,000 to 5000 since 1947 (see *Oryx* July 1977, page 2).

Vicuña Increase

Since 1970 world vicuña numbers have increased from some 15,000 to 60,000 – 45,000 in Peru, 10,000 in Argentina, 3000 in Chile and 2000 in Bolivia. In Peru's Pampa Galeras National Vicuña Reserve, established in 1968, there are now more than 30,000.

AFRICA

Serengeti Cheetahs

There are about 500 cheetahs in the Serengeti, according to George and Lory Frame. They believe the cheetah's secrecy accounts for its supposed scarcity.

Danakil Wildlife

A recent survey by J. G. Stephenson of Ethiopia's proposed Danakil National Park and the Sande Triangle to the west showed 80 wild ass, 2041 beisa oryx, 561 Soemmering's gazelle and 810 ostrich. The Afar nomads in the area are not poachers but they often report poaching by soldiers and others.



Lake Nakuru Factory to Move

The Kenyan Government has announced its intention to move the algicide factory from the shores of Lake Nakuru, whose blue algae support more than a million lesser flamingoes.

Giraffe Translocations

As the result of a translocation programme begun in 1952, a herd of more than 90 giraffes inhabits Transvaal's Hans Merensky Nature Reserve, and a 1962 effort has resulted in the establishment of 150 more on various farms and private and provincial reserves.

Wildebeests Help Cows

A vaccine against elephant-skin disease in domestic cattle in Natal and Transvaal has been developed from a parasite carried by the blue wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus*. The disease, which makes a cow's skin thicken and wrinkle as the animal gradually starves through loss of appetite, is caused by a parasite identical to the one in the wildebeest, except that the latter is harmless. Inoculation with the wildebeest parasite can immunise a cow for up to three years.

ASIA

Muggers Released

Four captive-bred mugger crocodiles *Crocodylus palustris* have been released in the Krishna river's Ethipothala Falls as part of the Andhra Pradesh Crocodile Scheme, sponsored by the state Forest Department and aided by the Government of India, UNDP and FAO. The muggers were reared at Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad.

Saudi Arabian Fauna Collection

The College of Education at Abha in south-west Saudi Arabia, a branch of Riyadh University established in 1976, has started a small zoo concentrating on Saudi Arabian fauna, to promote interest in the native fauna and its conservation among both students and local people and to breed some rarer species. The five mammal and ten bird species so far include the rare Arabian wolf *Canis lupus arabs* and baboon *Papio hamadryas arabicus*.

Malaysian Wildlife Projects

Current projects of the Malaysian Game Department include a study of the eight to fifteen remaining Sumatran rhinos in the proposed Endau Rompin National Park, an assessment of the habitat requirements of the gaur, experiments in methods of preventing elephants from breaking into plantations, a study of the causes of tiger mortality, establishment of artificial hatcheries for river terrapin, a study of the tapir, and protection of shore birds on the coast of Perak. The department has also announced that in the next five years West Malaysia will spend some US\$8 million on national parks and reserves and wildlife conservation and management.

Dam Threat

Thailand's Khao Yi National Park, a refuge for elephant, tiger, gaur, pileated gibbon and many other animals, is threatened by a proposed system of dams that would destroy the park's watershed and create an enormous reservoir inside the park, the shores of which would be outside the park authorities' jurisdiction. Similar reservoirs in Thailand have been surrounded by slash-and-burn farmers who destroy the forests and hunt the wildlife.

Javan Tiger Nearly Extinct

Only one of the four or five Javan tigers in the Meru Betiri nature reserve on the eastern tip of Java is a female. Except for one other female in the Budapest zoo, these represent the world population of the subspecies *Panthera tigris sondaica*. A survey by Dr John Seidensticker showed that prey is scarce and competition from leopard and wild dog is strong.

Thou Shalt Not

Sri Lanka's Wildlife and Nature Protection Society has issued a leaflet for tourists urging them not to buy wildlife trophies, not to eat turtle soup or eggs, not to fish with spear guns or nets, not to buy coral or seashells, not to order venison in restaurants, and not to visit national parks unless they genuinely want to see wildlife.

Park Plunder

Illegal cultivation has usurped about 95 per cent of the catchment area of Sri Lanka's Uda-Walawe National Park. T. W.

Hoffman, President of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka, describes one part as 'a desert as far as the eye could see,' i.e. given over entirely to chilis, plantains and gingelly. Elephants islanded by the indiscriminate clearing turn against their new neighbors, become 'killers' and are killed in turn.

Reafforestation in Philippines

By Presidential decree all able-bodied Filipinos over the age of ten must plant a tree a month for the next five years, care for each sapling for two years and replace those which die or become diseased. Failure to do this will be punished by fines and loss of rights and privileges. Some 1.4 million ha of Philippine forests have been destroyed by logging; the new programme is expected to produce 360 million trees a year.

Death of Wildlife in Goa

Goan forests have been denuded of mammals, birds of prey and other large birds, according to Robert Gurbh and Salim Ali. In a week-long survey in the former Portuguese colony the only mammals they saw were one giant squirrel *Ratufa sp.* and a leopard cat *Felis bengalensis*, which had been shot and propped up in the middle of a forest road. Under colonial rule, hunting was not only unrestricted but officially encouraged.

Israeli Reserve Opens

The 8000-acre Hai Bar nature reserve, set up in 1965 as a sanctuary for endangered desert animals, is now open to the public. The reserve's animals include Persian onager, Somali wild ass, scimitar-horned oryx, Ethiopian ostrich, addax, lyre-horned antelope and Arabian gazelle, all thought to have inhabited Israel in Biblical times.

Old Habits

In the Mugu district of western Nepal the value of a snow leopard *Panthera uncia* pelt has dropped from around US\$40 to \$10 in three years. Wildlife consultant Rodney Jackson credits the international trade convention for this, but hunting continues because of the strong hunting tradition. He estimates numbers in the Mugu and Dolpo districts at about 60, occasionally increased by immigrations from Tibet.

Mine Refused

A request by Pakistan's Chief Inspector of Mines to explore for minerals in Kirthar National Park in the Sind has been refused by provincial officials on the grounds that such exploitation would lose the park its UN recognition.

Tigers in Chitawan

The Chitawan National Park in Nepal is estimated to have at least 30 tigers, according to the 12th report (May 1977) of the Smithsonian Tiger Ecology Project.

Gir Walled In

Deer numbers in the Gir Forest, in northern India, have increased considerably since a rubble wall, one metre high and 220 km long, was built around the lion sanctuary, reports the Deputy Conservator of Forests, J.D. Tolia. The wall has kept out domestic stock, and the lions, of which there are about 180, are now able to prey on the deer.

Crab Reserve

The Soviet Union is to establish a one-million-hectare reserve for crabs, the world's first, around Ptichy Island in the Okhotsk Sea. Large numbers of young crabs have been found in the area, which will probably be used for research into artificial breeding.

Afghanistan to Sign Two Conventions

Afghanistan has agreed to sign both the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The Government has promised to gazette wetland sanctuaries at Dasht-e-Newar, the world's highest breeding ground of the greater flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*, and Abi-i-Estada, used by migrant waterfowl, including the Siberian crane *Grus leucogeranus*.

Rare Pheasant Rediscovered

Feared nearly extinct in the wild after its disappearance from Pakistan's Kaghan Valley, the western tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* has been discovered in relative plenty in Azad Kashmir. Seventy specimens were found in an area of 41 sq km.



ANTIPODES

Little Pygmy Possum Found

Previously known on the Australian mainland only from fossil specimens, the pygmy possum *Cercartetus lepidus* has been found alive in County Chandos, South Australia. An adult pair was captured by the South Australian Herpetology Group in vegetation resembling that of the animal's other habitats in Tasmania and Kangaroo Island.

The Elusive Potoroo

A small mammal stunned by a falling log during clear-cutting in south-western Australia's Shannon Basin may have been a potoroo, either *Potorous platyops* or *P. tridactylus*, the former of which is considered extinct in the wild and the latter rare and endangered – and neither has been recorded in the Shannon Basin in this century. The loggers, who had no idea what the animal was, let it go, but later described it to Dr A. Start of the Western Australia Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, adding that they had seen several others during the same operation.

Catch-All

One of the duties of Victoria's Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board is to trap feral dogs and cats, dingoes and foxes. But the Board's 20 full-time trappers also manage to catch, and usually kill, about twenty times as many other animals, according to a report by Elwood Darke in *Wildlife in Australia*. Accompanying a trapper for three months he recorded two dingoes, nine foxes, nine feral cats and six feral dogs, as well as 53 wombats, 105 goannas, 34 eagles, 34 lyrebirds, 16 wallabies, seven possums, seven pigeons, three joey kangaroo, three echidnas, two hawks, one black snake, one currawong and one blue-tongued skink. Because of the infrequency of visits to each trap, most of the animals were already dead, and he could rescue only one, an eagle. Normally trappers club or shoot anything found alive.

Death Spray

An investigation of the deaths of hundreds of trees along Sydney's beaches has found that they were killed by sea spray containing

detergents discharged from sewage outlets. The detergents reduced surface tension in the leaves and allowed the spray to penetrate their pores.

Takahe Rallies

The takahe *Notornis mantelli*, a flightless gallinule that was considered extinct until a pair were photographed in New Zealand's Murchison Mountains in 1948, now numbers about 500. Credit for the bird's survival goes to a rescue programme which has included a special takahe reserve and the removal of some 10,000 exotic red deer from its habitat.

OCEANS

Fair Hearing?

A delegation of Palauans, some for and some against the construction of an oil tanker superport in their US Trust Territory islands (see *Oryx*, February 1977, p. 417), travelled 8000 miles to Washington to testify before the Senate Interior Committee investigating whether the massive port should be permitted to go ahead. Of those opposed to the plan, only one, High Chief Ibedul Gibbons, was allowed to speak and respond to questions, while the four in favour of it were each given a 20-minute hearing, and Robert Panero, the New Yorker who is the idea's originator and main proponent, testified for nearly an hour. The Committee's chairman, Senator Henry Jackson, was not present.

San Diego Returns Giant Tortoises

As a result of research work at the San Diego Zoo, a Hood Island tortoise was identified among the zoo's Galapagos tortoises and has now been returned to the Charles Darwin Research Station in the islands to augment, eventually, the small surviving population in the wild.

Turtle Loophole

Even though Hawaii prohibits commercial use of turtles taken in local waters, there is no law against exploitation of foreign ones. Shops display stuffed turtles from South-east Asia, turtle leather purses from Europe and canned turtle soup from New Jersey; and a well-known Cayman Islands

WHAT GOATS CAN DO



1971 A hillside bare, dry, and dusty with goats at work in the Hawaiian Volcanoes National Park



1975 The same area after the goats had been removed. D. Reeser, US National Park Service

The US National Park Service has been waging a fierce battle against goats in the 80,000-acre Hawaiian Volcanoes National Park. Efforts to keep numbers under control ever since they were first introduced in the late 18th century have been futile because even a small number of goats can remove all native plants leaving the introduced weeds to multiply. Goats, says Donald W. Reeser, in *Parks Vol. 1, 2*, have been a major contributor to the endangerment or extinction of hundreds of endemic plants and birds in Hawaii. In 1971, when numbers were estimated at 15,000, a massive fencing programme enabled park wardens to round up goats for sale and hunt the remainder; now, as the vegetation recovers, native flora and fauna – for example the nene, the Hawaiian goose – are being successfully reintroduced. One small area produced a native plant previously unknown, *Canavalia kauensis*.

company has launched a campaign to 'get people accustomed to eating turtle'.

Turtle Protection in the Maldives

The Maldivian Government has banned the capture of turtles smaller than 76 cm and of tortoises smaller than 61 cm., and forbidden the use of spear guns, spears and explosives for fishing.

Fur Seal Recovery

Galapagos fur seals *Arctocephalus galapagoensis*, believed to be extinct at the beginning of the century, now number over 5000 and possibly as many as 10,000, according to a report from Dr Fritz Trillmich, who has been studying them. There are now breeding colonies on at least 11 islands. Also in the Galapagos, a flamingo census on December 22 1976 showed 442 adult and juvenile birds, 21 chicks and 32 nests, some with eggs.

NEW PARKS AND RESERVES

The Sabah Government has declared a 4300-acre Turtle Island National Park, effective from October 1, 1977, incorporating the former Sabah Turtle Island Sanctuary and the surrounding reefs.

Two new national nature reserves, both in North Yorkshire, are Scar Close, 230 acres of limestone pavement and heather moorland and peat, and Forge Valley Woods, a 156-acre semi-natural mixed deciduous woodland of oak, ash, elm and alder. Extensions have been made to NNRs at Kingley Vale, Sussex; the Lizard, Cornwall; Pewsey Downs, Wiltshire; and the Swale, Kent.

The Woodland Trust has bought 64 acres of Denge Wood, near Canterbury, and 48 acres of Hardwick Wood, overlooking Saltram Park near Plymouth, bringing its acreage to 467 on 22 properties.



The Scottish Wildlife Trust has bought 12 acres of Ballagan Glen in Stirling, a mixed wood of ash, wych elm, and hazel.

Iceland has listed wetland reserves of 1600 ha and 1500 ha in the Skagafjörður and Adaldalur regions respectively, and a 3200 ha Lónsöræfi reserve in the mountains on the east border of the Valnajökull ice-cap.

Colombia has set aside 62,375 ha on the Panamanian border as the Reserva Forestal Protectora del Darién.

Papua/New Guinea has declared 12,500 ha of the Southern Highlands province as the Siwi-Utame Wildlife Management area, where bows and arrows, shotguns, slings, metal traps and dogs will be prohibited.

PERSONALIA

Earl B. Baysinger started in September a two-year assignment from US Fish and Wildlife Service to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Survival Service Commission.

Ray Dasmann, after seven years as IUCN's Senior Ecologist, has left Morges to become Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Angus F. Hutton, FPS Consultant and Co-ordinator of Insect Farming and Trading in Papua/New Guinea's Department of Natural Resources, has been awarded the Papua/New Guinea Independence Medal for his work in butterfly farming and control of the butterfly trade.

Banteng Hunted in Java

Hunting pressure may be a serious threat to some of the last banteng populations, says Professor J. H. Koeman, of Wageningen. Despite full protection in so-called strict nature reserves (cagar alam), permits are given to both Indonesian and expatriate hunters to kill banteng even where they have almost disappeared. On November 2 1976 one of the few remaining bulls in the Pangandaran nature reserve was shot by a British hunter, although the total population in this region is estimated to be a maximum of 30 animals. Two more bulls were shot there early in 1977. In Leuweung Sancang reserve, the hunting pressure may be even worse. Professor Koeman says that the excuse is that banteng overpopulate these areas; but the habitats have not deteriorated and the condition of the animals is good.

San Diego Zoo's 25th conservation medal has been awarded to Maurice Machris, who played a key part in Operation Oryx.

David Munro was appointed Director General of IUCN in July. A Canadian biologist, he has been Special Adviser to the Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) in Nairobi. Previously he was a Director of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

John Spinks has been named Chief of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Endangered Species. He was formerly Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

OBITUARIES

Professor Anudarin Dashdorj of Ulan Bator University, FPS Overseas Consultant in Mongolia, died last summer. He was one of the last people to see a Przewalski's horse in the wild.

C. Sibley Elliot, former Director of the Natural Resources Conservation League and scientific attache to the Australian Embassy in Washington, died on December 26 1976.

Ira N. Gabrielson died on September 7th. An outstanding US conservationist he was a founder member of US/WWF.

Andries Hoogerwerf, a member of the Netherlands Gunung Leuser Committee of the WWF and author of *Udjung Kulon - the land of the last Javan rhinoceros*, died in February, aged 70. Most of his life was devoted to work as a naturalist and conservationist in what is now Indonesia.