

The Oryx 100% Fund – applications procedure

The Oryx 100% Fund is always open for applications from experienced fieldworkers planning conservation projects. Applications are considered by the Conservation Committee of the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, which meets three times a year.

Priority is given to projects concerned with globally threatened species, especially those that are poorly known and unlikely to be supported by other major funding agencies. The committee also judges applications on other criteria, including feasibility, long-term conservation benefits, the degree of involvement or training of local people, and economical use of resources. Grants are usually in the £500–5000 range.

The fund does not support research that is part of a postgraduate degree. Conservation expeditions involving young people, (including undergraduates and postgraduates), are also not eligible for Oryx 100% Fund awards but are invited to enter the annual ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition (see page 180 of this issue).

The next meeting of the Conservation Committee is on 8 September 1992 and the deadline for applications is 18 August. Further details and application forms are available from: FFPS, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Tel: 071 823 8899. Fax: 071 823 9690.

Oryx 100% Fund grants awarded

At its meeting on 25 February the FFPS Conservation Committee awarded grants to the following projects.

£3000 for a project on bats in urban areas in Greece

Dr Anastassius Legakis, Department of Biology, University of Athens, is leading this project. Starting in greater Athens a team of paid workers and volunteers will organize a survey of bats, locating roost sites and feeding areas and assessing the impact of human

activities. Of the 23 species recorded from Greece, 21 are rare or vulnerable and populations are declining because of habitat destruction, the use of insecticides and human persecution. The team, assisted by volunteers will also run an education campaign to raise public awareness of the role of bats and the necessity to protect them, and will attempt to dispel the myths that provoke misunderstanding of and hostility towards these animals. (Project no. 92/7/3).

£1500 to The Outamba Large Mammal Survey, Outamba-Kilimi National Park, Sierra Leone

Kirsty Moore and Jocelyn Murgatroyd, both British primatologists, will be working with Pam Seiser, a US Peace Corps volunteer, and Dayo Metzger. The latter two jointly manage the park. The aim of the survey is to assess the numbers and distribution of elephants and other large mammals in the park, Sierra Leone's first. There has been little research in the area in the past and there are no accurate, up-to-date estimates of large mammal populations. The work will involve local game staff and provide them with the training in transect censusing methods and orienteering that they need to conduct long-term field-work. Both aspects of the study will make a positive contribution to the management plan for the park, which is a mosaic of woodland, savannah, and secondary and gallery forest (Project no. 92/5/1).

\$US2000 for Propagation of threatened trees, Francisco J. Clavijero Botanic Garden, Xalapa, Mexico

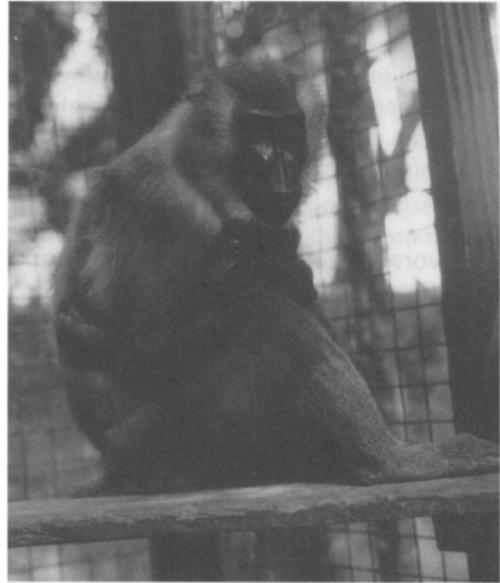
Andrew Vovides plans to help save three threatened tree species belonging to the Magnoliaceae, all native to the diminishing cloud forest of central Veracruz state. Together with a horticultural technician, a gardener and a student, he will use his grant to propagate the species (*Magnolia dealbata*, *M. schiedeana* and *Talaiuma mexicana*) at the botanic garden, which, is ideally situated at high altitude. All the species are poorly known and declining because of deforestation. They are potentially

useful for medicinal and ornamental purposes. When propagation has been achieved seedlings will be distributed to other botanic gardens to establish stocks for future reintroduction programmes, for forestry projects and for research (Project no. 92/6/2).

Drill survey in Cameroon

The drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* is a large rain-forest baboon and one of Africa's most endangered primates, with over 80 per cent of its remaining habitat in roughly 20,000 sq km of south-west Cameroon. A survey (FFPS Project no. 90/1/1) is under way to clearly define the drill's present distribution in Cameroon, to identify the principal threats to remaining habitat areas and to the species itself, and to estimate the viability of drill subpopulations in each area. The project is a continuation of survey work completed in Nigeria, where the remainder of the mainland drill populations occurs. However, a different set of threat factors is indicated in Cameroon. The project's aim is to formulate practical recommendations for the preservation and protection of those areas found to contain the most important drill populations and have the greatest potential for incorporation into a comprehensive conservation programme.

Drill habitat has become fragmented by roads, settlements, cultivation and other forms of human disturbance, such as timber exploitation. The species appears to have been eliminated from substantial areas of their presumed range by habitat destruction. Probably the greatest threat to their survival is hunting for bushmeat. The species is particularly vulnerable to local hunting methods, in which dogs are trained to hold a drill group at bay in a small tree and a dozen or more may be shot at once. Results of the survey show that most hunting is not for subsistence but part of organized commercial operations. Bushmeat carcasses are smoked for routine pick-up by transport drivers, who buy the meat for resale in urban centres and provide the hunters' camps with ammunition and supplies. As yet, the species receives no effective protection and



Drills *Mandrillus leucophaeus* are restricted to a small area in south-east Nigeria, south-west Cameroon and on the island of Bioko (Peter Jenkins/Pandrillus).

hunting is increasing in at least one of the major habitat areas investigated so far.

Our primary means of data collection is by interviewing local hunters. Because some areas have not been examined zoologically for many years, if ever, the occurrence and relative abundance of all diurnal primates are recorded. Foot surveys are undertaken to attempt to confirm hunters' reports. Other endangered primates with which the drill is sympatric throughout all or part of their range include *Cercopithecus preussi*, *C. erythrotis*, *Procolobus badius pennanti*, *Pan troglodytes* and *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*. Drills are reported to be declining in all areas visited so far, even while populations of some of the more common primates may remain stable.

Habitat information from existing maps is being checked on the ground and updated. Preliminary results indicate that Cameroon's drill habitat has been fragmented into at least 10 separate 'islands', some as small as 100 sq km. Increasing timber exploitation is further fragmenting these islands and opening up previously inaccessible areas to commercial hunters and settlers.

Sporadic political turmoil in Cameroon has hampered research to some degree, but survey work will resume at the end of the rainy season in September and continue through the dry season of 1993.

E. L. Gadsby, Project Leader, Drill Survey.

Frugivores in Salonga National Park, Zaire (Project no. 90/22/10)

Some errors unfortunately crept in to the report of this project (*Oryx*, 26, 124), for which the Editor apologizes. This was due to the fact that taxonomy for some genera of African primates is confused and for some groups there is no general agreement as to their classification. However, following the most up-to-date sources, the following corrections should be made.

The subspecies of red colobus referred to as *Procolobus rufomitratu tholloni* should have been listed as *Colobus badius tholloni*, one of nine subspecies in the Zaire basin and Higher Nile basin (Colyn, 1991). Another species of monkey, whose name was given as *Cercopithecus denti*, should have been listed as *C. wolfi wolfi* (Napier, 1981; Lernould, 1988).

References

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- Lernould, J.-M. 1988. Classification and geographical distribution of guenons: a review. In *A Primate Radiation: Evolutionary Biology of the African Guenons*. (eds A. Gautier-Hion, F. Bourlière, J.-P. Gautier and J. Kingdon), pp. 54-78. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Napier, P. H. 1981. *Catalogue of Primates in the British Museum (Natural History) and elsewhere in the British Isles. Part II. Family Cercopithecidae, subfamily Cercopithecinae*. British Museum of Natural History, London.

Action Plan for freshwater fish

The Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, in collaboration with the IUCN/SSC Freshwater

Fish Specialist Group, has started to compile an Action Plan for this group. Around 800 species are listed in the 1990 IUCN *Red List of Threatened Animals* and the Action Plan will collate all known information on current status and threats. It will also list recommended conservation action. This document will differ from previous Action Plans because of the large number of species involved and its approach will be to assess problems on a geographical and/or family basis. The project started in June and the IUCN/SSC Sir Peter Scott Action Plan Fund has already provided over 50 per cent of the project's budget. Efforts are now under way to secure the remaining funds.

Simon Mickleburgh, Co-ordinator, Freshwater Fish Action Plan.

Old World Fruit Bats – An Action Plan for their Conservation

Five years' after its initiation the Action Plan for fruit bats has finally gone to press. It details all known information about the 161 species of Old World fruit bats (family Pteropodidae) and lists recommended conservation action on a country-by-country basis. It will be distributed to all relevant governments and organizations involved with fruit bat conservation. Fifty experts have contributed to the Action Plan, making it a landmark for bat conservation. The FFPS initiated the project contributed most of the funds. Other financial contributions came from the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, the IUCN/SSC Sir Peter Scott Action Fund, World Wide Fund for Nature (US), and the Zoological Society of London. Substantial donations were also received from Mr Anthony Howitt and Mrs Janet Martyn and many smaller donations from other FFPS members. The Society thanks all of these for their support. The Action Plan, compiled by Simon Mickleburgh, Paul Racey and A. M. Hutson, will be published by IUCN soon and the next stage will be to implement the highest priority recommendations. The FFPS will be at the forefront of the task.

Simon Mickleburgh.

ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition

This is the second year that The British Petroleum Company plc has given financial support to the ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition and entries were up 25 per cent on last year. The awards were presented by His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands at the headquarters of BP plc, Britannic Tower in London on Tuesday 12 May in the presence of 180 guests. The event was hosted by K. R. Seal, Managing Director of BP plc and Chief Executive, BP Oil International. A total of £20,000 was granted to winners and runners-up, with all prize-winning expeditions automatically receiving ICBP/FFPS endorsement.

This year there were few entries in the wetlands category, and the judges felt that none were of sufficiently high standard to qualify

for an award. Instead it was decided to give two first prizes in the Tropical Forests category. A new award was given for the first time this year – the BP Conservation Expedition Award of £7500. The recipients were selected from last year's expeditions on the basis of their contribution to conservation in the host country and on their proposals for follow-up conservation action.

Winner: BP Conservation Expedition Award

Project Rio Nambi, Colombia, a runner-up in last year's competition, was the winner of the new BP Conservation Expedition Award. Their faunal survey of the biologically rich and poorly protected cloud-forest of the Choco, Colombia, recorded many birds with restricted ranges and a new species, which has yet to be described and so far has ornithologists baffled as to which family it belongs. The team, from



Members of the Rio Nambi Project receiving the BP Conservation Expedition Award from His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard (third from right) and K. R. Seal (second from right) (*The British Petroleum Company plc*).

Anglia Polytechnic, UK, encouraged and assisted local communities and conservationists with the purchase and development of the Rio Nambi Nature Reserve. The £7500 prize will be used to help implement a three-point action plan for the reserve: building accommodation for 15 research students; appointing a warden; and developing an education programme. It is hoped that as Rio Nambi develops it will provide a model for conservation management both in the region and in other parts of the world.

Winners: 1992 Expeditions

Nottingham University Bolivia Project 1992 was winner of the Globally Threatened Species category. Its focus will be two globally threatened species of bird: wattled curassow *Crax globulosa* and blue-throated macaw *Ara glaucogularis* in the Estacion Biologica Beni.

The Laos 92/93 Expedition and Tanzania Rain Forest Expedition, both from Cambridge University, were joint winners in the Tropical Rain Forests category. The Laos expedition is responding to that country's request for international assistance in developing a protected areas programme. The team will conduct mammal and bird surveys at two proposed protected areas. The second team will work closely with the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania in its objective of determining the conservation importance of the lowland forest of the eastern Usambara Mountains for bird and mammal conservation.

The Conservation of Key Forests and their Threatened Birds on Sumba, Indonesia, won the Oceanic and Marine category. The team, from Manchester Polytechnic, will compile an inventory of the remaining forests and prepare a forest conservation strategy for protected areas.

In addition to the main prizes of £3000 each, half of which is intended for local counterparts in the host country, eight runners-up received £1000 each. These included expeditions to: Mexico to investigate the status of threatened cacti; Madagascar to explore the potential for agroforestry in dry forests; the Colombian Amazon to investigate endemic

species in the Sierra de Naquen; Tanzania to assess the status of an endangered elephant shrew; Trinidad to look at the potential for sustainable exploitation of the penny piece, a rain-forest fruit; Venezuela to study the West Indian manatee; Paraguay to survey proposed protected areas; and the Comoro Islands to investigate the status of two globally threatened swallowtail butterfly species.

Applications for 1993

Next year is the last of BP's 3-year commitment to this important area of our work. Although the competition is open to teams from all over Europe most entries still come from Britain. We hope that next year will see an increase in applications, particularly from other European countries.

For details of the 1993 competition (closing date 31 December 1992), please contact: Jonathan Eames, ICBP/FFPS Expeditions Officer, ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ. Tel: 0223 277318; Fax: 0223 277200.

International Gorilla Conservation Programme – update May 1992

The programme

The IGCP will complete its first year in June. Funded jointly by the FFPS, the African Wildlife Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature, the aims of the first phase were to assess the situation of the gorilla and montane forest conservation in Rwanda, Zaire and Uganda, to establish a regional network between these three countries, and to identify needs and priorities. As co-ordinator I am based in Rwanda, but work in all three countries.

The IGCP has carried out several projects this year. We supplied emergency support in the form of food and operating costs for patrols in the southern sector of the Parc National des Virunga (Zaire). At the request of the Ugandan Government we assisted the authorities of the newly gazetted Bwindi

Impenetrable National Park (where 320 mountain gorillas – about half the world population – live), to develop environmentally sound tourism. In Rwanda we provided ongoing financial support for patrols in the Parc National des Volcans and for park management.

Under the Mountain Gorilla Project, from which sprung the IGCP, various slide sets were assembled for use in the educational part of the programme. We are now reinforcing this work by preparing an accompanying text on nature conservation in Rwanda and we shall be promoting the use of the slide show throughout the country, for schools, local communities and tourists.

The Morris Animal Foundation, which runs the Volcano Veterinary Centre in Rwanda, has prepared veterinary recommendations for gorilla tourism and we have made sure that these are distributed appropriately.

We have convened meetings between the park officials of Rwanda and Zaire in order to enhance the co-operation between the Parc National des Volcans and the Parc National des Virunga.

The civil unrest still prevailing in Rwanda, the difficult relationships between Rwanda and Uganda, and socio-economic collapse in Zaire have made it difficult to make as much progress as we would have hoped in developing a truly co-operative regional approach to gorilla conservation. So far no donor has been found prepared to fund the programme in its entirety but the national programmes continue to be funded independently and we shall do as much as possible to develop a coherent approach and a regional perspective. Meanwhile, the three co-operating organizations forming the IGCP will meet in July to decide on plans for the next 3 years.

Situation of gorilla conservation in the region

Rwanda. Since the last update (*Oryx* 26, 60) the Rwanda Army has extended its operational area to the west and now occupies about one-half of the Parc National des Volcans, mainly in order to prevent rebel attacks coming from Uganda through Zaire. Consequently, gorilla

group 13 (a tourist group), which lives in that area, is now seldom seen. The main concern for gorilla security is the presence of mines, which, it is reported, have been laid along the border, but so far no cases of accidents involving mines have been reported. Tourists are continuing to visit the gorilla groups Susa and 11. Group 9 is very often in Zaire.

Zaire. Due to the acute instability that shook the country in September–October 1991, most foreign aid has been cut off. A major conservation project funded and implemented by the EC in the Parc National des Virunga pulled out and left the Institut Zairois pour la Conservation de la Nature (IZCN) without any assistance, except for a WWF education project. Now the situation is calming down in the Kivu area and increasing numbers of visitors, mainly overlanders and residents, are returning to see the gorillas in Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega.

Uganda. As mentioned above, tourism is going to be developed in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park following a plan developed by the IGCP. In Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, which is contiguous with the Parc National des Volcans and Parc National des Virunga, the Ugandan Army occupies the forest and the rangers are not allowed to patrol. However, gorillas are regularly seen outside the park in the buffer area, which contains secondary vegetation. Reports suggest that many gorillas had fled from the Rwandan section of Gahinga and Muhabura to Uganda.

José Kalpers, IGCP Co-ordinating Officer.

Sixth World Congress on Breeding Endangered Species – The Role of Zoos in Conservation

The Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society and the Zoological Society of London co-sponsored this meeting, which was held in Jersey on 4–6 May 1992. The Princess Royal performed the opening ceremony and over 260 delegates attended from around the world. The theme of

the conference was the role of zoos in the conservation of endangered species. More than 40 papers were delivered on a variety of topics, including captive-breeding, introductions and reintroductions, the use of genetic techniques in species conservation, the welfare of species in zoos, legal aspects of movement of endangered species and theoretical models for predicting species extinctions. Simon Mickleburgh of FFPS presented a paper on the captive breeding and translocation of Old World fruit bats and Liza Gadsby, FFPS Project Leader for the Drill Project in Cameroon outlined the current status of drill conservation in West Africa. A book of the proceedings will be published by Chapman and Hall.

Simon Mickleburgh.

The Body Shop helps FFPS to help the gorillas

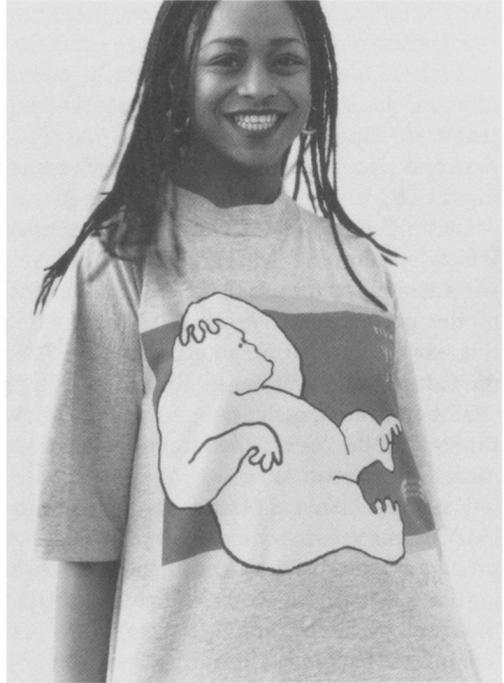
The Society always welcomes sponsorship and was particularly pleased when The Body Shop offered to help the FFPS in its work conserving the gorillas that inhabit the forests on the borders of Rwanda, Zaire and Uganda.

The Body Shop has committed itself to raise £10,000 initially through the sale of a specially designed T-shirt in their Endangered Species range. The T-shirt is available from The Body Shop's branches throughout the UK. The adult version is grey and sells at £9.95, while the children's size is bright purple and costs £6.95.

Film première to aid FFPS gorilla project

The Fauna and Flora Preservation Society was chosen as the conservation charity to benefit from the UK première of the first film from the Imax Natural History Film Unit, *Mountain Gorilla*. The première is scheduled to take place on 15 June at The Imax Theatre, National Museum of Photography in Bradford.

The Imax system, which was launched in 1970 at the World Fair in Osaka, Japan, gives a sensation of 'living the experience', with the image being projected on to a screen ten times the size of a conventional cinema screen.



The Body Shop's gorilla T-Shirt; every one sold helps the FFPS's work in conserving mountain gorillas and their forest habitat.

First gorilla victim of Rwandan war

Just as this issue of *Oryx* was about to go to press we received news from José Kalpers, (the Co-ordinator of the International Gorilla Conservation Project), that a mountain gorilla had been shot in the Rwandan Volcanoes National Park, the first known gorilla casualty of the war between the Rwandan Government and the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Mrithi, the adult male silverback of Group 13, which has been visited by many tourists over the past few years, was shot in the early hours of 21 May while sleeping in his night nest. Guards from ORTPN, the Rwandan Department of Tourism and National Parks, found the body the same morning as they made their regular daily check on the whereabouts of the gorilla group.

When the rebel conflict spilled over into the Virunga area last year, conservation groups

expressed concern for the mountain gorillas, but both the Rwandan Government and the RPF issued statements that they would not harm the rare primates. Military activity was restricted to the eastern end of the Virunga range and tourist visits to gorilla groups elsewhere in the Virungas continued almost throughout the troubles. However, recent developments in the conflict led to the extension of the fighting westwards, affecting the movements of habituated gorillas and their daily monitoring by ORTPN staff.

José Kalpers, who conducted the preliminary investigation with ORTPN, reports that it is not yet possible to say who killed the gorilla, but that evidence from the scene indicates that a group of armed people shot indiscriminately when they came across the sleeping gorillas as they were travelling through the forest before dawn. An autopsy carried out on the dead gorilla by the Volcans Veterinary Center (Morris Animal Foundation) indicated that he died from respiratory collapse after the bullet (calibre 7.62, used by both sides in the conflict) penetrated his chest cavity. Fortunately, none of the other gorillas was harmed, and a younger male appears to have taken over leadership of the group, which has calmed down after the trauma.

Ironically, this incident came at a time of renewed attempts to resolve the human conflict. The Rwandan Foreign Minister has just visited Kampala and peace talks have been scheduled to take place in Paris on 6 June.

New Christmas card

Each year the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society introduces a new design in its range of exclusive Christmas cards. We have in the past often chosen unusual designs and, while this has been appreciated by members, comments have been received at the office suggesting that a more traditional card would be welcome. In response to those comments we have chosen for 1992 a card depicting a vase of holly and Christmas roses. In colour with a white embossed border on white ground and containing a seasonal message, the card mea-

sures 221 mm x 151 mm. A pack of five costs £1.25 (excluding postage).

Previous cards still available include 'Lynx' (1991), 'Leaf' (1990) and 'Otter' (1989). The Society also offers binders for *Oryx*, and FFPS ties. See insert in this issue for full details of costs and an order form.

Members' meetings

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Fauna and Flora Society will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday 7 October at the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London. Please see insert in this issue of *Oryx*.

Other meetings

For information on other meetings see the insert in this *Oryx*. For meetings in the regions please contact the FFPS Secretariat.

