

Briefly

INTERNATIONAL

World Conservation Strategy Progress

Since the World Conservation Strategy was launched, in 1980, 38 nations have incorporated, or intend to incorporate, its principles into their national policies.

Everglades National Park

Everglades National Park was officially dedicated as a World Heritage Site on 6 April 1982.

New Ethnobotany Society

The Society of Ethnobotanists (SEBS) was created last year. Details from Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow – 226010 (UP), India.

Salmon Watch

A new network for those concerned with conservation of salmon, trout and charr has been set up under the auspices of the IUCN. Salmonid Watch Secretary, Peter S. Maitland, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, 78 Craighall Road, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Turtle and Tortoise Foundation

The International Turtle and Tortoise Foundation based in the Netherlands has ceased all activities, including the publication of *Chelonologica*, due to financial difficulties.

BRITISH ISLES

Rare Plant Records Rise

Records of over 5000 rare and threatened plants from all over the world are now held on the Wang computer of the Conservation Monitoring Unit at Kew, and nearly as many again are waiting to be added.

Conservation Garden Wins Award

The *Sunday Times* Conservation Garden, designed by Dr Kevin Chambers to attract birds and other wildlife, was awarded a Royal Horticultural Society Flora Silver medal at the Chelsea Flower Show, London this year.



The Forestry Commission's monocultures which blanket hillsides, irrespective of contours, have long been criticized, even on aesthetic grounds. But this scene in Scotland in May 1982 suggests that they are slow to change their ways.

Orchids Plundered

Last summer four flowering lizard orchid spikes *Himantoglossum hircinum* were dug up from one of only six places where it now grows, and in Buckinghamshire two spikes of the very rare military orchid *Orchis militaris*, which grows in only one other county, were also dug up. Both are among the 62 endangered British wild plants given special protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the offence will carry a £500 fine when the Act comes into force.

Tradescant Trust

The newly formed Tradescant Trust is converting St Mary-at Lambeth Church in London, where the two John Tradescants are buried, into a Museum of Garden History and centre for interests relating to gardens and conservation. The churchyard will be planted with species they collected from all over the world. Details: 7, The Little Boltons, London SW10 9LJ.

Churchyard Plant Survey

Help would be welcomed for a national survey of churchyards and burial grounds to identify sites worth conserving. Survey forms available from the Botanical Society of the British Isles, c/o Dept of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

Where are the Great Crested Newts?

Localities of any ponds containing the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, now very rare in Britain, are requested by Dr T. J. C. Beebee, Biology Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QG, Sussex.

Sand Lizards

The reason why the sand lizard *Lacerta agilis*, an endangered species on the edge of its range in Britain, breeds poorly in the average British summer may be a matter of temperature. Three Soviet scientists, V. M. Zakharov, A. S. Baranov and A. V. Valetzky, have shown that 'the highest percentage of hatching is observed at 25°C when the development duration equals 45 days' and such conditions are not common in Britain.

New Tortoise Law

British law now requires anyone buying a tortoise to sign an undertaking to provide suitable accommodation and diet. Failure to do this could make the owner liable to a maximum fine of £400.

New Badger Group

A Badger Working Group has been formed by CoEnCo's Wildlife Link Committee. Its objectives are to provide liaison between the conservation organisations involved in the badgers and tuberculosis problem, and to work with MAFF, through constructive criticism and, by undertaking its own research projects, to reduce the level of infection in cattle to a point when a policy on badgers is no longer required.

Urban Fox Study

The Oxford University Zoology Department has a project to discover the national distribution of urban foxes and the extent to which they are a nuisance. Details of sightings and activities of urban foxes should be sent in envelopes marked Urban Fox Study, to the Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS. Record forms supplied on request.

Furrier is Fined

PCAP (Protection and Conservation of Animals and Plant Life) successfully prosecuted Raimond Furs of Manchester for offering an illegally obtained leopard skin coat for sale. The firm was fined £750 – the largest fine so far imposed under the 1976 Endangered Species Act.

Acid Rain Serious in Scotland

A new study shows that acid rain is as serious a problem in Scotland as it is in Scandinavia and North America. Scientists at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in

Scotland report that rain acidity is sometimes ten times that of the natural background level and similar to Scandinavian levels.

Industrial Support for Conservation

The Conservation Foundation, sponsored by Pitney Bowes, has been launched to encourage industry to support conservation. Details: Aviation House, 129, Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH.

New Wildlife Act Inspector

The UK has appointed a Wildlife Act Inspector to help enforce bird protection laws under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. The inspector, Colin McKelvie, will be responsible to the Department of the Environment but based at the British Field Sports Society.

Young People's Trust

In July 1982, the Young People's Trust for Endangered Species, formerly the Youth and Education Division of the People's Trust for Endangered Species, was granted independent charitable status. Bob Boote CVO – former Director of the Nature Conservancy Council – is its chairman.

EUROPE

Berne Convention Ratified

The Council of Europe Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Berne Convention) came into force on 1 June 1982 after ratification by the Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Portugal, Italy, Luxembourg, Ireland and the EEC.

Ban Proposed on Seal Imports

The European Parliament of the EEC voted 160 to 10 on 11 March to recommend an import ban on skins of baby harp and hooded seals, *Pagophilus groenlandicus* and *Cystophora cristata* from Canada. An NCC report in May backs the ban and proposes listing both species on Appendix 1 of CITES. The European Commission is considering the recommendation and meanwhile, with Canada, is financing further research by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES).



Acid Rain Secretariat Formed

The Swedish Secretariat on Acid Rain brings together four ngo's. There will be an occasional newsletter, *Acid News*. The Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, c/o The Swedish Society for the Conservation of Nature, Kungsholms Strand 125, S11 234, Stockholm.

Denmark's New Laws are Tougher

Denmark is introducing tougher hunting laws from 1 January 1983. All waders will be protected except curlew, whimbrel, common snipe, jack snipe and woodcock; motorboat hunting in coastal areas and the use of live birds as decoys will be prohibited.

Oil Threat to Camargue

After a public enquiry the French Ministry for the Environment has stated that there will be no oil prospecting in the Camargue National Reserve itself but prospecting on other sites in the Camargue will be authorised.

Night Hunting in France

In France night hunting in the coastal wintering areas of waterfowl is having a devastating effect; all species are being depleted.

Turtle Dove Hunting

The French Government authorised turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* hunting last May. The French Federation of Societies for the Protection of Nature says that this contravenes the EEC Bird Directive of April 1979 and has asked the European Commission to get the practice stopped.

Long-lived Bat

A longevity record was broken when a female lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* was caught in 1980 near Ojców in Poland. It had been ringed in 1959. The oldest bat previously known from ringing studies was 18 years old.

Threatened Fungi

An inventory of fungi in West Germany has shown that 40 per cent of the known higher fungi are threatened with extinction there.

Germany's Butterflies

Half West Germany's butterfly species are threatened with extinction.

Road Closed for German Toads

For the first time a road in the Münster region of Germany was closed to traffic between 8.0 pm and midnight to allow toads to reach their spawning grounds.

Birds of Prey in Germany

The Ornithological Society of Schleswig-Holstein, West Germany, says that, despite all-year-round protection since 1970, 500 birds of prey were illegally killed between 1970 and 1980.

Hérons to be Shot in Bavaria

Pressure from fish farmers has forced the Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture to permit shooting of herons *Ardea cinerea* for a two-month period. There are 1150 breeding pairs in Bavaria but one or two cold winters combined with the shooting could cause local extinctions.

Bird Decline in Switzerland

In Switzerland five of the 83 nesting bird species classed as rare or threatened have declined to below the critical level; purple heron *Ardea purpurea*, white stork *Ciconia ciconia*, peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*, curlew *Numenius arquata* and scops owl *Otus scops*.

New Primate Society

The new Associazione Primatologia Italiana aims to promote and co-ordinate research on non-human primates, to protect endangered species, to promote primate breeding centres and to examine experimental procedures to avoid maltreatment. Details: Professor G.F. De Stefano, Institute of Anthropology, University of Rome, 00185 Rome, Italy.

Disease Threatens Chamois

An epidemic of infective kerato-conjunctivitis which causes blindness is wiping out the chamois *Rupicapra rupicapra* of the Italian Alps. The disease arrived in Europe from North Africa two years ago and killed 3000 chamois in the French Pyrenees. Now 4500 are at risk in the Gran Paradiso National Park – the only faint hope is to lace salt licks with cortisone and antibiotics.

New Treaty for Mediterranean

A treaty providing for the designation of

180 protected marine areas bordering the Mediterranean was approved by the EEC and 16 Mediterranean countries on 2 April 1982. Some will protect endangered species such as the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*.

Greeks Protect Seas

The new Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA) is committed to raising the environmental consciousness of the Greek shipping community. Greek shipowners and the seaman's unions have signed a voluntary declaration supporting a plan to eliminate ship-generated marine pollution. WWF, IUCN, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) have all contributed to this major new environmental initiative.

NORTH AMERICA

Texas Orchid Listed

Fewer than 20 plants are known in the wild of Navasota ladies'-tresses *Spiranthes parksii* which in May was declared endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Rare Fish Recovery Plan

A recovery plan for the Clear Creek gambusia *Gambusia heterochir*, found only in this Texan creek, has been approved by the Department of the Interior. Competition with mosquito fish *G. affinis* and development of its very restricted habitat, are the main threats.

Houston Toad Captive-Bred

The critically endangered Houston toad *Bufo houstonensis* has been bred for the first time in captivity at Houston Zoo, Texas.

California Condors

Only one pair of the 30 surviving California condors *Gymnogyps californianus* tried to breed this year; they knocked their first egg over the cliff edge and ravens destroyed the second. At least it is now known that they will lay a second time after a breeding failure.

DDT Residues Feminize Male Gulls

Recent studies at the University of California reveal that oestrogen-like residues of DDT cause feminization of gulls so that male western gulls *Larus occidentalis* at Santa Barbara are unable to breed and the females sit on unfertilized eggs.

Bald Eagles Return to Missouri

A pair of bald eagles *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* nested this year in Missouri – the first confirmed record since the early 1960s. A protective zone was established round the nest tree.

Whooping Cranes

At its wintering grounds in Aransas the only wild population of whooping cranes *Grus americana* was down from 78 in 1980 to 73, following high egg predation and chick mortality on the Canadian breeding grounds. The captive flock at Patuxent is now 22.

Siberian Cranes

A Siberian crane *Grus leucogeranus* chick hatched on 16 May at the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin, was the third successful hatch. The male parent is 70 – the oldest captive Siberian crane. There are 200 Siberian cranes in the wild and 25 in captivity.

Ten Years After DDT Ban

Ten years after the ban on the use of DDT, bald-eagles, ospreys and brown pelicans are increasing in numbers as chemical residues fade. Some migratory birds are still at risk because they absorb DDT in Latin America.

Sea Otter May Face Oil Threat

A decision to open up the entire range of the sea otter *Enhydra lutris* to offshore oil development was announced by the Secretary of the Interior in May, even though oil contamination is the greatest threat to the animals according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Nine million acres along the central and northern California coast will be affected.

Black-footed Ferrets – 24 Found

Twenty-four of the highly endangered black-footed ferrets *Mustela nigripes* have been found in Wyoming following the discovery of one killed by a dog in September 1981



(see *Oryx*, February 1982). But oil and gas explorations threaten the region, and no funds for the ferret were allowed in the Fish and Wildlife Service's 1982 budget.

Manatees Die

Between February and May this year 37 manatees *Trichechus manatus* died in the Fort Myers area of Florida, possibly as a result of eating sea squirts (tunicates) which are known to accumulate toxins from red tide organisms.

Lead v Steel Shot

A two-year study has found that steel shot has a much higher crippling rate than lead shot when used to hunt ducks. Some researchers say that steel shot should not be used where lead poisoning of waterfowl is not a problem.

Auction of Confiscated Wildlife Products

Ivory carvings, snakeskin handbags, fur coats and mounted trophies were among the confiscated goods expected to raise more than half a million dollars in the first Fish and Wildlife Service public auction in September. All had been seized from violators of US conservation laws since the mid-1970s. Not for sale were goods derived from CITES Appendix 1 species and items for which the service would be the sole source.

New Office for Earthscan

Earthscan, London-based global news and information service, has opened a new office in Washington USA to provide information for the American media on global development and environmental issues. It will be funded by WWF-US, UNEP and IIED (International Institute for Economic Development).

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Tree Protection in Barbados

In Barbados a new law decrees that no tree may be felled without permission from the Chief Town Planner. Violators are liable to a fine of \$1000 or six months imprisonment.

Tree Ferns Decline

Tree ferns, Cyatheaceae, are declining in the

forests of Trinidad and Tobago due to demand by horticulturalists. They are used as supports for cultivated orchids and philodendrons.

Cat Island Turtle

Following his recent survey of the Cat Island turtle *Pseudemys felis* (see *Oryx*, June 1982) Dr Perran Ross is to begin a scientific/education project to conserve the species.

St Lucia Parrot Captive Bred

The first known successful captive breeding of the St Lucia parrot *Amazona versicolor*, of which only 100 survive in the wild, was achieved at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust this year. The Trust's nine parrots, the only ones outside the island, are on breeding loan from the St Lucia Government.

Humboldt Penguin

To help document the decline of the Humboldt penguin *Spheniscus humboldti*, visitors to Peru are asked to send any counts they have made to Dr D.C. Duffy, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa or Ms Coppelía Hays, Zoology Dept., 223 Bartram Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.

Belize's National Mammal

Belize, which recently became independent, has made Baird's tapir *Tapirus bairdii* its national mammal.

Argentina Protects Indigenous Cats

Argentina has banned exports of all its indigenous cats, excluding the puma *Felis concolor*. The ban also covers hunting and trading of the maned wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus*.

Woolly Spider Monkeys

The woolly spider monkey *Brachyteles arachnoides* of eastern Brazil is on the verge of extinction. A survey by Dr Russell Mittermeier has estimated that only 100 are left in four areas of privately owned forest and only one of the populations, numbering 50 individuals, is large enough to be viable.

AFRICA

Lost Island

Maziwi, a tiny island off the coast of Tanzania and the only known breeding site in East Africa for the olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea*, has disappeared, washed away by the sea. It was also an important site for the green and hawksbill turtles *Chelonia mydas* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*.

Zambia's New Export Ban

On 23 January the Zambian Government prohibited elephant and rhinoceros hunting under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (Elephants and Rhinoceros) Regulations 1982. All outstanding hunting licences were revoked and non-governmental export of elephant ivory, except manufactured articles, and the import, export or possession of rhino horn prohibited.

Fish Eagles

The fish eagles *Haliaeetus vocifer* around Lake Kariba could cease breeding in less than a decade according to game warden Ron Thompson. Over half the eggs of 40 clutches he examined turned out to be 40 per cent thinner than normal. The cause is DDT of which Zimbabwe uses 1000 tons each year.

Research Centre will Destroy Forest

A proposal to set up a primate centre for medical research in a 40-hectare ancient forest reserve, 16km west of Nairobi, Kenya, is opposed by the Society for the Protection of Olulua Forest, which demands that another site is found before the forest is destroyed.

New Wildlife Course

The University of Sierra Leone now offers a masters degree in Applied Ecology and Wildlife Biology. The two-year course combines ecology and education studies and aims both to equip Sierra-Leone students for scientific and management posts in conservation and to train teachers and employees of government departments concerned with the environment.

ASIA

Asiatic Ass Returns

Two herds of Asiatic wild ass *Equus hemionus* from the Badkhysh Reserve have been successfully re-introduced into sanctuaries in the foothills of the eastern and central Kopetdag Mountains, Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. In the Badkhysh Reserve they had increased from 200–300 in 1941 to 2000 in 1980.

Snow Leopard to be Hunted

Mongolia has included the snow leopard *Panthera uncia* among permissible game in an attempt to attract tourists.

TRAFFIC Office for Japan

Japan now has a TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce) office in Tokyo. Headed by Mr Hyosuke Kujiroaka, former Director of the Japanese Government's Environmental Protection Agency, it has a scientific advisory committee under Dr Hideo Obara and day-to-day operations will be handled by Tom Milliken. Second only to the US in the volume of wildlife trade, Japan joined CITES in 1980 with nine reservations and has since added two more. They include three species of whales, three of sea turtles, three of monitor lizards, the saltwater crocodile, and the musk deer.

Baby Panda Dead

The baby born to one of the radio-collared pandas in Wolong Nature Reserve in Sichuan Province, where George Schaller is studying them, is believed to be dead – no tracks have been seen alongside the mother's.

Wildlife Education in China

Three north-eastern provinces in China – Heilongjiang, Jilin and Lianing – have set up a joint Wildlife Education Committee.

Shou Report

The shou *Cervus elaphus wallichii*, a red deer subspecies, is not extinct as reported in the last Red Data Book. A large stag was seen being chased by dogs in the Ha Valley, Bhutan and was later found dead in a military camp. People living in the valley report seeing herds of shou quite often.



Hangul Numbers Build Up

Numbers of the Kashmir stag, the hangul *Cervus elaphus hangul*, in the Dachigam Sanctuary in the Vale of Kashmir, are put at between 400 and 500, reports Richard Willan after a visit in 1981. Most conspicuous, he says, is the improvement in the vegetation since the Government removed the experimental sheep farm (see *Oryx*, August 1980) and also the village of 4000 people and their grazing domestic animals. The village was settled elsewhere – in itself a remarkable achievement. This hangul population is the only substantial one left.

Pakistan Export Ban

Pakistan placed a three-year moratorium on the export of mammals, reptiles and their derivatives from 1 September 1981.

New Conservation Foundation

The Pakistan Wildlife Conservation Foundation has been established. Hon. Sec., Bungalow No: 4-G, St. No: 51, F 6/4, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Conference Recommendations

An International Primate Symposium in India in February 1982 strongly recommended the Indian Government to maintain the primate export ban. The conference also urged that the hydro-electric scheme in India's Silent Valley, Kerala, whose fauna includes the highly endangered liontail macaque *Macaca silenus*, be abandoned.

New Law for Brunei

Brunei's Wildlife Protection Enactment, drafted in 1978, has been approved by HH the Sultan. The act makes provisions for wildlife sanctuaries and prohibits the hunting, killing and capturing of 34 animal species. Offenders face up to one year's imprisonment and maximum fines of \$2000.

ANTIPODES

New Land Agreements

A new approach to retaining native vegetation on private land has been introduced in South Australia. Landowners can voluntarily enter into a Heritage Agreement with the State to manage the native vegetation and

the agreement stands even if the land changes hands. By April 1981 200 landowners had entered into such agreements to which the government is contributing \$150,000 per year.

Arid Lands Threatened

Five Australian states with a large proportion of arid land are proposing to lease large blocks of state pastoral land to private farmers. The Australian Conservation Foundation argues that these sensitive lands should be conserved and protected by the government and that the proposed legislation makes no provision for enforcing wise management or continued public access.

Forest Saved

The Premier of Queensland has declared a moratorium on logging in the Conondales, 140 miles north of Brisbane, in response to a deputation from the Save Conondale Range Committee. The many rare species in the forest include at least one in the Red Data Book, the platypus frog *Rheobatrachus silus*, which has not been seen for two years.

Drilling for Oil: Opposition

Eighty per cent of Australian voters would oppose drilling for oil on the Great Barrier Reef even if there were an oil shortage, according to a survey commissioned by the National Trust of New South Wales and the Australian Conservation Foundation. In a similar survey in 1979 only 66 per cent were opposed.

Rules Protect Coral

New Regulations for fishing in the Coral Sea, east of the Great Barrier Reef, include the requirement of a licence to take some sedentary species including corals.

Bringing Back the Bustard

The Fisheries and Wildlife Division proposes to restore the bustard to Victoria where a number of farmers are ready to join Bustard Breeding Co-operatives. They will protect captive breeding groups and manage grasslands to provide the right habitat with the aim of creating a free-flying population.

Protected Birds Shot

More than 1000 fully protected birds were shot on the opening day of the duck shoot

at Lake Buloke in Victoria, many of which, according to the Vice-President of the Council for the Control of Gun Misuse, could not have been mistaken for ducks. He is calling for a 10.00 am start to the shoot which would give less excuse for mistaken identifications.

Bush-crickets Translocated

Forty-three specimens of the giant weta *Deinacrida rugosa*, a New Zealand endemic and the world's largest known insect, have been taken to rat-free Maud Island in the Marlborough Sound. This bush-cricket was exterminated on the mainland at the turn of the century by introduced rats and its only sizeable surviving population on Mana Island, offshore from Porirua's west coast, is at risk because rats may be inadvertently introduced with hay taken for the sheep there.

New Rules for Shark Bay

Because of the danger to dugongs and turtles the West Australian Government in 1981 banned the use of shark set nets in Shark Bay. New rules decreed early this year banned net stakes in the sea-bed and the use of nets entirely between 90 minutes after sunrise and 90 minutes before the following sunset, and required the set nets to be cleared every hour and attended at all times otherwise they would be automatically confiscated.

OCEANS

Pacific Congress

The theme of the 15th Pacific Science Congress, to be held in Dunedin, New Zealand, 1-11 February 1983, is the conservation, development and utilization of Pacific resources. Information from Secretary-General, 15th Pacific Science Congress, PO Box 6063, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Sea Turtle Poster

A poster showing sea turtles of the world swimming and feeding, sponsored by the Center of Environmental Education and the National Marine Fisheries Service, is obtainable free from C.A. Oravetz, NMFS Southeast Region, 9450 Koger Blvd., St. Petersburg, Florida 33702, USA.

Bishop's O'O Rediscovered

Bishop's o'o *Moho bishopi*, a species of honeyeater, last sighted in 1904 on Molokai, Hawaii, has been rediscovered on nearby Maui by Stephen Sabo, the first confirmed sighting from this island. Bishop's o'o faces the same threats as other native passerines: diseases, human disturbance and, most serious, feral pigs *Sus scrofa*, whose root-seeking damages the montane forest. They also have a liking for the roots of lobelias, the flowers of which provide the birds with nectar.

Hawaiian Geese

Hawaiian geese *Branta sandvicensis* now number 750 in the wild compared with 50 in 1949, as a result of the release of captive-bred birds from both the USA and Slimbridge, England. The build-up is slow partly due to predation by introduced mongooses and feral cats and dogs during the nesting and moulting seasons.

Endangered Snake Captive-Bred

One of the endangered endemic Round Island snakes, the keel-scaled boa *Casarea dussumieri* has been bred in captivity for the first time at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. The wild population on this island off Mauritius is estimated to be 75.

Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher

The latest survey of the Seychelles paradise flycatcher *Terpsiphone corvina*, one of the world's rarest birds found mainly on one island, La Digue, puts total numbers at only 80. A new reserve is being created.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

The NCC has declared Abernethy Forest on Speyside a national nature reserve. Its 4748 acres include the largest of Scotland's native pine forests.

Eleven new national parks have been set up in Finland this year bringing the total to 20, and six have been extended. Five new strict nature reserves have also been established and four reserves extended. Most of the new parks are in southern Finland which had been under-represented.



Two new reserves in lower Austria are the Spitzberg and the River Schleinitz depression. In Styria, the Salz estuary near Mitterndorf is also now protected.

Canada has set aside a 34,650-hectare reserve to protect sea otters in British Columbia at Checleset Bay.

In March 1982 the Costa Rica and Panama governments jointly created the International Park of Friendship in Cordillera de Talamanca on their frontiers. This preserves some of the largest intact tropical forests in Central America.

The Brazilian Wildlife Department has established the Pantanal Matogrossense National Park in Mato Grosso state. The Park's 338,527 acres contain 21 of Brazil's 86 endangered animal species.

The 200-hectare island, Pulau Semama, in Eastern Kalimantan, Indonesia has been declared a reserve to protect sea turtles.

The new Rokeby-Croll National Park, Queensland, Australia, covers 250,000 hectares.

PERSONALIA

Lt. Col. Leofric Boyle, Honorary Secretary of ffPS and editor of *Oryx* between 1950 and 1963, has been placed on the Roll of Honour for Distinguished Services to the Society.

E. Max Nicholson, one of the 'prime movers of the modern conservation movement', has been awarded the World Wildlife Fund's highest honour, its Gold Medal. David Ogilvy, the advertising executive, who has given outstanding personal service to WWF, and Professor Sven Hörstadius, the well known Swedish ornithologist, have been made Members of Honour.

Ian Grimwood, a Vice-President of ffPS, has been awarded the OBE for 'service to conservation of wildlife overseas'. Christopher Parsons, Head of the BBC Natural History Unit, received the OBE and Brian Brookes,

Warden of Kindrogan Field Centre, Scottish Field Studies Association, received the MBE.

Mr G.T. Corley Smith CMG has been made a Grand Officer of the Order of Merit by the Ecuadorean government for services to conservation. He has retired as Secretary-General of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands after ten years service, but will continue to edit *Noticias de Galapagos*. Juan Black in Quito, Ecuador, will be the new Secretary-General and Dr Ole Hamann of the University of Copenhagen, Secretary for Europe.

The 6th annual J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize of \$50,000 was awarded to Maria Tereza Jorge Padua, Director of the Dept of National Parks in Brazil, and a Council member of IUCN, and to Dr Paulo Nogueira Neto, Secretario do Meio Ambiente in Brazil's Ministry of the Interior.

Dr David Goode, formerly Assistant Chief Scientist with the Nature Conservancy Council, has been appointed the Greater London Council's first ecologist. He sees this as an opportunity to create an environment for both humans and wildlife in London by infiltrating ecological thinking at all levels of the GLC.

Chris Huxley is the new head of the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit in Cambridge, UK.

Pong Leng-EE has been appointed Director of the National Parks Division of the Royal Forest Department in Thailand.

OBITUARIES

U Tun Yin, Burmese conservationist and ffPS consultant, died in April, aged 90. He was preparing the 2nd edition of *Mammals of Burma*.

René Dubos died on 20 February, aged 81.

Professor Ruggero Tomaselli, who masterminded the Council of Europe European Vegetation Map, died in an accident on 30 March. He was head of the Botanical Institute of Pavia University, Italy.