

## Guinea forest survey

Between 19 November and 21 December 1992 an Anglo-Guinean team surveyed Kamalaya Kounounkan Forest in south-western Guinea, West Africa. The aim of this FFPS-funded project was to make a preliminary inventory of the forest's fauna and flora, assess the site's conservation potential and the possibility of setting up a long-term co-operative project.

The faunal records included 134 bird species, 30 mammal species and 274 plant species. Among them were the threatened white-necked rockfowl *Picarthartes gymnocephalus* and three candidate Red Data Book bird species. Nine species of primates were found, including chimpanzee and mona monkey. The site still has abundant wildlife, probably because there is little local hunting pressure and because much of the 5200-ha forest has been declared sacred.

Guinea is poorly known biologically and this forest is a useful starting point for further surveys and for training Guinean biologists in survey techniques.

## International Gorilla Conservation Programme

There is both good and bad news to report from the International Gorilla Conservation Programme. On the positive side, the management plan for the Bwindi (Impenetrable) Forest) National Park, which was undertaken at the request of the Uganda Government, has been well received by the Uganda National Parks Department. Dr Elizabeth McFie, formerly of the Virunga Veterinary Centre, has been taken on as IGCP representative in Uganda and to take responsibility for implementation of the plan.

We are also pleased to report that German Cargo Services GmbH has agreed to provide, for a further year, free cargo facilities on its regular air-charter services between Frankfurt and Kigali, Rwanda. The arrangement will be of great assistance for all gorilla and forest conservation projects in the region and will last until the end of 1993.

The project faces potential new problems with the worsening economic situation in Zaire and the upsurge in military activity in Rwanda. A fuller report will be published later in the year.

## New botanical staff

The FFPS has taken on a former Diploma student from the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to assist in developing the Society's Botanical Project work, which is co-ordinated by consultant, Mike Read, and the Flora Working Group of FFPS's Conservation Committee. Madeleine Groves started a 6-month contract with the Society on 3 February. Her most recent work included a study of the international trade in pitcher plants *Sarracenia*.

## Meetings

### *Bristol Group*

*Thursday 29 April.* An Evening in Belize with Jo Clarkson, 7.30 p.m. Bristol Zoo Lecture Theatre. Tickets (including buffet), £5 (adults); £3 students and senior citizens, 20% reduction for FFPS members.

### *Cambridge Regional Group*

*Friday 7 May.* The Art of Nature with Bruce Pearson. The Zoology Department, Downing Street, Cambridge. The talk will start at 7.30 p.m. preceded by a buffet supper at 6.00 p.m. Tickets: £5 in advance from Dr C. Harcourt, 70 Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 3DU.

### *North West Group*

*Friday 30 April.* The Art of Nature with Bruce Pearson. Russell Allen Lecture Hall, Chester Zoo. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. start. Tickets cost £5 (FFPS members) and £5.50 (non-members) and include a light buffet and wine. Please book tickets in advance from Penny Rudd (daytime) 0244 380280 or Alan Woodward (evenings) 0244 373312.