

Ecology of the Chagos Archipelago edited by Sheppard, C.R.C. & Seaward, M.R.D. (1999), 350 pp., ISBN 1 84103 003 1, £39.00. Linnean Society Occasional Publications 2. Linnean Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ, UK. E-mail: marquita@linnean.demon.co.uk

The Chagos Archipelago in the Central Indian Ocean comprises a number of large atolls supporting about 60 small islands. This volume consists principally of results of a research programme carried out in 1996 through The Friends of the Chagos. The main subject of the volume is the reef structure and its marine fauna and flora. There are also the results of research on sea turtles and breeding sea birds (but nothing on the rather limited fauna of other birds or reptiles, or on mammals) and reviews of insects and terrestrial flora. The Friends of the Chagos is a charity established to promote the conservation, and scientific and historical research of this archipelago with its internationally important reefs and sea-bird populations.

A History of Wildlife Conservation and Management in the mid-Luangwa Valley, Zambia by Astle, W.L. (1999), 148 pp., 24 photographs, 27 maps, 1 diagram, ISBN 0 9530175 1 0, £15.00. British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Clock Tower Yard, Temple Meads, Bristol BS1 6QH, UK. Tel.: +44 117 925 4980; Fax: +44 117 925 4983; E-mail: staff@empiremuseum.demon.co.uk

This illustrated book is an account of recorded events in the mid-Luangwa Valley from the start of European penetration at the end of the 18th century to the early 1970s, when the serious onslaught by commercial poachers began. It considers four broad themes: the history and development of the valley; the history of the formation of the Game Department; the establishment of the game reserve and developments within it; and attempts to use wildlife in areas outside the reserve. The author worked in Zambia between 1959 and 1973, in the Ministry of African Agriculture and the Department of Game and Fisheries, and again from 1986 to the present. He believes that the policies and attitudes of the Colonial regime have been misrepresented or misunderstood by some who have tried, more recently, to implement conservation measures in Zambia. He explains how local villagers were involved in local planning in the Colonial period and hopes that this account will be of value to modern planners.

Mkomazi: The Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation of a Tanzanian Savanna edited by Coe, M., McWilliam, N., Stone, G. & Packer, M. (1999), 620 pp., 12 pp. colour photographs, fold-out colour map, ISBN 0 907649 75 0, £20.00. Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, UK. Tel.: +44 020 7591 3070; Fax: +44 020 7591 3071; E-mail: info@rgs.org

The Mkomazi Game Reserve in northern Tanzania has a great biological significance, representing one of the richest savannahs in Africa and containing many species found nowhere else in Tanzania. To maintain its local, national and international value, it must find ways to accommodate the needs of a rapidly expanding human population with its remarkable flora and fauna. This book presents the findings of a 5-year study started by the Tanzanian Department of Wildlife and the Royal Geographical Society in 1992. It covers Mkomazi's physical, biological and ecological attributes as well as pastoral and agricultural activities on the reserve's margins. The book will be valuable for the planning and management of Mkomazi, to visitors and to those with a wider interest in African savannah landscapes.

Investing in Biodiversity: A Review of Indonesia's Integrated Conservation and Development Projects by Wells, M., Guggenheim, S., Khan, A., Wardoyo, W. & Jepson, P. (1999), 132 pp., ISBN 0 8213 4419 6, \$US22.00. World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA. E-mail: books@worldbank.org; Web: www.worldbank.org/publications

Efforts to promote Integrated Conservation and Development Projects (ICDPs) in Indonesia will work only if the central and provincial governments demonstrate a strong commitment to protecting conservation areas and their surroundings. Current ICDP components, based on simplistic ideas of making limited short-term investments in local development and hoping that this will somehow translate into sustainable resource use and less pressure on protected areas need to be abandoned. This book presents the results of a study conducted by the Environment and Social Impact Unit of the World Bank resident staff in Indonesia. Its objectives were: to consider the overall contribution of ICDPs to conserving Indonesia's biodiversity; to assess

their cost-effectiveness, sustainability and replicability; and to identify lessons for future conservation efforts. The study emphasized the use of qualitative information, supplemented by limited quantitative analyses from case studies, interviews, and an extensive review of project documentation.

Bears in the Wild by Kemf, E., Wilson, A. & Servheen, C. (1999), 44 pp., ISBN 2 88085 232 3. WWF International, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel.: +41 22 364 91 11; Fax: +41 22 364 5829; Web: www.panda.org

This WWF Species Status Report covers bears in history and culture, natural history, distribution and status, conservation threats and issues, what needs to be done to ensure the future of the world's bears, and a bibliography. It is illustrated in colour.

Ringed Seals in the North Atlantic edited by Heide-Jørgenson, M.P. & Lydersen, C. (1998) 273 pp., ISBN 82 91578 04 4, Hardcover NOK350.00. The

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), University of Trømsø, N-9037 Trømsø, Norway. Tel.: +47 77 64 59 08; Fax: +47 77 64 59 05; E-mail: nammco-sec@nammco.no; Web: www.nammco.no

This is the first volume in the new series of NAMMCO Scientific Publications, which aims to publish peer-reviewed scientific papers that have contributed to work carried out by the NAMMCO Scientific Committee. NAMMCO was established in 1992 by an agreement signed between Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands with the purpose of contributing, through regional co-operation and consultation, to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. *Ringed Seals in the North Atlantic* presents an overview of the most current scientific knowledge about the ringed seal. It begins with a broad assessment of the distribution, abundance and biology of the species followed by regional overviews of ringed seal populations. The relationships between northern peoples and the ringed seal are examined through regional descriptions of catch history and exploitation.