

## The Oryx 100% Fund

In June the FFPS was pleased to receive a further £20,000 grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust to support Oryx 100% Fund projects in 1991–92 (see *Oryx*, 24, 178–179).

### Grants awarded

At a meeting on 29 May 1991, the FFPS agreed to fund the following projects.

£5000 for William Oliver and Roland Wirth for a series of projects designed to meet conservation priorities for threatened endemic mammals in the Philippines, including fruit bats, cloud rats, warty pigs and deer. The projects include preliminary field surveys, implementation of recommendations from previous field projects, establishment of breeding programmes and development of conservation education and on-site training programmes. (Project no. 91/16/4).

£500 to Roger Safford to protect nesting caves of the grey-rumped swiftlet *Collocalia francica francica*, which is endemic to Mauritius and Réunion. The swiftlet populations are threatened by blocking of cave entrances, dumping and burning of rubbish in the caves and direct vandalism. The funds will be used to construct and fit metal grilles to control human access. (Project no. 90/17/3).

### Report received

*Effects of Logging on Endemic Madagascar Birds* (Project no. 90/19/8). This study was carried out from October–December 1990 at Kirindy forest, a dry deciduous forest in western Madagascar. Its objectives were to assess the changes in vegetation associated with selective logging and natural gradients, and to attempt to relate them to changes in the distribution of endemic forest birds.

The dry forest of western Madagascar are a vital resource for people, providing fuel, timber, bushmeat, honey, raffia and medicinal plants. They also support a range of endemic species that are not found outside the forests. Conservation-related development aid is aimed at supporting both the sustainable use

of forest resources and the maintenance of biodiversity. In order to achieve these aims, the relative capability of different species to survive changes caused by sustainable use of the forest need to be assessed.

The 27-page report, by A. F. A. Hawkins, describes the vegetation and bird surveys. It was found that bird species diversity and numbers of bird contacts per transect were not affected by the logging status of the forest, but that both fell markedly with increasing distance from the rivers. No relationship between individual bird species distributions and vegetational characters changed by either logging or distance from rivers could be clearly established. This was probably due to limited sample size and the difficulty of identifying the environmental variables that determine bird distribution. Recommendations for future work include defining the environmental variable that affect the foraging ability in a small range of rare or local species of birds.

## International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) update

In the April 1991 issue of *Oryx* we reported that the conflict in Rwanda had hampered the development of the IGCP and we appealed for donations to help us continue our conservation efforts in the region. The response was very good and as a result we have been able to resupply anti-poaching equipment to the guards in Volcanoes National Park, shipping out around £25,000-worth of equipment: tents, rucksacks, sleeping bags, warm and waterproof clothing, walkie-talkie radios and binoculars (the latter donated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). The guards in the park were fully re-equipped in July and the patrols are now operating at full strength in the park.

In June 1991 Dr José Kalpers took up the post of Field Executive of the IGCP, based in Gisenyi, Rwanda, but operating in Rwanda, Uganda and Zaire. The programme creates a framework within which non-governmental organizations, major donor bodies and national conservation organizations will act in con-

cert to ensure the survival of the gorillas and their habitat. It includes the development of an array of projects in the three countries, and co-ordination provided by the Field Executive and his national counterparts is vital for the programme's success. Total costs of the programme to the Society are in the region of £50,000, including £30,000 p.a. for direct support in the field: £25,000 of this latter sum comes from income from the Whitley Animal Protection Trust Gorilla Capital Fund. We need to find further funds for this and other projects within the FFPS Tropical Forested Africa 1991/92 work programme (see box).

**Indigenous Propagation Project off the ground**

The Society's Indigenous Propagation Project, which aims to promote the cultivation of threatened bulb species on a small-scale rural basis in Turkey to replace collection from the wild (see *Oryx* 23, 233) has now received funding from the World Wide Fund for Nature, International. At the time of going to press the Society was in the process of appointing a Project Development Officer, who will start work in Turkey later this year.

The project will be carried out in close co-operation with Dogal Hayati Koruma Dernegi (the Turkish Society for the Protection of Nature), the Dutch flower bulb industry represented by the Dutch Bulb Exporters' Association and the Bulb Research Centre, and with Dogl Ciceksogani Uretici Ve Ihracatcilari Dernegi (Association of Growers and Exporters of Botanical Flowerbulbs in Turkey).

**ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition 1992**

Are you planning an expedition to a priority area for conservation? Will you be involving local people in your work and will you be making a contribution to wildlife conservation? If so, you could be eligible for a BP Conservation Expedition Award. Entries are invited from teams anywhere in Europe for

**FFPS Work programme 1991/92 in the Central African Forests**

This programme, which is reviewed and updated as required, offers donors and sponsors the opportunity to contribute directly to the conservation of Central African forests. Further details are available from the Society.

*Project CAH/91/1:* The International Gorilla Conservation Programme: Field Co-ordination (Rwanda, Uganda, Zaire).

Total cost: £50,000 p.a. Funding secured: £25,000 p.a. Funding required: £25,000 p.a.

*Project CAH/91/2:* Emergency resupply of anti-poaching equipment, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda.

Total cost: £25,000. Funding secured.

*Project CAH/91/3:* Conservation Education programme and production of education materials (Rwanda).

Total cost: £3265. Funding secured.

*Project CAH/91/4:* Tourism Management of the Musanze Bat Caves (Rwanda).

Total cost: £1000. Funding secured.

*Project CAH/91/5:* Priority Biological Survey of Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Zaire).

Total cost: £15,000 plus two all-terrain vehicles. Sponsorship sought.

*Project CAH/91/6:* Identification of keystone tree species, Salonga National Park (Zaire).

Total cost: £4500. Funding achieved.

expeditions that fall into one of the following categories: Wetlands; Oceanic Islands and Marine; Tropical Forests; Threatened Species. Twelve expeditions (four winners and eight runners-up) will be selected for awards (£3000 for winners and £1000 for runners-up). The booklet, *Guidelines for Applicants*, is available from Gary Allport, Expeditions Officer, ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton CB3 0PJ, UK or telephone 0223 277318. Applications for projects in the period April 1992–March 1993 must be submitted by 31 December 1991.

**Plants Committee of CITES**

The FFPS has been closely involved with the Plants Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora since the first meeting in November 1988. This was largely funded by

the Society and organized on its behalf by Mike Read and John Burton with assistance from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The most recent meeting was held in Zomba, Malawi, from 15–17 April 1991 and Mike Read attended the meeting on behalf of the Society. It considered issues as diverse as nursery registration, EC regulations, trade in bromeliads, succulents, orchids, cycads, tree ferns, bulbs, carnivorous plants, medicinal plants, cacti and tropical timber. This report highlights the areas of particular interest to the Society.

#### *Bulb trade*

This is an area where the Society has been particularly active, including the drafting of the successful proposal for listing of *Galanthus* (snowdrop) species in 1989. Reports were given on the Society's progress in the Indigenous Propagation Project, bulb-labelling and improved *Galanthus* monitoring. A database of bulbous plants in cultivation is soon to be available from the Netherlands, which will be presenting a report on species that are both artificially propagated and wild-collected to the next Conference of the Parties in 1992. A draft proposal from the Natural Resources Defense Council for Appendix II listing of *Trillium* species was presented.

#### *Bromeliad trade*

The FFPS was the first to raise the issue of trade in the bromeliad genus *Tillandsia* (air-plants), at the Ottawa Conference of the Parties in 1986. Since then other organizations have become involved. The German Scientific Authority is conducting research that may lead to the submission of a proposal. Research is also being conducted by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Documentation Centre for Species Protection in Austria, the magazine *Gardening from Which?* and a report is expected from TRAFFIC-Nederland.

#### *Fitzroya cupressoides*

Ger van Vliet, CITES Plants Officer, reported that he was in communication with the

Chilean authorities regarding the export of timber of *Fitzroya cupressoides* from Chile. Although listed on Appendix I, a certain amount of 'pre-convention' material, exempt from control, has been in trade recently—to the US, Japan, Argentina and Tahiti. However, this system is all too easily abused and the Chilean authorities have been unable to give details of how much 'pre-convention' material remains or how its use is being monitored. Given the extraordinarily slow growth of this species, its extremely limited regeneration, the massive decline it has suffered and the Chilean Government's past record in forest conservation, the situation remains very worrying.

#### *New timber species for CITES?*

At present an odd assortment of timber species are on the CITES Appendices. Various historical reasons for their inclusion are by no means always directly associated with international trade. A number of species, which are no longer (or never have been) in international trade are likely to be down-listed in due course. Unsuccessful attempts have been made in the past to have other timbers listed, including the genera *Swietenia* (true mahogany), *Khaya* (African mahogany) and *Entandrophragma* (sapele, utile etc.). Although formal proposals for these timbers have been prepared, with the FFPS playing a major role in the necessary research and compilation, they have not been submitted formally because range-state Parties willing to propose them have not yet been found.

Many discussions have taken place regarding the suitability and practicability of CITES listings for commercially traded timber species: which species should be considered; whether Appendix I or II listings were appropriate; and whether problems regarding identification and implementation could be overcome. The issue has increasingly come into the public spotlight and was formally discussed during meetings of the Plants Committee held in London in 1988 and Lausanne in 1989. The outcome of both these meetings was inconclusive. Non-governmental organizations pre-

sent, particularly the FFPS, considering CITES listings to be a valuable component in promoting conservation of mahoganies, pressed for serious attention to be given to the issue. The Malawi meeting of the Plants Committee saw the presentation of 11 draft proposals for listing timber species on Appendix II. Although every one of these proposals has been prepared by NGOs and not one has yet found a proposer, there is now a much more positive attitude surrounding the issue and there is hope that some at least will be officially submitted in advance of the next Conference of the Parties.

*Mike Read.*

## Fund-raising for FFPS

The Society's work has benefited recently from the following generous donations: *Practical Photography* magazine ran a charity auction and donated the proceeds of £1001.34 plus donation of £250.00 from the company; and *Performance Bikes* magazine raised £391 through an auction at a Rally in Peterborough, UK. Our thanks to all who contributed.

## African violets and beeswax polish

Buying a print of African violets or a tin of beeswax polish from Zambia will help the conserve African forests.

Beeswax polish from Zambia, distributed by Milland Fine Timber Ltd, is on sale nationally and the FFPS receives a contribution for every tin purchased. The wax is obtained by local people from forest bees and is harvested on a sustainable basis; supporting such operations is one of the best ways to protect the forest.

A limited edition fine-art print by Jonathan Kingdon featuring four species of African violets, *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *S. amaniensis*, *S. ionantha* and *S. grottei*, costs £56.00 and the FFPS receives £8.00 for each one sold. The edition is strictly limited to 888 prints with each one being numbered and signed by the artist. It is printed on acid-free silk art paper and measures 450 × 640 cm. The price is fully inclusive



African Violets: a limited edition print by Jonathan Kingdon. Sales will help FFPS's work in Africa. For details see text on this page.

of recorded delivery in mainland Britain and a certificate of authenticity will be issued with each print. Please send requests for information or orders direct to Pangolin Prints (violets), 20 Tree Lane, Iffley, Oxford OX4 4EY. Please make your cheque for £56.00 payable to Pangolin Prints (Violets) and cross it 'Account payee only'.

## Members' meetings

There will be a Members' meeting in London on Thursday 14 November. For information please see the insert in this *Oryx*. For meetings in the regions contact the FFPS Secretariat.

## FFPS sales

It is not too late to order Christmas cards (the 1991 card was illustrated on the cover of the July issue of *Oryx*) and other items advertised in the July issue. Please see insert in this issue.