



# Bulletin

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES · 1110 MORGES · SWITZERLAND

NEW SERIES VOL. 9 · NO 5

MAY 1978

PUBLISHED WITH THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF UNEP, UNESCO AND WWF

## Sierra Leone's bright spot

To the outsider Sierra Leone may appear to offer little hope for the conservation of its fine natural resources. There are no national parks or game reserves—although a number of areas have been surveyed and proposed. Virtually all “non-hunting” and forest reserves are under concession to logging and other commercial interests, while shifting agriculture is also encroaching on the forest estates. A handful of trained personnel plus some 20 guards have to administer a sizeable territory without benefit of transport or basic field equipment.

There has been no reliable census of animal populations, yet hunting quotas are fixed at very generous levels—which are seldom enforced. For example, a hunter is entitled to two elephants, the tusks to weigh not less than 5 kg. And since he is permitted to keep one tusk for himself, he is guaranteed a handsome profit in the ivory market. Non-hunting reserves are also freely plundered for game. For foreigners Sierra Leone is a happy hunting ground which is quite untypical of Africa today.

## Dynamic conservation group

In this dark situation the one bright spot is Sierra Leone's Wildlife Conservation Association. Founded in December 1976 it is striving with great energy to alert both government and people (especially the younger generation) to the present state of affairs. WILCA's resources, though, are minimal and quite inadequate to the task it has set itself. With some help a lot more could be achieved.

WILCA points out that the rapid depletion of the country's wildlife not only runs counter to conservation values but is also destroying the basis of a (potentially) thriving tourist trade—for what chiefly brings tourists to Africa is the wealth of its animal life.

Besides taking up the conservation issue in a number of newspaper articles, WILCA has appealed direct to the Minister concerned in letters dated July 1977 and (since that got no response) March 1978. Pointing out that the forests of Sierra Leone now cover only 4% of the

(Continued on page 28)

*The General Assembly will be asked to approve higher dues for most members, no change for some and lower for a few.*

## Council endorses dues increase

At its meeting on 4-6 May, IUCN's Council accepted the plan put forward by the Bureau to raise membership dues by an overall 60% as from 1 January 1979. If the plan is approved by the 14th General Assembly, IUCN's future should at last be reasonably secure. For members will then be funding the “minimum core costs” of IUCN—the minimum necessary for the Union to continue functioning, albeit within a very restricted orbit. Core costs represent 24% of the 1978 budget. Members at present contribute 17.5%.

It is proposed that annual dues for State and government agency members be raised by an across-the-board 60% and that a graduated scale of dues yielding a similar increase be introduced for non-governmental members. NGOs vary enormously in size and income, and some would be very hard hit by any increase whatever. So while a majority will be asked to pay an extra 60%, a sizeable minority—more than a quarter—will face no increase at all. For a further small minority it is planned that dues will in some cases be doubled and in others actually reduced.

## IUCN's minimum core costs

Without the support of UNEP and WWF, IUCN would cease to exist. As things stand, IUCN members get not only what they pay for, they get what UNEP and WWF pay for as well. While there is no reason to suppose that either of these organizations will withdraw support, IUCN should not be dependent on it for survival. Furthermore funding bodies expect the organizations they support to cover their minimum core costs.

IUCN's minimum core, which members will be asked to fund, would require a staff of 13 and would cover the irreducible essentials of monitoring (data gathering, analysis, publication of results), strategy design and promotion of action by others. It would in all respects be a very skeletal programme—but it would be better than nothing.

IUCN's expenditure last year was 4,896,000 Swiss francs. Income from members was SFrs 840,000 of which sum around SFrs 80,000 represented late payment on 1976 dues. About 80% of IUCN's membership revenue comes from States and government agencies. The Director General has written to these members urging them to clear proposals for raising dues with the responsible authorities, so that delegates can come to the General Assembly instructed to accept.

## NGO 8-step scale

The secretariat has devised an 8-step scale and provisionally allocated all NGO members to one or other of the bottom four steps based on a very varying knowledge of their financial position. Some allocations are therefore likely to be too high or too low and members have been asked to correct them as they see fit. The four higher steps are provided for those members who feel able to pay more than double the present NGO rate of SFrs 500.

It should be stressed that for all NGO members these new rates are entirely voluntary. However so that the agreed positions on the scale can be made generally known, they will in future be published in the annual report.

There is no blinking the fact that for many members, both government and non-government, a steep increase in dues may pose problems—particularly as many currencies, not least the dollar, have depreciated markedly during the past year. But from soundings taken amongst members it seems there is a preference for the increase to be taken in one large bite rather than in a number of smaller ones. And certainly from IUCN's standpoint there is everything to be said for putting the Union's finances on a secure footing as soon as possible.

**Other Council news—see pages 26 and 28**

# News from Members

## Victories for Brazilian conservationists

The conservation movement in Brazil is becoming a force to be reckoned with. It is no longer prepared to sit back uncomplaining when brusquely set aside by industrial or commercial interests—even where these are in alliance with government. It is now fighting back—and winning!

In illustration of this heartening fact the Department of the Environment for the state of Rio de Janeiro (*Fundação Estadual de Engenharia do Meio Ambiente*) has sent details of two recent incidents.

Santa Teresa Biological Reserve in the state of Espírito Santo is the property of the Rio de Janeiro National Museum. It is under the direction of Professor Augusto Ruschi, a renowned naturalist. The Secretary of Agriculture alleged that due to the lack of any "improvements" on the property the reserve would have to be considered ownerless and should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the state Forest Institute.

Professor Ruschi's reaction was energetic and damning. He had wisely taken the precaution of keeping a copy of the transaction between the state government and the National Museum. He now published this transaction, thus proving that the relevant page had been torn from the state registrar's book.

Citing some 800 scientific papers based on studies of the flora and fauna in the reserve, he denounced the state government's intention to hand this area over to an agro-industrial firm which planned to replace the existing natural formations with commercial plantations of palm trees.

The media took up the case and the Professor's stand received tremendous popular support. A people's assembly was organized which gained an audience with the state governor. The reserve is now safe; there will be no business take-over.

The second incident concerns an attempt to install a gigantic cellulose plant on the banks of the Paranapanema, practically the only unpolluted river in the state of Sao Paulo. The project was to be financed by the National Economic Development Bank.

A vigorous protest movement was rapidly organized, led by the 29 mayors of the 29 municipalities in the Paranapanema valley. Once again the local press and local organizations gave their backing and the movement published its own periodical. The river is now safe; the Sao Paulo state legislature has ruled that the cellulose project is not economically viable.

### Ducks fly safe to Sweden

The Swedish Parliament has rejected a government proposal to reintroduce the spring shooting of ducks in Sweden. This happy outcome was to a large extent due to efficient lobbying from the Swedish Society for the Conservation of Nature and the Swedish Ornithological Society as well as a very firm statement from the Swedish Environment Protection Board. All are members of the International Council for Bird Preservation.

### Linnaeus commemorative stamps

This year marks the second centenary of the death of the famous Swedish naturalist, Carolus Linnaeus. The Swedish Post Office has issued a booklet of six commemorative stamps together with a text in Swedish, English and German entitled *The travels of Linnaeus*. One of the initiators of this series is WWF-Sweden. The complete publication is available from stamp dealers; the stamps have a "first day cancellation". For further information write to: PFA, Stamps and Philatelic Service, S-105 02 Stockholm.

## Welcome to 18 new members

After reviewing applications the Council admitted the following 18 organizations as members of IUCN.

### 3 government agencies

Dominican Republic	Dirección Nacional de Parques
Spain	Servicio de Parques Naturales y Medio Ambiente, Diputación Provincial de Barcelona
Venezuela	Compañía Nacional de Reforestación (CONARE)

### 12 national non-governmental organizations

Argentina	Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina
Argentina	Sociedad Argentina para el Derecho y la Administración del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales (SADARN)
Canada	Canadian Wildlife Federation
Colombia	Sociedad Colombiana de Ecología
Federal Republic of Germany	Deutscher Bund für Vogelschutz e.V.
Luxembourg	Ligue luxembourgeoise pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement (NATURA)
Netherlands Antilles	Stichting Nationale Parken Nederlandse Antillen (STINAPA)
Spain	Lliga per a la Defensa del Patrimoni Natural (DEPANA)
Switzerland	Société suisse pour l'étude des oiseaux et leur protection (ALA)
USA	Threshold, Inc.
Venezuela	Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA)
Venezuela	Universidad Nacional Experimental de los Llanos Occidentales Ezequiel Zamora

### 3 international non-governmental organizations

Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Wildland Management Unit, Department of Forest Sciences (Costa Rica)
The University of the South Pacific (Fiji)
World Pheasant Association (United Kingdom)

## STOP PRESS—14th G.A.

Intourist, the Soviet travel agency, has arranged for certain reductions in Ashkhabad hotel costs for delegates attending the General Assembly. Prices as given in the March *Bulletin* are therefore amended as follows:

Hotel category	Single	Double
	(prices in roubles)	
1st class	36	28
2nd class	27	19
3rd class	22	15

1st class hotel rooms are equipped with their own toilets and baths. 2nd class hotel rooms are equipped with showers but not toilets. 3rd class hotel rooms have a washstand only; (shower and toilet are available off the corridor).

Prices include transport to and from the airport plus two meals a day (breakfast and lunch). Otherwise the price of three meals a day per person is 8-10 roubles, not including "additional" dishes or beverages.

# Arrangements for General Assembly

Registration forms for the 14th General Assembly and Technical Meeting have been sent to all IUCN members. IUCN supporters wishing to attend the Assembly and any member who has not received a registration form should apply direct to the Membership Officer, IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland. Forms should be returned by not later than 1 June.

The following information is supplied to assist members and other potential participants in making their plans.

## Dates of General Assembly, Technical Meeting and related meetings

- 24-26 September: registration of delegates and other participants in General Assembly.  
25-26 September: Commission meetings.  
26 September: Council meeting.  
26 September-5 October: General Assembly and Technical Meeting. (N.B. The General Assembly begins at 2000, Tuesday 26 September, and ends at 1200, Thursday 5 October.)  
5 October: Council meeting.  
30 September-1 October, 6-17 October: excursions (see below).

## Location of General Assembly, Technical Meeting and related meetings

Ashkhabad, Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. Registration and meetings will take place in the Turkmen Agricultural Institute, 62 Pervomayskaya street, Ashkhabad.

## Visa requirements

All delegates and other participants will enter the USSR on a tourist visa. Application for a tourist visa should be made to your local Intourist office or Intourist agent (for example, American Express, Thomas Cook and Kuoni are Intourist agents). Intourist or Intourist agents will provide delegates/participants with a tourist visa for entry and exit, travel tickets, hotel accommodation and meals. If there is no Intourist office or Intourist agency in your country, you may request the help of IUCN.

## Travel arrangements

Entry to the USSR is via Moscow or Tashkent. The economy class air-fare Moscow - Ashkhabad - Moscow is 108 roubles (1 rouble = approximately US \$ 1.5). The economy class air-fare Tashkent - Ashkhabad - Tashkent is 50 roubles.

Delegates/participants travelling to Ashkhabad via Tashkent may do so on the following Aeroflot flights:

- SU 532 Kabul-Tashkent; dep. Kabul 1100 (local time) Thursdays only.  
SU 536 Delhi-Tashkent(-Moscow); dep. Delhi 0900 (local time) Saturdays only.

## Group travel and charter

Delegates/participants may wish to consider approaching the local Intourist office with a view to arranging charter or group travel rates.

IUCN is considering the possibility of a charter flight from Geneva to Ashkhabad for General Assembly staff and for the transportation of certain equipment. The flight would depart on 23 September and return on 6 October. The costs of charter fares, calculated on the full occupancy, would be approximately SFrs. 380 (one way) and SFrs. 688 (return). Even if only a minimum number of seats is filled, the costs will remain less than for regular flights. Regular fares Geneva-Ashkhabad are SFrs. 984 (one way) and SFrs. 1967 (return). Participants wishing to join the prospective charter flight are invited to apply to the Membership Officer. Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

## Accommodation and meals

Accommodation is in hotels. Approximate prices *per person* are:

Hotel category	Single	Double
	(prices in roubles)	
1st class	36	28
2nd class	32	28
3rd class	25	18

1st class hotel rooms are equipped with their own toilets and baths. 2nd class hotel rooms are equipped with showers but not toilets. 3rd class hotel rooms have no washstand, shower or toilet (these are available off the corridor).

Prices include transport to and from the airport plus two meals a day (breakfast and lunch). Otherwise the price of three meals a day per person is 8-10 roubles, not including "additional" dishes or beverages.

Accommodation arrangements should be made through Intourist offices or agents.

## Transport in Ashkhabad

Buses are available between the hotels and the Turkmen Agricultural Institute.

In addition, there are meter-equipped taxis. Taxi fares start at 20 copecks and increase by 20 copecks a kilometre.

## Currency exchange

Foreign currency exchange, the cashing of travellers cheques and of letters of credit, etc., are conducted by the USSR State Bank, which has offices in international airports, hotels and banks. During the General Assembly the following currencies will be exchanged: Australian dollars, Belgian francs, British pounds (sterling), Canadian dollars, Danish crowns, French francs, marks of the Federal Republic of Germany, Swedish crowns, Swiss francs, US dollars.

If you wish to avoid difficulties in changing roubles back to one of the above currencies, it is essential that travellers cheques and other currency be declared to the Customs on entry and that you retain the exchange receipts given by the USSR State Bank offices.

## Weather and clothing

The weather in Ashkhabad during the period of the General Assembly is often clear and sunny with temperatures of 25-30 °C. It may also be showery so a light raincoat is advisable, as well as other light clothing. Those intending to participate in excursions to nature reserves and similar areas are advised to bring appropriate field clothing and boots.

## Excursions

Short excursions will take place from 24 September to 8 October to the Nature Museum, Museum of Arts, History Museum, a carpet factory, the botanical gardens of the Academy of Science, and an exhibition of the industry of the Turkmen SSR. There will also be a programme of entertainment including camels and horses, and shows given by people in traditional costume.

On the weekend of 30 September and 1 October, and on 6, 7 and 8 October, eight short excursions are planned:

- (1) Visit to the Kara Kum Canal near Mary, including a short trip on the Canal. Visit to the archaeological monuments of ancient Merv.  
Duration: 10 hours.  
Cost per person (including lunch and air ticket Ashkhabad/Mary/Ashkhabad): 40 roubles.  
Maximum number of participants: 50 persons (one group).

- (2) Visit to underground lake at Bakharden, not far from Ashkhabad and 150 metres under the Kopet Dag mountains.

Duration : 7 hours.

Approximate cost per person (including lunch) : 6 roubles.

Maximum number of participants per day : 90 persons (three groups of 30).

- (3) Visit to Firusin Canyon, not far from Ashkhabad in the Kopet Dag mountains.

Duration : 3 hours.

Approximate cost per person (including lunch) : 5 roubles.

Maximum number of participants per day : 90 persons (three groups of 30).

- (4) Visit to Repetek National Park. Participants will be able to become acquainted with the desert ecosystems of south-east Kara Kum and with the scientific work being carried out there.

Duration : 12 hours.

Approximate cost per person (including lunch and flight Ashkhabad/Chardzou) : 50 roubles.

Maximum number of participants per day : 45 persons (one group).

- (5) Visit to the archaeological monument of "old Nysa".

Duration : 3 hours.

Approximate cost per person (including lunch) : 5 roubles.

Maximum number of participants per day : 120 persons (four groups of 30).

- (6) Visit to a Turkmen collective farm where the participants may acquaint themselves with agricultural and arboricultural methods.

Duration : 2 hours.

Cost per person : 2 roubles.

Maximum number of participants per day : 120 persons (four groups of 30).

- (7) Visit to Putj Leninism State Farm. Participants may become acquainted with agricultural activities in the arid zone.

Duration : 5 hours.

Approximate cost per person : 5 roubles.

Maximum number of participants per day : 120 persons (four groups of 30).

- (8) Visit to the west water reserve of the Kara Kum Canal near Ashkhabad where participants may become acquainted with the organization of popular entertainment in this water reserve.

Duration : 4 hours.

Cost per person : 2 roubles.

Maximum number of participants per day : 120 persons (four groups of 30).

Following the General Assembly, Intourist will organize five trips each of from 7 to 10 days' duration :

- (1) Uzbekistan

Ashkhabad - Dushambe - Tashkent - Bukhara - Samarkand - Moscow ; or Ashkhabad - Samarkand - Bukhara - Tashkent - Moscow.

Participants will be able to visit Chatkal'skiy National Park in the mountains on the northern side of the Chatkal'skiy range, and will be able to see the nature conservation work carried out by forest farming and collective farming.

Duration : 7-10 days.

Approximate cost per person : 350-500 roubles.

Maximum number of participants : 40 persons (two groups).

- (2) Azerbaijan

Ashkhabad-Baku-Tbilisi-Moscow.

Participants will be able to visit the Pirkulinsky and Zakatalsky National Parks (in the south-east of the Caucasus mountains), the Shemakhin astrophysical observatory, and some agricultural and forestry organizations in this area.

Duration : 7 days.

Approximate cost per person : 350 roubles.

Maximum number of participants : 40 persons (one group).

- (3) Caucasus Mountains

Ashkhabad - Moscow - Soçi - Tbilisi - Moscow.

Participants will be able to visit national parks and places of interest including the shores of the Black Sea.

Duration : 7 days.

Approximate cost per person : 350-400 roubles.

Maximum number of participants : 30 persons (one group).

- (4) Siberia

Ashkhabad - Novosibirsk - Irkutsk - Moscow.

Participants will be able to see Lake Baikal.

Duration : 7-10 days.

Approximate cost per person : 400 roubles.

Maximum number of participants : 30 persons (one group).

- (5) Leningrad

Ashkhabad - Moscow - Leningrad - Moscow.

Duration : 7-8 days.

Approximate cost per person : 400 roubles.

Maximum number of participants : 30 persons (one group).

### Programme for accompanying persons

During the period of the Assembly, persons accompanying participants may visit museums, exhibitions, theatres and other cultural and historical sites of interest in Ashkhabad and its neighbourhood.

### Exhibitions

During the Assembly there will be exhibitions on nature conservation in the USSR and on the economic achievements of the Turkmen SSR. Space is available for exhibitions showing the work of IUCN members. Members wishing to present displays should get in touch with the USSR Organizing Committee before 1 June 1978.

### Mail

The mailing address for participants during the General Assembly will be :

Permanent Secretariat  
IUCN General Assembly  
Turkmen Agricultural Institute  
62 Pervomayskaya str.  
744000 Ashkhabad  
USSR

### USSR Organizing Committee

All information supplied, other than information on the agendas of the General Assembly and Technical Meeting themselves, has been provided by the USSR Organizing Committee.

The members of this Committee are :

- Victor P. Borodin, Chairman of the Organizing Committee ;
- Boris F. Burashnikov, Vice Chairman ;
- Alexander M. Borodin ;
- Andrei G. Bannikov ;
- Anver K. Rustamov, Secretary General ;
- Vasili V. Krinitsky, Deputy Secretary General.

The address of the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee is :

Organizing Committee of IUCN  
General Assembly  
USSR Ministry of Agriculture  
Orlikov per. 1/11  
107139 Moscow  
USSR  
Telex : 7258

Further information about the proposed excursions can be obtained from the USSR Organizing Committee.

# IUCN Programme: Latin America

## Gaining ground in Galapagos

90% of Galapagos is national park. Established in 1968 by the government of Ecuador, the park is jointly administered by the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Ecuadorian Park Service. Several linked projects, funded by WWF, share the overall aim of conserving this highly prized ecosystem.

Since 1974 a Master Plan for the Use and Protection of the park has been in operation. "Use" covers tourism and scientific visits. "Protection" chiefly means attempting to reverse the effects of a century of destruction and to eradicate the cause—alien animals and plants.

Introduced goats, pigs and, to a lesser extent, dogs, cats and even donkeys have in past times been allowed to multiply prodigiously with devastating results for the archipelago's unique vegetation and wildlife. Of some 250 introduced plants only 15 have proved a problem. Even so these have entirely displaced certain native plant communities.

"Protection" also covers efforts to rehabilitate (through captive rearing) the land iguana and the various island species of giant tortoise. A marine element—sea turtles, lobsters and white fish—is now included too.

In 1977 the national park was seriously understaffed. It would greatly assist the "eradication" campaign if the number of wardens could be increased from eight to 26. This is the target for 1978.

### Striking recovery of vegetation

During 1977 considerably fewer feral animals were shot than in previous years. Partly this was due to shortage of staff, but chiefly to the success of the campaign. For example, on the island of Pinta over 40,000 goats have now been killed since 1971. The total last year was only about 600—despite more intensive hunting. But wardens estimate that only 1500-2000 goats now remain and the vegetation is fast recovering.

On other islands, too, there has been a striking recovery of vegetation in line with a striking reduction in feral animals. Total elimination may not always prove possible—the undergrowth is very dense—but in general the picture is a cheerful one. (An exception is the island of Santiago where pigs are still a big problem—1400 were shot last year.)

The parallel campaign to eliminate introduced plants is a less happy story. Shortage of staff and lack of a suitably trained botanist made it impossible to record any advance on this front during 1977.

### Giant tortoises and land iguanas

Giant tortoises on many of the islands were near to extinction a few years ago. Hatchlings were invariably killed by feral animals (particularly dogs). Now that the latter are largely under control tortoise numbers, helped by captive rearing, are much healthier. Last year the restocking programme returned 74 young tortoises from five different species to their native islands, bringing the total returned since 1970 to 323. The lone Pinta male, though, is still without a mate of his own subspecies.

A similar programme is going ahead for two highly endangered populations of land iguana. Breeding enclosures are proving successful and the 41 iguanas released on the island of Venecia appear to be thriving.

### Turtles, lobsters and white fish

A growing problem has been the exploitation of sea turtles in continental Ecuadorian waters. Several export companies have been taking large numbers—mostly ridleys but also leatherbacks and greens—and two of these companies have tried to start green turtle operations in the Galapagos. Exports were at first mostly going to the US but also to France and Italy.

The Charles Darwin Research Station made strong protests to the government of Ecuador, pointing out that virtually nothing is known about sea turtle populations along Ecuador's coasts and that in Galapagos several more years research are needed to determine the level, if any, of sustainable take. It was also pointed out that since Ecuador is a party to CITES this commercial traffic, even to non-parties, is illegal—and doubly illegal to other parties such as the US. As a result all export to the US has been stopped.

For the time being the Galapagos green turtle remains safe. Only subsistence fishing by local islanders is permitted and since the meat is not greatly sought after, the annual toll is probably under 100. Meanwhile the Galapagos green turtle studies continue with the aim of discovering migratory patterns. Over 10,000 hatchlings have been marked and released and a further 2000 non-hatchlings have been tagged.

A moratorium on the export of spiny lobsters has enabled the Galapagos population to stabilize or even increase. Since 1975 only one boat has been operating instead of six and work is now under way to decide the level of any sustainable fishery.

An intensive study on the population dynamics of various white fish, particularly the grouper *Myctoperca oflax*, is also being undertaken. Indications are that some are being markedly over-exploited, thus posing a threat both to the marine ecosystems and to local fishermen.

### Big education drive

1977 was the most active year yet in environmental education. In the schools weekly teaching of natural history and conservation now reaches 90% of Galapagos students, while in Ecuadorian universities scholarships were again given to senior biology students. Other activities included a 1-month course for naturalist guides and a 2-week course for teachers and civilian and military authorities.

### More and more tourists

Tourism is booming in the Galapagos. While the system of marked paths and trained guides would seem to have worked so far—no serious effects on wildlife have been observed—the extent of the tourist boom gives cause for concern. 1977 saw about 30% more visitors (8000) than the previous year and 1978 will see an even bigger rise. A new programme is now bringing 320 tourists a week on 1-day visits to the islands eight weeks a year.

### Latest Galapagos news—marine extension of park imminent

At a meeting at WWF Headquarters earlier this month (May) Ecuadorian government representatives said that their government's support of the Charles Darwin Foundation will be doubled this year—to a total of US \$350,000. It was further understood that in June the national park will be extended 15 miles seaward and will include all inter-island waters.

The decree enacting this very significant marine extension will also make the Master Plan itself official government policy and not just the policy of the park authorities. One immediately useful effect is that the park service will now be able to set limits on tourist numbers.

### Bear associates

Those interested in bears are invited to become active members of the Bear Biology Association. Its purpose is to foster communication and cooperation in the management, research and protection of bears and their habitat. A newsletter is issued quarterly and an international conference held every third year. The next conference will be in 1980 and worldwide participation is again expected. Annual membership is \$5.00, students \$3.00, payable to C. J. Martinka, Treasurer, Bear Biology Association, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana 59396, USA.

## Logging to cease in Endau Rompin

In Malaysia the Pahang state government has given a firm assurance that logging in Endau Rompin will be discontinued after August. That is the expiry date of the last licence issued. An official has said that logging has been—and will continue to be—restricted to an area of 5000 hectares. Licences were issued for some 12,000 hectares.

## Sweden to ban aerosols

Sweden will follow the USA in banning the manufacture and use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) propellant gases in aerosol sprays. Some scientists fear that these gases may be dangerously reducing the ozone in the stratosphere which screens the sun's ultra-violet rays. One malevolent effect could be an increase in skin cancer.

Sweden in the first European country to follow the American example. The manufacture and import of these aerosols will be banned from the beginning of January 1979 and their sale from the following June.

Other nations are hanging back for economic reasons. But the failure to take action is being justified on the grounds that although CFC aerosols may be depleting the ozone layer, there is no hard evidence to show that this is in fact happening.

### Other Council news

#### Director General accepts 3-year appointment

Council asked the Director General, Dr David Munro, to accept an extension of his period of office—a 3-year appointment beginning 1 October 1978. David Munro, who was appointed Director General in July last year for a term of eighteen months, willingly accepted the offer. "I certainly look forward to this extra period in order to consolidate what I have so far only begun to do" he said.

#### Council nominates new President

Professor Kuenen, who was elected President of IUCN at the 11th General Assembly, informed Council that he would not be standing for reelection. Council's unanimous choice as his successor is Professor Kassas of Egypt, who will therefore be up for election at Ashkhabad.

#### Commissions—roles and terms of reference defined

As a result of decisions taken at the meeting of Commission chairmen last February (see March Bulletin), each

## Two new parties to CITES

Monaco acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on 19 April and France approved the Convention on 11 May. They thus become the 45th and 46th parties respectively.

France has entered the following reservations: green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata*, Nile crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*, African slender snouted crocodile *Crocodylus cataphractus*, African dwarf crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis*, black caiman *Melanosuchus niger*. These species are all in Appendix I. The CITES secretariat hopes that the French government will be able to lift the reservations soon.

## Staff changes: change-over in Administration and Finance—Secretary General to CITES appointed

Mr Alan Pike, Head of Administration and Finance, is returning to the UK Department of the Environment at the end of May after three years service. For IUCN the early part of this period was financially an extremely difficult one, and Alan Pike played a prominent role in helping to make the Union solvent once more.

His place will be taken by Mr Richard Herring who comes from Canada. Richard Herring was with the National Museums of Canada where he was Assistant Sec-

of IUCN's six Commissions presented to Council a paper defining its role and terms of reference. With certain minor amendments these were approved.

Nominations to the office of Commission chairman are

- Commission on Ecology—Professor J. D. Ovington, Australia;
- Commission on Education—Mr Don Aldridge, UK;
- Commission on Environmental Planning—Professor Peter Jacobs, Canada;
- Commission on Environmental Policy, Law and Administration—Mr W. E. Burhenne, Federal Republic of Germany;
- Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas—Dr Kenton Miller, USA;
- Survival Service Commission—Sir Peter Scott, UK.

These six nominees will be standing for election at the General Assembly.

#### Election Officer

Professor Olivier Reverdin, Switzerland, a former member of the IUCN Executive Board, has been appointed to serve as Election Officer for the General Assembly.

retary-General, Finance and Administration. Previously he held senior financial positions with the Department of Fisheries and Environment.

Mr Peter Sand was appointed Secretary General to the secretariat of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) on 1 May. Peter Sand comes from the Federal Republic of Germany and was formerly FAO's Senior Legal Officer in Rome. He has served as secretary to several intergovernmental meetings and has carried out technical assistance missions for environmental legislation and natural resources management in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

## Sierra Leone (Continued)

country—compared with 21% in neighbouring and conservation-conscious Liberia—WILCA lays great stress on the renowned Gola forest and urges the government to set aside at least one ecologically viable sample.

The Gola forest is Sierra Leone's last remaining primary rain forest. It is also, as WILCA explains, the home of pygmy hippo, chimpanzee, Jentinks duiker, bongo and other Red Data Book species. If the forest is logged and replaced by fast-growing exotics (the present plan), the food chain supplying these animals will be broken and they will disappear.

#### An encouraging sign

In a recent mission to West Africa, John Kundaali, IUCN's regional officer for Africa, had talks with several government officials in Sierra Leone as well as with members of WILCA. It transpired that the government had very recently sought and received a consultant from the UK to examine both the proposed conservation areas and the required improvements in the infrastructure. This is an encouraging sign that the government intends to act.

## African wildlife conference

The 5th Regional Wildlife Conference for central and eastern Africa will take place in Botswana on 3-7 July. The theme will be—wildlife management and utilization. The conference will also review progress made since the Seronera Meeting (1974) on the creation of a coordinated system of national parks and equivalent reserves in eastern Africa. IUCN will be represented.

Enquiries should be addressed to: Department of Game and National Parks, Gaborone, Botswana.

Published monthly by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources with the financial assistance of UNEP, UNESCO, UNESCO Subvention 1977/78 DG/2.1/414/45, and the World Wildlife Fund.

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