

The Oryx 100% Fund

Grants awarded

At its meeting on 27 June the FFPS Council agreed funding for the following projects:

£1000 to the North Caicos Expedition 1990. The six members of this expedition from the University of Hull are conducting diving surveys of the reef fringing North Caicos Island in order to identify areas for protection under the National Parks Commission of the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Recommendations will be made for the management of these areas, which will include sanctuaries for the rock iguana *Cyclura carinata carinata*, the frigate bird *Fregata magnificens*, bottlenosed dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*, and three turtles—the hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata*, green *Chelonia mydas* and loggerhead *Caretta caretta*. The expedition is a follow-up to previous work on South Caicos and West Caicos, which has resulted in conservation measures being implemented. (Project No. 90/6/3).

£1000 to Dr Nigel Dunstone for a study on the natural history, movement patterns and conservation requirements of the mountain tapir *Tapirus pinchaque* in Ecuador. The study will last 2 years and has been designed to assess the status of a mountain tapir population in the Sangay National Park and to determine survival requirements and protective measures needed for this and other populations of mountain tapirs. The research will involve Ecuadorean scientists, park rangers, students and local people and the final report will be made available to Ecuadorean government agencies and those of other Andean nations, as well as to conservation and education organizations. (Project No. 90/9/4).

£500 to Alexander Dickinson for a compilation of comparative faunal lists in Tanzanian coastal forests. Fewer than 20 patches of coastal forest remain but they contain significant numbers of endemics—25 species of plant and up to 20 per cent of invertebrates are endemic to one or a few sites. Six bird species listed as Threatened or nearly so are found in the habitat and three are confined to it. The

faunal lists will be of direct value to an initiative by the Wildlife and Conservation Society of Tanzania to achieve better protection for these important forests. Students of the University of Dar-es-Salaam will receive training in field techniques. (Project No 90/11/5).

International Gorilla Conservation Programme gets boost

The International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), developing out of the MGP, was reported upon in the last issue of *Oryx*. This initiative aims to extend support for the conservation of the eastern populations of gorillas (*Gorilla g. graueri* and *Gorilla g. beringei*) and their forest habitats in the full range of these animals in Rwanda, Uganda and Zaire, working in collaboration with the projects already established in all three countries. Although still under consideration by the Zairois and Ugandan authorities it appears to be developing well and has recently been given an enormous boost by a £250,000 capital donation to the FFPS by the Whitley Animal Protection Trust. The interest on this fund, topped up by our own fund-raising activities, will be used to underpin the Society's continuing involvement in that area. It is intended that this will be channelled through the IGCP in the field, but until the programme comes on stream the FFPS will continue to provide support in the same way as in the past, through the MGP in Rwanda and individual projects in Uganda and Zaire.

ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition gets BP backing

British Petroleum is injecting £125,000 into the development of the ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition over the next three years. The competition was established by ICBP in 1985 and FFPS joined forces in 1988, so extending the coverage to all life forms.

By providing expert guidance to competition applicants ICBP and FFPS will help ensure that expedition results will be of maxi-

mum benefit to international conservation. Both organizations will use the information gained to develop field projects in key areas of biodiversity and to help identify the most urgent conservation priorities worldwide.

British Petroleum's generous funding means that more substantial prizes are being offered in four categories: Tropical Rain Forests; Wetlands; Oceanic Islands and Marine; and Globally Threatened Species. First prize in each category is £3000 (half of which is intended for local counterparts) and there are eight prizes of £1000 each for runners-up. All prize-winners will automatically receive official ICBP/FFPS endorsement.

The competition is open to all expeditions involving young people and applicants should follow the guidelines set out in the ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Guide.

Please write (enclosing an A5 SAE) to Gary Allport, Expeditions Officer, ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ, UK. Final applications for 1991 must be submitted in English by 31 December 1990.

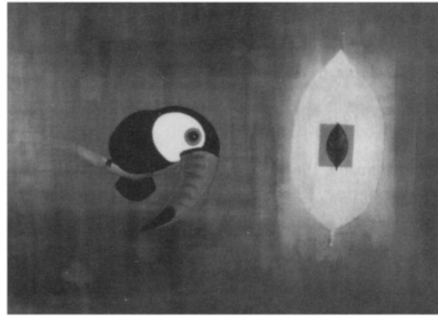
FFPS new card and 1991 calendar

This year's new FFPS card is a painting originally shown at the Rainforest Art Exhibition organized by Living Earth in February, through which FFPS received £9000 for work in rain forest conservation.

The attractive full colour painting, 'Leaf' by Helen Cowcher, depicts a toucan in the forest. It was purchased by Edward Hoare, an FFPS Council Member, who kindly gave the Society permission for its use. It is available either with or without a Christmas message.

The FFPS 1991 calendar has again been made available through the generosity of the FFPS Honorary Treasurer, Edward Wright. The colour photographs this year are all of species that have been the focus of FFPS and Oryx 100% Fund project over the years (see page 233).

For details of size and price of new card and calendar please see the insert in this *Oryx*. A selection of FFPS cards from previous years is available at greatly reduced prices.



'Leaf' painted by Helen Cowcher, FFPS's new Christmas card.

Members' meetings

The FFPS Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 November 1990. On 28 November there will be an opportunity to see the winning entries in this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition at the Natural History Museum. Further details of both meetings in the insert in this issue.

For information about local group meetings, please write to the appropriate address given below, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Bristol and the West of England Group

Ian Redmond, c/o BBC Wildlife Magazine, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR

Cambridge Group

Dr C. Harcourt, 70 Victoria Road, Cambridge CB4 3DU.

Edinburgh Group

Roger Wheater, Edinburgh Zoo, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 6TS.

North-West Group

Nick Ellerton, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester CH2 1LH.

Oxford Group

David McDonald, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS.