

## Oryx 100% Fund

The special appeal to members for contributions to the Oryx 100% Fund, sent out in May, produced the excellent response of just over £1000, which was matched with an equivalent gift from the Society's funds. A further £359 was received in the form of earmarked grants. Council has made the following grants since the last list published in the May *Oryx*:

**£500** to Dr Sylvia Sikes to provide an engine for a boat for the manatee survey in Nigeria. The West African manatee is seriously depleted everywhere, very little is known about it and it urgently needs to be brought under protective management;

**£500** to the Department of National Parks in Costa Rica for educational material. Costa Rica has made considerable progress in wildlife conservation and this very active Department regards public education as vitally important;

**£500** towards WWF Project 520, to help buy a Land Rover for a survey in the Southern Darfur Province, Sudan. This is to survey a 6000-square-mile area, known to be rich in wildlife, where it is hoped the Government will establish a game reserve;

**£406** to Miss Dian Fossey for two research assistants to help during the last year of the mountain gorilla census in the Virunga Volcanoes. For the latest information on the gorillas see page 207;

**£250** to Simon Michell to assist Andrew Laurie in his study of the great Indian rhino in Nepal—see article on page 270;

**£250** to the Coto Doñana biological station for the conservation of birds of prey in Western Spain, including the Spanish imperial eagle;

**£250** to R. B. Kater and A. G. Hillier for a study of dugongs in Kenya;

**£250** to the South African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds towards the construction of their new rescue station (an earmarked grant);

**£102** to the Skiathos Environment Study for the biological aspects of this study of a Greek island;

**£100** to Dr J. D. Lockie for an ecological study of the black vulture in Majorca;

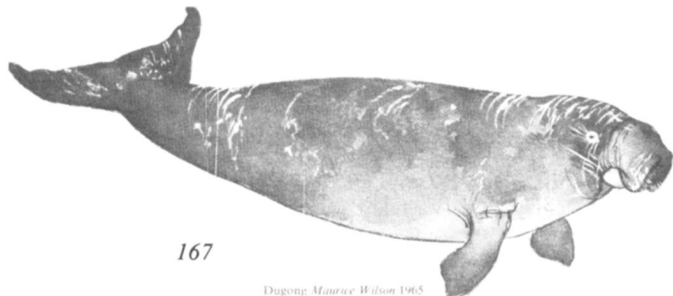
**£100** towards the British Ornithologists' Union's expedition to study the rare endemic birds of the Mascarene Islands;

**£100** to Professor A. d'A. Bellairs towards a study of the Galapagos tortoise's feeding behaviour, Cambridge and London Galapagos Expedition;

**£94** to Paul Joslin for expenses in publishing his report on the Gir lion—see Note on page 163.

As always, the Society's thanks are due to all those members who have contributed to the Fund, and enabled our main task of saving endangered species to be carried on. The Fund's financial role is a

DUGONG, for which an Oryx 100% Fund grant has been made. Drawing by Maurice Wilson, from the *Red Book* (Collins)

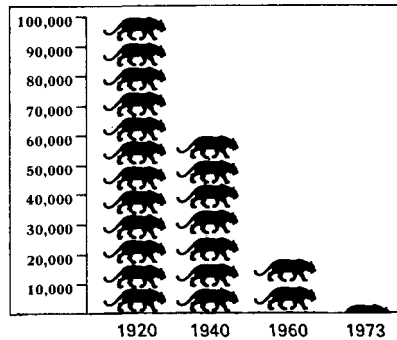


small one, but it is often significant, usually timely, and always appreciated. Above all, it can work speedily when speed is vital.

But the Fund needs constant replenishing. Projects are crowding in all the time and we need your gift, however small. Whatever you send will be doubled, as the Society matches every unearmarked gift up to £5000. And none of it is spent on administrative costs. Every penny goes for wildlife.

## GOING

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The diagram shows very forcefully what has happened to the Bengal tiger in the Indian sub-continent in the last 50 years—the half tiger disappearing at the bottom represents some 1800 animals—and what could easily happen soon. The World Wildlife Fund's Operation Tiger has fortunately got off to a good start, having reached the half-way mark for its target of one million dollars. The Indian Government, thanks to Mrs Gandhi's personal interest and intervention, put up \$7 m. A major contributor has been the artist David Shepherd, who gave a large tiger painting to the Appeal. The 850 prints from this alone will raise over £100,000, in addition to the original painting, valued at £5000 and to be sold in December.

### Military Marine Mammals

An end to the use of marine mammals, such as dolphins and sea lions, as 'underwater soldiers' is called for by Hans Hass. Several navies, notably the US, have trained dolphins to locate lost torpedoes and act as messengers, but they are also trained to attach magnetic mines to ships, fend off or kill enemy frogmen, and perform spy services. He quotes a story of one trained dolphin being sent into a foreign naval base to deposit recording instruments and returning a week later to collect the data. The advantage to biological scientists here is the money available for valuable research on the animals—money being always easier to obtain for military purposes. Hass suggests that losing it is a sacrifice that must be borne.

### British Otter Survey

The Gavin Maxwell Otter Project is financing a five-year otter survey. Volunteers to record otter signs once a month on one-km. lengths of three rivers should apply to R. E. Stebbings, Monks Wood Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE17 2LS.

### Correction

In the May issue of *Oryx*, in the Note on Sarawak page 13, we regret two errors: Mr Lucas Chin should have been described as Assistant Curator of the Sarawak Museum, and the price offered for an earless monitor lizard should have been \$50.00 (not \$50,000).