

## Oryx 100% Fund

### Grants awarded

At its meeting on 9 September 1993, the FFPS Conservation Committee selected the following Oryx 100% Fund applications for grants.

#### £3500 to the Ile aux Aigrettes Habitat and Species Restoration and Reintroduction Programme

The Ile aux Aigrettes (25 ha) has the largest remnant of coastal forest in Mauritius, although it has been degraded through invasion of alien plants and animals. The rehabilitation and management project, now in its fifth year, has achieved much in the clearance of alien plants and is now poised to tackle the removal of introduced, carnivorous Indian house shrews *Suncus murinus* as preparation for the reintroduction of the endemic Mauritian reptiles, Gunther's gecko *Phelsuma guentheri* and Telfair's skink *Leiolopisma telfarii*. Revegetation work using endemic plants continues as do other reintroduction programmes, including those for the Mauritius kestrel *Falco punctatus*, pink pigeon *Columba mayeri* and Mauritius fody *Foudia rubra*. (Project no. 93/23.)

#### £3600 for Relocation of Cheetah from Private Land into Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Estate

In Zimbabwe cheetah have become abundant on a number of private cattle ranches and are causing significant stock losses, notably in the south. In contrast, cheetah are scarce in several parts of the government-controlled wildlife estate. The objective of this project is to remove eight surplus cheetah from private ranches and relocate them in the Matusadona National Park in the north. (Project no. 93/34.)

#### £3000 for Tall Grassland Habitat: Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Utilization

The aim of this project is to explore the effects of different management techniques on the use of the habitat by wildlife species and on the floral composition and diversity in tall grassland habitat in Nepal. The results of the work will assist in the formulation of long-term management plans for this important

habitat aimed at conserving its biodiversity and allowing appropriate levels of sustainable use, for example the cutting of thatching materials. Endangered animals supported by this habitat include *Rhinoceros unicornis*, pigmy hog *Sus salvanius*, hispid hare *Caprolagus hispidus*, swamp deer *Cervus duvauceli*, tiger *Panthera tigris* and the Bengal florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis*. (Project no. 93/41.)

## Joseph Makabuza Kabirizi, 1940–1993

Born in 1940, Joseph Makabuza Kabirizi had spent nearly 30 years working with the Institut Zairois pour la Conservation de la Nature (IZCN), before dying tragically on 24 October 1993 as a result of a road accident. He was the IZCN Regional Director for North Kivu, Eastern Zaire.

As a warden first, Joseph Makabuza worked in most of the national parks and reserves of Zaire and had acquired outstanding experience in protected area management and conservation. His numerous qualities had enabled him to be appreciated by his colleagues and superiors as well as by the international conservation community involved in Zaire.

Recently, in his new position, he had just designed and started implementing a new decentralization scheme for IZCN in this remarkable part of Zaire. At the same time, and given his experience in gorilla conservation, he had been nominated as the Zairois national representative for the IGCP (International Gorilla Conservation Programme), which is run jointly by the African Wildlife Foundation, FFPS and WWF. He was supervising IGCP activities in Zaire and representing his country at regional meetings.

The loss of such a qualified and dedicated person will be felt at many levels, at a time when Zaire is experiencing a deep crisis directly affecting its protected areas.

*Jean-Pierre d'Huart, WWF*

## Meetings

Please see insert for details.