

Oryx 100% Fund

In its first eighteen months the Fund has made 27 grants, totalling £6056, to projects all over the world, including Britain. The latest ones are:

- £500** to the Department of Game and Wildlife in Ghana to buy equipment for mobile anti-poaching teams;
- £500** to Sr Alberto Donadio to investigate the live-animal trade in Colombia; the importance of this can be judged from the account of the recent Iquitos conference (page 7), and also the articles on Colombia in *Oryx* September 1972;
- £500** to Operation Tiger—by earmarked gift from Miss M. E. Gibbs;
- £383** to WWF for publicity posters for a vicuña education programme in Argentina and Chile—see *Oryx*, May 1972, p. 345;
- £350** to the WWF Lake Nakuru project and
- £200** to the Pheasant Trust, both with an earmarked gift from Mrs Iris Darnton;
- £284** to Mr Frank Turkowski, Zoology Dept, Arizona State University, to prepare an Arabian oryx bibliography;
- £250** to Mr S. Cobb for his study of ungulate population dynamics in Tsavo National Park, Kenya, to provide the facts urgently needed for park management following recent drastic changes in the park's vegetation;
- £250** to Mr Siow Kuan Tow, Director of Fisheries in Malaysia, for the leathery turtle project at Trengganu, to enable the Department to increase the number of hatchings on this vitally important nesting beach—see Dr Bustard in *Oryx*, January 1972;
- £250** to Dr Paul Leyhausen, Chairman of the SSC Cat Group, for a study of the status and ecology of the Iriomote cat;
- £100** to Mr Lucas Chin, Curator of the Sarawak Museum for the replanting of green turtle eggs on three islands.

In addition Mr Choudhury, of the Indian Forest Service, has been supplied with 3000 punch cards to record the tiger census results, and a second payment of Rs 1000 has been approved for the study of leopards in Borivli National Park from FPS funds in India.

Malawi's Aircraft

This Piper Super-Cub light aircraft was presented to the National Fauna Preservation Society of Malawi by the Frankfurt Zoological Society. FPS, through the ORYX 100% Fund, gave £500 to pay the first year's insurance. In a letter thanking the FPS, the Hon. Secretary of the Malawi Society writes, 'The aircraft has already been put to good use in the Lengwe and Kasungu National Parks. There is not the slightest doubt that it will prove of very great help in conserving wildlife in Malawi'.



IRIOMOTE CAT

T. Imaizumi



The Iriomote cat *Prionailurus iriomotensis*, of a genus hitherto unknown to science, was only discovered in 1965 on Iriomote Island, one of the Japanese Ryukyu islands, and is already endangered. So far it has not been found on any neighbouring islands. Iriomote itself is small—300 square kilometres—and judging from other small cat species and their densities, the total population can hardly exceed 300.

Before the war Iriomote was a totally protected nature reserve, made uninhabitable by malaria. But the Americans introduced DDT, and now there is a population of about 2000 people and even several small factories. Its nature-reserve status has not been restored. The jungle is being cut fast, without long-term planning, and copper ore has been found in quantity; two big Japanese mining companies are seeking prospecting and mining rights. The Japanese Government has declared the cat a National Monument, making it impossible to capture and export it but not preventing the local people killing it as vermin.

Examination of skulls and of two living specimens brought back by the original discoverer show the cat to be unique—a 'missing link' between three genera. Protection is clearly both important and urgent, but nothing at all is known of the animal's ecology and life history. Professor Leyhausen, working with Professor Y. Imaizumi, of the National Science Museum in Tokyo, and Professor T. Takara, President of the University of the Ryukyus, has initiated a WWF project for a one-year study of the cat's status and ecology, and the ORYX 100% Fund has contributed £250 for this. Money is also being raised in Japan and West Germany.

The Vital Ingredient

A small boy recently wrote to the FPS: 'Please how can I help to save wild animals? Is money any help?' The answer of course is that it is vital—and the Oryx 100% Fund can use all that it gets. Please send gifts for the Fund to the Hon. Secretary, Richard Fitter, to help the next round of projects. Every unearmarked gift up to £5000 is doubled by the FPS, and none is spent on administration, etc. It all goes for wildlife.