

non-target species. In Niger, for example, aerial spraying of endosulphan killed 90 per cent of the fish in the Mekrou river in the W National Park; in Nigeria at least two bird species were locally exterminated. These are the observable casualties; equally serious, perhaps more, are the unseen ones – the insects, for example – and the accumulation of poisons in the food chains and even in man. But even if the control measures do succeed, is this the wisest way to exploit this vast resource of unexploited land – ‘perhaps’, as one expert says, ‘the most valuable resource that Africa possesses’? In southern Africa for example, the FAO scheme aims to clear the tsetse in the Caprivi strip, and clear the wildlife reserves in order to prevent reinfestation of neighbouring cattle areas; immediately of course cattle move into the reserves. Even here reinfestation has occurred, spraying has had to be repeated, and eradication seems unlikely unless spraying is continued *indefinitely*. In an area like this surely the wildlife makes infinitely better sense. Destroying the wildlife in order to farm cattle on marginal land, to which they are usually quite unsuited, is bad land-use planning; all too often it results in over-grazed land and more destruction. Now that the value of wildlife and wild places is beginning to be appreciated some of the vast sums being expended on tsetse eradication could be put to much better use in designing good land-use and development programmes that will take wildlife conservation and use into account.

## CITES

China and Japan were among the latest signatories of CITES represented at the third Meeting of the Parties in New Delhi in February-March. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species now has 67 signatories, making it one of the largest and fastest growing international treaties. The agenda was long, with many controversial issues, but for the most part the Parties opted for the conservation measures, despite the pressure of a US delegation representing the new Reagan government that opposed virtually any major extension of protection. Sperm whales were added to Appendix I (which bans all international trade) and parrots (except ring-necked, budgerigar and cockatiel) and black coral to Appendix II.

ffPS, represented by John A. Burton, played an active part both in the meetings and the Technical Expert Committees. The meetings were attended also by three of the Society’s Vice-Presidents, one Council member and many Overseas Consultants.

Through its close association with the IUCN/SSC TRAFFIC Specialist Group (now the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit) ffPS was particularly concerned with the adoption of ‘Guidelines for the Transportation of Live Animals’, which had been prepared with the support of the RSPCA. Despite opposition from commercial interests involved in transport, notably IATA, these were adopted by the Parties, and hopefully will stimulate legislation in all countries to ensure that live animals are transported humanely, and prevent the all too frequent mass mortalities. Progress was also made on defining ranching operations and on the production of forgery-proof documents to accompany shipments of ivory and other wildlife. A committee was set up to examine the concept of ‘reverse listing’ (i.e. the Appendices would list the species that are *not* controlled) and will report back at the next meeting in 1983.