

Briefly...

The addition of this population to the 150,000 already discovered at Gahirmatha and others at smaller nesting beaches brings the nesting population of this species in Orissa alone to at least 300,000.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, December 1982

Pangolin scales seized

Pangolin scales worth \$60,000 and probably on their way from Thailand to Singapore or Hong Kong, have been seized by the Department of National Parks, Malaysia. The Malayan pangolin *Manis javanica* is a CITES Appendix II species and protected in Malaysia—fines of up to \$3000 and two-year prison sentences can be made.

Traffic Bulletin, 9 December 1982

More Sumatran rhinos

A survey in Silabukan and Lumeran Forest Reserves, Sabah, Malaysia indicates that there may be 18 Sumatran rhinos in the Silabukan area, six more than previous best estimates. The Sabah Forest Department has proposed that 1230 sq km of the two reserves be designated as a rhino conservation area.

WWF Monthly Report, December 1982

Turtle and coral smuggling foiled

Customs authorities in Manila, Philippines, seized £29,400-worth of stuffed turtles and 3000 kg of semi-precious fan-shaped black corals which are banned exports and are on Appendix II of CITES. They were bound for Spain and Germany respectively.

Manila Bulletin Today, 23 November 1982

Australia and Antarctica

Endemic snail close to extinction

Of New Zealand's many endemic snails *Placostylus ambagiosus* is closest to extinction. Only 200 are left, in isolated pockets of coastal vegetation in the far north between Cape Maria van Diemen and North Cape. Introduced pigs, rats and blackbirds are the main cause of their decline but the clearing of coastal

bush for farmland, and the introduction of cattle have made the habitat unsuitable.

Forest and Bird, November 1982

Last rain forests to get protection

The New South Wales Government is incorporating most of the State's remaining rain forests (about 50,000 ha) into the national park system.

WWF News, January/February 1983

Call for halt in Kangaroo exports

Since America lifted its ban on imports in kangaroo products two years ago the number of kangaroos killed has reached six million a year—twice the number for which the Australian Government issues licences as a means of keeping the total under control. Australian conservationists, concerned about the kangaroos' future, are preparing a campaign to persuade the US to restore the ban.

The New York Times, 28 November 1982

Sea snakes threatened by trade

Sea snake populations (Hydrophiidae) off Queensland could decrease if the State Government agrees to licence a sea snake factory. It has already given interim approval for the export of sea snake skins taken incidentally by prawn trawlers. Sea snakes are now 'prohibited exports' in Australia but Queensland's internal trade in skins would have a significant effect. Conservationists are opposing the factory and urging that methods be devised to reduce the incidental take of sea snakes by prawn trawlers.

Fund for Animals and Total Environment Centre, February 1983

Bandicoots' tip-site saved

Plans to remove car-bodies from a tip threatened to destroy a significant portion of the habitat of the Gunn's bandicoot *Perameles gunni* which now only occurs, in mainland Australia, in and around the city of Hamilton, Victoria. Conservationists began to live-trap bandicoots with the intention of releasing them at the site when the car-bodies had been removed but then

Simsmetal Pty. Ltd agreed to leave 20–30 car bodies and Hamilton City Council have delayed clearing the site for up to two years while conservationists develop alternative bandicoot habitat on adjacent land.

Australian Conservation Foundation, November 1982

Military presence in the Falklands

The effect of military presence on the wildlife of the Falklands has been given careful thought by the UK Ministry of Defence. Rules for troops prohibit the use of conservation areas, control shooting and fishing, prohibit flying over or landing near to seal rookeries, penguin colonies or sea-bird sanctuaries. Troops are also encouraged to participate in bird surveys and rabbit extermination on New Island.

North America

Grizzly news

In 1982 at least 14 grizzly bears were killed in and around Yellowstone National Park: most of the deaths resulted from encounters with people. A new programme in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho will intensify law enforcement, inform visitors how to prevent encounters with bears, and step up the education campaign to explain the seriousness of the grizzlies' situation.

Outdoor News Bulletin, 14 January 1983

Bighorns restored in Arizona

Bighorn sheep are being restored to the Whipple Mountains near Lake Havasu City, Arizona. They disappeared 30 years ago because of uncontrolled recreational use, competition with feral burros for grazing, disruption of access to water and possibly disease. A number of federal and state organisations as well as private organisations are cooperating in the effort: 300 burros have been removed, habitat has been restored and new water sources have been developed. Five rams and 20 ewes will be released from a 320-acre enclosure after the lambs are born and further releases are planned.

Outdoor News Bulletin, 10 December 1982