MAINLAND ASIA NEWS

William L.R. Oliver
Park End, 28A Eaton Road
Norwich, Norfolk NR4 6PZ
United Kingdom

PHILIPPINE SPOTTED DEER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Relatively good progress continues to be made on this project. The "World Herd", which was created in 1990 with the establishment of nine (5.4) animals of Negros origin (i.e., 2.1 at Silliman University, Negros Oriental, and 3.4 at Mulhouse Zoo, France) and three (1.2 at Bitu Farm, Iloilo) animals of Panay origin, has increased to twenty (11.9) animals of Negros origin and 4 (3.1) animals of Panay origin. These increases are due to the acquisition of seven wild-caught animals (mostly by donation from private owners), i.e. five (2.3) from Negros and 2 (2.0) from Panay, and the birth of six (1.1 at Silliman University and 2.2 at Mulhouse Zoo) young to the Negros herds and two (2.0) to the Panay herd. All but one (1.0 at Bitu Farm) of the captive born young have been reared, though three (2.0 at Bitu Farm and 0.1 at Mulhouse Zoo) of the wild-caught founders have died. A preliminary studbook, detailing these records, is being maintained by the Mulhouse Zoo.

It is apparent from these figures that progress has been confined mostly to the Negros component, where Silliman University has been successful in serving as a "rescue centre", as well as a "breeding centre". By comparison, very little progress has been made with the project on Panay, where the rearing of one calf and the acquisition of two males has been more than offset by the three deaths; all of which were avoidable. For these reasons, negotiations are currently underway to relocate this project to some other more suitable location on this island. At present (December 1992) both the Bitu Farm and Silliman University herds include one female of breeding age, though three more females are expected to reach breeding age within the next few months at Silliman. Unfortunately, one of the three adult females at Mulhouse Zoo appears to be barren.

One of the most promising recent developments in this program has been completion of arrangements for the establishment of a second Spotted Deer Breeding and Rescue Centre on Negros, under the aegis of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Mulhouse Zoo and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Government of the Philippines. This new centre will be situated at the headquarters of the Negros Forests and Ecological Foundation (NFEF) in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, and therefore close to the environs of the Northern Negros Forest Reserve and Mt. Canloan National Park, from whence most of the few live spotted deers acquired for the project in the last two years have originated. The NFEF will runs this centre in close collaboration with Silliman University and the Mulhouse Zoo; the latter, together with the Zoological Society of San Diego and the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, having provided the majority of funds for this project, and for the extension and renovation of the outside enclosures at Silliman University, which were also completed earlier this year.

With the addition of this centre, there is a much greater chance that

any other spotted deer illegally caught in Negros in the future will be obtained for the cooperative breeding program, and that information appertaining to this program will be more successfully disseminated to local communities throughout the island. To this end, a conservation education poster sponsored by the Mulhouse Zoo, which features the spotted deer and has text legends in the three relevant local languages (English, Ilongo, and Cebuano), has been produced and distributed throughout the range of this species. Numerous talks and seminars about this programme, and the biodiversity and critical conservation problems of the region, have also been given to local groups and communities by project pesonnel. In March, a one day workshop on these topics was held at Silliman University. This was attended by representatives of relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies from all over the country. The main output of this workshop was a series of strong resolutions calling attention to the urgent need for increased protection of the small amount of remaining wildlife habitat in the region. The inaugural meeting of the "Philippine Spotted Deer Conservation Committee", which was set up under terms of the aforementioned MOA, was also convened at that time.

SURVEY OF PLANTS EATEN BY RUSA DEER

Dato Dr. Ahmad Mustaffa B. Hj. Babjee
Director General of Veterinary Services, Malaysia

The Department of Veterinary Services of Malaysia in conjunction with Institut D'Elevage Et De Medicine Veterinaire Tropicale (IEMVT) of France is carrying out a survey of plants eaten by rusa deer or timor deer (*Cervus timorensis*) anywhere the species occurs. As this deer species is now popularly reared in many countries, it would be useful for information to be gathered on the forage and browse resources available and consumed by the animals and the resultant knowledge shared and benefitted by all interested parties. The Department and IEMVT of France therefore wish to invite your participation and cooperation in this important study.

The method chosen for this survey is the direct and indirect observation rather than the analysis of feces or of rumen content. It is an easier and quicker method and it also allows the large amount of informal knowledge of field workers and other observers to be recorded. Direct observation is when the observer/reporter sees the animals eating the plant. Indirect is when the plant itself is observed to have been eaten although the action of the animals eating it is not seen by the observer/reporter.

The observation method is based on subjective appreciations thus alleviating the scientific value of the results. In trying to quantify and standardize the observations, we have established a noting scheme which consists of giving a note to the feeding preference of the deer for each plant quoted:

NOTE	EXPLANATION
4	**plant very well eaten by deer as a first preference.**
3	**plant well eaten by deer but less preferred than 4.**
2	**plant slightly eaten by deer, mainly when 4 and 3 are not available.**
1	**plant known to be eaten by deer but at an undetermined level or there is insufficient knowledge.**
0	**plant not eaten at all**

The form may be filled in as the observer reporter wants, and to the best of his knowledge:

- any plant, or plant's part, may be quoted
- any observation, even incomplete, is interesting and may be reported.
- the scientific name is to be mentioned only if known.

All observers/reporters will be quoted in the published report. For this purpose please fill in the name and address clearly and in full.

The information is should be returned to:

Department of Veterinary Services
8th & 9th Floor, Block A, Exchange Square
Off Jalan Semantan, Bukit Damansara
50630 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
(ATTN: Dr. Philippe Chardonnet and Mr. Chin Fook Yuen)

CALAMIAN DEER FIELD SURVEY AND (PROPOSED) CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In late February/early March, a brief field status survey of the Calamian deer *Cervus calamianensis*, and the Palawan bearded pig *Sus barbatus ahoenobarbus* in the Calamian Islands, was conducted by the author and Carmalita Villamor of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the DENR. The principal objectives of this survey, which was funded by the Zoological Society of San Diego, were to investigate the current distribution and conservation status of these species on the two main islands of Busuanga and Culion, and to develop recommendations for their enhanced future protection.

This was the first such field investigation since 1975, when the late Major Ian Grimwood conducted a more detailed survey. The results of this earlier survey indicated that the Calamian deer was unlikely to survive on either of these islands unless urgent action was taken to reduce hunting pressure (which was reported to be intense throughout the species' range) and/or to set up an effective reserve for their protection (for details see *Oryx*, 13(3):294-296, 1976). In the event, little or no action was taken by the relevant authorities on the first of these recommendations, though a new reserve, the Calauit Island Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, was established by Presidential Proclamation in 1976. The creation of this area, which comprises the whole of Calauit Island (3,760 ha), northwest Busuanga, involved the eviction of several hundreds of persons, whowere resettled in two locations in south-central Culion Island. The Calauit Preserve was primarily intended to accommodate founder stocks of eight species of African ungulates (zebra, giraffe, eland, bushbuck, waterbuck, topi, impala, and Grant's gazelle) which were presented to the (then) President of the Philippines, Ferdinand E. Marcos, during his visit to Kenya in 1976, and released onto Calauit the following year. These animals, which are still at liberty on the islands, now number several hundreds of individuals.

A few Calamian deer also survived on Calauit at that time, though a further 30 individuals were released on the island in 1977 (J. Gapuz, pers. comm.). According to the annual census figures of the Conservation Resources and Management Foundation (CRMF), which is contracted to manage the area by DENR, the deer population on Calauit has increased from the estimated total of c. 35 individuals in 1977 to approximately 550 individuals by the end of 1991; an average growth rate of 22.2% p.a. However, scrutiny of these figures also reveals a diminishing rate of growth in this population, which may indicate the operation of density dependent factors, continued (albeit reduced) hunting pressure and/or disease. Both of the latter factors have been recorded. Given the relative ease of access to the island by boats, some poaching of the deer population by hunters from Busuanga is suspected to occur, and 80% of the activities of the sanctuary staff are concerned with protection and security (J. Gapuz, pers. comm.).

However, the principal threat to this population, and to the sanctuary itself, is the "Back to Calauit Movement (BCM)". In 1986, discontent and the depletion of natural resources in their resettlement areas on Culion, led to the organization of the BCM and the return of 51 (20%) of the 256 families evicted from Calauit ten years before. By March 1992, the population of illegal settlers on Calauit had increased to 111 families, comprising a total of 492 persons. These people have made petitions to remain on Calauit, but all such petitions have been rejected by the courts up until now, largely because the claimants had accepted all due compensation in forfeiture of their settlement rights at the time of their eviction. Unfortunately, however, legal proceedings for their re-eviction which were instituted immediately, have still to be resolved, and substantial damage has been perpetrated to the island's forests (by slash and burn cultivation or *kaingin*) and marine resources in the interim period (J. Gapuz, pers. comm.; D. Ganapin, pers. comm.).

In any event, Calamian deer are now abundant on Calauit and this area undoubtedly constitutes the main stronghold for this species. In addition, at least 14 (6.8) individuals, either wild-caught or captive-bred on Calauit, have been released onto three other islets in the group since 1988 (J. Gapuz, pers. comm.) and a further 29 (12.17) individuals were being maintained ina 1.7 ha enclosures on the island for future relocations at the time of this survey. However, most of these captives have since been liberated, following DENR's insistence that CRMF should comply with the terms of the original (1976) Presidential Proclamation No. 1578, which stipulates that: "The hunting, wounding, taking or killing of any wild animal or bird and/or the destruction of any vegetation or any act causing disturbance to the habitat of the wildlife herein protected are hereby prohibited". Unfortunately, however, this regulation not only precludes any further relocations of Calamian deer, it has also seriously hampered options for the useful management of the captive stocks of other Philippine species on Calauit, and prevented any effective controls on the increasing numbers of exotic ungulates on the island.

Calamian deer have been extirpated from most parts of Busuanga, though remnants of this

population are reported to survive in some of the more remote areas, particularly in the north and north-west sectors of this island. They are evidently less scarce on Culion where, as on Busuanga, hunting pressure seems to have decreased in recent years, though the reasons for this are not clear. There are no significant reserves on either of these islands at present, though relatively large parts of them are still undeveloped and remain sparsely inhabited.

Priority recommendations resulting from the 1992 survey include the designation of much of the remaining wildlife habitat on Culion under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), and the possibility of creating a private nature reserve for this species on the Busuanga Breeding and Experimental Station (46,000 ha). This property, the former Yulo King Ranch, comprises more than 60% of the total area of this island (c. 75,000 ha), including most of the aras (such as the Chinabayan and Wayan Mountain Ranges) where deer are reported to survive (Oliver and Villamor, in prep.). Other priority recommendations appertain to improved management strategies for wildlife species and habitats on Calauit, and amendment of Presidential Proclamation No. 1578 to enable the removal of some or all of the African hoofstock and the useful dispersal of surplus stocks of *C. calamianensis*, and other Philippine species being bred in captivity on Calauit (e.g., the chevrotain - see below). A new MOA between DENR and the Zoological Society of San Diego has been drawn up to facilitate the early development of an international cooperative breeding program, which (as per the *C. alfredi* protocol) is intended to generate resources for future in situ conservation activities. A conservation education program, based around the production of a high quality conservation poster featuring *C. calamianensis*, and a behavioral-ecology study of the wild population on Calauit, are also proposed under the auspices of this MOA.

There are no Calamian deer currently in captivity outside the Philippines, where the ERDB has been breeding the species for a "stock-farming" project since 1982 (Villamor, C.I.: *Backyard Raising of Calamian Deer*. ERDB/DENR, Manila, 12 pp., 1990; and in prep.). However, this project has been only modestly successful in its intention to produce captive-bred deer for donation to Calamian residents for backyard propagation, and the project was officially "terminated" in August 1991 (C. Villamor, pers. comm.). It is hoped that the remaining stock at ERDB, currently comprising seven (2.5) individuals will therefore be incorporated into the proposed conservation breeding program for this species.

STATUS OF THE BALABAC CHEVROTAIN *TRAGULUS (NAPU ?) NIGRICANS*

In the Philippines this species occurs as a native form only on Balabac Island, between Sabah (west) and Palawan (east). Its current conservation status is unknown, but the species is likely to be seriously threatened owing to extensive deforestation and intense hunting pressure (C. Custodio, pers. comm.). There are unconfirmed reports of a naturalized population having become established in south Palawan (F. Panol, pers. comm.), where the species is said to have been introduced on several occasions (Rabor, D.S.: *Guide to Philippine Flora and Fauna, Vol. XI*. Natural Resources Management Centre and University of the Philippines, Manila; 1986).

A field status survey on Balabac is required as a matter of some urgency, with a view to the development of recommendations for the enhanced future protection of the remnant population, including the establishment of at least one protected area on the island. The species has been bred very successfully in captivity on Calauit Island since 1982, though current plans to release surplus captive-bred animals on Balabac should be postponed until such time as a suitable site for the reintroduction (rather than restocking) of these animals has been identified. The potential for the development of a properly structured program, with several cooperating institutions, should also be explored, particularly if this involved the formulation of an MOA ensuring the generation of funds for conservation action priorities on Balabac. The taxonomic status of this distinct, dark-coated race also needs to be clarified, since it may be an endemic species.

ASIA - Short Notes

HOG DEER SURVIVES IN SRI LANKA

A survey of the hog deer *Axis porcinus* was conducted by Andrew McCarthy, University of Hertfortshire, and Sarath Dissanayake, Department of Wildlife Conservation, in August-October 1992. The species was thought to have possibly become extirpated in recent decades, but this survey (McCarthy and Dissanayake, 1992) confirms that it is still present on the southwest coast.

Interviews and subsequent observations reveals that it occurs in scrub and cinnamon gardens with a 35 sq. km. area between Ambalangoda and Induruwa on the coast and inland as far as Elpitiya. Densities of 40-56 animals per sq. km were estimated, from a silent drive method of census, indicating that the species occurs at much higher densities in the agricultural landscape of Sri Lanka than in natural habitats elsewhere within its native range in Asia. The total population in Sri Lanka is preliminarily estimated to be 490 individuals.

Reports from villagers suggest that the hog deer population is increasing due to a decline in hunting in recent years. While hunting is thought to be the principal potential threat, development and human population increases in the southwest coastal region pose a more serious long-term threat.

SANGAI PHVA WORKSHOPS

A Population and Habitat Viability Analysis Workshop on the sangai, or Manipur brow-antlered deer (*Cervus eldi eldi*), was hosted on 11-14 October 1992 by Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore as part of its centenary celebrations. This is the first PHVA wokshops to have been held in India. The workshop was supported by the Indian branch of the IUCN/SSC Captive Breeding Specialist Group.

SANGAI SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

This group has recently been formed under the aegis of the Captive Breeding Specialist Group, India. Co-Chairs are Mr. Tomchou Singh, Chief Wildlife Warden of Manipur, and Mr. A.K. Das, Director of Alipore Zoological Gardens, Calcutta. Further details are available from Sally Walker, Registrar, CBSG-India, Box 1683, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

SIBERIAN MUSK DEER UNDER THREAT

Dr. V. Prikchodko (Institute of Evolutionary Animal, Morphology and Ecology, Academy of Sciences 117071 Moscow) reports that the Siberian musk deer population (*Moschus moschiferus*) is thought to have declined by 50% in the last two or three years due to the great international demand for natural musk (major importance of Russian musk are China, Japan, and Korea). In 1970-80 it was widespread in Russia and estimated to total 100,000 - 120,000.

In the altai, Vasily I. Flint (Biological Institute SB An, Frunze Str. 11 Novosibirsk 630091) reports that there has been a fivefold decrease in the population, estimated at 40,000 - 45,000 in 1986. 50 kg of musk was officially traded in 1990-91, thought to represent about 10,000 musk deer, but the actual amount may be double. Trade was prohibited by local government in 1992, but it persists illegally.

Methods of breeding the species in captivity and extracting musk from live animals have been underway in Russia since 1976 (see Prikhod-ko, 1987), breeding is being.

References

McCarthy, A.J. and Dissanayake, S. 1992. Status of the hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) in Sri Lanka. Report to Department of Wildlife Conservation, Colombo. Unpublished. 25 pp.

Prikhod'ko, V.J. 1987. Breeding of musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus* L.) for the production of musk. Abstracts. XVIII Congress of the International Union of Game Biologists, Jagiellonian University, Krakow. Pp. 159-160.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

A.W. English
Department of Animal Health
J.L. Shute Building, Werombi Road
Camden 2570, Australia

DEER FARMING

Problems with the Australian economy continue to have an effect on the rural industries, including deer farming. There have been new initiatives on the part of the Deer Farmers' Federation of Australia to stimulate the consumption of venison - notably the appointment of a full-time Venison Market Development Manager. It is still too early to determine the effects of this and other activities on the domestic consumption of venison. The AUS-MEAT system of venison carcass description and specifications was adopted in 1992, with the production of manuals outlining the new language.

The returns from velvet antler have been somewhat lower in 1992 than in the previous year or two. The New Zealand grading system for red deer velvet has been adopted in Australia, with local development of grading for rusa and fallow deer velvet (the latter in conjunction with New Zealand).

Legislation has been passed in the Australian Federal Parliament which sees the introduction of compulsory levies on farmers for deer slaughtered or exported, and on velvet antler sold or exported. Monies collected will be directed towards research and development in the deer farming industry.

In New Zealand, venison has been trading well, with the AP 2 schedule reaching $6/kg in late 1992. With well over 1 million red deer on farms, the industry is currently anticipating a period of good growth.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Artiodactyl Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) has continued to refine its policy on conservation of endangered species in the region, with draft plans now under discussion. This year should see some genuine progress with at lest one species of deer, with a major constraint being the funding required to achieve results.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY CONSERVATION BIOLOGISTS (AAVCB)

A new Special Interest Group has been formed within the Australian Veterinary Association, with a charter to promote and develop veterinary involvement in conservation biology. AAVCB welcomes overseas veterinarians who may wish to join the group - Dr. Tony English of Sydney University is the inaugural President.

LEGAL PROTECTION REVOKED ON QUEENSLAND DEER

(Information provided by Ken Slee)

Introduced rusa, chital, red and fallow deer are all established in the wild in Queensland. Until recently, deer have been protected under the Queensland *Fauna Conservation Act 1974*, which allowed limited public hunting and trapping for farm purposes under a licensing and royalty system.

With the demise of the Bjelke-Petersen conservative government and its replacement by the Goss Labor Government, a general review of legislation was undertaken.

The Queensland *Nature Conservation Act 1992* removes all legal protection from deer in Queensland, to the dismay of hunters, deer farmers, and many other community groups. The stated reason for the exclusion of deer from the Act is that they are not indigenous and do not warrant the expenditure of public money for their management.

Although deer are well established in the wild in a number of areas in Queensland, lack of protection could result in numbers declining due to over-exploitation. Hunting groups are lobbying meanwhile to have deer declared "game" and managed on a sustainable basis.

Australian deer now have no legal status in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia and are classed as game species in Tasmania and Victoria.

NORTH AMERICA NEWS

James Peek
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83843

PEARY CARIBOU UPDATE

Peary caribou work will start in July this year. Plans are to radiomark individuals with a VHF satellite-based telemetry system, modified to fit the diminutive caribou from collars used on larger barren-ground caribou. (Information supplied by Frank Miller, Canadian Wildlife Service.)

SELKIRK MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

Midwinter surveys indicated 51 caribou were present, as compared to 47 in 1991. Survival improved and recruitment increased slightly to 14%. Four mortalities of radio-collared animals, 1 to injury, 1 cougar predation, and 2 accidentally by hunters were recorded. This population will continue to be monitored. Additionally, a revised recovery plan is near completion which specifies additional caribou introductions into suitable habitat. (Information supplied by Peter Zager, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game.)

COLUMBIA RIVER WHITE-TAILED DEER

Population remains stable with status same as last year. No habitat modifications of any consequence are ongoing within the range of this population. This population is still classified as endangered, but a downlisting is being considered. (Information supplied by Alan Clark, Fish and Wildlife Service.)

SOUTH AMERICA NEWS

Dietland Muller-Schwarze[1] and Donald E. Moore[2]
[1]College of Environmental Science, State Univ. of New York, Syracuse, NY 13210
[2]Burnet Park Zoo, 500 Burnet Park Drive, Syracuse, NY 13204-2504

BRASIL

A census of the animals in Brazilian zoos has been published. It includes a detailed deer census. Title: "Relatorio Mamiferos Censo - 91". Sociedade de Zoológicos do Brasil, Rua Teodoro Kaisel, s/n Sorocaba SP 18020. Phone: (0152) 32-2354. Telex: 152-179 PMSO BR. Fax: (0152) 31-4457.

CHILE

The studbook for the Chilean pudu has been published (105.48.56.1). It covers 17 zoos. Contract Dr. Ulrich Schürer, Zoologischer Garten Wuppertal, 56 Wuppertal-Elberfeld, Hubertusallee 30, Germany.

Chile will export pudus to Japan at $6,000 per animal (La Tercera, Santiago, 30 November 1992).

URUGUAY

Donald E. Moore worked in the field in Uruguay and reports two alarming developments in 1992: 1) In the largest, and so far, most viable herd in Uruguay, one hundred of the 300 pampas deer perished in 1992. Poaching and disease played a role. 2) Responding to increasing economic, especially tax pressure, the owner of the deer range plans to replace the pampas vegetation with exotic plants such as alfalfa, and fertilize the area by March 1993. D. Muller-Schwarze and Donald Moore are trying to find a solution through The Nature Conservancy.

A new paper by S. Gonzalez, A. Gravier, and N. Brum-Zorilla is entitled "A systematic subspecificial approach on *Ozotoceros bezoarticus* (Linn. 1758) (Pampas Deer) from Southamerica" (*Ongules/Ungulates 91*, pp. 129-132). The authors tentatively conclude that Uruguayan pampas deer belong to the subspecies *Ozotoceros bezoarticus leucogaster*.

Ms. Susan González, Montevideo, plans to hold a workshop in Uruguay entitled "Situación Poblacional del Venado de Campo" in November 1993.

PAMPAS DEER WORKSHOP

This is planned for November 1993 and will cover conservation requirements (both biological and legal), population viability analysis and captive breeding. Those interested in participating should contact Susana Gonzalez, Instituto de Investigaciones Biologicas Clemente Estable, Division Citrogenetica Evolutiva, Av. Italia 3318 11 600 Mdeo. Uruguay (FAX: 005982-475548).

HUEMUL

A bi-national meeting of deer specialists from Chile and Argentina took place at Alerces National Park, Argentina, November 3-6, 1992. Representatives from all areas where Huemul del Sur (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*) occur agreed on recommendations, issued an Action Plan: "Primera Reunión Binacional Argentino-Chilena Sobre Estrategias de Conservación del Huemul - Recomendaciones y Plan de Acción". Protected areas are to be established to cope with the problems of habitat destruction, poaching, diseases from livestock, dogs, fragmentation of deer populations, and unplanned tourism. The huemul specialists wish "to maintain an active contact with the Deer Specialist Group, trying to obtain support for huemul conservation actions. We hope that a fruitful relationship will be established". Copies of the Plan can be obtained from: Lic. Carlos Martin, Director, Delegación Técnica Regional Patagonica, Administración de Parques Naciones, C.C. 380, 8400 - San Carlos Bariloche, Rio Negro, Argentina.

(Submitted by: D. Muller-Schwarze)

NOTICE: **To be included in future Newsletters, please send status reports of field studies, captive breeding, reintroductions, and any other deer information to: D. Muller-Schwarze, SUNY-CESF, 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY 13210; Fax: (315) 470-6934 or Donald E. Moore, Burnet Park Zoo, 500 Burnet Park Drive, Syracuse, NY 13204; Fax: (315) 2422-1224.**

EUROPE AND NEAR EAST NEWS

George Schwede
National Wildlife Research Center
P.O. Box 1086
Taif, Saudi Arabia

ROE DEER

Santiago Aragon is studying the morphology, genetics and ecology of the roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) in southern Spain with a view to planning for the conservation of Andalusia's remnant population. (Address: Estacion Biologica de Donana, Pabellon de Peru, Avd. M Luisa s/n, 41013-Sevilla, Spain.)

VETERINARY SPECIALIST GROUP NEEDS INFO

Dr. Michael Woodford, Chairman of the Veterinary Group of the SSC/World Conservation Union is seeking the DSG's assistance in compiling a list of diseases which are perceived by our membership to be a threat to the wild populations of deer.

The Veterinary Group is anxious to receive details of the causes of any morbidity or mortality of which DSG members may be aware. Reference to reports, scientific papers, newspaper articles, etc. relating to disease in all its aspects as it may affect the DSG's interests are also of concern; please draw attention to any such publications or send photocopies to Dr. Woodford for his database. If you have any information on specialist wildlife disease diagnostic laboratories, please forward that as well.

In return, the Veterinary Group hopes to be able to offer the service for which the group was formed. Particular attention should be paid to the extreme importance of obtaining specialist veterinary advice whenever wild animal capture, translocation, reintroduction, or restoration projects are components of an Action Plan. The risk of the transmission of important diseases of humans, domestic livestock, and other wild animals when wild or captive-bred animals are translocated, even over short distances from one ecozone or biotope to another, can be considerable and must be minimized by appropriate screening, quarantine, and where necessary, vaccination.

All information should be sent directly to: Dr. Michael H. Woodford, Chairman, Veterinary Group, 500 23rd St., N.W., Apt. B-709, Washington, D.C. 20037.

DEER SPECIALIST GROUP

Chairman

Dr. Chris Wemmer
National Zoological Park
Conservation & Research Center
1500 Remount Road
Front Royal, VA 22630

Vice Chairman

Dr. M.J.B. Green
World Conservation Monitoring Centre
219c Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Regional Coordinators

EUROPE AND NEAR EAST

Dr. Georg Schwede
National Wildlife Research Centre
P.O. Box 1086
Taif, Saudi Arabia

MAINLAND ASIA

Dr. M.J.B. Green
World Conservation Monitoring Centre
219c Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

NORTH AMERICA

Dr. James Peek
University of Idaho
Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife Resources
Moscow, Idaho 83843
USA

INSULAR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Mr. C.R. Cox
WWF-Vietnam
Centre for Natural Resources
and Environmental Studies
University of Hanoi
19 Le Thanh Tong Street
Hanoi, Vietnam

SOUTH AMERICA

Prof. D. Muller-Schwarze
College of Environmental Science
and Forest Biology
State University of New York
Syracuse, New York 13210
USA

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Dr. A.W. English
Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Studies
University of Sydney
Private Mailbag 3
Camden 2570
Australia