

of Burma's wildlife and the obvious need for more effective steps to conserve it. That Government has demonstrated its awareness of this need and determination to do something about it through its new programme of environmental conservation is very encouraging. Responsibility for nature conservation has recently been transferred from the Forest Department to the Working People's Settlement Board, however, which is concentrating its efforts initially on development of an Environmental Education Centre at Hlawga, near Rangoon, and a recreational park on Mount Popa in the central Dry Zone. Meanwhile surveys are being carried out to re-evaluate the existing Wildlife Sanctuaries, some of which have suffered serious damage, and other areas, in order to identify the most suitable locations for future National Parks and Nature Reserves, having due regard to the need as expressed in the project's

objectives of conserving "adequately sized representative examples of Burma's major natural ecosystems."

It will inevitably take time to plan and develop a system of terrestrial and marine National Parks and Reserves in such a large country, particularly since the still relatively undisturbed areas most suitable for the purpose are usually in remoter regions where communications may be difficult. But with its wealth of wildlife and forests, and the superb scenery of its mountains, rivers, sea-coasts and off-shore islands, there is little doubt that Burma's future National Parks could be among the finest in Asia.

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RE-INTRODUCTION OF WILD FAUNA IN PAKISTAN

by Muhammad Nawaz

One-horned Rhinoceros, Blackbuck and Cheer Pheasants have disappeared from Pakistan due to destruction and shrinkage of their habitats and over-exploitation. One pair of *Rhinoceros unicornis* of Nepalese origin was brought to Pakistan on the 23rd of March 1982, for re-introduction in Lal Sohanra National Park, which is the former habitat of Rhino and is still a suitable environment for them.

Out of the three species of Rhinos found in Asia this is the largest and is commonly known as the Great Indian Rhino. Once it was widely distributed in Pakistan. Marco Polo mentioned that its range extended along the Indus River to the foothills of Hindu-Kush near the Khyber Pass.

In 1971 10 Blackbuck were sent to Pakistan from Texas (U.S.A.). The progenitors of these animals were originally imported from Pakistan around 1940. These 10 plus another 6 airlifted from Copenhagen (Denmark) were also reintroduced into Lal Sohanra National Park. Out of their progeny, 41 are

present in Jallo Park near Lahore.

Cheer Pheasant chicks hatched from eggs received from the World Pheasant Association by the courtesy of CIC Paris have been released in Margalla Hill National Park near the Capital City of Islamabad for the past 3 years. It is still too early to evaluate the programme. For the conservation of wild fauna, flora and sceneries, 5 National Parks, 70 wildlife sanctuaries and 74 game reserves have been notified in the country. Their combined total area covers 9,605,918 hectares. The re-introduction programme in Pakistan would be most useful because most of the species are severely threatened. In this way Pakistan would regain the animals which vanished from their former habitats.

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