

# ACTION

- ◆ **Ocean Defender visits Bristol** Evening visits aboard Earthkind's wildlife rescue and conservation-education ship. 9-18 Oct. ☎ 0181 889 1595.
- ◆ **Apple Day 1998** Events to bring about awareness of the decline in traditional apple varieties. 16-25 Oct. Send sae for details to: Common Ground, PO Box 25309, London NW5 1ZA.
- ◆ **Devon Hedge Week** Events, including hedge-management, natural history and walks. 24 Oct to 1 Nov. Devon Hedge Group. ☎ 01392 266368.

## Conferences

- ◆ **Saving British Mammals: Conservation successes and priorities** Bats, dolphins, otters, brown hares and harvest mice are some of the species covered. Presented by The People's Trust for Endangered Species and the Mammal Society. 3 Oct. Zoological Gardens, Chester. ☎ 0171 498 4533.
- ◆ **Greenpeace Business 3rd Annual Conference 'The Business of the Future'**

7 Oct. London Marriott Hotel.  
☎ 0171 970 4770.

- ◆ **Greener Marketing**  
15 Oct. London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. ☎ 0171 632 0112.

◆ **Schumacher Lectures: The ecology of money** The impact of money on the planet's ecology and the viability of alternative financial strategies; lectures by leading figures. Bristol, 17 Oct. ☎ 01803 865051.

◆ **Go Organic in the School Grounds** Organic ground maintenance. Henry Doubleday Research Association, Coventry. 22 Oct. ☎ 01203 308215.

◆ **London's Tree Warden's Conference** 31 Oct. BTCV. ☎ 0171 278 4294.

## Courses

- ◆ **Beginning Botany** Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. 7 Oct - 25 Nov (Wed eves). ☎ 0131 248 2841.
- ◆ **Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables as Nature Intended** Principles and practice of organic gardening. 17, 24, 31 Oct & 7 Nov. Organised by Bishops Wood at Worcester College of Technology. ☎ 01905 726002.
- ◆ **Building a Better Business Through Environmental Improvement** Free to businesses with fewer than 250 employees. Starts 20 Oct. Middlesex University. ☎ 0181 362 6067.

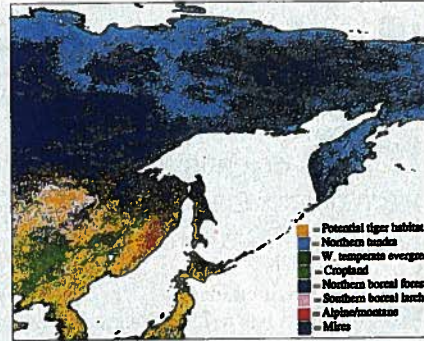
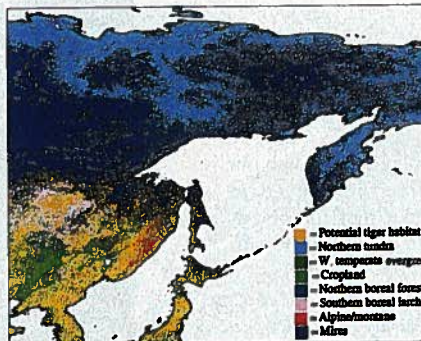
## Awards

- ◆ **BP Conservation Programme Awards** Funding and training for international conservation research. Closes 16 Nov. Application pack ☎ 01223 277318.
- ◆ **Whitley Award Scheme for International Nature Conservation** £100,000 available for conservation projects worldwide (not undergraduate or school ones). Closes 30 Nov. Royal Geographic Society. ☎ 0171 591 3073.

Claudio Muñoz



Small as profitable. Ethical finance the Schumacher way.



All change. A comparison between the current distribution of major habitats in the Far East (left) and the predicted distribution for 2100 (right) assuming a 2°C increase in global average temperature.

# Things hot up for tigers

**RUSSIA** Climate change could be the final nail in the coffin for beleaguered Siberian tiger population.

New research has identified climate change as an 'invisible' threat to the survival of the 330-371 remaining adult Siberian tigers confined to the southern region of the Russian Far East. Bad enough that they suffer from illegal logging of their habitat, poaching for their body parts and the hunting of their prey. Now climate change will alter vital tiger habitats and may be the final nail in their coffin.

Seamus Murphy



The research, commissioned by WWF and undertaken by the University of Durham, looks at a modest 2°C warming of the Far East's climate by 2100 (scientists predict that global average temperature will increase by between 1°C and 3.5°C by this date). The analysis predicts the potential impacts of such a change on those habitats in the region that are important for tigers.

The study reveals that the preferred existing tiger habitat – Korean pine and broadleaved forests of oak and birch – found in the remote Sikhote-Alin mountain range and home to 95 per cent of all Siberian tigers, will become even more fragmented as the area becomes more favourable for agriculture and forestry.

Co-author of the report Dr Nigel Dunstone said: "Some of these changes will convert previously unsuitable [tiger] habitat into potentially viable areas. But they are situated so far away that access would be impossible as there are no 'corridors' for the tigers or their prey to pass through." The ecologically fragile tundra and Arctic area to the north will also be affected – effectively squeezed between the advancing forests and the Arctic seas.

"Species with very specific habitat needs will undoubtedly be affected, and the less

mobile the species, such as plants, the more at risk they are," said Dr Ute Collier, WWF's climate change policy officer. "We can only guess at what impact a temperature rise would have on the region's plants and animals."

Most scientists believe that current global warming is a result of human activities, primarily from energy generation and transport. It differs from natural warming in two ways – it occurs faster and, unlike natural cycles of cold and warm periods, it will continue unless greenhouse gases are controlled.

PAUL TOYNO

## BACKGROUND

### Changes for the worst

- ◆ Over a 20-year period (1971-1995), 63 per cent of 65 species of British breeding birds have shown a tendency to lay their eggs earlier.
- ◆ A 17-year study of British amphibians found that they arrived at ponds and spawned 9-10 days earlier for each degree increase in temperature.
- ◆ A study of 14 species of European butterflies showed that 9 species shifted their whole distributions northward by up to 200km.
- ◆ Between 1987 and 1994 on the west coast of the United States, 4.5 million sooty shearwaters disappeared. This loss has been attributed to changes in ocean surface temperatures and ocean currents affecting their food supply.
- ◆ The area of Arctic pack ice is decreasing, and ice is thinning with potentially disastrous effects for species such as the polar bear, which is entirely dependent on pack ice.



# Wildlife

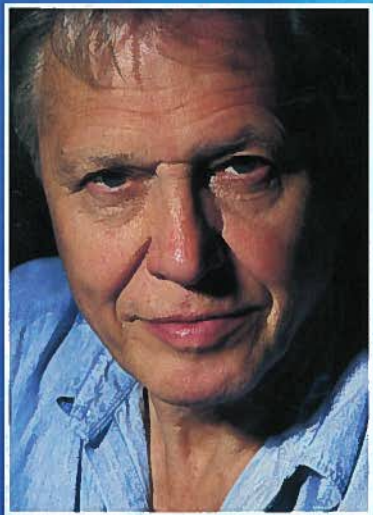
October 1998 £2.50 Vol.16 No.10 \$5.50

## WORLD-BEATING SHOTS

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Sir David reveals all  
PLUS Sneak preview  
of *The Life of Birds*



They call me  
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Tracking down the shoebill stork

