Ivory Coast Park Studies

Thorough inventories of the fauna and flora of two Ivory Coast national parks and one coastal reserve are being made as part of a two-year project by a team of German scientists, led by Professor J. Harald H. Roth. This is part of a Technical Aid Agreement between the two governments to assist the Ivory Coast’s newly formed Ministry of Nature Protection. The three areas are the Tai (3300 sq km) and Comoé (12,500 sq km) national parks and the Asagny reserve, the only protected stretch of coast that is being rapidly developed. The team will also advise on management and tourism plans. The Tai park in the south-west (declared in 1972) includes one of West Africa’s last extensive primary rain forests, and among the large mammals there are western red colobus C. badius, as well as black-and-white and olive colobus, Diana and lesser white-nose monkeys Cercopithecus diana and petaurista, grey mangabey Cercocebus torquatus atys, two genets pardina and villieri, probably manatee Trichechus senegalensis, pygmy hippo Choeropsis liberiensis, several forest duikers, jentinki, niger, zebra and oglibyl, and the tiny royal antelope Neotragus pygmaeus.

Primates for Research

Primates needed for medical research in the UK should be provided by specialised commercial breeders, says a report of the Medical Research Council’s Laboratory Animals Centre. The authors, Keith Hobbs, former primate officer to the Laboratory Animals Centre, and John Bleby, LAC director, made their survey in 1969-71, during which time 10,000 non-human primates were used annually – 1 per cent from the UK, 99 percent from the wild and 94 per cent of seven species. Supplies are now limited by export-bans coupled with a shortage of wild animals, but wild animals also pose disease hazards. The report is obtainable free from MRC Laboratory Animals Centre, Medical Research Council Laboratories, Woodmansterne Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 4EF. (See page 449 of this issue for a report on primate ranching.)