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FROM THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF, FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, PERTH, W.A.



The short-necked tortoise (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) is one of the world's rarest animals. So far as is known, he lives only in an extremely limited region of swamp country less than 30 miles from Perth. In an endeavour to preserve this small tortoise from extinction, the Government of Western Australia has started a Trust Fund with a gift of £1,000 which, together with donations coming from all parts of Australia, and the exchange of Crown land, will enable the Department to acquire the few hundred acres of land on which it occurs and to institute a programme of scientific research into the life history and needs of this extraordinary creature.