

# Making a Difference for Wildlife

Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



## Conservation through Hunting

New Zealand

Total Funds: \$165,000 over 3 years  
(including SCIF funds)

**S**EVEN DEER SPECIES, chamois and Himalayan tahr were introduced into New Zealand in the late 1800s for the purposes of sport hunting. In the past 12 decades the animals have become a part of New Zealand's ecology, and have significant cultural, economic and recreational value. To many New Zealanders they are a valued part of the islands' biodiversity.

The New Zealand government considers these species non-indigenous. Current legislative and administrative restrictions do not promote the economic benefits of harvesting game animals and do not facilitate long-term conservation. Also, those who administer public land are committed to permanently removing these animals from New Zealand. Yet, there is significant support within New Zealand for adopting a more realistic and pragmatic species-management approach.

SCI's New Zealand Chapter has initiated a three-year program to establish a robust information base on the social, economic and ecological aspects of introduced deer, chamois and tahr in the island nation. The gathered data will be used to help secure a future for game animals and hunting, and help minimize any adverse effects on natural biodiversity.

