The Toromiro (Sophora toromiro): an international program to assess, manage and restore biodiversity

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were brought back to Easter Island in 1995 for experimental plantation. With the recent upcom-
ing of other "Toromiro" of doubtful origin, a fast and absolutely reliable identification of species and genotype became an urgent need. The best methods to identify the specimens—even to the single clones—turned out to be DNA studies (RAPD and Microsatellite). For future manage-
ment of as high genetic variety as possible, the documentation of the represented genotypes is of vital importance for propagation and reintrodu-
duction.

Of importance for the intended reintroduction has been the production of a flora of Flowering Plants and investigation of its changes through Man as well as wood-anatomical and archaeobotanical studies of subfossil plant remains to recon-
struct the former flora and vegetation of the island. Important information was also taken from palynological investigations by John Flenley and collaborators.

With the data and the plant material in hand, for the future survival of the Toromiro and of the few other remaining endemic and idiochorous species of the island, the TMG is supporting the setting up of a Botanical Garden on Easter Island. This garden could also be used to collect and conserve the old local cultivars of plants used by the islanders and thus contribute to education and agronomy of the Island.

WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

The second technical mission to Orongo, which WMF had tentatively scheduled for the past month of October, had to be delayed in order to resolve technical and logistic problems.

The objective of this second mission is to determine the exact location of the sound rock front into which the retaining wall has to be anchored. The construction of the retaining wall along the sea-side and the reconstruction of the original platform around the Mata Ngarau sacred precinct were the solution proposed for the stabilization of this site by the first WMF mission to Orongo in 1995 (1, 2). This mission was carried out by Prof. Vouvé and Clement of the University of Bordeaux I, with the collaboration of Prof. Marchetti of the University of Chile.

To determine the sound rock front behind the weathered exposed basalt, analysis of drillings taken at the site are necessary. These drillings require equipment sufficiently powerful to bore deep enough without inducing any damage to the site. The identification of such equipment (drilling