

# DUKE FIGHTS TO SAVE TIGERS

THE Duke of Edinburgh is to meet Chinese government officials to ask them to curb the trade in protected and endangered animals.

Traditional Chinese medicine is blamed for fuelling a surge in illegal trade for animals such as tigers and rhinos. For example, tiger bones are used to treat arthritis.

The Duke has invited officials from China's religious affairs department to meet him next month, together with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, which he founded in 1995 to encourage reli-

gious groups to develop environmental programmes.

Also present will be representatives from the Chinese Daoism faith, which banned the use of endangered species in the remedies used by its followers.

A source close to the Duke said: 'Prince Philip is not supportive of what he sees as the corruption of traditional Chinese medicine.'

'He is trying to encourage the Chinese government to support the Daoists in undermining the incorrect use of traditional medicine.'