

# Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

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The website of the journal is (from 2008):

<http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>

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The Society was founded in 1903 as the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire, and subsequently named the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. Fauna & Flora International is conserving the planet's threatened species and ecosystems – with the people and communities who depend on them.

Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation, is now published quarterly by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Fauna & Flora International. It is a leading scientific journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, with a particular interest in material that has the potential to improve conservation management and practice.

The website, <http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>, plays a vital role in the journal's capacity-building work. Amongst the site's many attributes is a compendium of sources of free software for researchers and details of how to access Oryx at reduced rates or for free in developing countries. The website also includes extracts from Oryx issues 10, 25 and 50 years ago, and a gallery of research photographs that provide a fascinating insight into the places, species and people described in the journal.

The [Rhino Resource Center](#) posted this PDF in June 2009. We are grateful for the permission.

is to attack the market. 'The conviction of a couple of merchants for buying the horns would be far more effective than convicting the poachers'. Logging, however, is very far from helping the orang utans; indeed it is a serious threat to them. Sabah is exporting £1 million-worth of timber a week to Japan and timber exploitation is on a vast scale. Most oranges are in the forest reserves but this, says John MacKinnon, does not mean security, for the reserves are scheduled to be logged at a controlled rate. The only safe population is the small one on Mount Kinabalu (a national park) and those in the excellent Sepilok scheme (described on page 389); so there is urgent need to declare a new reserve. Once again tourism, carefully planned, might provide the answer. Wild orang utans could be as big a draw as chimpanzees in Africa, and the prospect of tourist revenue might induce the government to support the plan for an orang utan sanctuary.

One of the main surviving populations of the Sumatran rhinoceros is in the Loeser Reserve in northern Sumatra. Following a three months' survey there last summer, Dr. Fred Kurt estimated, from the reports of local hunting guides, that there was a minimum of 28 in the reserve with a possible 30 more in areas where the guides were afraid to go. He never saw a rhino, but he did see rhino traps, and illegal hunting he reckons is intensive. The traps were laid especially in areas frequented by female rhinos. Of the 33 areas in North Sumatra and Adjeh where rhinos still survive, only seven are inside the reserve; seven are in areas of so far untouched primary forest, but eighteen are on the edge of the reserve or in areas belonging to timber concessions where none are likely to survive unless they can be moved. Orang utans also are more numerous outside the reserve than in: about one third are estimated to be inside, the remainder in areas of shifting cultivation or timber concessions; many miserable captives are also kept by villagers in very poor, often horrible conditions. A considerable rescue programme is needed for both rhinos and orang utans, both highly endangered species: more sanctuaries, careful planning of timber extraction so that there are no isolated pockets of either animal, and rehabilitation centres for each species.

**Rhinos and  
Orang Utans  
in Sumatra**

**Search for  
Monk Seal  
Caves**

'The entire Mediterranean monk seal population probably does not exceed 500 animals', says the Red Data Book of IUCN and gives it a red sheet to indicate 'in danger of extinction'. Last summer the Italian Appeal of the World Wildlife Fund started a research programme to find out what measures would ensure its conservation in Sardinia. In grottoes round the Sardinian coast the seals still find refuges and breeding places, but many of these are becoming so disturbed, especially by tourists, that the seals are unlikely to stay. WWF has financed two surveys, one of all the grottoes in the Gulf of Orosei by the Speleological Group of Piedmont, including the famous and much visited Grotto of the Sea Ox (del Bue Marino), to find