

# Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

The original paper was published in the *Journal of the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire* (1903-1925 and 1926-1950) or in *Oryx*, the journal of Fauna and Flora International (from 1951).

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.



chickens disease-free. Dr Blanc, who has just finished a survey sponsored by IUCN/WWF, calls for the urgent creation of a reserve at Cape Soalala, to which animals found in captivity could be transferred.

### Red Hot Pokers Endangered

Several species of red hot poker *Kniphofia*, plants of the Lily Family endemic to South Africa, are currently threatened by loss of habitat. *K. pauciflora* may already be extinct, as its two original known sites are completely built up. *K. rooperi*, once common along the coast near East London, is now restricted to a narrow zone a few miles wide. *K. splendida* is protected in a special reserve in the Transvaal, at Vertroosting near Sabie.

## ASIA

### A Yenisei Pipeline

An oil pipeline is being built across the bed of the River Yenisei, to bring oil from the recently discovered deposits in western Siberia to the industrial East. The bureaucrats manage things more easily in Russia!

### Javan Rhinos Increase

The latest estimate of the Javan rhino population of the Ujung Kulon reserve in western Java, the animal's sole remaining known locality, is 40-48, including at least one very small calf. This represents a great increase from the estimate of under 30 only a few years ago.



Pygmy hog, reared by Mrs Robin Wrangham in Assam, the first of this rare species known to have been raised in captivity

### Exports from Indonesia

New regulations in Indonesia forbid the catching, owning, transporting or export of rhinoceroses, orang-utans, tapirs, Komodo dragons and birds of paradise except under permit from the Minister of Agriculture. Permits for other kinds of protected animals are granted by the Director of Forestry.

### Poaching Rhino in Nepal

Seven men have each been sentenced to three years in gaol for attempting to kill a rhino in the Chitawan National Park, Nepal. The reward of 2000 Rs paid to the informer who told the authorities of this incident came from a small grant from the Fauna Preservation Society to the Nepal Game Department.

### Tamaraws Increase

Since the Tamaraw Conservation Program was set up in the Philippines in 1969, the number of animals in the three tamaraw reserves has increased by about one-third, and now stands at 173. There are still some animals outside the reserves, but their number is unknown.

### Wild Ass Studbook

The studbook for Asian wild asses *Equus hemionus* kept by the East Berlin Zoo shows that there are at present in zoos world-wide 141 kulans from USSR and 99 onagers from Iran. Onagers are held by nine North American zoos and kulans by four, including a pair at Havana.

### Oldest Trees

With Sri Lanka's excellent record of wildlife conservation, it is not surprising to find there the world's oldest trees with a recorded history. These are the great bodhi *Ficus religiosa* trees, which were planted in the 3rd century B.C., at the time when King Devanampiyatissa was converted to Buddhism. The actual trees survive at Kataragama, Mihintale and Isurumuniya, and are still greatly venerated by Buddhists.