

# 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/>

The PDF is reproduced with permission from the CD version of The Centenary Archive 1903-2003, a fully searchable database of 100 years of the publications of Fauna and Flora International.

More information on: <http://www.fauna-flora.org/>

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.

this, conservationists will have to draw up lists of the species they would like to see involved, which for mammals will draw on not only the red sheets in the new *Red Data Book* but also the amber sheets of species 'believed likely to move into the endangered category in the near future'. It is no good waiting to put a species on the list 'because there are still several thousand in the wild' and then finding later that there are too few left in the wild for it to be safe to capture any.

The Gunung Leuser reserve in North Sumatra is the most likely place for the Sumatran rhino to survive and build up numbers, is the conclusion of Markus Borner, a Swiss zoologist who has been conducting a very thorough survey in extremely difficult mountainous jungle country for WWF. Moreover, this very inaccessible reserve needs no management for rhinos—other than keeping out all human disturbance. This, however, is essential. The rhinos are thinly scattered and numbers are small—he suggests a maximum of 40–50 animals, a density of one to 2000–2500 ha. In the Langhat Reserve to the east the trails suggested that there were very few rhinos at all; in other parts they are threatened by timber development or so thinly scattered over a huge area that they are unlikely to be able to breed. He found no evidence of Javan rhino at all.

The wildlife of Siberut, one of the four Mentawai Islands off the west coast of Sumatra, is in danger partly from timber felling (which may however be phased out), but much more because the native people are hunters and need meat. Unfortunately, easiest to hunt are the monkeys and gibbons, which include three *Red Data Book* species, the Mentawai Island gibbon *Hylobates klossii* the pig-tailed langur *Simias concolor* (both on red sheets), and the Mentawai leaf monkey *Presbytis potenziana*, also the pig-tailed macaque *Macaca nemastrina pagensis*. The situation urgently calls for a reserve that would be a hunting-free zone, and a suggestion for this has been prepared and presented to IUCN by Ronald Tilson, who is studying the monkeys. But to be effective, he is insistent that the scheme for a reserve must be tied in with a plan to improve the people's food, and particularly their protein supply. A former missionary in the Mentawais, Dr Helmut Buchholz, has produced just this; he wants to help the islanders to improve and increase their domestic pigs and chickens, train them in fishing techniques, and establish and run fish farms. (They are said to prefer fish to meat.) Dr Buchholz and his wife lived eight years in the islands, speak the Mentawai