

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.

done increasing erosion will ultimately lead to collapse. If livestock were reduced there is still a reservoir of wild animals whose numbers could be built up – elephant, warthog, giraffe, gerenuk, two dik-diks, beisa oryx, Grant's gazelle, lesser kudu and waterbuck; predators include lion, leopard, cheetah, wild cat, two jackals, two hyenas and bat-eared fox. All are shy due to hunting – despite the prohibition on all hunting. Burchell's and Grévy's zebras and Hunter's antelope are believed to have been exterminated here. Two marine turtles breed on the coast, and the whole Somali coast would repay an investigation to find out the status of both turtles and dugongs.

The Sumatran rhino's only hope for survival is in the vast Gunung Leuser Reserve in north Sumatra, according to Marcus Borner, who has now investigated all likely areas in the island in a WWF survey. Even in the

**Shrinking
Rhino Habitat
in Sumatra**

Gunung Leuser, which also harbours orang utans and the Sumatran tiger, he estimates the numbers no higher than 30–50 scattered in an area of 3000 sq. km. He himself saw only one and found the tracks of eight others. In central and south Sumatra, once the main habitat, he found no trace of rhinos at all. The only other area where he suggests there is a chance of rescuing the rhinos is in the west central part of the island, the Kerinci-Seblat area, but as it would call for the creation of a new reserve of at least 2000 sq. km. this seems to offer little hope in view of the heavy human population pressure and the cost. The Gunung Leuser also harbours at least a third of the orang utans in Sumatra, but according to Dr H. and Dr A. Rijksen, at least half the orang utan area will be logged in the next 15 years.

Before 1970 some 20,000 elephants in the 8000 sq.-mile, semi-arid Tsavo East National Park in Kenya were causing widespread anxiety that they would destroy the habitat. But the low rainfall of 1970 and the failure of the

**Elephant
Deaths
in Tsavo East**

April rains were followed by drought, and in September came the first reports of dead elephants. At the request of the East African Wildlife Society, Tim Corfield, already studying elephant ecology in the park, collected and examined jaws and tusks from carcasses, and found that normal calf mortality had been increased, and also now applied to older juveniles, and that the normal adult pattern (of more male deaths) had been reversed: it was adult females that had suffered most. Many of the dead elephants were found near water – drinking may have caused starving animals to collapse. The females, handicapped by their calves, could not travel as far as the males, and food near water would be used up first. Some 6000 elephants died before the drought ended in November 1972, and the preponderance of female deaths means, of course, a reduction in births. Immigration of elephants from outside the park is decreasing, says Tim Corfield; in fact the park is likely to become an island as far as elephants are concerned, or at