

# 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.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),  
CROMWELL ROAD,  
LONDON, S.W.

THE Asiatic fauna includes two species of Rhinoceros provided with a single horn. One of these is the great Indian Rhinoceros, which is found in Assam and elsewhere. The second species, perhaps not greatly inferior in size to the Indian Rhinoceros, is the Javan Rhinoceros (*R. sondaicus*), which occurs or has occurred in certain restricted parts of India and in the Malay Peninsula, in addition to the Island of Java. It has been supposed to inhabit Sumatra and Borneo as well, but statements to that effect need confirmation, and are very likely to be wrong.

In Java the Rhinoceros is now reduced to a single herd, which is confined to the Bantam district, at the extreme west of the Island. The herd is said to consist of about fifty individuals, which are very strictly preserved.

In the Malay Peninsula the range of this species has diminished greatly during recent years. The British Museum has made various attempts, during the last ten years, to obtain information on the subject; but practically none had been received until a few months ago, when Mr Theodore R. Hubback wrote to say that he had shot a specimen in the Lower Tenasserim district of Burma. He described the persecution which this Rhinoceros has experienced in the last few years, and he emphasised the great reduction of its numbers which had taken place. This has been largely due to the existence of Chinese superstitions which credit various parts of the animal with medical or other virtues.

There is reason to feel the greatest anxiety with regard to this magnificent animal, which is perhaps the rarest of all large mammals. The strongest representations on the subject should be made to the authorities concerned; and, in particular, the Government of Burma should be asked to institute measures for the protection of the Sondaic Rhinoceros in Tenasserim and other districts (if any such exist under their jurisdiction).

The Dutch authorities are endeavouring to protect the

animal in Java, and it is to be hoped that a determined effort will be made to prevent its extermination in British territories.

S. F. HARMER.

11th November 1920.

MAGDALENE COLLEGE,  
OXFORD,  
29th October 1920.

DEAR MR BUXTON,—Allow me to address you the following considerations regarding the present condition of the zubr (European bison) in the Bieloviège forest and my suggestions as to the possible preservation of this rare animal from complete destruction.

The forest of Bieloviège, situated in the former province of Grodno, W. Russia, forms a part of the, now disappeared, great Lithuanian forests. Under the reign of the Emperor Alexander II. of Russia a part of these forests, roughly 320,000 acres, was converted into an Imperial game preserve, and the animals living therein enjoyed good protection. The zubr, which was destroyed in all Europe except in Bieloviège and some very wild parts of N.W. Caucasus (except a few park specimens in Count Potocki's preserve "Pilàvin," the summer residence of the Czar at Gatchina near Petrograd, and Prince Viasemsky's game preserve, near Petrograd—all these three game parks were completely destroyed by the Bolsheviks), was looked after with especial care, and no one had the right of shooting them without a special permission, which was granted very rarely by the emperor.

During the Imperial shooting parties, which were organised periodically, the rule was that only one zubr was allowed to be shot by each guest. The number of these animals increased yearly and, as far as I know, their number towards 1913 was something between 500 and 600.

During the war all that part of the country was under German occupation for about 1½ years and the forest, as well