

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.

A bill to control the importation of endangered species of wildlife into the USA was introduced into Congress in the summer, by Representative John D. Dingell of Michigan, and has the enthusiastic support of all conservationists. If it is passed it will give the

**Rare Animals
Bill
for the USA**

USA an Act similar to the British Act passed in 1964, which was promoted by the FPS and is proving a valuable tool in the control of traffic in endangered species. But obviously it is essential that all importing countries should have such an Act if the objects are to be achieved. The British Act works through a Government Committee, on which the FPS Hon. Secretary sits, which vets all applications from zoos, dealers and others to import any animal listed in the schedules to the Act. (A note on its annual report is on page 212.) In the same way the American bill seeks to give the Secretary of the Interior power to prohibit the importation, dead or alive, of any species or subspecies, or parts of them, which he considers to be threatened with extinction after consultation with the exporting country and, when appropriate, with IUCN*; exceptions for educational, zoological and scientific purposes would be allowed. The American bill also seeks to extend the present prohibition of inter-state traffic in illegally-taken wild mammals and birds to cover amphibians and reptiles and other categories; this would enable the states to stop the present very considerable traffic in the hides of poached alligators in the southern states. Hides taken illegally are smuggled into a neighbouring state from which shipment is not illegal. As a result of this widespread poaching and law evasion the American alligator has decreased to such an extent that it is now on the danger list. The inevitable vicious circle – increased poaching, fewer animals, increased prices for skins, more poaching – is now in full swing, and nothing but a well enforced legal prohibition can stop it. The price of alligator hide is now \$6.50 per foot.

Two notable successes have been scored recently in the efforts to stop some of the traffic in seriously endangered animals, one in an exporting country, Indonesia, and the other in an importing country, the USA. The Director

**New Measures
in
Indonesia**

of Forestry in Indonesia, Mr Hasan Basjarudin, has declared that exports of the three especially rare species, Javan and Sumatran rhinos and orang-utan, will only be allowed by special licence from the Minister of Agriculture, or the Director General of Forestry acting on his behalf, and will only be given for animals already in captivity. For other protected animals the government will fix export quotas, and licences to capture will be issued by the Director of Forestry on a carefully selected basis with preference given to applications endorsed by IUCN. No licences will be granted to dealers or for indiscriminate sale. Moreover, the advice of the Survival Service Commission of IUCN on rare species will be welcomed, and the Directorate of Forestry will send copies of export permits for any endangered

*International Union for Conservation of Nature.

species to the SSC. In the USA, a large importer of animals, the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), of which most of the larger zoos and many animal dealers are members, has passed what amounts to a complete self-denying ordinance on the most seriously endangered animals. This was a unanimous resolution that members will not seek to acquire wild-caught Javan or Sumatran rhinos or monkey-eating eagles, and that they will only take orang-utans, Galapagos and Aldabra tortoises and Zanzibar red colobus monkeys if legally captured and exported. Moreover, any member convicted of violating the wildlife protection laws of any other country will be disciplined by the Association. At the same time AAZPA considers that captive-breeding programmes offer the best course of action for rare species which cannot be adequately protected in the wild, unless they are so rare that it is unwise to take any at all. The species listed in the resolution all come into the last category. A committee was appointed to supervise the working of the resolution and to collect information on rare and endangered species, including facts about the trade in illegally caught or illegally exported animals, for circulation to members and others.

The captive breeding programme for the rare whooping crane has made a successful start. Most important, it has proved that taking the eggs from nests in the wild has not harmed the wild flock. Not only were four chicks

Success with Whooping Cranes

successfully hatched at the US Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, but more young were reared by the wild flock on the breeding grounds in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park than ever before since the breeding grounds were discovered in 1954. Last spring six eggs were taken from the wild flock, one from each of six nests, leaving one for the birds to hatch in the normal way – whoopers normally rear only one chick from the clutch of two – and flown to Patuxent. A photograph of one of the four chicks reared follows page 242. Now comes the news from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, the whoopers' wintering ground, that 47 wild birds turned up in the autumn, an increase of four on the number that went north in the spring; and in fact the breeding season was even more successful than the figures suggest, for only 38 of the 47 birds were adults; nine were young birds of the year.

In Kenya forty-one black rhinos have now been captured in settled areas where they were in danger and transported to the safety of national parks by the Kenya Game Department's Capture Unit under Dr John King.

Rhino and Elephant Work in Kenya

The rhinos were captured after being drug-darted from a hired helicopter, paid for by the East African Wildlife Society. The Society has also spent £4,500 on an aircraft to be used in survey work in the Tsavo National Park. The three-year research programme of the Tsavo Research Unit, directed by Dr. Richard Laws, is now under way in Tsavo East, where the damage