

des embryons morts. Leur analyse à l'Université d'Utrecht a prouvé que tous contenaient des doses élevées de pesticides chimiques comme le DDE et les PCB, provenant sans doute des oiseaux d'eau et des poissons mangés par les aigles; c'était déjà le cas en 1969.

Pour prévenir un empoisonnement de ce genre, un des couples avait été nourri en hiver avec des déchets d'abattoirs non contaminés, et c'est justement celui qui a élevé un petit en 1970. En conséquence, ce



Fig. 2. Pygargues à queue blanche: vol de démonstration.
Photo: Dr J. Willgoes/WWF.

nourrissage auxiliaire doit être poursuivi sur une base plus étendue, avec l'agrément des propriétaires fonciers. De plus, ceux-ci sont invités à renoncer dès mi-février aux travaux forestiers dans les secteurs de nidification. Enfin, il est envisagé d'officialiser ces réserves libres.

Cette expérience douloureusement instructive montre qu'une action de sauvegarde en faveur des rapaces est indispensable. Le WWF continue à la soutenir, dans le cadre d'un plan européen.

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NEPAL BANS TIGER SHOOTING

The Kingdom of Nepal banned all shooting of Tigers from 1 March 1971 as part of the international

effort to save the Tiger from extinction, the import and export of Tiger and Leopard skins having been completely banned by the Nepalese Government from the same date. Nepal's action brings the country into line with its neighbours, India and Pakistan, where the Tiger is being strictly protected.

The Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) of India, Pakistan, Burma, and Nepal, numbered some 40,000 in 1930. Recent estimates put the number surviving at below 2,000, all of them under severe pressure from human population impinging on their habitat, and from poaching.

Five other races of the Tiger survive in only small numbers—the Caspian, the Siberian, the Javan, the Sumatran, and the Chinese—but all are in grave danger of extinction. The Bali Tiger is considered already extinct.

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BLACK RHINOS MOVED 600 MILES TO SANCTUARY IN RHODESIA

Forty-one Black Rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis*) have been successfully moved over 600 miles (960 km) from areas in Rhodesia, where they were liable to be poached, to a new sanctuary at Gona-re-Zhou in the south. An official report received by the World Wildlife Fund states that the Rhinos have settled down well 'and there is every indication that the animals are established in their new home range'.

The Rhinos were drugged by means of darts fired from special guns (Fig. 1), then loaded into crates and



Fig. 1. Reintroduction of Black Rhino in the Gona-re-Zhou Game Reserve, Rhodesia. This one is about to go down after injection before transportation. The terrain is typical of the areas in which the rescue teams had to operate. Photo: Sunday Mail/WWF.

taken on trucks to the sanctuary, which is in some of Rhodesia's finest game country in the lowveld bordering Mozambique. The 1,000-square-mile (2,590 km²) area of the sanctuary, which is known as the Gona-re-Zhou Game Reserve,* has been fenced and is being cleared of tsetse-fly. The area once contained Black Rhinos but they had been wiped out.

To pick up and transport the Rhinos, a seven-ton truck equipped with four-wheel drive, hydraulic tip decking, and an hydraulic winch, was used. During the capture and transport operations two men were killed when a truck overturned, and two rangers were gored by Rhinos. One of them went on to survive a forced landing by the aircraft taking him to hospital.

The World Wildlife Fund supported the operation to prevent the wiping out of the Rhinoceros population in Rhodesia. A 1968 census had shown fewer than 600 Black Rhinos in the country—mainly in the Zambezi valley, where they were being so heavily poached that the species could well have become extinct in Rhodesia within ten years. Meanwhile the Rhodesian Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management is reported to be translocating more Black Rhinos to Gona-re-Zhou.

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* See also J. E. M. Verway's note in *Biol. Conserv.*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 152–3, January 1971.—Ed.

MARINE CONSERVATION IN THE SEYCHELLES

Human activities of various kinds are increasingly threatening the marine littoral communities of the Seychelles. This is most notably the case with the coral reefs, which are particularly sensitive. The activities concerned include:

1. Siltation—due to disturbance of bottom sediment in building the new airport on Mahé and in extending the harbour at Port Victoria (the capital).
2. Mining—removal of reef 'limestone' for road-building.
3. Pollution—Port Victoria sewage is at present untreated and a proposed sewage disposal scheme may dump the sewage into the sea within 1 mile (1.6 km) of the marine park which was recently established around the islands of Ste Anne, Long, and Cerf—(see the map given by Swabey (1970), Long Island being between the other two off Port Victoria.



Fig. 1. Seychelles children with spear-guns and two species of angel fish (*Pomacanthus*) which they had shot. Photo: N. V. C. Polunin.

4. Shell-collecting—which has been extensive in some places, while in Baie Ternay explosives have been used to blast rocks for shells.
5. Spear-fishing—many reefs have been denuded of their large groupers (Serranidae), and tourists and others were seen to revert to killing Angel Fish (*Pomacanthus imperator* and *P. annularis*) and other attractive reef-fishes (Fig. 1).
6. Tree-felling—especially the cutting down of the largest area of mangrove on the west side of Mahé for development as a housing estate (Fig. 2.) There seems to be little realization that this may also affect the near-by reefs very adversely.
7. Expanding tourist industry—threatening reefs, building hotels, producing waste and pollution, with more and more shell-collecting, spear-fishing, etc.

The Seychelles Government has accordingly embarked on a plan to set up marine parks:

- (A) Around the islands of Ste Anne, Long, Cerf, and two others, off Port Victoria, Mahé;