

Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

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<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.

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

done by the vast number of elephants, now some 20,000, has caused such controversy and concern. It is hoped that the results of the research will be to give Kenya National Parks the necessary basis on which to draw up a conservation and management plan.

Kenya's Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, the Hon. S. O. Ayodo, said recently that his government was becoming more and more convinced that the high potential of animal protein from wildlife could be exploited on lands that would deteriorate from agricultural or other forms of land use. Speaking at a symposium in Nairobi on Wildlife Management and Land Use, he also said of tourism that no other industry could be so happily rooted in the scientific use of wildlife and at the same time so productive of revenue. Kenya's 1966 revenue from tourism, which depends largely on wildlife, was over £12 million, second only to coffee (£14m) and double the third export, tea (£6m); by 1970 the figure is expected to have doubled. Economists at this symposium pointed out that by developing this tourist potential, which in turn meant proper land-use planning and the development of wildlife schemes, East Africa could buy more food than it could ever hope to grow on the same land or pay for by other forms of development in the areas now reserved for wildlife. Nevertheless the clash between agriculture and wildlife persists, and where wildlife schemes are more profitable than agriculture it is not always easy to distribute the profits so as to compensate the people who are traditionally concerned with the land. Dr. Curry-Lindahl, who attended the symposium, considered the economists' support for the ecologists' arguments the most significant aspect of the meeting. As he says, their pronouncements on the value of wildlife as a national resource will carry much more weight than the same statements coming from conservationists.

The Zambian Government recently intervened to save the red lechwe antelope on the Kafue flats, with the purchase of the Lochinvar ranch, reported in the last issue of ORYX, and it is to be hoped that this conser-

**Will Zambia
Save the
Black Lechwe?**

vation-minded government will now step in and save the black lechwe, which is endemic to Zambia, by declaring a Black Lechwe Reserve in the Bangweulu swamps. This is the only way of stamping out the poaching that has been the main factor in reducing the numbers of the antelope from about 1,000,000 at the turn of the century to 16,000 in 1959 and something like 8,000 in 1966-67, according to Lieut-Col. Critchley, President of the Zambia Wildlife Society (of which President Kaunda is Patron). Col. Critchley recently took part in an aerial survey of the 2,000 square miles of swamp, using the aircraft which was partly bought with money from the FPS/WWF Revolving Fund. Eight thousand lechwe is a pitiful, even absurdly small number for this vast area, to which the lechwe are specially adapted, and which is practically going to waste because there