

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.

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Vol. XIII No. 4

July 1976

Notes and News

The UK Government has appointed three Scientific Authorities to advise on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which the Government, while not formally ratifying, implemented

**Advisers
for the Trade
Convention**

on January 1st this year. The Scientific Authority for Animals is asked to advise on two main areas: applications for import and export licences for live animals and also some products, and amendments to the lists of species to be controlled. The members, who include the

FPS Hon. Secretary, are: Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards FRS (Chairman), Dr M. R. Brambell, Peter Conder, Dr G. B. Corbet, R. S. R. Fitter, Miss A. G. C. Grandison, Dr C. J. O. Harrison, Professor Sir Andrew Huxley FRS, J. Reid, T. H. Scott, E. H. Tong, and R. C. Upton. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, will act as the Scientific Authority for Plants, and the Nature Conservancy Council is the third Scientific Authority to advise on general nature conservation policy. As we go to press the Bill to provide specific powers to implement the Convention is before Parliament, and the Government is expected to ratify in June.

The Malaysian Game Department has made the remarkable discovery of a group of 10-20 Sumatran rhinos in south Pahang Tenggara and north Johore. This may well be the largest surviving group anywhere, and most

**Rhino
Discovery in
Malaysia**

important because it is the only viable breeding group on the Asian mainland - no other known group in Malaysia numbers more than three animals. The rhinos roam the lowland dipterocarp forest surrounding the proposed highland Endan-Rompin National Park, forming a buffer zone. The park itself is unsuitable for rhinos, because of both its altitude and lack of rhino food. Most of this buffer-zone forest is scheduled for sustained yield forestry, which involves little disturbance and would not harm the rhinos. But there is one small area of about 7000 acres that has been included in a government scheme for growing palm oil, and this is vital for the rhinos.

If the forest here were to be destroyed, their range round the park would be interrupted, for they could not get round the cleared area, and they would be much more vulnerable to poaching, which, with rhino horn at about M\$10,000 per horn, is a great temptation. If agreement can be reached to withdraw the vital 7000 acres from the development plan there is every hope that the Malaysian Game Department will be able to preserve a group that is of immense importance to the future of the Sumatran rhino.

All but two of the nine species of gibbons *Symphalangus* and *Hylobates* – the long-armed apes of the deciduous monsoon and evergreen forests of south-east Asia – exist in reasonably healthy numbers, reports David Chivers as a result of his field studies and research over the past eight years. (The two are *H. concolor* and *moloch*.) But he believes that 80–90 per cent of the populations could be destroyed in the next twenty years if forest clearance and hunting continue at the present rates, exterminating at least one species – *moloch* (Borneo) – and possibly three others – *klossii* (Mentawai Islands), *pileatus* (Thailand and Cambodia), and *concolor* (Laos and Vietnam). Only four per cent of gibbon habitat is protected – he would like to see 20 per cent. The urgent need is to stop the wholesale forest clearing (both for man's sake and the gibbons'), which is the biggest threat in all countries, and to create more good forest reserves. He urges that efforts should be made to stop hunting – which is for food, so at the same time alternative protein should be provided – and to educate people in the use of their forest resources. And the pet trade should be banned. In Thailand particularly capture for the pet trade and for research is a serious drain. The outlook is most hopeful in Malaya where the Forest Department is extending protected forests and the siamang, lar and agile gibbons should be able to maintain their numbers.

The Zambian Government has stopped all hunting in ten Game Management Areas, totalling over 32,000 sq km, to allow the wildlife populations to recover and build up numbers. As six of the areas adjoin three national parks – two each on the Kafue, South Luangwa Valley and Isangana parks – this should also allow numbers to build up inside these parks, provided that the absence of hunters does not give poachers an even freer hand. The Kafue lechwe, on the Flats on the north bank of the Kafue River, including Blue Lagoon National Park, have increased by about 10,000 since 1973, and now number 40,000. But on the south bank, including Lochinvar National Park, numbers have fallen disturbingly, from 65,000 to about 30,000. The new Iteshiteshi dam may soon bring another kind of pressure on these lechwe, for the lake is now filling up with water that hitherto has flowed direct to the Kafue Flats; the effect on the lechwe will have to be watched. The black lechwe, too, have been increasing steadily and now number about 25,000 in the Bangweulu Swamps. It is good news that this is

**Outlook for
the
Gibbons**

**Zambia
Watches its
Wildlife**