

# 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/>

The PDF is reproduced with permission from the CD version of The Centenary Archive 1903-2003, a fully searchable database of 100 years of the publications of Fauna and Flora International.

More information on: <http://www.fauna-flora.org/>

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.

dodo's gizzard. Dr Temple force-fed fresh *Calvaria* stones to turkeys, and seven (out of 17) were eventually crushed in the birds' gizzards. The remaining ten were regurgitated or passed in the faeces after being reduced in size by abrasion in the gizzard. Ten seeds were recovered and planted and three germinated—perhaps the first to germinate in over 300 years, 'empirical support', as Dr Temple rather cautiously says in his account in *Science* Vol. 197, for the hypothesis that the *Calvaria* fruits had become highly specialised through co-evolution with the dodo. After the bird became extinct no other animal on Mauritius could ingest the large stones. Perhaps artificial abrasion of the seeds could now save the *Calvaria* from extinction.

Half-a-million acres of Endau-Rompin, the last remaining large natural forest in southern peninsular Malaysia and the last sizeable refuge of the Sumatran rhino, were scheduled under the Third Malaysia Plan to become a national park

**Preserving timber licences there until 1977. A campaign by the Endau-Rompin Malaysian Environmental Protection Society, which for Rhinos included a 7000-signature petition, backed by wide-**

spread representations including a letter from IUCN to the Federal Government, persuaded the State to stop issuing further licences and the Federal Government to ban timber exports from the area. The last existing licence expired in August 1978. N.J. van Strien, working on an IUCN/WWF research project on the Sumatran rhino, comments in his 1977 report on the surprising closeness of the Endau-Rompin rhinos to civilisation. The area, he says, could be reached in a few hours walking from the road at the last village, and although Singapore, where rhino horn is openly traded and displayed, is very close, the local people do not seem to be interested in rhino poaching; in Sumatra, rhinos in an area like this would have been wiped out by poachers many years ago. He suggests that perhaps the high standard of living may be the reason for this.

Of the 34 African countries in which elephants are still found, the populations are declining in all but three, and these are only remnants: in Botswana and South Africa they were almost exterminated over 100 years ago, and in Rwanda

**Poaching and the Elephants** 23 animals survive. These dismal facts are presented by Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton, Co-Chairman of the African Elephant Specialist Group set up by IUCN'S Survival Service Commission and supported by WWF and the New York Zoological Society. In Kenya elephant numbers have

halved since 1970 (now 55,000 - 75,000); in Uganda the decline is even greater, with a drop in Kabalega National Park from 14,000 to 2000 plus. At the same time the pressures of human populations are driving elephants into the parks and reserves with the result that excessive numbers have led them to destroy trees; park management is faced with having to cull elephants inside national parks despite decline in numbers overall. The chief cause of the decline in East Africa is poaching, which increased dramatically about 1970 when the price of