

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.

for nature reserves, and suggests four areas to protect the endemic plants and three more for the birds and the bats. He makes it very clear that only if this is done can the endemic flora and fauna of Rodriguez be saved from total disappearance.

In 1966 the number of rhinos in India's Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary was estimated at 50-60. By 1978 there were 25, due to poaching by one local gang that is so well organised and efficient that not one member has yet been convicted. 'India's Government has sincerely tried to stop the smuggling of wildlife products', says Esmond Bradley Martin, in a report to WWF/IUCN, 'but with so much profit to be made on the international market and with such well-coordinated syndicates, it goes on unabated.'

**What to Do
with
Rhino Horn**

An average Indian rhino horn weighs 720 grams and is easily hidden; it could fetch \$6000. (The highest bid in the 1979/80 Forest Department sale in Assam was \$7800 a kilo from a merchant in Manipur, but the price ranges up to \$9000 in the Far East.) In Kaziranga National Park in Assam rhino poaching is a highly organised business, and, despite severer sentences in the courts, still very worth while. Dr Bradley Martin recommends that the Indian Forest Department should stop its rhino horn auctions, which only encourage poaching, and that all rhino horn coming into the possession of conservation authorities should be destroyed. One African government, Botswana, has already destroyed its stocks, but the SSC, meeting in Delhi, was unable to agree with this method of combating poaching.

The crocodile farms in Papua New Guinea now hold some 25,000 crocodiles, all bought as small animals from village hunters. Last December 43 saltwater crocodiles *C. porosus*, which had been reared until they were above the legal limit at which they could be taken, were released into the wild to restock a depleted area. The local people in the release area (in Gulf Province) were enthusiastic; their interest and support had been enlisted by two Wildlife Officers, Mark Rose and his counterpart Kebua Karava, and they now realise, says Melvin Bolton, Manager of this FAO-supported Project, that they benefit more by selling fewer live small animals to the farms than more small skins to traders. They have agreed to support a ban on trade in all small skins of less than seven inches belly width. The best news of 1980 for Melvin Bolton was that the PNG National Executive Council had approved Regulations to include this ban. The release of the 43 crocodiles went without a hitch, says Rom Whitaker, Production Manager, and proved 'the feasibility of inexpensive crocodile restocking programmes'. The animals were released in pairs, about 500m apart, on the upper navigable limites of two creeks - one pair immediately started courtship despite having spent the previous 60 hours tied up in a bag and 32 hours in a boat. He urges that other depleted areas should be similarly restocked.

**People
and Crocodiles
in PNG**