

Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

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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.

News and views

for an interchange of information between all NGOs; request the end of the traffic in threatened and endangered Latin American wildlife, which depends not only on the countries of the region, which are undergoing a profound crisis, but also on the consumer nations that constantly stimulate the trade; and pointed out the need for global conservation actions facing the ecosystem as a whole'.

From a report by Eduardo Gudynas, FFPS correspondent in Uruguay.

New move to save rhinos

Rhino numbers continue to fall, despite anti-poaching efforts, because the demand for the horn is so great. In North Yemen rhino horn is used for making dagger handles, and in eastern Asia rhino products are consumed as traditional medicines (not aphrodisiacs). African rhino horn sells for US\$500 wholesale per kg, while Asian horn fetches US\$9000. Thus, the last large rhino strongholds are now being attacked by poachers.

Anti-poaching measures alone are obviously not enough to save rhinos in the wild. In July 1985 the World Wildlife Fund, with the assistance of the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife, started sponsoring a major international project to close down the trade in rhino products and to reduce the demand for the horn. The Project Director is Esmond Bradley Martin, who is also Vice-Chairman of the IUCN's African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group, and the Project Co-ordinator is Lucy Vigne, formerly Executive Officer of the same group. An advisory body will be established to assist the project.

Rhino products are still imported legally into Singapore, Macao, Brunei and South Korea. Emphasis will be placed on persuading the senior government officials in these countries to ban rhino products and to enforce the law. In certain countries where rhino horn is illegal it is nevertheless still imported, as into North Yemen and Malaysia, and the governments of these countries must be asked to bring in stricter control measures. China and Japan manufacture medicines containing rhino horn, and this should be discouraged. Briefing documents will be sent to the appropriate political decision-makers in the various countries, and similar documents will be

circulated to importers and wholesalers of rhino products and also to the medical and pharmaceutical associations encouraging them to use substitutes for rhino horn such as the horn of the saiga antelope, a species that is not endangered. Esmond Bradley Martin will go to Asia for 4½ months to discuss ways of stopping the legal and illegal trade.

A strong public awareness effort, especially in Asia, will address the crisis of the rhino through newspapers, television, radio and public displays. Posters will be produced promoting substitutes for rhino products.

If the trade in rhino products can be banned and the demand for the horn be significantly reduced in conjunction with anti-poaching activities, the five rhino species may continue to live and breed in their natural habitat.

The stonechat of Fuerteventura Island by Barry Phillips

The Fuerteventura stonechat *Saxicola dacotiae* is listed as 'Rare' in the ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book (Collar and Stuart, 1985), and since its discovery in the late 19th century, information on its population and distribution has been fragmentary. In 1979 a general bird survey on the only island where the stonechat lives, Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands, suggested there were 50–150 pairs. Fewer casual records during a similar survey in 1984 led to concern about a possible decline in numbers. A project was set up to study the bird, supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Instituto Nacional para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza and the International Council for Bird Preservation.

Fuerteventura is the second largest island in the Canaries (1620 sq km), but the least populated. Lush and well-wooded 500 years ago, the landscape is now an arid mixture of stony plains, sand dunes and eroded mountain ranges. Low rainfall and overgrazing by goats prevent regeneration. In February 1985 an Anglo-Spanish group of ecologists arrived on Fuerteventura to begin an intensive study of the stonechat, in what the islanders described as the wettest spring for a decade. Most birds were already breeding, and the chats were very conspicuous, calling noisily

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