

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.

brate taxonomists, even in the northern European countries. It was pointed out that the average age of invertebrate taxonomists is also increasing! It is to be hoped that the few groups, such as dragonflies and freshwater mussels, for which good data are now becoming available, will demonstrate the urgent need for further work. For example, management of dragonflies, now declining throughout most of Europe, may be incompatible with that for birds because the former often require wetlands of low productivity. The freshwater mussels, some species of which, for example the pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, are declining catastrophically, are now known to need highly specific conditions in clean fast-flowing rivers.

The meeting resulted in the drafting of a recommendation to the Parties of the Bern and Ramsar Conventions, to be approved by their respective management bodies. It calls for the promotion of further invertebrate research and recording schemes, the funding of invertebrate conservation projects, the development of recovery plans for invertebrates and their inclusion in management plans for wetlands, and more education and public awareness programmes relating to invertebrates. The WWF, IUCN and other conservation bodies were invited to carry out more comprehensive invertebrate conservation action.

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Sumatran rhinoceros: a new locality in Indonesia

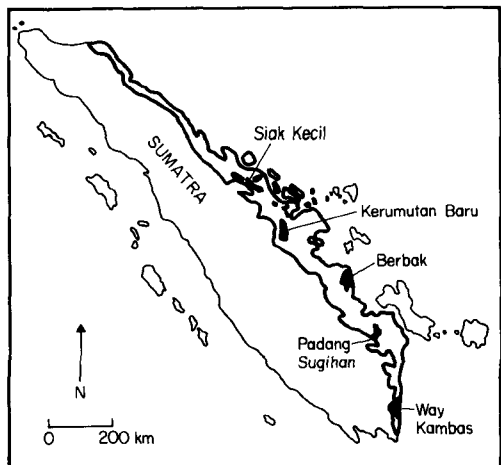
The Asian Wetland Bureau reports that a management patrol in October 1991, carried out jointly with the Indonesian Directorate General for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, has found clear evidence that the Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* still occurs in the Berbak Wildlife Reserve in Jambi province, Sumatra.

The Sumatran rhinoceros is one of the most seriously endangered species of large animals

in the world, existing only in small, isolated populations in inaccessible areas of Burma, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. A study carried out over several years in the late 1970s estimated that some 40–75 Sumatran rhinoceros survived in Sumatra. Although populations may have increased since then in national parks, such as Kerinci-Seblat and Gunung Leuser, this is by no means certain, as poaching in those areas has continued. Outside protected areas rhinoceros numbers are certain to have been reduced by a combination of habitat loss, poaching and capture for a government-sanctioned captive-breeding programme.

Over the years there have been only two reports of the rhinoceros in Berbak, one in 1936 and another in 1976, although this is more likely to be attributable to the inaccessibility of the area than a lack of animals. Even today it takes 3 days by motor launch, speedboat and dugout from the provincial capital to reach the areas where the evidence of rhino presence was found.

The signs included footprints, dung and saplings broken off in feeding behaviour that is typical of rhinoceros. The size of the footprints indicates that the animals are likely to be Sumatran rhinoceroses rather than the larger Javan rhinoceros *Rhinoceros sondaicus*. Signs of feeding were found in two locations 7 km apart. An earlier patrol to one of these areas in



Map showing location of Berbak Wildlife Reserve in Sumatra.

July 1991 had located tracks in deep mud that were too indistinct to be regarded as proof of the animals' presence, even though they were considered too large to be tapir *Tapirus indicus*, which is common in the reserve.

Sumatran tigers *Panthera tigris sumatrae*, sunbear *Helarctos malayanus*, mouse deer, *Tragulus javanicus* and *T. napu*, and pigs, *Sus scrofa* and *S. barbatus*, are also found throughout the reserve, which is mainly peat swamp forest, freshwater swamp forest and riverine forest. A total of more than 25 species of palms have been found in Berbak, making it the most palm-rich peat swamp yet known. More than 250 bird species have been recorded in the area, including the milky stork *Ibis cinereus*, Storm's stork *Ciconia stormi* and white-winged wood duck *Cairina scutulata*.

The reserve is currently under threat from a proposal to build a port on the adjacent coast, a project that will involve a road across the reserve cutting off the southern third and providing access for illegal activities.

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The Gambia's first forest park opens

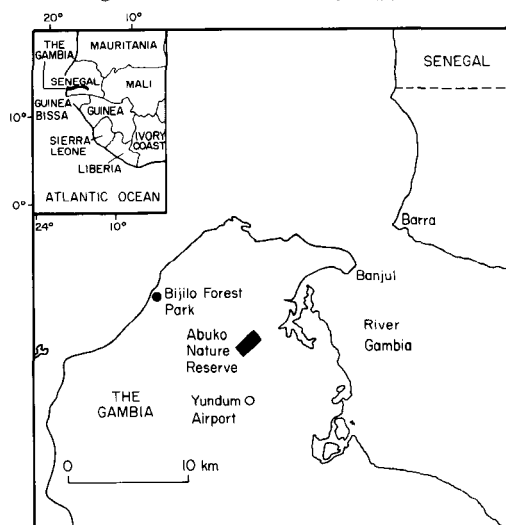
The West African republic of The Gambia, one of the smallest, most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa (IBRD, 1989), has just opened the 51.3-ha Bijilo Forest Park to the public. Situated on the Atlantic coast approximately 11 km from the capital, Banjul, the park is the second protected natural area to be opened to the public. Within easy walking distance of many of the country's hotels, the park is immediately accessible to the many tourists that flock to the Gambia every winter.

Although small, Bijilo, like Abuko Nature Reserve (the only other protected area with public access), contains a rich fauna and flora. A 4.5-km footpath passes through a mosaic of mixed woodland, sand dunes, tree and shrub savannah, and one of the few good *Borassus aethiopum* (rhun palm) stands in the Gambia. In fact, the rhun palms in Bijilo show the best

growth rates in the entire country (Schindele, 1983). Many of the park's tree, shrubs and climbers have been identified and labelled and a guide describing and explaining local uses of plants is on sale. Benches made from local wood have been placed along the path at scenic points and the sound and sight of the Atlantic Ocean is always present. One of the most inviting aspects of Bijilo is the absence of the tsetse fly *Glossina* spp., the vector of trypanosomiasis in man and cattle and the cause of many irritating bites.

Four primate species are resident in the forest park; red colobus *Procolobus badius temminckii*, green monkeys *Cercopithecus sabaeus*, patas monkeys *Erythrocebus patas* and galago *Galago senegalensis*. Hares, brush-tailed porcupines, various unidentified species of mongoose and bats, Gambian sun squirrels, ground squirrels, cutting grass rats, and giant bush rats can usually be seen if one is quiet and observant. Footprints of, as yet unidentified genets and civets are found along the sandy paths. And the unmistakable prints of the cape clawless otter can be found in the mornings along the paths closest to the beach.

Reptiles are well represented and probably even easier to see than most of the mammals. Nile monitor lizards, agamas, skinks, African beauty snakes, black and spitting cobras, puff adders, green mambas and royal pythons can



Map showing location of Bijilo Forest Park, The Gambia.