

# 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.

of which is "undoubtedly atmospheric nuclear explosions". One of the main caribou foods are lichens, which get their nutrients from the air, from a kind of natural fall-out. Before 1945 it was a harmless one. Unfortunately, lichens are so efficient at retaining natural fall-out that they also retain virtually 100 per cent of the radioactive particles that have been falling on them since 1945, and because of their slow growth, says Dr. Pruitt, they will probably remain "hot" for many years. The caribou is the base of the food chain in the north—lichen/caribou/carnivore/man—and the small amount of data available, mainly from Alaska and Sweden, suggests that people who eat much caribou meat do indeed have higher whole-body radiation counts than those who do not.

The Chief Game Warden of Uganda, Mr. J. D. Tennant, last year sent his warmest thanks to the World Wildlife Fund for its help, a £20,000 grant, in saving the last white rhinoceroses there—fewer than 100 animals.

**Guards  
Stop the  
Poachers**

Thanks to the grant it was possible to appoint a game warden, investigation officer, and rhino guards, and their presence in the Ajai's Sanctuary area, where there are between fifty and sixty rhino, was completely effective in stopping the poaching there. After the patrols started there was only one serious poaching incident, when four men were arrested and later sentenced for tracking a rhino, and no rhino were killed. The Investigation Officer covered a great deal of ground on the illegal trophy pipeline between Uganda and Mombasa, and brought two cases to the courts in Kenya, in one of which, involving rhino horn, the offenders were imprisoned for four and five years respectively. In the Lomunga Game Reserve, however, the position is less satisfactory. Two rhinos were killed there last summer, one by a gang of forty to fifty poachers, and only twenty remain, scattered over 600 square miles, which it is impossible to patrol effectively with the men available. It is planned to move as many as possible to the safety of the Murchison Falls National Park. One of the most encouraging aspects of the situation is that the Uganda Government now considers the survival of the white rhino in Uganda a matter of national and worldwide importance, and funds have been voted to carry on the work started by the World Wildlife Fund grant.

In October, 1963, Mr. W. D. Haacke, of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, collected, with great difficulty and after many unsuccessful attempts, the first two complete specimens of the golden mole *Eremitalpa granti namibensis* in the Namib Desert, which stretches north from

**Two Namib  
Golden Moles  
Caught**

the Orange River into Angola. This golden mole was first described by Bauer and Niethammer in 1959 from fractured skulls found in owl pellets. It seems, says Mr. Haacke, "to be confined to the shifting and semi-stable sand dunes of the central and southern Namib Desert, of which the major part is restricted area as it falls within the Diamond areas Nos. 1 and 2. Because of their inhospitable environment and their occurrence in a prohibited area, the only real dangers to these secretive animals are their normal predators, mainly owls and to a lesser extent snakes and possibly jackals. They might fall prey to these while moving about on the surface."