

The sustainable use of wildlife theme continues in this issue of *Oryx*. In News and Views, Dorothy Jackson explains how the Forest Stewardship Council is searching for ways to promote the sustainable production of timber. It is developing an independent timber certification and labelling scheme to enable consumers to choose timber that is supplied by producers who adhere to the Council's criteria for good forest management. The Council believes that channelling consumer purchasing power towards well-managed timber sources could help reform forestry practice, in tropical and temperate countries and in private and state-owned forests.

Also in News and Views, John A. Burton puts forward his opinion on a controversial issue – the disposal of confiscated ivory. Burning ivory stockpiles has been viewed by some as an indication of conservation progress but other people have had misgivings about the usefulness of this approach. The ivory trade will no doubt be the focus of some heated debate at the forthcoming meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in November. Sudan has proposed that its elephant populations be transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow the export, in 1995, of its stockpile of 10,884 tusks. Sudan says it needs the resulting funds to conserve and manage its elephant populations and to meet the deficit in the country's balance of payments.

South Africa is also proposing that its elephants be transferred to Appendix II, allowing it to trade internationally in non-ivory elephant products such as hair, hides and meat. The products would be derived from the annual cull that is carried out to manage elephant populations in the Kruger National Park. If this proposal is accepted South Africa will withdraw its reservation on the Appendix I listing of the African elephant. Meanwhile, it has undertaken not to trade internationally in raw ivory until it submits a secure system for such trade, which it intends to do at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The sustainable management of the saiga antelope is the subject of a paper by E. J.

Milner-Gulland. The saiga is a key species in a proposal put forward by the IUCN's Sustainable Use of Wildlife Programme, together with the Russian Academy of Sciences, to institute sustainable rangeland management for the Kalmykian semi-arid steppe, home to one of the two major remaining populations of *Saiga tatarica tatarica*. However, illegal trade could ruin the chances of a successful management scheme. Poaching is already occurring as demand for saiga horn for use in Chinese medicine rises and horns are being smuggled out to China. The USA has proposed that this subspecies be listed on Appendix II of CITES so that trade can be monitored and controlled. Hunting of the Mongolian populations of the subspecies *S. t. mongolica* has been banned since 1953. Since the early 1980s there has been some recovery, although numbers are still very low: 1400 and 125 individuals in the two remaining populations. It has been proposed that this subspecies be included in Appendix I, which would ban commercial international trade.

Hunting by rural people in tropical forests provides an important source of protein. However, wild game populations are susceptible to overexploitation and it is essential to be able to determine what level of use is sustainable if management is to be effective. John G. Robinson and Kent H. Redford discuss attempts to measure the sustainability of hunting in tropical forests. Drawing on examples from Latin American, this paper is an appropriate scene-setter for seven papers focusing on wildlife use in the Neotropics, which are scheduled for publication in the January 1995 issue of *Oryx*.

Adrian Barnett *et al.* describe the main findings of a survey of Kounounkan Forest in Guinea, West Africa, which FFPS funded in its entirety. The high biodiversity of the forest and the current low level of hunting pressure makes it very suitable for conservation. The FFPS submitted the full report to the World Bank. As a result the bank has incorporated the forest in its plans for forest conservation in Guinea and we are discussing FFPS's role in further survey work in the area.

Jacqui Morris, Editor