

are understood. What the DAPTF is doing is documenting, as fully as it can, one facet of the global decline in biodiversity, by recording and seeking to identify the causes of extinction events. Perhaps we should stop calling ourselves Conservation Biologists, and describe ourselves more accurately as Extinction Biologists.

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Letter from the editor

This issue of *Oryx* sees a number of changes. The Forum section makes its debut with *If community conservation is the answer in Africa, What is the Question?* by W.M. Adams and D. Hulme. This paper was identified as being controversial during the review process, and two replies were invited: *Taking the broad view of conservation* by David Western and *Time to move Out of Africa!* by Ashish Kothari. A further Forum paper is already lined up for the October issue, and I would welcome suggestions for suitable Forum topics and contributors for 2002.

Please note that the *Instructions for Contributors to Oryx* have been revised and extended, and can be found at the end of this issue. The *Instructions* are also available on the *Oryx* web page (<http://www.blackwell-science.com/oryx>), as is the *Code of Conduct* for researchers contributing articles to *Oryx* (published in *Oryx* 35(2), 99–100) and the form that is used for the peer review of manuscripts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rufford Foundation for the financial support that they have been providing for *Oryx*. From December 2000 they have been supporting a half-time post of Editorial Assistant. This has been very ably filled by Dr Josephine Morley.

For those readers who regularly or occasionally send items for the *Briefly* section, please note that the deadline for submission for the October issue is 6 August. In the October issue we will publish the deadlines for 2002.

Finally, Camilla Erskine left *Oryx* at the end of January, having seen *Oryx* through an important period in its development over the previous 18 months. As the incoming Editor I extend my thanks to her, both for her work with the journal and for ensuring a smooth handover to myself.

Martin Fisher