

The FFPS changes name and address

The FFPS has moved its headquarters from London to Cambridge and I write this amidst a formidable array of crates awaiting unpacking. For the last 4 years the Society has benefited from offices and other excellent facilities in the Royal Geographical Society's imposing building in Kensington Gore but we outgrew the space available and had no choice but to move. Our new office is housed in the Forestry Authority building, which is conveniently situated a few minutes' walk from the railway station in Cambridge. While the decision to leave London was difficult, Cambridge is within easy reach and has an enormous amount to offer, including the fact that a number of other conservation organizations have chosen Cambridge as their headquarters.

The occasion of the move was a good opportunity to announce our new working title – Fauna and Flora International (FFI). The Trustees believe that this new name reflects more accurately the world-wide scope of our work. The Society maintain its charitable status under its registered name, the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society.

Members of the FFI will know from the last issue of *Fauna and Flora News* that, for the first time for more than 6 years, membership rates have increased. We hope that this does not deter members from remaining with us. Membership subscriptions are vital if we are to continue to develop our capacity to carry out effective conservation and we are undergoing a crucial period of expansion.

I mentioned the new Sponsor category of membership in the last issue of *Oryx* but would like to remind members of this effective way of helping conservationists in developing countries. The economic situation in many parts of the world has led to cuts in education budgets and, as a result, many libraries are under-resourced, with zero or minimal acquisition funds. The need for journals is especially pressing – they are a primary source of new information and are vital to research

and development but are often the first things to be discontinued in times of economic crisis. The FFI has a list of institutions that cannot afford *Oryx* – please consider helping the emerging conservationists of the developing world by becoming a Sponsor member.

In this issue

This issue of *Oryx* contains the last of the submissions made in response for a call for papers on the theme of sustainable use of wild resources. Graham Child describes how Zimbabwe's wildlife conservation strategy has changed radically over the last 30 years, from a solely protected-area-based system to one that has brought benefits to both local people and the government. Now Zimbabwe is one of the few countries in Africa where wildlife is thriving outside parks and reserves and is regaining land that had been lost to agriculture.

The Zimbabwe system is based on providing economic incentives for conservation and this theme continues in Joel Heinen's contribution. Examining the evolution of human behaviour and the implications for human exploitation and conservation of natural resources, leads to his contention that conservation strategies that ignore the realities of human behaviour are unlikely to succeed. He supports his argument by describing some case-studies from various parts of the world and concludes that the role of socio-economists may be as important as that of biologists in solving conservation problems.

Tim New and A. L. Yen make a plea for greater attention to be given to invertebrate conservation. The importance of invertebrates in sustaining ecological processes is often underestimated, especially where the processes are not immediately associated with human welfare. We do not know enough about the role of invertebrates to be able to say whether particular invertebrates act as 'keystone' taxa or whether any are ecologically redundant, but conservation efforts should recognize that invertebrates are fundamentally important in maintaining the systems on which we depend.

Jacqui Morris, Editor