

By Hook or by Crook—A Reference Manual on Illegal Wildlife Trade and Prosecutions in the UK by Holden, J. (1998) WWF-UK and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK

This new guide, written by Jane Holden of TRAFFIC aims to raise awareness of the powers available under UK law to prosecute those who flout regulations controlling the trade in endangered species. The manual recognizes that the majority of cases never reach court because of lack of resources. And while there is a growing appreciation of the seriousness of wildlife crime by the Police and Customs, when cases do come to trial the sentences handed down are relatively light compared with the gravity of the crime. Penalties are often so low that they do not make an impression on the high profits that the sale of rare wildlife can bring, or act as a deterrent against repeat offending. The illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products is flourishing and has become significantly more organized. The financial rewards are high for the unscrupulous traders who feed the growing demand for the rare and exotic. Some of these items are worth more, gram for gram, than narcotics but the penalties do not reflect this. A 'Class A' drug trafficker can expect to receive more than 10 years imprisonment; in contrast, one of the most significant wildlife cases brought before a British court resulted in a mere 24-month sentence and the perpetrator only served half of this time. In recent years, a number of cases involving some of the world's most endangered wildlife have come to court. For species such as tigers and black rhinoceros commercial trade has become the most immediate threat to long-term survival in the wild and yet sentencing does not recognize this. One trial for conspiracy to sell 128 rhinoceros horns resulted in only 15 months imprisonment. A subsequent appeal saw the rhino horns returned to the offender.

By Hook or by Crook was jointly funded by several members of the UK Partnership For Action Against Wildlife Crime, including WWF-UK, RSPB and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. For more information please contact: Bobbie Jo Kelso, TRAFFIC International; Tel: + 44 (0)1223 277427.

Bioregion Common Property Resource Management Studies by Pandya, T.M. & Oza, G.M. (1998) International Society of Naturalists, Vadodara, India

This book presents the findings of field studies in Kambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat State, India. The study's objectives were: (i) to determine the biodiversity potential of the region; (ii) to investigate

whether the cultural lifestyle of the indigenous people could be linked to biodiversity conservation and/or to the ecological degradation of the habitat; and (iii) to devise a management strategy for the common property resource, giving priority to a participatory approach and conservation education. There are four chapters: the first contains a general introduction, a profile of the study area and the objectives of the study; the second describes the biodiversity; the third presents and discusses the findings of the investigation into the interaction of sociocultural and ecological aspects; and the fourth contains management recommendations for the bioregion. M. S. Swaminathan's introduction states that the authors have shown us the path to ecologically, socially and economically sustainable development. The authors themselves in their preface hope that the book will serve as a framework for action to conserve biodiversity in other regions.

The publication was made possible through the assistance of the IUCN Regional Programme to build capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Asia, which is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development. Further information is available from the International Society of Naturalists, Oza Building, Salatwada, Vadodara 390 001, India. Fax: + 91 265 421 009.

Expedition Field Techniques: Bird Surveys by Bibby, C., Jones, M., & Marsden, S. (1998) Expedition Advisory Centre, Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, UK. Fax: + 44 (0) 171 591 3031; Web: <http://www.rgs.org>; E-mail: eac@rgs.org. £10 including postage from the Expedition Advisory Centre at the address above. ISBN 0 907649 79 3

This book is a vital tool for everyone wishing to contribute to our knowledge of the world's birds and to bird conservation. It gives details of all the techniques that might be needed to obtain and analyse good quantitative bird data from the field.

A Review of Fire Projects in Indonesia (1982–1998) by Dennis, R. (compiler) (1998) Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Fax: + 62 251 622 100; E-mail: j.manangkil@cgiar.org

The major forest fires that have devastated parts of Indonesia in recent years and raised world concern are the subject of this report prepared by the Centre for International Forestry Research in consultation with

other institutions. It provides an overview of the fires that have occurred in Kalimantan (Borneo), Sumatra and other parts of the region over the past two decades, discusses their causes and effects and summarizes initiatives to quell the outbreaks. It should be useful to scientists, government officials, forest managers and policy makers.

The SoundWood Guide to the Guitar. For copies contact: Sara Oldfield, Head of Global Programmes, FFI, Great Eastern House, Tenison Road, Cambridge CB1 2DT, UK; E-mail: saraffi@aol.cam, or Pamela Wellner, SoundWood Director, US, FFI, PO Box 411227, San Francisco, CA 94141, USA; E-mail: pwellner@igc.org

Under the SoundWood Programme of Fauna & Flora International, *The SoundWood Guide to the Guitar* was launched on 29 January 1999 at the NAMM (International Music Products Association) show in Los Angeles. The Guide lists 19 guitar companies that are making efforts to reduce their use of threatened tree species traditionally used in guitar making. The full colour Guide includes guitar photographs from US and UK companies, and explains how companies are reducing their pressure on threatened tree species by incorporating ecologically sound wood use. These efforts range

from using independently certified sustainable wood to using less threatened species and minimizing wood use.

Trees such as mahoganies, ebones and rosewoods are increasingly threatened with overexploitation and forest loss. Brazilian rosewood is so critically endangered that its wood is banned from international trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The SoundWood programme works in collaboration with the music industry and others to develop solutions to ensure the survival of these important timber species.

The Birds of St Helena by Rowlands, B.W., Trueman, T., Olson, S.L., McCulloch, M.N. & Brooke, R.K. (1998) British Ornithologists' Union, Tring. £20.00 (UK) and £22.00 (overseas) including postage, from British Ornithologists' Union, Tring, Herts HP23 6AP, UK. ISBN 0 907446 20 5

This 296-page book, with 50 colour plates and a systematic list, has chapters covering History and Communications, Geography and Geomorphology, Geology and Pedology, Climate, Vegetation and Land Use, and Introductions. Others deal with Breeding, Migration, Conservation and Guano Exploitation. The appendices include sections on extinctions, estimates of seabird breeding populations and current conservation initiatives.