

Planta Europa Proceedings of the Second European Conference on the Conservation of Wild Plants, 9–14 June 1998, Uppsala, Sweden edited by Synge, H. & Akeroyd, J. (2000), 314 pp., ISBN 1 872 61306 3. The Swedish Threatened Species Unit, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, PO Box 7007, SE-750 07 Uppsala, Sweden and Plantlife, 21 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RP, UK.

Planta Europe is the network for conservation of wild plants in Europe, formed as a result of the first Planta Europa conference in 1995. This publication includes the three keynote papers that were presented at the second conference held in Uppsala. The keynote papers set the scene for plant conservation in Europe, identifying the primary needs, challenges and opportunities in this important area of conservation. The 47 papers that follow are organized under seven workshop themes, namely: the selection of the important plant areas of Europe; the importance of taxonomy for conservation; conservation of lower plants; European policies and conservation of flora; identifying threatened species; forestry and its impact on flora; and agriculture and its impact on flora. Also published in the proceedings are the resolutions and ground rules adopted by the second Planta Europa conference. These proceedings are a valuable resource for practitioners, policy-makers, academics and students with an interest in plant conservation throughout Europe.

Sustainable Use of Hawksbill Turtles: Contemporary Issues in Conservation by Mrosovsky, N. (2000), 103 pp., ISBN 1 876 24845 9. Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management, Northern Territory University, Darwin, NT 0810, Australia. Tel: + 61 8 8946 6413; Fax: + 61 8 8946 7088.

This is the first book in a new series, *Issues in Wildlife Management*, published by the Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management. It focuses in particular on Cuba's current proposal to CITES for a limited resumption in trade in hawksbill turtle products. Professor Mrosovsky argues that the debate about the facts and science of conservation often masks disagreements about values. These disagreements sometimes take on a quasi-intensity and hinder compromise, through which so much could be achieved, for both turtles and people, in the future. This is a controversial and thought-provoking book.

The Global Trade in Coral by Green, B. & Shirley, F. (1999), 70 pp., 22 tables, 15 figures, ISBN 1 89962813 4. World Conservation Press, The World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK. Tel: + 44 1223 277 314; Fax: + 44 1223 277 136; E-mail: info@wcmc.org.uk; Web: <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/>

This study, the ninth in the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) *Biodiversity* series, assesses the global trade in coral in an ecological and economic context. Throughout the report, emphasis is placed on the trade in live coral for aquaria because the last decade has seen an enormous increase in this business. The taxonomic composition of the trade is identified and the quantities of coral passing between nations illustrate the links between major importers and exporters. Data on the practicalities of monitoring international trade in coral at the global scale are presented. Finally, size and growth rate data are used to assess the sustainability of the trade in live coral, and export and retail prices are used to estimate the revenue to exporting nations. On the basis of the data presented, the authors conclude that the global trade in live coral is a low value business with little long-term impact.

Tenure in Transition: A Stakeholder's Guide to Natural Resource Tenure in Southern Africa by Rihoy, E., Jones, B., Anstet, S. & Rolfes, M.T. (1999), 100 pp., ISBN 0 79742020 7. Africa Resources Trust (ART), PO Box 2915, Parklands 2121, South Africa. Tel: + 27 12 420 4116; Fax: + 27 12 420 3917.

Land – in particular its use, ownership and resources – is one of the most pressing concerns facing southern African countries today. Finding solutions to the controversies surrounding natural resource use is a significant challenge, which has implications for the future economic, social and political development in the region. This book demonstrates how the development of appropriate natural resource tenure systems can address this situation and why these systems lie at the heart of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM). The authors review and draw upon the experiences of CBNRM initiatives in eight countries – Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe – in presenting recommendations on appropriate tenure arrangements and how to go about developing them. The information presented in the book is both practical and

accessible, designed specifically to meet the needs of the main CBNRM stakeholder groups – local communities, governments and the private sector – in their efforts to promote sustainable and equitable natural resource management in the region.

Rhino: At the Brink of Extinction (third edition) by Merz, A. (1999), 233 pp., 24 black and white plates, 7 colour plates, 1 map, ISBN 0 620 24640 5, £15. Longhorn Publishers, PO Box 124, North Riding 2162, South Africa. E-mail: maaker@mweb.co.za. Distributed by The Natural History Book Service, 2–3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK.

Rhino: At the Brink of Extinction is the story of Anna Merz's attempt to save Kenya's black rhino from the poachers who threaten the species with extinction. Whole herds have been massacred in a single night, and individual rhinos have been hijacked and killed on their way to reserves. However, since Anna Merz founded her high-security sanctuary – Lewa Downs – in the 1980s, one group of rhinos has been given the chance to survive. Moreover, this group is breeding and its population is increasing every year.

In this book, Anna Merz recounts how she acquired 10,000 acres of land and then gained permission from the Kenyan Government to hunt and capture rhinos in the wild. In this new edition, Merz continues the story of the rhinos at Lewa Downs from where she left off in 1991. Several new photographs are included and appendices I and III of the original have been deleted.

Mammals of Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia by Grubb, P., Jones, T.S., Davies, A.G., Edberg, E., Starin, E.D., & Hill, J.E. (1998), 320 pp., 18 maps, ISBN 0 951 25624 6. The Trendrine Press, Zennor, St. Ives, Cornwall, UK.

The mammal literature for West Africa tends to be either dated or scattered widely in various scientific periodicals. Moreover, none of the three countries covered in this book has ever had a comprehensive mammal list. *Mammals of Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia* remedies this shortcoming by publishing an up-to-date account of the wild mammals of the three countries, including a review of each country in relation to its mammal fauna, an assessment of the zoogeography of West African mammals and a systematic list of the known species. This is a useful reference book for those interested in the distribution, taxonomy and conservation of mammals in West Africa.

Sources of information about recent publications

The Natural History Book Service is an excellent source of information about new and existing books in the following subject areas: botany, zoology, biology, ecology, conservation, biodiversity and sustainable development. *Contact:* The Natural History Book Service, 2–3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK. Tel: +44 1803 865913; E-mail: nhbs@nhbs.co.uk; Web: <http://www.nhbs.com>