

fecundity that make them relatively resilient. Red fox *Vulpes vulpes*, for example, has one of the largest distributional range of all land mammals. Some carnivore species have even become exotic invasive nuisances, negatively impacting native fauna (Ibarra et al., 2008).

Interestingly, some rare and threatened carnivores appear to be benefiting from recent land-use and cultural changes. Such is the case of the puma *Puma concolor* in North America in places where farms have given way to woodlands, and of lynxes *Lynx lynx*, wolves and brown bears *Ursus arctos* in Europe, where the rise of anti-hunting sentiments and animal welfare concerns have reinforced recent range recoveries.

In India, because of higher levels of traditional cultural tolerance, leopards *Panthera pardus*, wolves, sloth bears *Melursus ursinus*, striped hyenas *Hyena hyena* and a host of smaller carnivore species survive amidst high human population densities across wide sweeps of agricultural landscapes. Furthermore, tourism and safari hunting, driven by fascination for larger carnivores such as lions and leopards, is shifting land use in parts of Africa, driving the expansion of the habitats of these species. Television documentaries with huge global audiences are creating a new class of urban conservationists that champion the cause of tigers threatened by bone trade or polar bears *Ursus maritimus* imperilled by melting sea-ice.

Nevertheless, increasing human population densities and the consequent demand for food and natural resources will rapidly erode and fragment remaining carnivore habitats. Driven by the same socio-economic forces, global climate change poses an even greater impending threat. However, in some areas at least, the same socio-economic growth also appears to be moving people from remote wild areas to urban growth centres, thereby reducing hunting and habitat related pressures on carnivores. Substitution of wild meat in local diets by domestic meat and poultry can reduce overhunting of natural prey, thus mitigating a potentially critical threat to many carnivore species. Cultural changes appear to promote greater tolerance or even support for protection of carnivores and their habitats, although counter examples to this trend, such as the increasing demand for carnivore body parts in traditional oriental medicine, also exist.

In our rapidly changing world the conservation of carnivores now stands at the crossroads. How effectively scientists, conservationists, governments and society at large will study, understand, collaborate and move forward to meet the ecological needs of these mammals will determine where and how many species and populations will survive. Wherever we fall short these marvellous animals—both products and shapers of life on earth—will become just road kills on the highway of human historical progress.

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For a conservation journal that promotes better conservation management and practice, how widely do our responsibilities range? In the *Oryx* Editorial Office we feel that our responsibility to help build capacity for conservation does not begin with the receipt of a manuscript nor end when a quarterly issue is produced. We have therefore been seeking ways that the journal can expand and improve its support to conservationists. *Oryx—The International Journal of Conservation* therefore now has a dedicated website at <http://www.oryxthejournal.org>

The new website provides recommendations for the best free analysis and writing tools, advice on accessing *Oryx* in developing countries or countries with emerging economies, help with submitting an article, an interactive map illustrating the broad geographical range of articles published in the journal, a stunning Gallery of research photographs provided by authors, snippets from the *Oryx* Archive, and much more besides. Please browse the website and tell us how it could be further developed. If there are further resources that we could include, please let us know.