

measures designed to safeguard their future sources of supply. It is difficult for them to do this while illegitimate traders are making huge profits on the side.

WWF's Elephant Appeal is expected to raise over \$1 million, and it will take all this and more to tackle this programme with some chance of success. At the same time elephants in Africa can only be saved if the African people want them saved. Education at all levels on the value of living resources is obviously vital.

Selling Rhinos to Extinction

There is no doubt that the world's rhinos are being hunted to extinction for their horn, the price of which has gone up twenty-fold in the last five years. In the whole of Africa rhinos are now estimated to number between 14,000 and 20,000; Asian rhinos are put at about 2000. Yet in 1969 Kenya alone had at least 18,000; in 1979 the figure was 1500. In three East African countries, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, the decrease in rhinos in that period is put at 90 per cent, and nearly 24 tonnes of horn were exported *officially* between 1970 and 1976 – the product of over 8000 rhinos. (An equal amount is believed to have been smuggled out.) So a major cause for the decline in rhinos is easy to see. Where does it all go?

Esmond Bradley Martin has done a major investigation into the trade and what parts are involved, where and how they are used, and prices. He calculates that more than 2500 rhinos were killed *every year* between 1972 and 1978 to support the trade. That could mean extinction in ten years. Much of East African horn goes to China and the traditional medicine shops in south-east Asia which are almost exclusively owned by Chinese, where it is used as a fever-reducing drug, 'sold over the counter along with the aspirin and antibiotics', and *not*, as is widely believed, as an aphrodisiac. Only in India, he says, is it used for this purpose, mainly in Gujerat (African horn) and Bengal (Indian horn).

The other major demand for African horn, and one that has arisen largely in the past ten years, is in North Yemen to make handles for daggers (*jambias*). Income per head in North Yemen has risen from \$18 to \$500 since 1962, thanks to jobs in Saudi Arabia, and Yemenis can now afford the \$300-\$13,000 that the much coveted rhino-horn handles cost. Dr Martin points out that



Rhino horn and a slice of unprocessed skin on display in a Chinese pharmacy

Photographs: Esmond B. Martin

Yemenis in Sanaa
wearing their traditional
jambias (daggers)



50,000 Yemeni men come of age every year – so this is a problem that will not just go away – and between 1960 and 1977 North Yemen imported horn from some 8000 East African rhinos.

Nevertheless Dr Martin believes that the use of the horn as a medicine is the most serious single threat to all rhinos. Chinese traditional medicine is ubiquitous in South-east Asia and he recommends that approaches should be made to the associations of Chinese doctors to urge the need for finding substitutes. He also recommends that the Islamic authorities in North Yemen should be asked to pronounce against the rhino slaughter on religious grounds, and efforts made to find acceptable substitutes for dagger handles. Dr Martin is in no doubt that unless the trade can be stopped it will be early extinction for rhinos. The full implementation of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) could stop this, and he urges that pressure should be brought to secure the necessary ratifications. IUCN/WWF has accepted all his recommendations, including also the need to give rhinos much better protection – the recent history of the white rhino in Africa and the great Indian in Asia has shown how much can be achieved by determined protection in well-guarded reserves.

The People's Trust for Endangered Species has collected over £20,000 for rhinos, and WWF's Save the Rhino campaign fund is coming up to the \$1 million mark. Money is being spent on anti-poaching, new reserves and improvements to existing ones, and education. But as with the elephant, the major task is to show African and Asian peoples the economic arguments for keeping their rhinos.

Galapagos Education Programme

The Darwin Station's very successful educational programme in the Galapagos Islands is having increasingly far-reaching effects. Since 1971, thanks to the Foundation's scholarships, over 100 Ecuadorian students have been able to study at the research station and do research and field work under expert guidance. After graduating some have returned to the islands, others are teaching on the mainland or working in conservation. Dra Eugenia del Pino reports on the programme in *Noticias de Galapagos* 31 and points out that the programme has been made possible due to financial help from, among others, the Ecuadorian Government, WWF, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Metropolitan Touring Co.