



Foundation For Endangered Species

# Conserving Wildlife

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Issue #1, Spring 2007

*Keeping you informed of the latest important developments in the Foundation's environmental corner.*

*The Foundation helps to preserve all biodiversity and tries to stop the "Mass Extinction of the Species"*

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*FES is a charity that does not twist arms. It allows you to pitch in to our activities at your own level. You may contact me if you wish to get involved more in any particular way.*

*We need champions, volunteers and secretaries to fulfil a number of activities. So recommendations and applications are welcome for these positions. I will gladly send more detailed information and explain things to those who are interested.*

*Welcome to our new members. I hope you like this new magazine and its layout. Much work has gone into this, especially from the FES Technical Adviser, Toby Berri-man.*

*Nobody likes spam or junk mail, including us. So if, for whatever reason, you do not wish to receive this or other information from FES, by all means contact us and we will exclude you from our list of friends in the future.*

## Yangtze River Dolphin Near Extinction

### Sad news for Yangtze River Dolphins—How Many More Species Must Die?

Unfortunately the marvellous and rare Yangtze River Dolphin has probably become extinct in the last few months. As it is difficult to actually 'prove' extinction, there may be just an individual or two alive; but this is of no significance as the species can no longer recover.

This was the sad conclusion came after an eminent group of scientists failed to find one single animal during a long and sustained search for this beautiful animal. The dolphin was only found in the Yangtze river system in China where it evolved over millions of years. But due to human involvement, pollution and dam construction, its fate was sealed.

Three years ago, I went to an Earthwatch Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society at Kensington Gore, given by the wildlife artist, David Shepherd. He pointed out that this animal was about to become extinct unless the Chinese government did some urgent and



radical work. They did not, and his unhappy prediction has now become reality.

Now the question arises, will there be anymore river dolphin extinctions in the future? I certainly hope not, as there are four other species surviving in greater numbers; the Ganges, the Indus and the two Amazon Boto's (Brazil). These are wonderful creatures in themselves, but swimming with them or feeding them is a truly great thrill for humans. As with sea dolphins, swimming with them is also very therapeutic and improves the quality of life for many. ✘

### Chorak Exhibition Success

Andy Mydellton's last Photographic Exhibition at 'Chorak', East Finchley has now finished. It was, by all accounts a great artistic success, as was the one held at Uxbridge Library in January (even though items were stolen and later returned). There may be further exhibitions later in the year, possibly at one or two schools. ✘



**Conserving The Environment By Promoting Biodiversity**

## THE FOUNDATION NEWS

### Merchandise Mahem

Our merchandising should be on the move soon and a leaflet will soon be published. More merchandise will be available and we will keep you updated. However, this policy advancement has had to include a new volunteer recruitment initiative that has proved to be extremely



time consuming.

As well as publishing our merchandise, later in the year we hope to record and release our own CD. If all goes according to plan, this will include sections of Charles Darwin's work (including the Origin of Species) as well as our own focus on stopping the "Mass Extinction of the Species." We also plan to include backing music from Lauren O'Medal's recent work.

Lauren is also advising us about the final recording and publishing the CD. Until then, I am in a studio preparing for the final recording. There will be updates on this project in future Conserving Wildlife issues.

✘

### ..... FFES Fame.....

The Haven Green Directory has published another article. This was about how the FES found its niche in the world of conservation. Two more articles are also planned that include 'FES Activities' and 'Otters in London'. Keith Devlin, the proprietor has decided to place an advertisement in this issue of our magazine and can be seen at the back.

Another BNI Isis chapter and gardener, Emma Renton, has agreed to advertise with us. Sadly FES cannot be formally part of the BNI group, although it is great fun and FES learns a lot. Meanwhile the glossy magazine Westway also intend to publish articles concerning the Ealing district. ✘

### Supporter's Club

We are about to launch the "FES Supporters Club" which covers all of the matters concerning the charity, as well as the environmental and conservation world in general.

The "Jaguar Supporters Club" will also be launched simultaneously and will deal exclusively with this one iconic species. The Jaguar is important to FES because we are the official partners of the Jaguar Conservation Fund of Brazil.

Wills, bequests and legacies are also being re-vamped and those who leave us (or intend to leave us) something after their demise will be offered a chance to be entered into the Benefactor's Club. I have made contacts with other organisations that will help us with the legalities of arranging these.

Once again, there will be more updates on these items as time goes by. ✘

### .....Otter Revival Plan.....

FES have been given the position of the 'provisional lead organisation' to get otters back into the capital, by the London Biodiversity Forum. This is the statutory body set up by the London mayor, Ken Livingstone. Jonathan Supran (our Treasurer) and I went to an executive meeting in London, just a few days before Christmas in order to get them to accept a new species action

plan (or SAP) for the otter.

Despite a good presentation the committee decided not to adopt our plans, but issued a statement inside a habitat action plan (or HAP). Whilst this was a move in the right direction, it fell short of what we needed at the time. This has caused problems in terms of funding, so both Jonathan and myself are seeing what we can do with this issue on no budget whatsoever! ✘



*Andy Mydellton rebuilding one of the otter holts as part of the Otter Re-introduction programme.*

## THE FOUNDATION NEWS

### PAW



PAW is the acronym for The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime, of which we have been members for a few years. At this year's Open Day at Kew Gardens, Barry Gardiner, the Minister for Biodiversity and Rural Affairs attended. I was invited to speak and give a voice to the smaller Non Govern-

ment Organisations (NGOs), which I did. I gave a resume of what we have done inside PAW, and asked a few questions concerning the realities of some moral and ethical activities. I also raised the question of relationships between NGOs and the larger statutory bodies including Interpol and various UK police forces. The speech was accepted very well, and I must admit, I breathed a sigh of relief at the end! ✖

*By all means contact us with your views on any conservationist issues. We also welcome positive feedback on either negative or positive points. You may also visit our website for more information and discussion.*

*If anyone wishes to help us in any way, by all means contact us. There are positions for champions, secretaries and volunteers. More information is available, upon request.*

*You may have noticed that we have a lot of photos of the same person in this issue! To get your shots published please send them to [info@ffes.org.uk](mailto:info@ffes.org.uk) Photos and articles extremely welcome!*

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*Advertisements like the one to the right can be placed in the FFES newsletter for a nominal fee, however space is limited and we have a strict policy on the quantity of advertising allowed into each issue, so get it while it lasts!*

*For more information contact FFES at: [info@ffes.org.uk](mailto:info@ffes.org.uk)*

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**DONATIONS**


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Foundation For Endangered Species

# FFES Donation Form

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I would like to donate the following amount:

£2	£5	£10	£20	£25	Other

I am a UK tax payer and would like to make a GIFTAID declaration 

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1. *If your declaration covers donations you may make in the future:*
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  - *You can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying FES – it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.*
2. *You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that FES reclaims on your donations in the tax year.*
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