

(2009) record the impact, and recent easing, of poaching pressure on the Tibetan antelope, and Fox et al. (2009) describe the emerging threat from modern range management practices. Chen et al. (2009) throw light on the status of the Chinese crested tern, and urge control of egg poaching. Fan et al. (2009) explore habitat use by the black crested gibbon in Yunnan, reinforcing the value of primary forest, and Chu & Jiang (2009) provide an update on the rare Sino-Mongolian beaver as it contends with reduced water levels and increased competition with humans. Finally we hear how the conservation of that archetypal flagship species, the giant panda, was hampered by the 2008 earthquake and how habitat fragmentation, synchronous bamboo flowering and die-off, and mismanagement of Nature Reserves are continuing challenges (Ran et al., 2009).

The loss of the baiji (Turvey, 2008) should be our wake-up call: the most priceless assets, of China and the world, are not guaranteed. We are still a long way from achieving harmony for nature and society, and good science has a key place alongside good intentions.

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Note from the Editor—Conservation in China

In July 2009 the Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology will be held in Beijing. *Oryx* has a history of publishing conservation research carried out in China and, to mark the meeting, we have brought together in this issue a range of articles on aspects of conservation in China. We have also solicited two perspective articles, on conservation of bats in China (pp. 179–182; to tie in with a global review of bats as bushmeat published in this issue, pp. 217–234) and on that perennial global symbol of conservation, the giant panda (pp. 176–178).