

during a recent five-year period. "Crocodiles might deter some from venturing into the forest," says Anurag Danda, an India-based conservationist with the World Wildlife Fund. "But the breeding and release program has had an impact on the human population as well."—*Andrea Anderson*

GOT MY GOAT

It's been called the "green menace" and "the vine that ate the South." Now the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee, has followed the lead of other municipalities by using an eco-friendly alternative to herbicide to combat kudzu, the pesky, invasive vine originally planted—disastrously—to control soil erosion. All the way through Chattanooga's mild autumn, a herd of goats contracted from a local farmer grazed contentedly on Missionary Ridge. Officials say it was difficult to use heavy equipment safely on the steep slope and that as a result the kudzu was threatening to block the traffic tunnels that cut through the ridge. The goats have been at it for two seasons already and have done such a stellar job that the University of Tennessee recently sponsored a "goat browsing academy," teaching goat husbandry to farmers in hopes of getting more of them interested in becoming "goat contractors" for the city. Unable to resist, a local songwriter recorded a new version of the famous country song "Ode to Billy Joe," changing the title to—what else?—"Ode to Billy Goats."—*Hilda Brucker*

FROGGY WENT A-FLOATING

They may not have sailors' mouths, but some frogs certainly have their sea legs. For years scientists hypothesized that South American frogs reached Central America and the Caribbean by traveling over land bridges. Now new research shows that they in fact reached greener forests by floating on rafts of vegetation. "That's the punch line of this study—that they were floating on ocean currents and did not walk across the continents," says study coauthor Blair Hedges, an evolutionary biologist

