



Species e-Bulletin

News from the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the IUCN Species Programme

April 2009

The monthly e-Bulletin supplements [Species](#), the published newsletter of the Species Programme and the SSC. It aims to keep staff, members and the wider IUCN network up-to-date with Species news and announcements. 2008 issues are available on the [Species homepage](#).

[Contributions](#) | [Contact us](#)

Headline News

IUCN welcomes reprieve for whales

IUCN is delighted that Sakhalin Energy followed the advice of an expert panel and stopped all seismic surveys affecting the Western Gray Whale.

[News story](#)

How to stop biofuel crops becoming invasive

Experts have come up with a series of tips for biofuel producers to stop biofuel crops becoming invasive species

[News story](#)

Fighting for forest frogs

The *Philautus poppiae* frog is native to Sri Lanka and lives in closed canopy cloud forest. It is classified as Endangered on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ due to the ongoing decline in the quality and extent of its forest habitat.

[News story](#)

The IUCN Red List website made easy

Website visitors to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species can now take advantage of a users' guide and video demo to help them search close to 45,000 records of plant and animal information.

[News story](#)

Florida leads the way for freshwater turtles

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted unanimously to ban the commercial harvest of freshwater turtles throughout the state on Wednesday, April 15. The move comes after several of the world's leading turtle scientists called on Florida's Governor Charlie Crist to end the commercial hunting of turtles which supplies eastern Asia. The experts, brought together by the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission, alerted the Governor that the state's turtles were at high risk of being wiped out by the expanding global trade in turtles which had recently begun to target Florida's fairly robust turtle populations.

[News story](#)

Report on the 24th CITES Animals Committee Meeting

The 24th CITES Animals Committee meeting took place April 20-24 during which trade in a variety of species was discussed, including dolphins, sharks, cranes, sturgeons, crocodiles, frogs and sea cucumbers!

[News story](#)

Birds update of 2009 IUCN Red List is coming

The latest birds update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species will be released on May 14 by BirdLife International, the official IUCN Red List Authority for birds. The latest results will show that a number of species have deteriorated, including the Sidamo Lark (*Heteromirafra sidamoensis*), which has moved from Endangered to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

[News story](#)

South African fishes in the spot light

For the first time, conservation action plans are being developed to protect South African fishes from extinction. The IUCN / Wetlands International Freshwater Fish Specialist Group are leading the project through member Professor Paul Skelton, Managing Director of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB).

[News story](#)

Specialist Group News

Conservation Breeding SG - Ulysses S Seal Award for Innovation in Conservation

Each year, the CBSG considers nominations for this award. All members of CBSG are invited to submit confidential nominations to Onnie Byers by way of email (onnies@cbseg.org) or post (Onnie Byers, 12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN, 55124, USA). Nominations should describe concisely how the person exemplifies innovation in the application of science to conservation. The contributions of a nominee need not have been through work connected with the CBSG, but should reflect the CBSG values of creative thinking that results in improved conservation action. Nominees must be living individuals. A committee appointed by the CBSG Chair will review all nominations and then submit their choice for award recipient to the CBSG Steering Committee for its endorsement. Deadline for submission of nominations is 1 August 2009. The nomination form can be downloaded [here](#).

Showcasing small conservation projects - Peter Scott Fund

The [Sir Peter Scott Fund](#) provides small scale funding to on-the-ground conservation projects. All projects are undertaken by IUCN/SSC members and are endorsed by SSC Specialist Groups. The 13 currently active projects are featured on the species webpages with lots of photos, links to reports and other information. This site, which was developed by Helen Boulden, (Species intern at HQ) provides a showcase of practical conservation work undertaken by specialist groups. Helen has now returned to England where she will pursue her career in biodiversity conservation. Wishing her well for her future career, we are sad to see her go.

Announcements

Call for Contributions to Species – the Newsletter of the SSC

We are starting to compile the next issue of Species, the newsletter of the SSC, to be distributed in August. Would you like to showcase the work of your specialist group in the next issue? If so, we need you to send us an article of a maximum of 300 words, highlighting ongoing work, particularly on-the-ground projects, and how the work links to the Red List. We would like to talk about results and focus on “big picture” conservation outcomes including policy work, impact on livelihoods, improved knowledge for decision making etc. Please also send any relevant images in high res .jpg format.

Depending on how many responses we get, we may not be able to publish all stories. Please note that we will not publish stories on meetings or workshops.

Please send your article to species@iucn.org by the 25th of May.

World Bamboo Congress, Thailand 16-18 September, 2009

Key theme: "Bamboo, the Environment and Climate Change". [More info](#)

Job Announcement

Regional Programme Coordinator for Biodiversity Management, IUCN Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), Jordan, Amman

[Details here](#)

Publications

Animals on the brink of extinction

Jake Richardson, from Ecoworldly, part of the Guardian Environment Network, lists 10 animals on the verge of extinction and the reasons behind the reduction in their numbers

[Article here](#)

La Crise Silencieuse de la Biodiversité

Metro 22 avril 2009 avec Jean-Christophe Vié et Harrison Ford

[Article](#)

Cumberlidge N, et al 2009 Freshwater crabs and the biodiversity crisis: Importance, threats, status, and conservation challenges *Biological Conservation* in press

To access the abstract click [here](#) and enter the reference doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2009.02.038

Other IUCN News

connect2earth now links young people directly with world's top experts to debate green issues

The popular online community connect2earth.org has launched a new service that links young people directly with the world's top environmental experts to talk about headline-grabbing topics that they care about such as climate change, the energy crisis, and species loss. The first topic discussed is Power, starring Nadine McCormick from the IUCN Energy and Biodiversity Initiative

- watch connect2earth presentation [video](#)
- watch Nadine's [interview](#) on energy issues
- read web [story](#)

Final reports from the Members' Assembly of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2008 in Barcelona are now available on the IUCN website.

You can find the Proceedings of the Members' Assembly [here](#) and the final version of the Resolutions and Recommendations [here](#)

[Version française](#) - [Versión español](#)

For more information or if you wish to submit an item please contact
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