



## Species e-Bulletin

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

February 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

#### Illegal trade in Malayan Box Turtles continues

The Malayan Box Turtle is disappearing across Malaysia despite a ban on its export, finds a new report by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network and a joint programme between IUCN and WWF. The turtles are in high demand in East Asia for their meat and for use in traditional Chinese medicine. The Malayan Box Turtle is a subspecies of the widespread [South Asian Box Turtle](#) (*Cuora amboinensis*), which is considered the commonest freshwater turtle in South-East Asia, but despite this, and even its tolerance of manmade artificial habitats, the species is in peril due to over-exploitation finds the new report, Science in CITES: The biology and ecology of the Southeast Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis* and its uses and trade in Malaysia. [More information](#)

#### Elephants under threat as illegal ivory price soars in Viet Nam

Indochina's few surviving elephants are under increasing threat from booming illegal ivory prices in Viet Nam, according to a new market analysis released today by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network and joint programme between IUCN and WWF. [More information](#)

#### Rabbits at risk in home range

In some parts of the world they thrive, to the extent they are regarded as pests, yet in their native range on the Iberian Peninsula rabbits are Near Threatened with extinction, according to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Their decreasing numbers have also had alarming impacts on the Critically Endangered Iberian Lynx and the Spanish Imperial Eagle.

[More information](#)

#### New York Times Blog on the Future of Biodiversity

Andrew Revkin of the New York Times has opened a discussion about biodiversity and its future. This could be a good opportunity for our community to share their views on how to communicate biodiversity science and the issues. Click [here to access](#)

### Specialist Group News

#### Salmonid Specialist Group Annual meeting outcomes

At the annual meeting held in Vancouver the SSG decided to amend the Red List Assessment for sockeye salmon, based on post-listing comments received. The target date for completion of the amendment is June 2009. Members will work with the Species Programme Freshwater Biodiversity Unit to develop opportunities to assess salmoninae using the approach pioneered for sockeye salmon, with a particular

focus on Eurasia. The group also focused on a future workplan. If you would like to comment on value of the SSG as a forum, as a means of conducting collaborative, range-wide status assessments, and for its role in conservation consultations then contact the SSG Chair Pete Rand [prand@wildsalmoncenter.org](mailto:prand@wildsalmoncenter.org)

## Mollusc Specialist Group Newsletter

The latest edition of Tentacle(number 17 and 17 supplement) is now available on the MSG website. Download it [here](#)

## New website addresses

Several specialist groups have recently changed their host servers. New addresses are listed below:

- Asian Elephant [www.asesg.org](http://www.asesg.org)
- Asian Wild Cattle [www.asianwildcattle.org](http://www.asianwildcattle.org)
- Canids [www.canids.org](http://www.canids.org)
- Cycads [www.cycadsg.org](http://www.cycadsg.org)
- Cactus and Succulents [www.iucn.org/ssc/cactus](http://www.iucn.org/ssc/cactus)
- Equids [www.iucn.org/ssc/equid](http://www.iucn.org/ssc/equid)
- South American Camelids [www.gecs.com.ar](http://www.gecs.com.ar)
- Mediterranean Island Plants [www.iucn.org/ssc/medislandplant](http://www.iucn.org/ssc/medislandplant)
- Medicinal Plants [www.iucn.org/ssc/medicinalplant](http://www.iucn.org/ssc/medicinalplant)
- Sturgeon [www.iucn.org/ssc/sturgeon](http://www.iucn.org/ssc/sturgeon)

Reminder: The quickest way to access the Species section of the main IUCN website is to use [www.iucn.org/species](http://www.iucn.org/species) or [www.iucn.org/ssc](http://www.iucn.org/ssc)

## News from the Rhino Resource Centre

This is the 14th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Centre (RRC). All the latest news and publications on rhinoceroses around the globe. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker. You can find the newsletter in PDF format [here](#)

## Announcements

### United Nations University fellowship programmes

The United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) is now accepting applications for its three fellowship programmes: UNU-IAS PhD Fellowships, UNU-IAS Postdoctoral Fellowships, and JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellowships. The closing date for applications is 31 March 2009. UNU-IAS is a multi-thematic, interdisciplinary, research and training centre located in Yokohama, Japan. The Institutes fellowship programmes provide young scientists, policy makers, and developing country scholars with the opportunity to expand their intellectual vision beyond a single scientific field. [More information](#)

### New webpage highlighting climate change work of IUCN's commissions

Click [here](#) to access this new page which features information compiled from from the January 2009 council meeting, WCC4, and the IUCN homepage. Send your comments or concerns, updates, links and additional information you might have to [elizabeth.willetts@iucn.org](mailto:elizabeth.willetts@iucn.org) .

### International Workshop on the Restoration of Fish Populations, Düsseldorf, 1-4 Sep 2009

The key aim of this symposium is to synthesize contemporary understanding of fish restoration by facilitating the presentation of original research results from a number of different disciplinary fields. A considerable volume of information and expertise has been gathered over 50 years of fish restoration projects and the present conference provides an opportunity to bring together experts from around the world to share experiences and technical knowledge, to improve and optimise current fish restoration projects and to plan for the future. Co-organised by the IUCN/SSC Freshwater Fish, Re-Introduction, Salmon and Sturgeon Specialist Groups, the conference proceedings will be published in the international, peer-reviewed "Journal of Applied Ichthyology". An "early bird" conference fee of only 150 Euros is available until 15 March - more details on the conference website [here](#):

## **Call for Abstracts - DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference (OSC2)**

The Call for Abstract (oral contributed papers or posters) of the Second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference (OSC2) "Biodiversity and Society: Understanding connections, adapting to change" (13-16 October 2009, Cape Town, S-Africa)

To access the abstract submission form and guidelines (only on-line submission is accepted), please visit the conference website [here](#). Note that the deadline to submit your abstract is **Tuesday 31 March 2009**.

## **Staff News**

Ms Rachel Roberts will be joining the SSC Chair office as of 5 March taking on the task of personal assistant to SSC Chair Simon Stuart. Her Zoology degree at Nottingham University was followed by a Masters (by research) in Ecology and Environmental Management at York University. Having worked in various science and conservation-based positions, most recently, five years of employment in a dual role with the RSPB and BirdLife she is very much looking forward to starting her new position (so is Simon!) Contact [Rachel.roberts@iucn.org](mailto:Rachel.roberts@iucn.org)

## **Publications**

### **Monitoring Tigers and their Prey – Training Video**

One of the biggest problems of tiger conservation in India has been the general lack of science in both the management of tiger reserves and in the enumeration of wild tigers. For decades, tiger numbers have been based on the counts of imprints of tiger pugmarks in the dust. However, a scientific system has been available for over a decade, refined and perfected by renowned tiger biologist Dr. Ullas Karanth in the forests of Karnataka. Using techniques like Line Transect surveys to enumerate prey populations and Camera Trapping to get reliable estimates of tiger numbers, Dr.Karanth has repeatedly demonstrated the robustness of his methods. In order to make people aware of these techniques and to enhance their understanding, the Wildlife Conservation Society's India Program commissioned a training video to accompany the manual "Monitoring Tigers and their Prey" edited by K.Ullas Karanth and James D. Nichols. Now available for viewing on Youtube. [View the video](#). [More information on WCS India](#).

### **State of the Worlds Sea Turtles Report Vol. IV**

The State of the Worlds Sea Turtles(SWOT)Report is produced by the Marine Turtle Specialist Group in partnership with Conservation International and OBIS-SEAMAP. It features the first-ever map of global Flatback nesting data, genetic stocks, and in-water distribution. Other highlights include articles about why Leatherback populations vary globally, how retail sales help communities and sea turtles in Brazil, and how fishermen are aiding conservation efforts in Canada. [Download the report](#)

### **Rovito et al 2008. Dramatic declines in neotropical salamander populations are an important part of the global amphibian crisis *PNAS early editions***

Download the paper [here](#)

**Karanth & Chellam 2009. Carnivore conservation at the crossroads.** *Oryx*, Volume 43(1), January 2009

Editorial article – [click here to view](#)

### **Wildlife Middle East News Vol 3 Issue 3 December 2008**

PDFs can be downloaded [here](#)

Contributions are requested for future issues for articles from colleagues (particularly in Iran, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain, Turkey, Palestine, Kuwait, Iraq and Oman) for the next issue. Please contact the editors with any ideas that you may have. [editors@wmnews.com](mailto:editors@wmnews.com)

### **Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphin assessment workshop report, Solomon Islands case study of *Tursiops aduncus***

Number 40 in the SSC Occasional Paper series

Available in PDF format [here](#)

## **Wildtalk**

Wild Talk is a podcast/radio download produced jointly by IUCN and WWF International. Each month, we bring you the latest news and features from the world of conservation. Wild Talk profiles conservation projects on the ground, while looking in to the human stories behind the headlines.

### **On the lookout for the Lynx**

Looking for the [Eurasian Lynx \(\*Lynx lynx\*\)](#) in Switzerland's Jura mountains is like looking for a needle in a haystack. Although they were re-introduced to the country in the 1970s, there are only about 100 alive today. Wild Talk took to the hills with wildlife biologist Fridolin Zimmermann to check the camera traps set up in the Jura to monitor the population. To listen, [click here](#). Take a peek at the lynx favourite whereabouts in the Jura and the camera traps..

### **Step inside an underwater world**

The oceans are home to some of our most fascinating creatures, as well as those most at risk of extinction. Photographer Juergen Freund has spent the last 14 years taking underwater images of many threatened marine species, particularly in waters off the Philippines and Australia where he lives. Through his award-winning photography he hopes to shed some light on the majesty and the plight of ocean dwelling organisms. He speaks to Wild Talk about three of his pictures. To listen and see the pictures, [click here](#)

For more information or if you wish to submit an item please contact  
**[Claire Santer](#)** – SSC Membership & Administrative Assistant, Species Programme.