



Species e-Bulletin

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

September 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](#).

Headline News

Project to Assess Climate Change Vulnerability of Human-Utilized Species in the Albertine Rift given the go-ahead

The aim of this project is to link Red List data, species utilization, livelihoods and climate change vulnerability information to enable species-level conclusions and broader-scale conservation, resource management and policy-relevant conclusions to be made. The project will identify the Albertine region's priority human-utilised species and then assess the climate change vulnerability of these species using the methodology developed under the Species Vulnerability to Climate Change project. More species use and livelihoods information will be collected to supplement existing Red List information. Led by Wendy Foden (wendy.foden@iucn.org) and Thomasina Oldfield (Thomasina.Oldfield@traffic.org), the project is funded by the MacArthur Foundation

Dragonflies go thirsty in the Mediterranean

One fifth of Mediterranean dragonflies and damselflies are threatened with extinction at the regional level as a result of increasing freshwater scarcity, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Climate change and habitat degradation, due to the way land is managed, are also affecting the insects, says the report. [Full story](#)

Biodiversity indicators and assessments need greater investment

For the world's governments to understand adequately how their actions and policies are impacting the planet's species and ecosystems, more investment is needed in the set of biodiversity indicators that has been developed to measure these impacts. This is the conclusion of a review published today in the journal *Science* by a group of the leading scientists and organisations working on this issue. [Full story](#)

Synergy for Pacific Invasives

The IUCN Regional Office for Oceania and the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) are developing a synergistic mechanism for the delivery of Pacific services on addressing regional invasive species issues. [Full story](#)

Bleak future for Mediterranean mammals – IUCN

The latest assessment of Mediterranean mammals shows that one in six is threatened with extinction at a regional level, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The study, which assesses the status of 320 mammals in the region, except whales and dolphins, finds three percent are Critically Endangered, five percent are Endangered and eight percent are Vulnerable. [Full story](#)

Last chance to save Saola from extinction – IUCN

One of the world's most enigmatic mammals, the Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), could be on the brink of extinction, according to a group of experts who held an emergency meeting in Lao PDR to try to save the animal. The Saola, which was only discovered to world science in 1992, resembles the desert antelopes of Arabia, but is more closely related to wild cattle. It lives in the remote valleys of the Annamite Mountains, along the border of Lao PDR and Vietnam. [Full story](#)

IUCN welcomes France's significant scale-up of marine protected areas

France has significantly boosted progress towards improved protection of the marine environment. President Sarkozy speaking recently in Le Havre announced the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) covering 20% of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone. The heart of this process is a 'blue book' which will define the French maritime strategy ("Grenelle de la Mer") and which will be in place by the end of 2009. [Full story](#)

Specialist Group News

Pinnipeds

The Pinniped Specialist Group will present a poster on Monk Seals at an upcoming specialist workshop in October. The poster outlines the Pinniped Specialist Group's findings from its 2008 re-assessment of monk seals. Both the Mediterranean Monk Seal and Hawaiian Monk Seal are now listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Click [poster](#) to view

Galliformes

The newly formed Galliforme Specialist Group produced its first newsletter "Gallinformed" in July 2009 and has a second issue in preparation for November. The first issue focuses on such topics as: Conservation of Cracids, 'At Risk' Quail of Mexico and Central America and the new publication "Guidelines for the re-introduction of Galliformes for conservation purposes". To read more click [G@allinformed](#)

Cats

The Cat Specialist Group has a new innovative project of the month called Kids for Cats – a cat drawing contest for school children helping to create awareness of different cat species globally and the issues that they face. See [here](#) for a selection of the entries – most of which are better than we could do here in Species Programme!

Tapirs

The Tapir Specialist Group has produced a new June 2009 edition of the Tapir Conservation Newsletter. The issue focuses on: Abundance of Baird's Tapir in Costa Rica, Ecology of Lowland Tapir in the Brazilian Pantanal and Population of Malay Tapir in Krau Wildlife Reserve in Malaysia among other topics. To read click [newsletter](#).

Announcements

Valuing the Invaluable: Communicate 09, Bristol, UK 21-22 October

Communicate is a conference organised by the BBC Natural History Consortium for environmental communicators attracting a cross-sector of representatives from environmental and conservation organisations, business and CSR, policy makers, media, and national and local government bodies and natural history filmmakers. More information [here](#)

M.Sc. course in Wildlife Biology & Conservation, NCBS Bangalore

Applications are open for admission to the 2010-12 academic session for this course offered by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Centre for Wildlife Studies and Wildlife Conservation Society. The 2-year course, offered to 15 graduates once in 2 years, is open to graduates of Indian nationality. All students are offered full financial support so that financial constraints do not prevent the most talented and passionate from attending the course. Deadline 16 October [more information](#)

Fellowships in Sustainability Science

The Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University's Center for International Development invites applications for resident fellowships in sustainability science for the University's academic year beginning in September 2010. Applicants should describe how their work would contribute to "sustainability science," the emerging field of use-inspired research seeking understanding of the interactions between human and

environmental systems as well as the application of such knowledge to sustainability challenges relating to advancing development of agriculture, habitation, energy and materials, health and water while conserving the earth's life support systems. Click [here](#) for more information on the fellowships application. Application deadline **December 1, 2009**

Conservación y Manejo de Recursos Vegetales en América Latina”, Costa Rica, 3-4 Diciembre 2009

Los objetivos del Simposio son:

1. Analizar el estado del conocimiento científico en conservación y usos sostenible de los recursos naturales de América Latina, con énfasis en Centroamérica y el Caribe.
2. Promover el valor de la conservación y uso sostenible de plantas nativas en la región.
3. Identificar las necesidades en ciencia y tecnología relacionadas a los estudios de postgrado en conservación y uso sostenible de los recursos en la región centroamericana y el Caribe.

[Haga clic](#) aquí para más información

2010 Conservation Leadership Programme Awards: Call for Applications

The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) is now accepting applications for 2010 **Conservation Awards**. The CLP aims to promote the development of emerging conservation leaders and equip them with the capacity to address the most pressing conservation issues of our time by providing small grants, training, mentoring and networking opportunities. Award winners gain practical skills and experience and develop leadership capabilities through the implementation of projects focused on high-priority biodiversity conservation issues. Visit the [CLP website](#) for detailed eligibility criteria, guidelines and an application form. The application deadline is **6th November 2009** for ALL applications.

Latest news from the Convention on Migratory Species

[Click here](#) to access the latest newsletter of the CMS

4th International Zoo and Aquarium Symposium, “Freshwater fish conservation: linking *ex situ* and *in situ* actions”. 19– 23 April, 2010 Chester, UK

The aim of this symposium is to bring together field biologists, taxonomists, conservationists and aquarists for a common goal: integrated multidisciplinary conservation action for freshwater fishes. To express interest or for more information contact Claudine Gibson at Chester Zoo c.gibson@chesterzoo.org

Publications

The status and distribution of Mediterranean mammals

Temple, Helen J., comp. ; Cuttelod, Annabelle, comp. - IUCN Species Survival Commission ; IUCN, Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, IUCN- Gland.; 2009.

This Red List publication summarizes results for Mediterranean terrestrial mammals, and provides the first overview of the conservation status of these species to follow IUCN regional Red Listing guidelines. It identifies species that are threatened with extinction at the regional level – in order that appropriate conservation action can be taken to improve their status. Download a pdf copy or order a hardcopy [here](#).

Feria-Arroyo et al 2009 **A GIS-Based Comparison of the Mexican National and IUCN Methods for Determining Extinction Risk** *Conservation Biology*, Volume 23, No 5 1156-1166

Red List Workshop calendar

Asia Region

23-24 Oct 2009	Sturgeon Red List assessment workshop, Wuhan, China (Precedes 6th International Symposium on Sturgeon)
25-28 Nov 2009	Indo-Burma Freshwater assessment training workshop. Phnom Penh, Cambodia
30 Nov-4 Dec 2009	Indo-pacific Tuna and Billfishes GMSA Red List Assessment workshop, Taiwan
11-15 Jan 2010 dates tbc	Western Ghats Freshwater assessment training workshop. Coimbatore, India.
29 Mar-02 Apr 2010 dates tbc	Eastern Himalayas Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment – review workshop

Meso America

- January 2010 (Date change) GMSA - Sea Cucumber – Red List assessment workshop, Panama City, Panama.
- 19-23 Oct 2009 Iguana Specialist Group Meeting and Red List assessment workshop, Dominica (tbc) The goal is to complete new or updated assessments for all Caribbean species and a handful of Central American species.
- 16-20 Nov 2009 Chihuahuan Desert Cactus Red List assessment workshop, San Luis Potosi, Mexico
- Dec2009/Jan2010 Mexican Freshwater Fish – Red List assessment workshop (dates tbc), Mexico

Europe

- 23-27 Nov 2009 European Plants - Red List assessment workshop, Budapest

South America

- 09-11 Nov 2009 GMSA Global Sciaenid Red List assessment workshop, Manaus, Brazil

West Asia

- 31 Jan – 01 Feb 2010 Red List Training workshop, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

North America

- 05-09 Oct 2009: : GMSA - Butterflyfishes and Angelfishes Red List assessment workshop, Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, USA

Other IUCN News

News from the Oceania Region

Regional Workshop on Giant Clam Management & International Trade

The regional workshop on the management of sustainable fisheries for giant clams (*Tridacnidae*) and CITES Capacity Building, was held in Nadi, Fiji earlier this month, and was attended by IUCN Oceania's Species Focal Point, Helen Pippard.

Attention on Big Eye at WCPFC Meeting

Attention was on Big Eye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) at the 5th meeting of the Scientific Committee of the West and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) which was held in Vanuatu from the 15th - 22nd August.

Click [here for more](#) on both these events and the latest edition of the Oceania Regional Newsletter

CEESP Newsletter Issue 2

The latest newsletter from the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, CEESP can be downloaded [here](#)

Wild Talk September edition

The monthly podcast/radio download product produced by IUCN offering environmental news and features drawing on the joint expertise of thousands of scientists and conservationists from around the world.

- **Drylands are richer than you think:** Drylands produce much more than people - and governments - generally give them credit for. IUCN's Senior Social Policy Advisor Gonzalo Oviedo explains how rich drylands can be, both in terms of biodiversity and the vast wealth of traditional knowledge their inhabitants have accumulated. Having learned to adapt to the harsh climate of drylands, he says we have a lot to learn from them about how to cope with such conditions.
- **They've been growing it since the time of the Pharoos:** Gum Arabic trees in Sudan are part of a 4,000-year-old tradition of producing gum in an immense dryland region. Working with IUCN's Forest Programme in the region, Edmund Barrow explains that we all eat the gum produced in Sudan in chewing gum, in medicines such as aspirin and even as a clearing agent in beer.
- **Conservation for a New Era:** IUCN has just published Conservation for a New Era, which is the latest analysis of the state of conservation today. The book outlines the critical issues facing us in the 21st century, developed from the results of last year's World Conservation Congress in Barcelona. IUCN's Senior Science Advisor Jeff McNeely takes us through this landmark publication.
- **Climate change in colour:** Paint brushes are not the first thing that spring to mind when we think of the climate change negotiations furiously taking place ahead of the Copenhagen meeting in December. But

for one group of people, a picture paints a thousand words. Altering Landscapes, in which IUCN is involved, aims to help people get their messages about climate change through to decision-makers in an interesting way - by allowing them to paint their thoughts on huge murals. It is hoped the murals will then be taken to the Copenhagen meeting. Wild Talk speaks to IUCN's Visual Anthropologist Intu Boedhihartono about the project, as well as Altering Landscapes' David Rogers, and IUCN's Director General, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, who lent a hand to create the mural.

Download at: <http://www.iucn.org/wildtalk>

News from www.connect2earth.org, the green online community for young people from IUCN, WWF and Nokia

The connect2earth competition continues with a "Climate Change" discussion topic launched on 1st September with the contribution of Ninni Ikkala, IUCN Climate Change coordinator.

- View Ninni's video on climate change issues and solutions
- This is the last chance for connect2earth members to win the Grand Prize and go to the United Nations Climate Change summit in Copenhagen alongside the IUCN delegation! We will be choosing this winner at the end of October, among the 10 best contributors to the connect2earth discussions since March.
- How can you support www.connect2earth.org ?
- Join the discussion to help us populate the site with interesting, quality content by posting your comments on www.connect2earth.org. You just need to take 1 minute to sign up (click on "register" at the top of the webpage) and then click on 'add your voice now' .
- You can vote for the best comments. (you need to be signed up)
- You can also encourage young people you know to join in the competition!

For more information: gaelle.cuillerot@iucn.org

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