

From: sscmembership@iucn.org
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2010 12:07 AM
To: jenkins@moov.mg
Subject: IUCN SSC e-bulletin March 2010



Species e-Bulletin

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

March 2010

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. 2009 issues are available on the [Species homepage](#).

Headline News

Habitat loss blamed for more species decline

Habitat loss is having a serious impact on Europe's butterflies, beetles and dragonflies. The release of the European Red List, commissioned by the European Commission, shows that nine percent of butterflies, 11 percent of saproxylic beetles (beetles that depend on decaying wood) and 14 percent of dragonflies are threatened with extinction within Europe. Some species are so threatened that they are at risk of global extinction and are now included in the latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. [Full story English?Français?Espagnol](#)

European Red List of Butterflies [Pdf butterflies](#)

European Red List of Saproxylic Beetles [Pdf beetles](#)

European Red List of Dragonflies [Pdf dragonflies](#)

Healthy biodiversity is no luxury - it's the foundation of all life on earth

IUCN calls for a clear post-2010 Strategic Plan on Biodiversity. We have failed to meet the target adopted through the Convention on Biological Diversity to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 and we are currently witnessing the greatest extinction crisis since dinosaurs disappeared from our planet 65 million years ago. Urgent action is needed to avoid potentially catastrophic consequences, both for nature and for people around the world. "Policy and action preventing further biodiversity loss need to be in place by 2020 and biodiversity needs to be conserved and restored by 2050" says Sonia Peña Moreno, Policy Officer at IUCN. "IUCN calls for 20 strong targets to be delivered by 2020, addressing both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss." [Full story?Chinese ? IUCN position papers](#)

Sturgeon more critically endangered than any other group of species

Eighty five percent of sturgeon, one of the oldest families of fishes in existence and valued around the world for their precious roe, are at risk of extinction, making them the most threatened group of animals on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. The latest update of the Red List assessed the status of 18 species of sturgeon from all over Europe and Asia and found that all were threatened. Twenty seven species of sturgeon are on the IUCN Red List with 63 percent listed as Critically Endangered, the Red List's highest category of threat. Four species are now possibly extinct. [Full story](#)

CITES CoP 15: Time for closer collaboration on wildlife trade

It's time for joint action and for regulatory bodies to work together to ensure the continued survival of species threatened by wildlife trade, says IUCN at the end of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in Doha, Qatar. [web story](#)

The IUCN delegation included a number of SSC members who provided technical information to the conference participants. Click [here for a summary](#) report on some of the main decisions of the meeting.

Broadening boundaries – naturally, the Green Belt of Fennoscandia

A landmark agreement was recently signed between Norway, Finland and Russia for the development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia - the vast area in Northern Europe uniting the three countries, spreading across the Kola peninsula, Finland and Karelia. This will

reinforce the European Green Belt initiative and give greater priority to the well-established transboundary cooperation in Fennoscandia and the Barents Euroarctic Region. [Full story](#)

Bringing bison back to North America

The next 10 to 20 years could be extremely significant for restoring wild populations of American bison to their original roaming grounds. But for this to happen, more land must be made available for herds to roam free, government policies must be updated and the public must change its attitude towards bison. A new publication by IUCN, American Bison: Status Survey and Conservation Guidelines 2010, reports on the current status of American bison, in the wild and in conservation herds, and makes recommendations on how to ensure that the species is conserved for the future. [Full story](#)
American Bison Status Survey and Conservation Guidelines 2010 [pdf bison](#)

International Year of Biodiversity: A wealth of information

"The International Year of Biodiversity will be most effective if every single human being on this planet understands why biodiversity is important and has the tools to act upon saving the loss of biodiversity" says IUCN's Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre. Throughout the year, IUCN is celebrating biological diversity – the variety of life on earth – and boosting awareness of how important it is for our lives. Most people appreciate the beauty of the natural world, but awareness of biodiversity, how seriously it is threatened, and the implications for human wellbeing, is alarmingly low. A wealth of information and resources is available for IUCN Members, Commission members, partners and the general public, including a dedicated section on the IUCN website [Click here](#) to access a wealth of information [Français?Espagnol](#)

IUCN and Republic of Korea sign up for best ever Congress

IUCN, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, and the Self-governing Province of Jeju have signed an agreement to jointly organize the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress. The Congress will take place from 6 to 15 September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea. Held every four years, the IUCN Congress is the world's most important international conservation event. The 2012 Congress aims to put nature and conservation at the top of the global agenda. Reserve these dates in your diary now! [Full story](#)

Specialist Group News

Bats: Extinction of the Christmas Island pipistrelle

Bat Specialist Group member Lindy Lumsden and her team have documented a precipitous decline in the Christmas Island pipistrelle [Pipistrellus murrayi](#) and returned to the island in August 2009 to attempt the capture of some of the remaining individuals for captive breeding. Unfortunately, only a single individual was detectable and it evaded capture in mist nets, before it eventually disappeared. It was last heard on 26th August. Lindy and her team reluctantly concluded that the species had become extinct. The reasons remains speculative, but one suggested possibility is that increased numbers of yellow crazy ants have led to a decrease in the numbers of red crabs, and a corresponding increase in the number of giant millipedes, which could have preyed on roosting pipistrelles.

Chameleons: New Specialist Group formed

Chameleons are primarily found in Madagascar and Africa, with a few species distributed in the near east and the coast of southern Europe. Although there are some widespread species, many have extremely small distributions. Important habitats for chameleons are heavily impacted by human activities, and some restricted-range species are particularly vulnerable. Because of their unique appearance, and in some cases, their exceptional ornamentation, chameleons are one of the most sought after reptiles in the pet trade. Tens of thousands of wild chameleons are legally exported every year, with an illegal trade at unknown levels, a cause for concern. A Chameleon Specialist Group was established in February 2010 to address issues of sustainability and conservation of these unique reptiles. Its first major objective is to conduct a conservation assessment of all chameleon species for the IUCN Red List. Welcome to new SG Chair Dr Richard K.B. Jenkins who can be contacted at jenkins@moov.mg

Cranes: Safe Flyways for the Siberian Crane

Representatives of the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project (SCWP) gathered at the United Nations Environment Programme's Governing Council Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on February 24, 2010 to launch the publication of the project's final report, Safe Flyways for the Siberian Crane: A flyway approach conserves some of Asia's most beautiful wetlands and waterbirds. The report celebrates the accomplishments of the seven-year program, which was coordinated by the International Crane Foundation working with the governments of China, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Russia, the Convention on Migratory Species, and numerous Crane Specialist Group members. SCWP has strengthened protection for a network of key wetlands along the flyways of the critically endangered Siberian Crane and millions of other waterbirds in Eurasia. For more information on the SCWP or to download a digital copy of Safe Flyways for the Siberian Crane, please visit [cranes](#) or contact Sara Gavney Moore, SCWP Communications Coordinator, at sgm@savingcranes.org.

Conservation Breeding: (CBSG)

National Conservation Action Plan for Chimpanzees in Tanzania

CBSG recently collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Jane Goodall Institute to assist these organizations in the development of a national conservation action plan (CAP) for chimpanzees ([Pan troglodytes](#)) in Tanzania. With input from a core planning team, CBSG conducted a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) of chimpanzee populations across a range of population sizes, habitat types, and threat levels; PVA results and additional modeling efforts were then used by participants at the TNC-facilitated CAP workshop held in Dar es Salaam on 19-21 January. At the workshop the viability of chimp populations and habitats were assessed, primary threats such as habitat conversion, charcoal burning and hunting were identified, and management actions to address those threats were recommended. This national CAP builds upon previous TNC CAPs for select chimp populations, synthesizing and incorporating additional analyses to develop a comprehensive national strategy for chimpanzees living in both protected and non-protected areas throughout Tanzania. More on CBSG Species Workshops is on the CBSG website at: <http://www.cbsg.org/cbsg/workshops/>

CBSG: Waterbird Mortality in the Upper Midwest

Major mortality events have been observed during migration in recent years in several species of waterbirds, particularly the lesser scaup and American coot, in the north-central U.S. These deaths have been attributed to toxic amounts of trematode parasites ingested by birds feeding on exotic faucet snails ([Bithynia tentaculata](#)), which serve as hosts for trematodes. At the request of the U.S. Geological Survey, CBSG facilitated a workshop on 16-17 March in Wisconsin, gathering researchers and wildlife managers to share current research efforts and findings related to this parasite-snail-bird cycle. Workshop participants compiled their collective knowledge to identify probable factors affecting this cycle, identified critical data gaps, and developed a list of research ideas to address key questions important to developing effective management actions for these species.

CBSG: Dwarf Caiman Population Viability Assessment (PVA)

In January, CBSG Brasil held a meeting in Corumbá, Mato Grosso do sul, with researchers from Embrapa Pantanal (government Research Institute of the Pantanal) for a preliminary meeting to organize the dwarf caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*) PVA. The dwarf caiman is widely distributed throughout northern and central South America. However, specialists are witnessing local extinctions. In March a second meeting took place in Manaus, Amazonas, with researchers from Embrapa Pantanal and INPA (National Institute for Research in the Amazon). Crocodile population dynamics are challenging to say the least, and as data sets were analyzed, it emerged that a researcher has almost 25 years of capture/re-capture of marked Caiman *C. yacare* in a study area and has been monitoring nests for about the same amount of time. CBSG Brasil staff therefore decided to focus on analyzing this data set. Results from this work will be used to understand the data set from *P. palpebrosus*. Another meeting is scheduled for early April. Results from this work will be presented in the Crocodile Specialist Group meeting that will take place in Manaus in September. More information on CBSG's PVA and PHVA workshops: <http://www.cbsg.org/cbsg/phva/>

Announcements

Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation – Call for papers

Biodiversity is a peer-reviewed, international journal that seeks to contribute to the understanding, protection and restoration of the diversity of living things. We are pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue entitled "Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation." Submissions from all countries are encouraged. This journal receives partial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the International Development Research Centre and other partner organizations. Proposals for papers should be submitted in the form of an abstract (250-300 words) that provides relevant background information, an outline of content and main discussion points. Click [here](#) for possible topics. Deadline 16 April 2010. Contact the Managing Editor, Stephen Aitken at aitken@tc-biodiversity.org.

CEPF fund for terrestrial conservation projects in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot

As most of you are aware the CEPF fund for terrestrial conservation projects in the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot was launched in September 2008. This five year investment programme (2008-2013) is being managed by CI Pacific and CEPF with help from a number of partners. The third funding window will be open from March 1 to April 9, 2010, and further funding windows will be open over the five year investment period. This third round of funding has specific targeted areas for support and applications must meet the criteria to be eligible. All eligible stakeholders in the 14 eligible countries and territories of the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot are invited to submit an application form called an LOI (Letter of Inquiry). Download the application guidelines, directives and the LOI application form in English or French [here](#). If you need further information contact the CI-Pacific Regional Implementation Team at cipacific@conservation.org

World Migratory Bird Day 2010 Focuses on Globally Threatened Migratory Birds

The Secretariats of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (UNEP/AEWA) and the Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) are pleased to announce the countdown for World Migratory Bird Day 2010. This two-day awareness raising campaign will take place globally for the fifth consecutive year from 8-9 May 2010. World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) aims to inspire people to take action for the conservation of migratory birds and encourages national authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), clubs and societies, universities, schools and individuals around the world to organize events and programmes, which help draw attention to migratory birds around a central theme each year. This year's theme is "Save migratory birds in crisis – every species counts!" It is closely linked to the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) declared by the United Nations for 2010. [More info](#)

International Training Course in Cheetah Conservation Biology

There is still time to apply for the Cheetah Conservation Fund's International Training Course in Cheetah Conservation Biology. The course is held from June 3 to 30, 2010 at the Cheetah Conservation Fund's international headquarters in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, in conjunction with the Howard G. Buffet Foundation. The deadline for completed applications is April 7th, 2010. Contact cceducation@iway.na; ccflaurie@iway.na

5th International Galliformes Symposium, Thailand 2010

The World Pheasant Association is delighted to announce plans for a symposium on the conservation and sustainable management of all species of pheasant, partridge, quail, francolin and guinea fowl, with special emphasis on Asia, threatened species and their habitats. Jointly organised with the IUCN-SSC/WPA Galliformes Specialist Group and King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi, the meeting is the successor to the International Symposium of Galliformes held in China in October 2007. The objective is to hold a major gathering of all those with an interest in the conservation of these birds and their habitats. The symposium will be held at the Imperial Mae Ping Hotel in Chiang Mai from 7-14 November. The three day formal session, consisting of short talks, poster sessions and open debates, will be followed by three days of field excursions to nearby National Parks. Full details can be found [here](#) or email office@pheasant.org.uk

Publications

Habitat Himalaya

Volume XVI number 2 "Vultures, Castes and Outcasts" on the decline of vultures in the Himalaya. [Click here](#) to download

Nature news online: Should we be trying to save the dodo?

A quantitative way to decide whether to keep on conserving a species [click here](#)

Newsletter de la Fondation Ensemble

2010, Année de la Biodiversité ! Deux personnalités prennent la parole au sein de la Newsletter de la Fondation Ensemble. Jean-Marie Pelt, professeur émérite de biologie végétale, Président de l'Institut Européen d'Ecologie et membre du Collège d'experts de la Fondation, évoque les dons précieux de la nature, largement illustrés dans son dernier ouvrage. Julia Marton Lefèvre, Directrice générale de l'IUCN, nous confie ses sources d'espoirs. Cliquez [newsletter](#)

Red List Workshop calendar

Event

Asia Region

3-7 May 2010 Global Acanthuridae, Tripterigiidae and Clinidae Marine Fishes Assessment. Cebu, Philippines
 2010 dates tbc Indo-Burma Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment – review workshop. Location tbc
 (mid-2010)

Eastern and Southern Africa

June 2010 Climate Change technical assessment workshop. Uganda

Oceania

Meso America

Europe

12-16 April 2010 European Crop Wild Relatives workshop, Cascais, Portugal

July/August 2010 European Terrestrial Molluscs assessment workshop, Estonia (tbc)
 (tbc)

South America

May 17-22 2010 Marine Species: Sea Cucumbers Red List assessment workshop, Cartagena, Colombia

September 2010 Atlantic Scombroides assessment, Brasilia, Brazil

West Asia

West and Central Africa

North America

2010 Sonoran Global Cactus Red List Assessment, Arizona,

Other IUCN News

Protected Area of the Week

Promoting protected areas worldwide as the best places on earth, each week a different protected area from a different region and representing a different biome is featured on the IUCN website. [Click here](#) to access.

Union Pulse (March 2010)

This latest edition of the quarterly newsletter for the IUCN membership is now available. You can download a copy in English, French or Spanish here [Union Pulse](#)

BioFresh Project

At the start of February members of the IUCN's Freshwater Biodiversity Unit and Jim Ragle the SIS manager attended the launch of a four year European Union funded project called "BioFresh" that brings together 19 organisations from across the EU to examine the status, trends, pressures and conservation priorities for freshwater biodiversity at European and global scales. Rather than focussing on the collection of new data the central aim of the project is to bring together the huge amount of information currently scattered among a wide range of databases held by governments, universities and NGO's. As part of the project the Freshwater Biodiversity Unit will develop criteria and identify Key Biodiversity Areas for freshwater conservation across the globe. Click [BioFresh](#) for more info or contact Robert.holland@iucn.org

Wild Talk March edition

- **What next for biodiversity targets**

The 2010 biodiversity target was adopted in May 2002 during the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It aimed to achieve, by 2010 'a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth'. Unfortunately, the latest analysis of the IUCN Red List shows this target has not been met. As we are facing an ever-increasing biodiversity crisis, we need a new, clear and realistic target to respond to it. We ask Sonia Peña Moreno, IUCN Biodiversity Policy Officer, to assess the outcomes of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and outline the key developments expected to take place after 2010.

- **International trade in endangered species uncovered**

On 13 March, representatives from 175 countries will meet in Doha, Qatar for the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora conference where they'll decide how to regulate trade in species ranging from bluefin tuna and sharks to polar bears and coral. Dr Sue Mainka, Head of Science and Learning at IUCN, and Head of IUCN's delegation at the conference, explains how the convention works for biodiversity conservation.

- **Changing minds through music - AJ Moore**

AJ Moore, a 30 year-old artist and musician created the Save it 4 a Song online environmental campaign. AJ enlightened IUCN members at Copenhagen Zoo last December, where he performed his climate change anthem Take it All Away. The song will soon be released and all proceeds from it will go to environmental charities. AJ speaks about nature as his source of inspiration and his work to raise awareness about the environment and biodiversity issues through music. ...

- **Improving livelihoods in Guatemalan landscapes**

In Guatemala, IUCN is working through its Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy (LLS) to sustain the flow of goods and services from forest landscapes for the benefit of local people and biodiversity conservation. Wildtalk speaks to Jose Arturo Santos, coordinator of the Biodiversity and Sustainable Use Unit in IUCN's country office in Guatemala, to learn more.

Download each of these podcasts at http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/wild_talk/

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

This communication, together with any attachment, may contain confidential information and/or copyright material and is intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you received it by error and you are asked to please delete it and promptly notify us. Any review, copying, use, disclosure or distribution of any part of this communication, unless duly authorized by or on behalf of IUCN, is strictly forbidden.