

**For immediate release**

# Threatened Amphibians of the World: book launch

## **Background:**

This session is the launch of “Threatened Amphibians of the World”, the most comprehensive global assessment of the world’s most sensitive ecological indicators – frogs, toads, salamanders, newts and caecilians. Amphibians face an extinction crisis, but getting to the facts has been difficult. Threatened Amphibians of the World is a visual journey through the first-ever comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of the world’s 6,000 known species of amphibians. All ~1,900 species threatened with extinction are covered, including a description of threats to each species and an evaluation of the conservation measures in place or in need. Each entry includes a photograph or illustration of the species where available, a distribution map, and detailed information on range, population, habitat and ecology. A detailed analysis of the results is complemented by a series of short essays written by many of the world’s leading herpetologists. Appendices include annotated lists of lower risk species and a country-by-country listing of threatened amphibians.

## **Key Issues:**

- This session will be led by Dr. Claude Gascon, Executive Vice President, Conservation International and Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group and Dr. Simon Stuart, Chair of the IUCN SSC Biodiversity Assessment Sub-Committee
- *“This study confirms one of the greatest species conservation challenges of our time. In just the past 20 years, the number of known amphibians has increased by 48 percent. Tragically, we are losing them almost as fast as we find them,”* says **Simon Stuart, one of the lead authors of the book and chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Biodiversity Assessment Sub-Committee.**

## **Where:**

- Tuesday, October 7, 16:00-16:30 in the Species Pavilion at the World Conservation Congress.

## **Spokespersons:**

Dr. Claude Gascon, Executive Vice President Conservation International and Dr. Simon Stuart, Chair of the IUCN SSC Biodiversity Assessment Sub-Committee

## **Materials for the Media:**

See the book and order it here: <http://www.hbw.com/lynx/en/lynx-edicions/portada-lynx/MON0017-threatened-amphibians-world.html>

## **Media team:**

**Sarah Horsley**, IUCN Media Relations, m +41 79 528 3486, e [sarah.horsley@iucn.org](mailto:sarah.horsley@iucn.org)

**Carolin Wahnbaeck**, IUCN Media Relations, m +41 79 858 7593 e [carolin.wahnbaeck@iucn.org](mailto:carolin.wahnbaeck@iucn.org)

## **About IUCN**

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges by supporting scientific research; managing field projects all over the world; and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN, international conventions and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

The world’s oldest and largest global environmental network, IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts in some 160 countries. IUCN’s work is supported by over 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN’s headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland. [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)