



Species e-Bulletin

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

December 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

Seasons Greetings from Simon Stuart, SSC Chair

Dear SSC members,

As we come up to a holiday season for many people around the world, I would like to add my thanks to each of you for your dedicated, hard work for conservation in general, and SSC in particular, over the last year. The SSC has had many accomplishments in 2009, and you can read about some of these in the latest issue of Species Magazine. However, we all know that conservation challenges are growing, and the result of the Copenhagen summit are certainly less than we had hoped for. In January 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity starts, and this poses huge challenges and opportunities for us. I look forward to working with many of you on these. Wishing you all a restful holiday season, and a happy new year.

Simon

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ “Species of the Day”

The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Biodiversity is the backbone of all life on Earth, and its conservation lies at the very core of IUCN's work. To coincide with the IYB, for each day of 2010 this exciting new venture will see a different species being featured on a range of websites and through various other media channels. The 365 species selected will represent the entire range of groups and cover all regions, with each daily factsheet providing information on the threats to their existence. We will start by featuring some better known species, including Polar Bear, Hawksbill Turtle and Great White Shark, before moving to cover plants, fungi, invertebrates and more – both charismatic and obscure species will be featured, providing an insight into the astonishing level of biodiversity on Earth. Go to www.iucn.org on January 1st 2010

Species Magazine – Issue 50

With feature articles “350 or bust ... coral reefs and climate change” and “The contribution of species to ecosystem services” this is a must read for SSC members. A full round up of the work of the Species programme staff, the SSC Steering and sub committees as well as an exchange of news from the Specialist Groups. [Download a pdf version here](#)

Species on climate change hit list named

The Arctic Fox, Leatherback Turtle and Koala are among the species destined to be hardest hit by climate change, according to a new IUCN review. The report, [Species and Climate Change](#), focuses on 10 species, including the Beluga Whale, Clownfish, Emperor Penguin, Quiver Tree, Ringed Seal, salmon and staghorn corals, which all highlight the way climate change is adversely affecting marine, terrestrial and freshwater habitats. [Full story](#)

Copenhagen climate summit: Copenhagen Accord a step in right direction, but insufficient

Although the Copenhagen Accord goes some way to address some of the critical issues that have been on negotiators' agenda for the past two years, such as a financing package of US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020 to assist developing countries to adapt to climate change and to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, others remained unsolved. *"IUCN urges all countries to build on the Copenhagen Agreement and to find the common ground necessary to deliver an equitable, comprehensive and legally-binding agreement by the end of 2010,"* says IUCN's Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre. [Full story](#)

Stop our oceans souring

Released at UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen, 'Ocean acidification – the facts' takes stock of the latest science on ocean acidification and spells out the steps that are urgently needed to stop its acceleration. [Full story](#)

Changing climate change from Sweden to Colombia

Conserving and managing nature as a way to adapt to the impacts of climate change can benefit both wealthy and poor countries alike, the latest IUCN report has found. Managing, protecting and restoring nature so that it continues to provide the services, which enable people to adapt to climate change, is known as Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). Adaptation projects in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and South America directly related to the sustainable management of nature are the focus of IUCN's report, Ecosystem-based Adaptation: a natural response to climate change launched in Copenhagen. [Full story](#)

21st century explorers return with unique data from Indian Ocean

A team of the world's leading marine experts, paired with scientists from the Indian Ocean region, have just returned from a six-week research expedition above seamounts in the high seas of the Indian Ocean with a whole new understanding of seamount ecosystems. They gathered a very rich collection of data and specimens, including some strange-looking marine creatures. [Full Story](#)

Specialist Group News

Cats

CAT NEWS N° 51 Autumn 2009 is now available [click here](#) to access the contents and pdfs of articles

Jaguar News available [here](#)

Reindeers

Specialist Group Chair, Dr S. Claus wishes all SSC members a Happy Christmas!!

Announcements

Cheetah Conservation Fund's 2010 International Training Courses

Three International training courses will be held in Namibia in 2010 at the Cheetah Conservation Fund, under the sponsorship of the Howard G. Buffet Foundation's African Cheetah Initiative. Courses on Integrated Livestock and Predator Management will run from **7 to 21 February 2010**, and also **11 to 25 march 2010**. These courses are aimed at community development officers and agriculture extension officers in cheetah range countries. The focus will be on cheetah-human conflict, and the role of farmer outreach programs and community-based training to mitigate these conflict issues. The Conservation Biology course will run from **3 to 30 June 2010**, and is aimed at providing conservation training for international cheetah conservation biologists. [More details](#)

ARKive and IUCN SSC to collaborate in the search for threatened species imagery

ARKive, the world's centralised digital library of films and photographs of threatened animals, plants and fungi, is calling for the help of IUCN SSC Specialist Group members in their search for imagery of the world's threatened species. A not-for-profit project of UK-based charity, Wildscreen, ARKive's objective is to raise

public awareness of the world's threatened species and the need for their conservation, through the power of wildlife imagery. As part of becoming a formal partner of the IUCN Red List, ARKive's immediate aim is to compile audio-visual profiles for the 17,291 species at most risk of extinction (CR – VU). ARKive is collaborating with the IUCN Species Programme and the Species Survival Commission to find photos, and films for as many of these threatened species as possible, with all images sourced under the partnership also being made available for use in IUCN Red List activities.

ARKive has already profiled around a quarter of the world's threatened species, but there are thousands of species for which media is still needed. If you have films or photographs of any of the world's threatened species, ARKive would be delighted to hear from you. Contact the ARKive team at:

arkive@wildscreen.org.uk Visit the website www.arkive.org

Armed conflict and environment - Call for input from SSC members

During the Council Meeting in March 2008, IUCN established a global taskforce on Armed Conflict and Environment to collect information and synthesize knowledge on this topic. This taskforce is led by Dr Odeh Al-Jayyousi, IUCN ROWA Regional Director. Input is requested from SSC members on the following if available:

- Any report or publications on this topic
- Any relevant case studies and/or projects
- Any useful links from partners, IUCN members, stakeholders ...etc.
- Commissions work
- Legal analysis or position papers

Please send any input or comments to Rania.Faouri@iucn.org

Publications

Protected areas – natural solutions to climate change crisis

Protected Areas offer a cost effective solution to the impacts of climate change, according to a new book from IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, the United Nations Development Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society, the World Bank and WWF. *This book, **Natural Solutions: protected areas helping people cope with climate change**, clearly articulates for the first time how protected areas contribute significantly to reducing the impacts of climate change and what's needed for them to achieve even more,*" says Lord Nicholas Stern, who wrote a foreword for the report. [Full story](#)

Guía de Pequeños Vertebrados del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito (DMQ)

Guide to the small vertebrates of the district of Quito

La misma fue lanzada el sábado en la inauguración de la exposición: "Quito Origen y Destino" que estará abierta hasta el mes de marzo y expone los principales resultados sobre la biodiversidad en el DMQ. De la mayoría tengo sus direcciones en la ciudad de Quito para hacerles llegar la publicación impresa. De igual forma me gustaría saber la dirección exacta de quienes están en otros países para hacerles llegar esta versión. [Click here](#)

Red List Workshop calendar

A new workshop calendar will be included in the January bulletin

Other IUCN News

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) in 2009: Communicating Biodiversity

CEPA workshops and a host of other communication and education activities advanced the protection of biodiversity in 2009. CEC members from around the world reported on this work by submitting newsletter stories to cecnews@iucn.org. Their reports are summarized here. [Full story >](#)

Oceania Regional Newsletter, December

News from the regional office in Suva, Fiji including reports on Fiji Environment (Biodiversity) Priorities for

2010, High seas MPAs, Bigeye Tuna and job opportunities [Click here](#)

Union Pulse

The December edition of Union Pulse, the newsletter for IUCN Members, is now online in English, French and Spanish: [Click here](#)

Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) Newsletter December 2009

[Click here](#) to access the CEM webpages and newsletters

Wild Talk December 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.

- **Think natural for a climate deal:** IUCN's Climate Change coordinator Ninni Ikkala outlines her hopes for political commitments by world leaders in Copenhagen for a post 2012 climate agreement. The role nature can play to help people to adapt to climate change should be fully recognized, she explains.
- **Water - the big story about climate change:** Many of the impacts of climate change; storms, drought, sea level rise; are linked to water, IUCN's Head of Water Programme Mark Smith explains. But building good institutions and good governance of water resources will also help us build resilience to climate change.
- **Don't forget the oceans at Copenhagen:** The Head of IUCN's Global Marine Programme, Carl Gustaf Lundin, tells us that while oceans and marine life already suffer from climate change, they can also provide solutions to store and capture carbon. World leaders in Copenhagen should include these solutions in the future climate deal, he says.
- **Islands in isolation – seeking solutions to communities in crisis:** Islands, be they large or small, developed or developing, face their own particular challenges in a rapidly changing world. As climate change and the loss of biodiversity make their mark, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) is trying to help islanders conserve and sustain the invaluable natural resources that support people, cultures and livelihoods around the world. Kate Brown, IUCN's GLISPA coordinator, says that urgent action is needed to safeguard islands under threat.

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

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