

For immediate release

Status of the World's Mammals – a new assessment details their threat of extinction

Background:

Mammals all over the world are dwindling in numbers, signaling an extinction crisis that threatens the ecosystems on which people depend. Now the situation is worsened by climate change and some of its underlying causes such as tropical deforestation. A new research paper published in *Science* updates the status of all mammals on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and provides the most comprehensive information ever compiled on what is happening and why.

Key Issues:

- This session will be led by Dr. Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International and Chair of IUCN SSC's Primate Specialist Group, as well as Dr. Jan Schipper, Conservation International scientist and lead author of the upcoming paper in *Science*.

Where:

- Tuesday, October 7, 9.30-10.30, in the Species Pavilion at the World Conservation Congress.

Spokespersons:

Dr. Russell Mittermeier, President Conservation International
Dr. Jan Schipper, Conservation International

Materials for the Media:

The IUCN Red List and the specific statistics on mammals can be viewed at www.iucnredlist.org

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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