

Recommended Changes to 1996 IUCN Red List Status of Asian Turtle Species

IUCN/SSC TORTOISE AND FRESHWATER TURTLE SPECIALIST GROUP

AND

ASIAN TURTLE TRADE WORKING GROUP¹

¹Authorship of this document is by these two groups,
which for the purposes of this document consisted of the following participants and subsequent contributors at the
Workshop on Conservation and Trade of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises in Asia:

S. Bhupathy, Kurt A. Buhlmann, Bosco Chan, Tien-Hsi Chen, B.C. Choudhury, Indraneil Das, Peter Paul van Dijk,
Fahmeeda Hanfee, Douglas B. Hendrie, Djoko T. Iskandar, Raymond Kan, S.M. Munjurul Hannan Khan, Michael Lau,
Hidetoshi Ota, Thanit Palasuwan, Steven G. Platt, S.M.A. Rashid, Anders G.J. Rhodin, Dionysius S.K. Sharma,
Chris R. Shepherd, Shi Haitao, Bryan L. Stuart, Robert J. Timmins, and Yuichirou Yasukawa

This document summarizes the recommendations for revised IUCN Red List status for 90 Asian non-marine turtle species as determined by members of the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group and the Asian Turtle Trade Working Group during meetings in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 2–3 December 1999. The attendants at the meeting identified a number of species where further information was deemed necessary, and this was solicited from additional colleagues and sources after the meeting.

Participants in the evaluations and follow-up consultations were S. Bhupathy (IN), Kurt Buhlmann (US), Bosco Chan (CN-HK), Tien-Hsi Chen (TW), B.C. Choudhury (IN), Indraneil Das (IN, BN, MY), Peter Paul van Dijk (TH), Fahmeeda Hanfee (IN), Doug Hendrie (VN), Djoko Iskandar (ID), Raymond Kan (CN-HK), S.M. Munjurul Hannan Khan (BD), Michael Lau (CN-HK), Hidetoshi Ota (JP), Thanit Palasuwan (TH), Steve Platt (ID, MM), S.M.A. Rashid (BD), Anders Rhodin (PN, US), Dionysius Sharma (MY), Chris Shepherd (ID), Shi Haitao (CN), Bryan Stuart (LA), Rob Timmins (LA), and Yuichirou Yasukawa (JP), representing 15 regional countries and territories and global perspectives.

Information on a species' status in a particular country was based on the assessments by the representatives of that country at the meeting, with reference to national Red Lists where available, whose information and status was updated

and refined where appropriate. National status is therefore not attributed to individuals. National Red Lists and assessments are available for Bangladesh (IUCN-Bangladesh, 1999), China (Zhao, 1998), India (CAMP/BCPP, in Hanfee, 1999), and Thailand (OEPP, 1997). Some information was specifically attributed to individuals, as indicated in the following document. Most attention by the group was focused on the levels of international trade in the various species from their countries of origin; data on wild population levels were utilized as available.

The accounts below summarize the existing listing in the 1996 IUCN Red List, the proposed revised listing in the 2000 IUCN Red List, the change between the current and proposed listing, and brief supporting statements. Two of the 90 Asian species were not evaluated by the group: *Testudo horsfieldii* and the introduced North American *Trachemys scripta*. Evaluation results are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. The group determined that nearly three fourths (74%) of all Asian turtle species were threatened, with over half (51%) endangered, constituting a major deterioration of their survival status as compared to the previous 1996 Red List.

These recommendations were subsequently reviewed by the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group Steering Committee and the Species Survival Commission and were accepted in July 2000 for inclusion in the 2000 IUCN Red List.

Table 1. Summary of evaluation results and proposed IUCN Red List category levels for Asian non-marine turtle species.

Categories	Number of Species	Percent of Asian Species
Extinct (EX)	1	1.1
Critically Endangered (CR)	18	20.0
Endangered (EN)	27	30.0
Vulnerable (VU)	21	23.3
Lower Risk, near threatened (LR:nt)	6	6.7
Lower Risk, least concern (LR:lc)	9	10.0
Data Deficient (DD)	6	6.7
Not evaluated	2	2.2
Total	90	100.0

Table 2. Summary of proposed IUCN Red List status category changes for Asian non-marine turtle species.

Proposed Category Change	Number of Species	Percent of Asian Species
Unchanged	24	26.7
Up 1 category	24	26.7
Up 2 categories	6	6.7
Up 3–5 categories	4	4.4
Down	0	0.0
New evaluations		
(including previous DD and LR:lc)	30	33.3
Not evaluated	2	2.2
Total	90	100.0