

## South and Southeast Asian Reptiles

The activities of the South and Southeast Asian Reptile Specialist Group during this quadrennium focused on research and training. We organized training workshops for students and other interested individuals in Southeast Asia on herpetofaunal research and conservation, in collaboration with La Sierra University (under the co-supervision of Prof. L. Lee Grismer) on Pulau Tioman, Pahang, West Malaysia. Staff training for Sarawak National Parks was also organized, under the patronage of DANCED, the Danish Aid Agency, at Niah National Park.

The Chairman represented the Group at several meetings within the region and outside, presenting both results of his research and the activities of the Group members, as well as generally highlighting the role of the Specialist Group. These included: a workshop on Ecoregion-based Conservation in the Eastern Himalayas; developing a Biodiversity Vision, December 1999; the fourth Asian Herpetological Conference, July 2000; an IUCN workshop on Asian Turtle Conservation in January 2001; the fourth World Congress of Herpetology, December, 2001 and the seventh Borneo Research Council Conference, June 2002. Other meetings included a Global Amphibian Assessment Meeting for Southeast Asia, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, a seminar on Limestone Biodiversity, and a joint meeting of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, South Asia and the Re-introduction Specialist Group, South and East Asia. The most recent meetings attended include a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop for the Sri Lankan star tortoise, a Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshop for Sri Lankan turtles and tortoises and a conference on Bornean Herpetology in 2003 and a workshop on Sea Snake Biology in Vietnam, March 2004.

Research has been undertaken on the herpetofauna of Sabah (Crocker Range and Batu Tengar), the natural history and systematics of the herpetofauna of peat swamp forest of Sarawak, East Malaysia, the herpetofaunal communities of Pulau Selurong Forest Recreation Park, Brunei Darussalam, the systematics, biogeography and ecology of the montane herpetofauna of Malaysia, the herpetofauna of Gunung Murud, Sarawak, an inventory and biodiversity of the frog fauna of East Malaysia (Borneo) with emphasis on their larval forms (Amphibia: Anura) and the herpetofauna of Loagan Bunut.

Other activities included contributing to *The Red Book: The Extinction Crisis Face to Face* and acting as the amphibians and reptiles editor for the Center for Biodiversity Informatics, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, India.

Indraneil Das, Chair