

NEW : Journal of Threatened Taxa

Sanjay Molur*

Zoos' Print Journal was started in April 1999 and had been covering several wildlife topics with a focus on South Asia. We have had a good response from academics, researchers, scientists and conservationists from the South Asian region, and because of the speed of publication, quality and accessibility, some conservationists have been able to use this publication in developing conservation action plans for areas under threat and also make their work known to the government. Since early 2006 we have considered making this journal more widely available and with a wider coverage to include all of the species-rich countries of the world and to provide an opportunity for local scientists to publish in a truly international journal, who, due to certain reasons, are not able to do so. So, with experience in hand and the need, we are now starting a new journal called **Journal of Threatened Taxa**, which will be hosted online as a totally open access journal from January 2009 at www.threatenedtaxa.org. With this we intend to reach out as widely as possible and publish as quickly as possible.

Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) is to be a monthly web publication, and will aim even for more frequency. It is an on-line, open and free-access, peer-reviewed journal on wildlife, conservation, taxonomy/systematics, ecology, new descriptions, veterinary and disease issues, conservation efforts such as *ex situ*, reintroduction, species status (global, regional or national) levels, reviews, checklists, new records, audio and video records (snippets) of new information to science forwarding conservation/natural history, illustrations to promote the same, natural history of flora, fauna and fungi and other topics contributing to conservation science and action.

The target audience is primarily the conservation, research, academic and actioner communities who have a stake in promoting conservation, research, policy making, and taxonomy all around the world.

Our vision is to provide tools such as audio-visual clips and illustrations to complement scientific publications and also provide an authenticity and permanence to these tools. With this, our intention for the journal is to reach out to educators, forest departments, community workers, lobbyists, para taxonomists, amateur, students and others interested in these subjects and are stakeholders in conservation work. There is no page limit to contributions and colour photographs, audios and videos are encouraged.

Journal of Threatened Taxa is to be global in its coverage. The objectives of JoTT are similar to that of ZPJ with respect to the subject areas covered.



What do we mean by "threatened taxa" & why
JoTT is not restricted to taxa (species, subspecies, varieties, forms or populations) that are threatened with extinction as defined by the IUCN Red List. The term "threatened" is used broadly to include all forms of taxa and their ecosystems, with the premise that the natural world today is threatened and therefore all its taxa. Taxa may be threatened in several different ways, not only in their status in the wild. Lack of knowledge about a species or subspecies or a population is a threat as priorities can be compromised due to data deficiency. Taxa scientifically described for the first time are under threat from data deficiency in distribution, status, ecological needs, etc. Any taxon could be under threat in a location due to changes in habitat or quality. Ecological changes, changes in land use, socio-economic changes, human influenced changes, alien introduced species, wrong reintroduction practices, new emerging diseases, social and political unrest, improperly planned national and international wildlife and conservation legislations, constant changes in taxonomy, global climate change, and other factors that keep our environment and ecosystems in a constant flux can have widespread or localized impacts on taxa. In some instances even the so-called Least Concern species could be impacted locally or widely due to above factors.

We invite you to contribute your articles to JoTT. Send electronically to ravi@zooreach.org, zooreach@zooreach.org or herpinvert@gmail.com. Send hard copy publications to JoTT, c/o WILD, 9A Lal Bahadur Colony, Peelamedu, Coimbatore 641 004 Tamil Nadu, India.

JoTT is a publication of Wildlife Information Liaison Development WILD.

***Founder/Secretary, Wildlife Information Liaison Development WILD, Founding Editor of Journal of Threatened Taxa. Email: herpinvert@gmail.com**