CHELONIAN CONSERVATION NEWS

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From the Co-Chairs…

CRAIG B. STANFORD AND NATALIA GALLEGO-GARCÍA

It's our pleasure to bring you this third annual issue of our end-of-year newsletter for the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG). The Specialist Group and its Red Listing activities had a very successful year, with more workshops and assessments planned in 2026 for the African continent and hopefully, East Asia. As IUCN turns the page on the previous quadrennium and begins a new four-year term, it's been my (Craig's) great pleasure to welcome a new Co-Chair, Natalia Gallego-García, and we look forward to coordinating activities and interacting with all of you. Our membership is now some 400-strong, with more international engagement than ever, and increased leadership from a new generation of turtle conservation biologists.

The annual meeting of the Turtle Survival Alliance, co-sponsored by TFTSG, was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA, in July, and was by all measures a great success. We're also excited to be part of next year's TSA meeting, which will for the first time be held outside the United States, in Guadalajara, Mexico.

As always, the newsletter will be archived on the TFTSG website at https://iucn-tftsg.org/tftsg-newsletters/, along with previous issues.

IUCN Red Listing Progress for Turtles and Tortoises in 2024–2025

ANDERS G.J. RHODIN, VIVIAN P. PÁEZ,
PETER PAUL VAN DIJK, AND CRAIG B. STANFORD

During this past year and a half the TFTSG has focused on completing the very many IUCN Red List assessments from our several workshops held in 2023 and 2024 in the USA, Mexico, and Bolivia, covering nearly all Neotropical and Nearctic turtle and tortoise species, as well as a few species from other regions. We have assessed 143 taxa over this time period, with 34 assessments already published by IUCN, 100 assessments submitted to IUCN and currently "in press", and another 9 under review.

Our next Red Listing workshops are currently being planned for 2026, with one in October to be held in Senegal with a focus on Sub-Saharan African species from West, Central, and East Africa. We are also considering the possibility of a mini-Red Listing workshop to be held in Hong Kong in March focused on East Asian species. Details on both these workshops will be forthcoming. We invite any TFTSG members with knowledge concerning the conservation status of species from these re-

gions to contact us regarding potential participation in either the planned workshop or their associated assessment and review processes.

The following Red List turtle species assessments were either published on the IUCN Red List website (https://www.iucnredlist.org/) in 2024 and 2025, or have been submitted and are currently in press and should be published on the Red List website in 2026, or are still under review. We thank all assessors and co-assessors for their work and contributions to our increased understanding and determination of the conservation status of all these turtle species. Keeping IUCN Red List Assessments up-to-date is the primary remit of the TFTSG and we are most grateful for the participation and input of so many members and other experts.

IUCN Red List Turtle Assessments Published 2024–2025

Apalone ferox. Munscher, E.C., Morrison, M., Siders, Z., Weber, A.S., and Walde, A.D. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T165597A251135698. Least Concern (LC).

Apalone mutica. Godwin, C.D. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T165596A250316650. Least Concern (LC).

Apalone spinifera. Doody, J.S., Gillingwater, S.D., Mali, I., Forstner, M.R.J., van Dijk, P.P., and Rhodin, A.G.J. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T163451A161722123. Least Concern (LC).

Chelydra serpentina. Moldowan, P.D. and van Dijk, P.P. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T163424A251347989. Least Concern (LC).

Emys orbicularis (Europe assessment). Luiselli, L. and Vamberger, M. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T7717A207667247. Near Threatened (NT).

Emys trinacris. Luiselli, L., Capula, M., Di Vittorio, M., Marrone, F., and Vamberger, M. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T158469A778721. Data Deficient (DD).

Graptemys barbouri. Mays, J.D., Smith, L.L., Godwin, J.C., and Hill, P. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T9496A250305609. Near Threatened (NT).

Graptemys ernsti. Godwin, J.C., Mays, J.D., and Hill, P. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T9500A251709703. Near Threatened (NT).

Graptemys gibbonsi. Lindeman, P.V. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T184436A250638585. Endangered (EN).

Graptemys pearlensis. Lindeman, P.V. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T184437A251707426. Endangered (EN).

Graptemys pulchra. Godwin, J.C. and Brown, G.J. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T170494A251714872. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon baurii. Johnston, G.R., Donini, J.T., and Dodd, C.K., Jr. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T163429A251955369. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon chimalhuaca. Butterfield, T.G. and Matías-Palafox, M.L. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T63667A161720838. Least Concern (LC).

Kinosternon creaseri. Díaz-Gamboa, L.F., Butterfield, T., Jones, M.T., and Willey, L.L. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T11006A161718337. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon flavescens. Iverson, J.B. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T163421A161721376. Least Concern (LC).

Kinosternon sonoriense. Stone, P.A. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T11011A161718519. Vulnerable (VU).

Kinosternon steindachneri. Lechowicz, C.J. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T236638080A236648309. Data Deficient (DD).

Kinosternon stejnegeri. Jones, M.T., Willey, L.L., Macip-Ríos, R., and Lara Resendiz, R.A. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T63666A3127646. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon subrubrum. Hughes, D.F. and Meshaka, W.E., Jr. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T236638832A236640172. Least Concern (LC).

Macrochelys suwanniensis. Thomas, T.M., Enge, K.M., and Johnston, G.R. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T232768492A232768500. Vulnerable (VU).

Macrochelys temminckii. Carr, J.L., Riedle, D.J., Munscher, E., Pearson, L.S., Kessler, E.J., and Dreslik, M.J. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T232775771A507158. Endangered (EN).

Mauremys leprosa (Europe assessment). Luiselli, L. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T158468A207995085. Near Threatened (NT).

Mauremys rivulata (Europe assessment). Luiselli, L. and Vamberger, M. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T158470A207668374. Least Concern (LC).

Rhinoclemmys diademata. Morales-Betancourt, M.A., Lasso, C.A., and Rojas-Runjaic, F.J.M. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T170510A1315527. Endangered (EN).

Rhinoclemmys punctularia. Brito, E.S., Valadão, R.M., Cunha, F.A.G., Oliveira, J.C.F., Hernández, O., Ferrara, C.R., Andrade, P.C.M., and Carr, J.L. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T170513A275854981. Near Threatened (NT).

Sternotherus carinatus. Ricardez, V., Gordon, M., DeChellis, D., Brown, G.J., and Franklin, C.J. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T170492A251779169. Least Concern (LC).

Sternotherus depressus. Jenkins, A.J. and Godwin, J.C. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T20824A242442967. Critically Endangered (CR).

Sternotherus intermedius. Scott, P.A., Iverson, J.B., and Brown, G.J. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T218363413A218363420. Data Deficient (DD).

Sternotherus minor. Brown, G.J., Welc, M., and van Dijk, P.P. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T218363617A218363714. Least Concern (LC).

Sternotherus odoratus. Brown, G.J., Iverson, J.B., and Welc, M. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e. T163450A161721733. Least Concern (LC).

Sternotherus peltifer. Brown, G.J. and Welc, M. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T218364295A218364006. Data Deficient (DD).

Testudo graeca (Europe assessment). Luiselli, L. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T21646A207669215. Near Threatened (NT).

Testudo hermanni. Luiselli, L. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T21648A2777071. Vulnerable (VU).

Testudo marginata. Luiselli, L. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T21653A2777760. Least Concern (LC).

IUCN Red List Turtle Assessments Submitted and "In Press" as of December 2025

Acanthochelys macrocephala. Brito, E.S., Rhodin, A.G.J., Vinke, T., Vinke, S., Mittermeier, R.A., Famelli, S., Dorado-Rodrigues, T.F., Carvajal-Bacarreza, P., Domic-Rivadeneira, E., Paredes-Rodríguez, M.A., Montaño, R., Amorim, R., and Valadão, R.M. Vulnerable (VU).

Acanthochelys radiolata. Schiavetti, A., Dias, I.R., Miranda, M.R., Montag, L.F.A., and Fraga, R.E. Data Deficient (DD).

Acanthochelys spixii. Marques, T.S., Estrades, A., Fallabrino, A., Horta, G.d.F., Portelinha, T.C.G., Yves, A., Valadão, R.M., Cabrera, M.R., Florencia David, M., and Miorando, P.S. Vulnerable (VU).

Actinemys marmorata. Bury, R.B., Germano, D.J., and Ashton, D.T. Vulnerable (VU).

Actinemys pallida. Germano, D.J., Bury, R.B., and Valdez-Villavicencio, J.H. Endangered (EN).

Chelonoidis carbonarius. Ceballos, C.P., Vinke, S., Vinke, T., Rojano Bolaño, C., Morcatty, T.Q., Escalona, T., and Gallego-García, N. Endangered (EN).

Chelonoidis chilensis. Kubisch, E., Alcalde, L., and Waller, T. Endangered (EN).

Chelonoidis denticulatus. Tavares, A.S., Morcatty, T.Q., Rojas-Runjaic, F.J.M., Rojano Bolaño, C., Fagundes, C.K., and Valadão, R.M. Endangered (EN).

Chelus fimbriata. Portelinha, T.C.G., Marques, T.S., Cunha, F.A.G., Brito, E.S., Valadão, R., Portilla, J.R.C., Páez, V.P., and Lamar, W.W. Least Concern (LC).

Chelus orinocensis. Morales-Betancourt, M.A., Lasso, C.A., Rojas-Runjaic, F.J.M. Least Concern (LC).

Chelydra acutirostris. Young-Valencia, K., Carr, J.L., Giraldo, A., Forero Medina, G., Botero Botero, A., and Ortega Guío, A. Near Threatened (NT).

Chelydra rossignonii. Reyes-Grajales, E., Walde, A.D., and Munscher, E.C. Near Threatened (NT).

Chrysemys dorsalis. Glorioso, B.M., Butterfield, B.P., and Munscher, E.C. Least Concern (LC).

Chrysemys picta. Moldowan, P.D. Least Concern (LC).

Claudius angustatus. Reyes-Grajales, E., Reynoso-Rosales, V.H., Vásquez-Cruz, M.L., Rivera Arroyo, R.C., Munscher, E., and Walde, A.D. Endangered (EN).

Clemmys guttata. Jones, M.T., Willey, L.L., Litzgus, J.D., Chandler, H.C., Howell, H.J., Parren, M.K., Lipps, Jr., G.J., Lee, Y.M., Coury, M., Erb, L., and Roberts, H.P. Endangered (EN).

Deirochelys reticularia. Hollender, E.C., McKnight, D., and Ligon, D. Near Threatened (NT).
[*Deirochelys reticularia reticularia*]. Least Concern (LC).
[*Deirochelys reticularia chrysea*]. Least Concern (LC).
[*Deirochelys reticularia miaria*]. Endangered (EN).

Dermatemys mawii. Lesher-Gordillo, J., Gallardo-Alvarez, M., Hernández-Marín, A., Reyes-Grajales, E., McKnight, D., Ligon, D., Marlin, J., Barrett, H., and Zenteno-Rúiz, C. Critically Endangered (CR).

Emydoidea blandingii. Mifsud, D.A., McGuire, J.M., Congdon, J.D., Harding, J.H., Olson, C., and Pappas, M.J. Endangered (EN).

Glyptemys insculpta. Akre, T.B.S., Bozek, Q.E.D., Polinski, C.R., Earle, M.P., and Jones, M.T. Endangered (EN).

Glyptemys muhlenbergii. Munscher, E.C., Erb, L., Knoerr, M.L., Pignatelli III, J., Zappalorti, R., Zarate, B., and Walde, A.D. Critically Endangered (CR).

Gopherus berlandieri. Mali, I. and Forstner, M.R.J. Near Threatened (NT).

Gopherus polyphemus. Stemle, L.R. and Howell, H.J. Critically Endangered (CR).

Graptemys caglei. Forstner, M.R.J. and Mali, I. Endangered (EN).

Graptemys flavimaculata. Brown, G.J., Pearson, L.S., and Selman, W. Vulnerable (VU).

Graptemys geographica. Pitt, A.L. and Brown, G.J. Near Threatened (NT).

Graptemys nigrinoda. Godwin, J.C. and Selman, W. Least Concern (LC).

Graptemys oculifera. Selman, W., Jones, R.L., and Jaunsen, M. Endangered (EN).

Graptemys ouachitensis. Lindeman, P.V. Least Concern (LC).

Graptemys pseudogeographica. Lindeman, P.V. Least Concern (LC).

Graptemys sabinensis. Lindeman, P.V. Least Concern (LC).

Graptemys versa. Lindeman, P.V. Least Concern (LC).

Hydromedusa maximiliani. Famelli, S., Souza, F.L., Valadão, R.M., and Brito, E.S. Endangered (EN).

Hydromedusa tectifera. Alcalde, L., Fagundes, C.K., and Carreira, S. Least Concern (LC).

Kinixys erosa. Luiselli, L., Segniagbeto, G.H., Behangana, M., McGovern, P., Diagne, T., Eniang, E.A., and Petrozzi, F. Endangered (EN).

Kinosternon acutum. Reyes-Grajales, E., Munscher, E.C., Walde, A.D., and Iverson, J.B. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon alamosae. Lara Resendiz, R.A. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon angustipons. Rhodin, A.G.J., Villegas Raygoza, B.Y., Folt, B., and Mittermeier, R.A. Vulnerable (VU).

Kinosternon cora. Loc-Barragán, J.A., Woolrich-Piña, G.A., López-Luna, M.A., and Iverson, J.B. Endangered (EN).

Kinosternon dunni. Forero Medina, G., Rentería-Moreno, E., Iverson, J.B., and Echavarría, M. Endangered (EN).

Kinosternon durangoense. Woolrich-Piña, G.A., Castañeda Gaytán, G., Rhodin, A.G.J., Iverson, J.B., and van Dijk, P.P. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon herrerai. López-Luna, M.A. and Cázares-Hernández, E. Near Threatened (NT).

Kinosternon hirtipes. Macip-Ríos, R. and Iverson, J.B. Vulnerable (VU).

[*Kinosternon hirtipes hirtipes*]. Critically Endangered (CR).
[*Kinosternon hirtipes chapalaense*]. Critically Endangered (CR).
[*Kinosternon hirtipes magdalense*]. Critically Endangered (CR).
[*Kinosternon hirtipes megacephalum*]. Extinct (EX).
[*Kinosternon hirtipes murrayi*]. Near Threatened (NT).
[*Kinosternon hirtipes tarascense*]. Critically Endangered (CR).

Kinosternon integrum. Macip-Ríos, R. and Iverson, J.B. Least Concern (LC).

Kinosternon leucostomum. Páez, V.P., Bock, B.C., Iverson, J.B., Cisneros-Heredia, D.F., Macip-Ríos, R., and Giraldo, A. Least Concern (LC).

Kinosternon oaxacae. Macip-Ríos, R. Least Concern (LC).

Kinosternon scorpioides. Forero Medina, G., Iverson, J.B., Hurtado-Gómez, J.P., López-Luna, M.A., van Dijk, P.P., and Rhodin, A.G.J. Least Concern (LC).

Mesoclemmys dahli. Gallego-García, N. and Forero-Medina, G. Critically Endangered (CR).

Mesoclemmys gibba. Ettmar, S. Least Concern (LC).

Mesoclemmys nasuta. Cunha, F.A.G., Brito, E.S., and Valadão, R.M. Data Deficient (DD).

Mesoclemmys perplexa. Bock, B.C., Páez, V.P., Carvalho, V.T. de, and Rhodin, A.G.J. Data Deficient (DD).

Mesoclemmys raniceps. Cunha, F.A.G., Vasconcelos, V., Viana, P., Brito, E.S., and Valadão, R.M. Least Concern (LC).

Mesoclemmys tuberculata. Santana, D.O. and Cunha, F.A.G. Least Concern (LC).

Mesoclemmys vanderhaegei. Brito, E.S., Valadão, R.M., Cunha, F., Vinke, S., Vinke, T., Cabrera, M.R., Marques, T.S., Carvajal-Bacarreza, P., and Strüssmann, C. Vulnerable (VU).

Mesoclemmys wermuthi. Cunha, F.A.G., Brito, E.S., Valadão, R.M., Oliveira, M., and Vasconcelos, V. Data Deficient (DD).

Mesoclemmys zuliae. Rivas, G.A., Lasso-Alcalá, O., Barros, T.R., Franklin, C.J., Sibira, L.E., Viloria, A.L., Escalona, T., and Páez, V.P. Critically Endangered (CR).

Pelodiscus variegatus. Luiselli, L., Pham, T.V., and Rhodin, A.G.J. Near Threatened (NT).

Peltocephalus dumerilianus. Gentil, E., de Medeiros, L.A., Morales-Betancourt, M.A., Maffei, F., and Da Silveira, R. Vulnerable (VU).

Phrynops geoffroanus. Páez, V.P., Bock, B.C., Rhodin, A.G.J., Mittermeier, R.A., Cisneros-Heredia, D.F., and Rocha e Silva, R.d. Least Concern (LC).

Phrynops hilarii. Alcalde, L., Carreira, S., and Fagundes, C.K. Least Concern (LC).

Platemys platycephala. Cunha, F.A.G., Brito, E.S., Valadão, R.M., and Rhodin, A.G.J. Least Concern (LC).

Podocnemis erythrocephala. Andrade, P.C.M., Rojas-Runjaic, F.J.M., Ferrara, C.R., Bernhard, R., and Vogt, R.C. Vulnerable (VU).

Podocnemis expansa. Ferrara, C.R., Fagundes, C.K., Forero-Medina, G., Brito, E.S., Miorando, P.S., Lacava, R., Gomes Lustosa, A.P., Hernández, O., Cueva, R., Millar, N., Dewynter, M., Páez, V.P., Carvajal, P., and Domínguez, A.L. Endangered (EN).

Podocnemis sextuberculata. Miorando, P.S., Lacava, R.V., Ferrara, C.R., Andrade, P., and Valadao, R.M. Endangered (EN).

Podocnemis unifilis. Escalona, T., Norris, D., de Thoisy, B., Carvajal-Bacarreza, P., Cueva, R., Conway-Gómez, K., Andrade, P., Ouboter, P.E., and Acebey-Quiroga, S. Vulnerable (VU).

Podocnemis vogli. Páez, V.P., Rivas, G.A., Rojas-Runjaic, F.J.M., Bock, B.C., Hernández, O., Lasso, C.A., Lasso-Alcalá, O., Morales-Betancourt, M.A., and Escalona, T. Vulnerable (VU).

Pseudemys alabamensis. Godwin, J.C. and Pearson, L.S. Endangered (EN).

Pseudemys concinna. Johnston, G.R. and Godwin, C.D. Least Concern (LC).

Pseudemys concinna suwanniensis. Johnston, G.R. and Godwin, C.D. Vulnerable (VU).

Pseudemys gorzugi. Mali, I. and Forstner, M.R.J. Vulnerable (VU).

Pseudemys nelsoni. Munscher, E.C., Butterfield, B.P., Hauge, B., Morrison, M., and Walde, A.D. Least Concern (LC).

Pseudemys peninsularis. Munscher, E.C., Butterfield, B.P., Hauge, B., Morrison, M., and Walde, A.D. Least Concern (LC).

Rhinemys rufipes. Ferrara, C.R., Brito, E.S., Forero-Medina, G., Cunha, F., and Vogt, R.C. Least Concern (LC).

Rhinoclemmys annulata. Carr, J.L. and Giraldo, A. Near Threatened (NT).

Rhinoclemmys areolata. Butterfield, T.G., Monsiváis-Molina, A., Díaz-Gamboa, L.F., Willey, L.L., Jones, M.T., and Platt, S.G. Least Concern (LC).

Rhinoclemmys funerea. Folt, B., van Dijk, P.P., Rhodin, A.G.J., and Such, R. Least Concern (LC).

Rhinoclemmys melanosterna. Páez, V.P., Carr, J.L., Bock, B.C., Garcés-Restrepo, M.F., Galvis-Rizo, C.A., Giraldo, A., and Echeverri-García, L.P. Near Threatened (NT).

Rhinoclemmys nasuta. Carr, J.L., Garcés-Restrepo, M.F., and Giraldo, A. Vulnerable (VU).

Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima. Butterfield, T.G., Iverson, J.B., and Cupul-Magaña, F.G. Near Threatened (NT).

Rhinoclemmys rubida. Holcomb, K.L. and Butterfield, T.G. Vulnerable (VU).

Staurotypus salvinii. Reyes-Grajales, E., Walde, A., Iverson, J.B., and Munscher, E. Endangered (EN).

Staurotypus triporcatus. Reyes-Grajales, E., Reynoso-Rosales, V.H., Vásquez Cruz, M.L., Rivera Arroyo, R.C., Munscher, E., and Walde, A.D. Vulnerable (VU).

Terrapene coahuila. Castañeda Gaytán, G., Stanford, C.B., Valenzuela-Ceballos, S., and Rhodin, A.G.J. Critically Endangered (CR).

Terrapene mexicana. Castañeda Gaytán, G., García-Velez, C., Fernández-Badillo, L., Valencia-Herverth, R., and Stanford, C.B. Vulnerable (VU).

Terrapene nelsoni. Butterfield, T.G., Espinosa, S., Matias-Palafox, S., Dominguéz-Pompa, A., Monsiváis-Molina, A., García-Caballero, F., and Uc-Uc, M. Near Threatened (NT).

Terrapene ornata. Iverson, J.B. Near Threatened (NT).

Terrapene yucatana. Jones, M.T., Uc-Uc, M., Butterfield, T., Willey, L.L., and Díaz-Gamboa, L. Endangered (EN).

Trachemys adiutrix. Barreto, L.N., Sousa Ribeiro, L.E.d., and Bock, B.C. Near Threatened (NT).

Trachemys callirostris. Bock, B.C., Barros, T.R., Guada, H.J., Rivas, G., Hernández, O., Páez, V.P., Rojas-Runjaic, F.J.M., Camargo Siliet, E., and Cortés-Duque, J. Vulnerable (VU).
[*Trachemys callirostris callirostris*]. Vulnerable (VU).
[*Trachemys callirostris chichiriviche*]. Endangered (EN).

Trachemys dorbigni. Fagundes, C.K., Alcalde, L., Carreira, S., Fallabrino, A., Estrades, A., Florencia David, M., Famelli, S., and

Lustosa, A.P. Near Threatened (NT).
Trachemys grayi. Machkour-M'Rabet, S., Gallardo Alvarez, M.I., Lesher-Gordillo, J., and Bock, B.C. Least Concern (LC).
Trachemys hartwegi. Villegas Raygoza, B.Y., Rhodin, A.G.J., and Castañeda Gaytán, G. Vulnerable (VU).
Trachemys medemi. Vargas-Ramírez, M., Cuadrado-Ríos, S., Gaviria-Hernández, J., and Ceballos, C.P. Endangered (EN).
Trachemys nebulosa. Cupul-Magaña, F.G., Flores-Guerrero, U.S., Nolasco-Luna, J.R., and Escobedo-Galván, A.H. Vulnerable (VU).
Trachemys ornata. Cupul-Magaña, F.G., Flores-Guerrero, U.S., Nolasco-Luna, J.R., and Escobedo-Galván, A.H. Near Threatened (NT).
Trachemys scripta. Morrison, M., Butterfield, B.P., Pignatelli III, J., Walde, A.D., and Munscher, E.C. Least Concern (LC).
Trachemys taylori. Valenzuela-Ceballos, S., Stanford, C.B., and Castañeda Gaytán, G. Critically Endangered (CR).
Trachemys terrapen. Parham, J.F. and Wilson, B.S. Critically Endangered (CR).
Trachemys venusta. Bock, B.C., Cupul-Magaña, F.G., Páez, V.P., Reyes-Grajales, E., and van Dijk, P.P. Least Concern (LC).
Trachemys yaquia. Reyes-Grajales, E., García-Caballero, F., and Butterfield, T. Data Deficient (DD).

IUCN Red List Turtle Assessments Under Review as of December 2025

Cuora praschagi. Blanck, T.
Geoemyda japonica. Bell, Z.W., Narukiyo, A., and Rouot, S.
Myuchelys georgesi. Spencer, R.J., Georges, A., Bower, D.S., Petrov, K., Pham, T.V., Johnson, S. , Steed, A., Ormond, C., and Ruming, S.
Pseudemys rubriventris. Jones, M.T. and Regosin, J.V.
Pseudemys texana. Gordon, M., DeChellis, D., Hammerbach, G., Ricardez, V., Franklin, C.J., Munscher, E.C., and Meik, J.
Trachemys decorata. Fokidis, H.B., Incháustegui, S.J., and Feliz, P.
Trachemys decussata. Díaz, L.M., Fong, A., Arias, A., González, A., Sampedro, A., and Hurtado, A.
Trachemys gaigeae. Gordon, M., DeChellis, D., Hammerbach, G., Ricardez, V., and Franklin, C.J.
Trachemys stejnegeri. Fokidis, H.B., Incháustegui, S.J., and Feliz, P.

IUCN Green Status Assessments for Turtles and Tortoises in 2024–2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin, Vivian P. Páez, Peter Paul van Dijk, and Craig B. Stanford

The following 3 Green Status species assessments were published on the IUCN Red List website (https://www.iucnredlist.org/) in 2024 and 2025.

Chelodina mccordi (Green Status Assessment). Horne, B.D. and Bennett, E.L. 2025. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2025: e.T123814489A12381448920251. Critically Depleted (CD).
Geochelone platynota (Green Status Assessment). Horne, B.D., Platt, S.G., and Bennett, E.L. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T9013A901320242. Critically Depleted (CD).
Gopherus flavomarginatus (Green Status Assessment). van Dijk, P.P. and Castañeda Gaytán, G. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2024: e.T9402A940220242. Largely Depleted (LD).

CITES CoP20: Turtle Developments at the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

Peter Paul van Dijk

The twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, in short CITES CoP20, was held on the outskirts of the historic Silk Route city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from November 24th to December 5th, 2025.

Happening every three years, the CoP is where government delegations debate and confirm or decline changes to the species listed in the CITES Appendices, as well as deliberate on numerous aspects of the implementation of the Convention in the 184 signatory countries. Much of the preparation work for CoP was done during the meetings of the Animals, Plants, and Standing Committees in the preceding two years; but additional time to reflect, and the involvement of many more people (some 3500 people were registered to attend CoP20) meant that further discussion and refinement was inevitable.

CITES has proven crucial for trade regulation and therefore the conservation of turtles and tortoises, from its initial inclusion of several marine turtle and tortoise species when it first came into force 50 years ago, to current safeguards on the international trade of most species. Indicating the significance of CITES for turtle conservation, at least eight TFTSG members participated in the meeting as government or observer delegation members.

As regards changes to the CITES Appendices, CoP20 was fairly low-key for tortoises and freshwater turtles: only a single proposal, to transfer the West African Hingeback Tortoise *Kinixys homeana* from Appendix II to Appendix I, was submitted, and it was adopted by consensus, and will come into effect on March 5th, 2026.

Other agenda topics included a report on Madagascar's ongoing efforts to address its tortoise poaching crisis, resulting in a call for a broader review of illegal turtle trade worldwide, to better understand the changing illegal trade dynamics exemplified by, for example, the huge turtle seizures in Mexico in recent years.

The topic of trade in reptile (and other) species that are endemic to a single country which has never provided permission for legal exports has become a topic of concern in recent years, and CoP20 took a number of Decisions to evaluate its significance and impacts. While the conversations at the CITES Committee meetings were diplomatic, everyone in the conversation knows that the underlying problem is the widespread 'suitcasing' of illegally caught wild animals to countries with thriving pet collector communities, and laundering such animals as allegedly captive-bred, and/or commercializing the trade in captive-bred offspring from illegally-acquired original founder animals.

In parallel, the parties took steps towards greater transparency of the captive breeding and commercial trade of specimens of species listed in Appendix I, with greater emphasis on the registration of facilities breeding such species before commercial exports are permitted; this is a development that will be felt in particular in the European Union, where the absence of internal trade regulations and border controls, and a patchwork of local regulations, have traditionally meant that such facilities are largely beyond supervision.

The CITES Standing Committee meets for a full day before a CoP, and holds a short meeting after the close of a CoP; normally these meetings take care of administrative arrangements, but at SC79 and SC80, the Committee reviewed and refined regulatory measures concerning the export of the Asian Steppe Tortoise, *Testudo (Agrionemys) horsfieldii*, from wild and farmed sources in Uzbekistan, resulting in conservative export quotas and a maximum size limit of 12 cm SCL.

As we left Samarkand, the CITES Committees, Parties, and Observers have a huge set of Resolutions and Decisions to address in the coming years, whose progress will be evaluated, discussed and moved forward at CoP21, which will be held in 2028 in Panama.

Turtle Conservation and Biology Behler and Pritchard Awards in 2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin, Rick Hudson, Vivian P. Páez, Peter Paul van Dijk, and Andrew D. Walde

Behler Award. — The Behler Turtle Conservation Award (https://iucn-tftsg.org/behler/) is a major annual international award honoring excellence and outstanding contributions in the field of tortoise and freshwater turtle conservation and biology, and leadership in the international chelonian conservation and biology community. It is considered the "Nobel Prize" of turtle conservation and biology and is co-presented by the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Survival Alliance, Turtle Conservancy, and Turtle Conservation Fund, the four organizations most closely tied to the turtle conservation legacy of John Behler. Additional supporters of the award this year were Re:wild, Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, Chelonian Research Foundation, Congdon-Dickson Turtle Ecology Fund, George Meyer, Brett Stearns, Deborah Behler, Judith Behler Howells, Whit Gibbons, and Pat and Alan Koval. The award is based on open community nominations and final selection by the large and diverse Behler–Pritchard Award Committee, co-chaired by Anders Rhodin and Rick Hudson, with vice-chairs Vivian Páez, Peter Paul van Dijk, and Andrew Walde.

Congratulations to Arthur Georges who was honored with the 20th Behler Turtle Conservation Award at the 23rd Annual TSA / TFTSG Symposium on the Conservation of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in August.


– Commemorating John Behler's Legacy –

Co-Presented by IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Survival Alliance, Turtle Conservancy, and Turtle Conservation Fund

Behler Turtle Conservation Award

Honoring Excellence, Outstanding Contributions, and Leadership in the International Chelonian Conservation and Biology Communities

Arthur Georges

20th Annual Award – 2025

Selected by the Behler / Pritchard Award Committee

Presented at the 23rd Annual Symposium on Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles

Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA, 24 July 2025

Co-Sponsored by

re:wild, Andrew Sabin Family Foundation, Chelonian Research Foundation, Congdon-Dickson Turtle Ecology Fund, George Meyer, Brett Stearns, Judith Behler Howells, Deborah Behler, Whit Gibbons, and Pat & Alan Koval

Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Spec. Gr. Anders G.J. Rhodin, *Chair Emeritus*

Turtle Survival Alliance Rick Hudson, *President Emeritus*

Arthur Georges is an Australian ecologist and herpetologist with the University of Canberra. Raised in Queensland, he studied mathematics at the University of Queensland until lured north by physicist Harry Messel as a volunteer on the crocodile research program in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. There he discovered the delights of field herpetology. Under the influence of Graeme Webb, he changed fields in his honors year to study head-body temperature differences in skinks. A PhD on the turtles of Fraser Island cemented the transition, and there was no looking back. His research interests now lie in the evolution, ecology, and systematics of Australian reptiles and, in particular, freshwater turtles. A fundamental interest in these fascinating animals takes him into the field and the laboratory to learn more of their biology and to apply what he has learned in solving contemporary challenges for their conservation. His work has taken him to remote places, including Arnhem Land and the wilds of Papua New Guinea. He has published over 200 papers and has served as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science at the University of Canberra and as President of the Australasian Wildlife Management Society and the Australian Society of Herpetologists. For many years he provided advice on threatened species and ecosystems to the Australian government as Chair of the ACT Scientific Committee. He is a founding Board Member of the Piku Biodiversity Network which coordinates conservation work in Papua New Guinea, focused especially on freshwater turtles. Arthur is also a member of the Advisory Review Board for the Turtle Taxonomy Fund and a member of the Turtle Taxonomy Working Group and a co-author of recent editions of the *Turtles of the World Checklist and Atlas*. He was recently elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. He is a well-respected member of our global chelonian conservation and biology community and highly deserving of the Behler Turtle Conservation Award.

Arthur Georges

Pritchard Awards. — The Pritchard Turtle Conservation Lifetime Achievement Awards (also at https://iucn-tftsg.org/behler/) honor somewhat older or retired later-career individuals who have made major and significant contributions to the turtle conservation and biology community. These awards are also based on open community nominations and final selection by the Behler–Pritchard Award Committee.

Congratulations to John Carr, Tint Lwin, Ross Kiester, and Dave Collins, who were honored with Pritchard Turtle Conservation Lifetime Achievement Awards at the 23rd Annual TSA / TFTSG Symposium on the Conservation of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in August.

John Carr

Tint Lwin

John Carr earned a Masters in wildlife and fisheries science from Texas A&M University and a PhD in zoology from Southern Illinois University. He worked at Conservation International with Russ Mittermeier as a Research Scientist and Managing Editor of Conservation Biology Publications. He subsequently taught biology at the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM), focusing on anatomy, herpetology, and field biology, while directing 30+ thesis projects. He is also an International Research Associate at the Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia, in the Animal Ecology Research Group. He has worked on turtle ecology and on taxonomy of geoemydids, notably *Rhinoclemmys*. He is a long-term member of the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group. His field studies have included many local species in Louisiana and Texas, plus *Kinosternon*, *Chelydra*, and *Rhinoclemmys* in Mexico, Colombia, and Ecuador. Major collaborative works have included *Las Tortugas y los Cocodrilianos de los Países Andinos del Trópico* [*The Turtles and Crocodilians of the Tropical Andean Countries*], *Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana*, and editing Special Issues of Acta Biológica Colombiana (*Tortugas de Colombia*) and Southeastern Naturalist (*Biology and Conservation of Alligator Snapping Turtles*). Currently, he serves as Professor Emeritus of Biology at ULM.

Tint Lwin is a wildlife veterinarian and husbandry specialist from Myanmar. He began his career working in a veterinary clinic in Myanmar before joining Mandalay Zoo. He trained in the breeding and conservation of endangered species at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust in the UK and earned a Master's degree in Environmental Studies and a Master of Research degree from Mandalay University in Myanmar. In 2001, he trained on captive breeding and conservation of freshwater turtles and tortoises at Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary, led by Wildlife Conservation Society. This experience led him to study reptile medicine and turtle research methods at the Bronx Zoo in New York. He has participated in turtle surveys in Myanmar led by Gerald Kuchling and Steve Platt. In 2003, Kuchling and he established the assurance colony for the Burmese Roofed Turtle, *Batagur trivittata*, at Mandalay Zoo,

Ross Kiester

Dave Collins

which he later managed with the support of the WCS Myanmar Program and Turtle Survival Alliance. Today, this assurance colony successfully produces 150–200 hatchlings annually. In 2022, WCS and TSA left Myanmar due to political upheaval, and he joined the Myanmar Biodiversity Fund, where he continues to fulfill the same conservation and veterinary responsibilities as previously.

Ross Kiester grew up in southern California in the 1950s with a passion for turtles, and had a large living collection. At the time, southern California was a wonderful place to be interested in field work, and the herpetological community was small but helpful. Ron Beltz, in particular, encouraged his interests, as did Bayard Brattstrom. Ross attended the University of California at Berkeley and traveled to Mexico, Costa Rica, the Lesser Antilles, and the Galapagos with colleagues such as Ted Papenfuss and George Gorman. He worked as a research and teaching assistant to Robert Stebbins in herpetology. After a year in New York at The Rockefeller University, he earned a PhD at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard under E.E. Williams. Subsequently, he taught and did turtle research at the University of Chicago and Tulane University, with a focus on working with Charles and Elizabeth Schwartz on the Three-toed Box Turtle. He then worked for the USDA Forest Service and also did field work in Madagascar on the Ploughshare Tortoise and the turtle trade in Vietnam. Both of these projects were with Jim Juvik, with whom he continues to work as a Senior Conservation Scientist at the Turtle Conservancy.

Dave Collins has had a lifelong interest in turtles. In his first job, as a field biologist in upstate New York in the early 1970s, he discovered a Wood Turtle population that he has monitored ever since. He then began a long career with zoos and aquariums. First, with the Jacksonville Zoo in Florida, then to New York to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, where he added a Bog Turtle Conservation Program. In 1991 he moved south again to be part of the opening of the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga where he stayed for the

next 30 years. There he was able to showcase the world of turtles to millions of visitors and lead a number of conservation initiatives for turtles. He initiated the AZA SAFE American Turtle Program in 2020; as a leader of the program he confronted the growing crisis facing North American turtles by the illegal international trade and he joined the Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtles as the Co-chair of the Confiscation and Repatriation Working Group. Dave joined the Turtle Survival Alliance team in 2021 focused on expanding TSA conservation of North American native species with particular emphasis on combatting illegal trade.

Other Turtle Awards in 2025

Craig B. Stanford, Natalia Gallego-García, and Anders G.J. Rhodin

Brian Henen. In January 2025, Brian T. Henen received a Navy Civilian Service Commendation Medal, in honor of helping to secure California's first Sentinel Landscape designation in May 2024, forming a multi-agency and multi-stakeholder partnership for 3.5 million acres of Mojave Desert for the conservation of Mojave Desert Tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*), and 40 other threatened or endangered plant and animal species. The commendation also recognized his partnering, as a Department of Navy US Marine Corp civilian, to secure a $1.5 million grant from the America the Beautiful Challenge to advance recovery actions for the Mojave Desert Tortoise. This funding was awarded at the end of 2024.

The Navy Civilian Service Commendation Medal is the fourth highest award for Navy civilians, including Marine Corps civilians. Congratulations to Brian for this most prestigous award and for his success in helping to secure additional protected areas for the Mojave Desert Tortoise.

Jeff Lovich. Jeffrey E. Lovich will be one of 10 people recognized as a "Conservation Hero" at the 5th Annual International Desert Conservation Summit hosted by The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens on January 16-18, 2026 in Palm Desert, California (https://www.livingdesert.org/events/international-desert-conservation-summit/2026-01-16/). He is being recognized for his research on Mojave Desert Tortoises and Southwestern Pond Turtles in the southern California desert, as well as the effects of utility-scale renewable energy development on wildlife in the region.

Brian Henen

Jeff Lovich

2025 News from TFTSG Members

Australia

From Deb Bower and colleagues:

Deppe, A., Bower, D., McKnight, D., and Ryder, D. 2025. The response of freshwater turtles to changing refugia. Masters Thesis. University of New England.

Dowling, J., Bower, D., and Nordberg, E. 2025. Ninja turtles: an experimental evaluation of potential anthropogenic barriers to movement for a freshwater turtle. Journal of Zoology 325(2): 124-134.

Hunter, C., Bower, D.S., Peters, R.A., Spencer, R.J., Pizzatto, L., and Van Dyke, J.U. 2025. Mitigating fox predation on freshwater turtle nests: comparing effectiveness of three in situ protection methods. Ecology and Evolution 15(9): e72121.

McKnight, D.T., Bower, D.S., Ariel, E., Beatty, S., Clulow, S., Connell, M., Deppe, A.R., Doody, S., Freeman, A., and Georges, A. 2025. Does a lack of juveniles indicate a threat? Understanding body size distributions in a group of long-lived vertebrates. Journal of Animal Ecology 94(10):1962-1982.

Streeting, L.M., Dillon, M.L., McKnight, D.T., McDonald, P.G., Watson, S., Soderquist, T.R., and Bower, D.S. 2025. Tracking tiny turtles—movement, survival, and habitat use of hatchling Western Saw-Shelled Turtles (*Myuchelys bellii*) during their first two weeks in the wild. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 35(10):e70231.

Sullivan, K., Bower, D., and Nordberg, E. 2025. Effects of water quality on the health and behaviour of Australian freshwater turtles. Masters Thesis, University of New England.

Sullivan, K., Nordberg, E.J., Smith, K., and Bower, D.S. 2025. Water quality preferences of an Australian freshwater turtle. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 35(3):e70097.

From Gerald Kuchling:

Kehlmaier, C., Fritz, U., and Kuchling, G. 2025. The taxonomic quagmire of northern Australian snakenecked turtles (Testudines: Chelidae): *Chelodina kuchlingi*—extinct or hiding in plain sight? Vertebrate Zoology 75:127–145.

From Thong Van Pham:

Since 2013, long-term field surveys in the Manning River catchment have resulted in nearly 900 Manning River turtles (Myuchelys purvisi) being captured, marked, and released, with approximately 100 individuals recaptured over multiple years. As part of my PhD research, I am building on this dataset by integrating capture–recapture information with DNA-based analyses to clarify population structure across the catchment. These combined data are being used to strengthen conservation planning, inform captive breeding management, and guide future release and recovery programs for this unique and endangered turtle.

Thong Van Pham

Belize

From the BFREE team:

Henry, J., Deneau, J., Gibbons, P., Skibsted, M., Hall, B., Pop, T., Siders, Z., Walde, A.D., and Munscher, E. 2025. The use of fluorescent powdered pigments as a tracking technique for hatchling turtles in Belize. Herpetology Notes 18: 455-462. https://herpetologynotes.org/index.php/hn/article/view/43.

McAvinchey, C., Munscher, M., Butterfield, B., Hootman, T., Hall, B., Cozad, R., Pop, T., Pignatelli, J.J., Barrett, H.A., Marlin, J.A., Siders, Z.A., and Walde, A.D. 2025. Preliminary assessment of movements and habitat use of the Tabasco Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon acutum* Gray, 1831, in a tropical rainforest in Belize. Herpetology Notes 18:891-901. https://herpetologynotes.org/index.php/hn/article/view/90.

Dubon, J., Pop, T., Barrett, H.A., Marlin, J.A., Walde, A.D., and Munscher, E. 2025. Observations on courtship and nesting behavior of the Central American River Turtle *Dermatemys mawii* Gray, 1847 at the Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE). Herpetology Notes 18:47-51. https://www.biotaxa.org/hn/article/view/85060.

Brazil

From Elizângela Brito:

Brito, E.S., Valadão, R.M., Malvasio, A., Freitas, A.F.F., Muniz, F.L., Molina, F.B., Souza, F.L., Moura, G.J.B., Costa, H.C., Bassetti, L.a.B., Friol, N.R., Rocha, S.B., Gomides, S.C., Marques, T.S., and Portelinha, T.C.G. 2025. Quelônios Continentais e Crocodilianos do Brasil. Recife: Agência Estadual de Meio Ambiente do Estado de Pernambuco, 350 pp. It is open access; the pdf is available for free download at https://zenodo.org/records/16738734.

From Thiago Marques and colleagues:

Spotlight on Brazilian Conservation: The Maximilian's Snake-necked Turtle Project. The Maximilian's Snake-necked Turtle Project is a vital conservation initiative focused on the endemic and endangered *Hydromedusa maximiliani*. This unique freshwater turtle is a flagship species of the threatened Atlantic Rainforest in southeastern Brazil.

The project is under the general coordination of Dr. Thiago Simon Marques from University of Sorocaba, Brazil, and carried out by a dedicated team composed of other group members and various specialists. Throughout 2025, the project team has been conducting intensive field activities, including population structure analysis, habitat assessment, genetics and health analyses. The project's work is crucial for informing conservation strategies to protect this chelonian.

The team invites the TFTSG community to follow their important work and support their efforts. On Instagram: @cagadodaserra.

https://www.instagram.com/cagadodaserra?igsh=cGhxdTkxbm-4wN29x

Some team members involved in the fieldwork (*left to right*): **Thiago Marques; Luis Bassetti; Barbara Protocevich; André Yves, and Thiago Portelinha**.

Canada

From Jackie Litzgus:

Armstrong, D., M. Keevil, P. Moldowan, N. Rollinson, J. Litzgus, and R. Brooks. 2025. Is individual heterogeneity in growth rates relevant to population dynamics of long-lived reptiles? Ecology 106:e70185. https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.70185.

Bouffard, M.S., M. Bottini, D.P. Armstrong, and J.D. Litzgus. 2025. Demography of a population of Spotted Turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) inhabiting a mosquito-control ditched salt marsh on Long Island, New York. Northeastern Naturalist 32(4):483-492.

Moldowan, P., M. Keevil, S. Lamond, P. Mills, and J.D. Litzgus. 2025. Long distance movement and northern extralimital records of Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*). Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(2) (in press).

Rouleau, C., J.D. Litzgus, N. Rollinson, and J.L. Riley. 2025. Basking buddies: factors influencing social associations in basking aggregations of turtles. Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology (in press).

Wijewardena, T., C. Drader, D.M.L. Gasbarrini, J.D. Litzgus, K. Kerr, and N. Mandrak. 2025. Mass mortality in a community of headstarted (*Emydoidea blandingii*) and naturally-occurring (*Chrysemys picta marginata*) freshwater turtles in protected urban wetlands. Ichthyology & Herpetology 113(1):75-83, doi.org/10.1643/h2024045.

Wijewardena, T., N. Mandrak, A. Lentini, and J.D. Litzgus. 2025. Demographic assessment of a freshwater turtle assemblage in an urban protected area in the context of ongoing threats and a mass-mortality event. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):90-101. doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1641.1.

China

From Shi Haitao and colleagues:

Yuan, X., Hu, Q., Bu, R., Yang, J., Lin, L., and Shi, H. 2025. Home range of the endangered Beale's Eyed Turtle (*Sacalia bealei*) and the implications for conservation. Ecology and Evolution 15:e71520.

Yuan, X., Q. Hu, R. Bu, J. Yang, L. Lin , and H. Shi. 2025. Microhabitat selection by the Beale's eyed turtle (*Sacalia bealei*) and conservation implications. Global Ecology and Conservation 60:e03607.

Ye, Z., R. Bu, and H. Shi. 2025. Nest site selection and nesting behavior of Reeves' Turtle (*Mauremys reevesii*) in Qichun County, Hubei Province, China. Ecology and Evolution https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.71630.

Hou, X. and H. Shi. 2025. Amur Softshell Turtle (*Pelodiscus maackii*) population size, structure, and spatial distribution. Animals 15(2):255. https://doi.org/10.3390/ani15020255.

Colombia

From Vivian Páez and colleagues:

Páez, V.P., Bock, B.C., and Cartagena-Otálvaro, V.M. 2025. Life history characteristics of the Colombian Wood Turtle, *Rhinoclemmys melanosterna* (Gray, 1861), in the middle Magdalena River, Colombia. Herpetology Notes 18:921–930.

Vivian Páez, with the help of Andrea Echeverry-Alcendra, Brian Bock, John Carr, and other turtle biologists from Colombia, organized a turtle symposium as part of the IV Congreso Colombiano de Herpetología in Santa Marta in December. There were more than 35 presentations and posters, as well as two international keynote speakers, Nicole Valenzuela and Rodrigo Macip-Rios.

Viviana Cartagena and Vivian Páez began a project on the demography and reproductive ecology of *Podocnemis lewyana* in the upper Magdalena River, with funding from a solar energy company. The project will hopefully establish long-term monitoring for the species in this region and an action plan to help protect it in the area where the company operates.

Viviana Cartagena and Vivian Páez conducted an ecological project on *Chelonoidis carbonarius* in the llanos region of Colombia (Casanare Department), funded by the local NGO Cunaguaro. Publications related to this project are currently in preparation.

India

From Bhabani Sankar Mohapatra:

Mohapatra, B.S., Behera, S., Sahu, H.K., Mishra, D., Nayak,

S., Behera, S. 2025. Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises: Echoes from the Sacred Places of Odisha. Odisha Biodiversity Board, 76 pp. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/395475816_Freshwater_Turtles_and_Tortoises_Echoes_from_the_Sacred_Places_of_Odisha.

Mohapatra, B.S., Behera, S.K., Sahu, H.K., and Behera, S. 2025. Tortoises and freshwater turtles in different sacred places of Odisha, India: a model for sustainable conservation. In: Sahu, H.K., P. Parida, P.R. Debata, C. Mahapatra, and G. Mohanty (Eds.). Advancements in Zoological Research. Odisha, India: Newredmars Education Pvt. Ltd., pp. 120–135. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/392943765_Tortoises_and_Freshwater_Turtles_in_Different_Sacred_Places_of_Odisha_India_A_Model_for_Sustainable_Conservation.

Mohanty, S.R., Swain, S.S., Mohapatra, B.S., Behera, S.K., Nayak, S., and Behera, S. 2025. A brief insight into the microbial infection in chelonian eggs and perspective of cloacal-oviductal fluids as antimicrobial agent. Herpetological Journal 35:341–349. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/396193214_A_brief_insight_into_the_microbial_infection_in_chelonian_eggs_and_perspective_of_cloacal-oviductal_fluids_as_antimicrobial_agent

From Arunima Singh, Shailendra Singh, Shantanu Kundu, and colleagues:

Abedin, I., Putra, A., Kang, H., Singh, A., Singh, S., Jung, W., Kim, H.W., and Kundu, S. 2025. Lineages to landscapes: mitogenomic insights and climate refugia informing proactive conservation of the endangered Tricarinate Hill Turtle (*Melanochelys tricarinata*) in the Indian subcontinent. Scientific Reports. Nature 15:42751. 10.1038/s41598-025-26890-5.

Singh, A., Singh, S., Kumar, A., Pareek, P. and Dutta, S. 2025. First study on the survival and dispersal of captive-reared narrow-headed soft-shell turtles along the Yamuna River, India. Oryx 59:1. 10.1017/S0030605325000298.

Tayeng, A., Tao, B., Kar, S., and Singh, S. 2025. First record of Indian Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle from Arunachal Pradesh, India. Reptiles & Amphibians 32:1-2.

Abedin, I., Kang, H., Singh, A., Purkayastha, J., Singh, S., Kim, H.W., and Kundu, S. 2025. From past to future: matrilineal evolutionary history, genetic diversity and habitat dynamics of the vulnerable Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*) in South Asia. Biodiversity and Conservation 34:4977-5006. 10.1007/s10531-025-03192-w.

Tripathi, A., Singh, S., and Tripathi, R. 2025. Comparative analysis of nesting behaviour and reproductive ecology of the Indian Narrow-headed Soft-shell Turtle (*Chitra indica*) in the Ganga and Yamuna basins. Journal of Research in Environmental and Earth Sciences 11(8):27–40. 10.35629/2532-11082740.

Abedin, I., Singh, A., Purkayastha, J., Singh, S., Das, K., Kim, H.W., Kang, H., and Kundu, S. 2025. Unveiling the evolutionary lineages and habitat dynamics of the monotypic Crowned River Turtle *Hardella thurjii* (Gray, 1831) (Testudines: Geoemydidae): strategic conservation insights for an endangered freshwater turtle from southern Asia. Ecology and Evolution 15: doi:10.1002/ece3.71530.

Singh, A., Yadav, S., Pareek, P., and Singh, S. 2025. Occurrence of Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (*Batagur kachuga*) from the Upper Ganga, Uttar Pradesh, India, after 30 years. Reptiles & Amphibians. 32:e21859. 10.17161/randa.v32i1.21859.

Pareek Pawan, S., M.A. Khalid, C.J. Michaels, and S. Singh. 2025. Nesting habitat characterisation of red-crowned roofed turtle *Batagur kachuga* along lower Chambal, India. The Herpetological Journal (BHS) (in press).

Kar, S., Stumpel, J., Petras, P., Nickl, S., and Pfau, B., 2025. Building the road to recovery: the Asian Giant Tortoise in Nagaland, India. Radiata- English Edition 34 (2):xx–xx.

Abedin, I., Putra, A., Kang, H., Singh, A., Singh, S., Singha, H., Kim, H.W., and Kundu, S. 2025. Evolutionary relationships and landscape genetics of the endangered Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia hurum*) for strategic conservation planning in South Asia. Ecology and Evaluation 15:e72751, 21 pp. 10.2139/ssrn.5379801.

A project team (*left to right*):
Ika Chishi, Sushmita Kar, and Bhushan Lam
holding an Asian Giant Tortoise prior to release.

A sage holding a *Batagur* on the Ganges

Chitra indica hatchlings.

Malaysia

From Pelf Nyok Chen and colleagues:

A new population of river terrapins, *Batagur affinis*, was found in the Kuantan River, Pahang. This was not previously documented: https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2025/03/23/rare-find-a-reason-to-shell-ebrate.

In 2025 the team released 680 *Batagur* hatchlings into the Kemaman River, bringing the grand total of hatchlings released to 7,000 hatchlings since the project was initiated in 2012. https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2025/10/16/680-river-terrapin-hatchlings-set-free-in-kemaman.

Also published:

Chen, P.N., Madi, A., and Abdullah, M.E. 2025. Assessing the status and conservation challenges of Southern River Terrapins (*Batagur affinis*) and Painted Terrapins (*Batagur borneoensis*) in Perak and Kedah Rivers. Malayan Nature Journal 77 (1-2): 93–95.

Chen, P.N. 2024. Community-based conservation of Southern River Terrapins in Malaysia. In: Walls, S.C. and K.M. O'Donnell (Eds.). Strategies for Conservation Success in Herpetology. University Heights, OH: Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, pp. 40–43.

Mexico

From Guillermo Woolrich-Piña:

Torres-Romero, E.J., Woolrich-Piña, G.A., Smith, G.R., Ripple, W.J., Lemos-Espinal, J.A., Sunny, A., and Stanford, C.B. 2025. Human-induced extinction risk of the world's Crocodilians and Chelonians. Journal of Biogeography 0:e70116, 17 pp. https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.70116.

Nepal

From Shyam Pun:

Pun, S.K., C.B. Stanford, J.N. Adhikari, and G. Ghimire. 2025. Field Guide to the Turtles of Nepal. Chitwan, Nepal: Biodiversity and Conservation Society.

From Asmita Ranapheli:

Summary of "Community based survey and threat assessment of endangered *Chitra indica* in Bardia National Park, Nepal," funded by Re:Wild Fonseca Species Conservation Fund:

Objectives of the study were to:

1. Engage local communities in monitoring *Chitra indica*.
2. Conduct fish market surveys to assess turtle utilization and threats.
3. Raise awareness among students, local communities, and stakeholders through campaigns, posters, and booklets.

In all the six stations selected; habitat mapping and consultations with park staff and local fishers was carried out. Two citizen scientists involved in baseline data collection for each station.

From September to October 2025, riverbanks were surveyed for presence or absence of turtles. Ecological parameters and anthropogenic threats were recorded. No live specimens of *Chitra indica* were recorded but *Lissemys punctata andersoni, Nilssonia nigricans, Nilssonia hurum, Nilssonia gangetica, Melanochelys trijuga, Pangshura smithii, Pangshura tecta, Melanochelys tricarinata,* and *Indotestudo elongata* were recorded. The most abundant species were *Melanochelys trijuga* followed by *Lissemys punctata*.

Fish Market Survey: Biweekly monitoring of markets and private ponds were done; semi-structured questionnaires were administered and found *Lissemys punctata* being sold in fish markets (ranging 800–1500 NPR) along with extensive fishing practices deeply rooted in the cultures of local Tharu and Sonaha communities. Some locals also kept *Lissemys* as pets and used them as ethno-medicine for fever and skin diseases.

Awareness Campaign: Pre-and post-questionnaires for students (1500 students of different private and governmental schools) were done, along with sessions for forest staff, park rangers, local guides, NGOs, and community forest groups and local fishing community. Awareness posters and booklets were distributed.

United States

From John Iverson:

Loc-Barrigán, J.A. and J.B. Iverson. 2025. *Kinosternon cora* (Cora Mud Turtle). Distribution and morphometrics. Herpetological Review 55:249–250.

Iverson, J.B., J. Ennen, and J.E. Lovich. 2025. Life-history and ecology data for the turtles of the world. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24:136-141.

Reyes-Grajales, E., C. Rico, J.B. Iverson, L.F. Díaz-Gamboa, M.A. López-Luna, and W.A. Matamoros. 2025. Continental turtles of southeastern Mexico: an update on the identification, composition, distribution, and conservation. Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad 96:e965567.

Iverson, J.B. 2025. The influence of climate on annual clutch frequency for the Yellow Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens*) in western Nebraska. Herpetological Conservation and Biology 20:238–250.

Reid, B.N., Ngo, H.T., Nguyen, T.H., and Iverson, J.B. 2025. Integrated phylogenetic analysis of south-eastern mud turtles (*Kinosternon*) using genomic data and morphology supports deep divergence and species status for the Mississippi mud turtle (*Kinosternon hippocrepis* Gray, 1856). Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society 205(3):zlaf156, 14 pp.

From Fred Janzen:

King, R., C. Anchor, W.J.B. Anthonysamy, S. Denham, M. Dreslik, N. Dunham, G. Glowacki, C.K. Golba, W. Graser, C. Jablonski, F.J. Janzen, E.J. Kessler, A.R. Kuhns, D.R. Ludwig, K. McCabe, C. Phillips, D. Thompson, and J.B. Towey. 2025. Archival data reveals human impacts on Blanding's turtle population persistence. Journal for Nature Conservation 87:126966. doi: 10.1016/j.jnc.2025.126966.

Krueger, C.J., M. Girondot, and F.J. Janzen. 2025. The tortoise and the air: climate shapes sex-ratio reaction norm variation in turtles. Evolution 79:1923-1936.

Shortridge, A.L., M.A. Clark, C. Crowther, C.J. Krueger, J. Lee, and F.J. Janzen. 2025 in press. Flash drought and heat waves influence embryonic development and offspring size in an oviparous ectotherm. Ecological and Evolutionary Physiology.

From Amber Pitt:

Eldermire, E. and A.L. Pitt. 2025. Mercury in river turtles in a rural and predominantly forested watershed. Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry vgaf132. https://doi.org/10.1093/etojnl/vgaf132 (Selected as Editor's Choice featured article).

From Brad Shaffer:

Krueger, C.J., R.D. Cooper, A. Sethuraman, and H.B. Shaffer. Submitted (in review). An annotated, chromosome-level reference genome for the spotted turtle, *Clemmys guttata*, reveals the power of ultra-long read sequencing for efficient genome assembly. Journal of Heredity. [A reference for a very heavily trafficked species. It compares sequencing strategies with a synteny analysis with another *C. guttata* genome that was just released. That release used PacBio and Hi-C, whereas ours used PacBio and ONT.]

Vietnam

From Thong Van Pham:

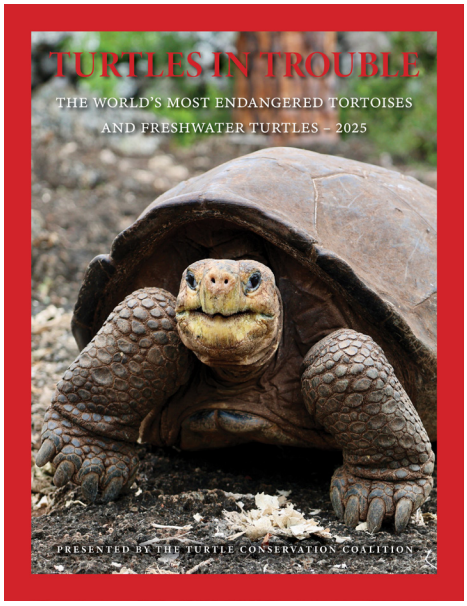
The conservation project led by Thong Pham and his organization Center for Technology and Nature Conservation (CTNC) has made substantial progress in protecting the endemic, Critically Endangered Southern Vietnamese Box Turtle (*Cuora picturata*). Through extensive community interviews and field surveys across three forests in Phu Yen Province, the team documented 3 individuals of *Cuora picturata* in villages and 2 wild individuals in Tay Hoa forest, marking critical evidence of both persistent local trade and existing wild populations. They have started radio tracking the 3 individuals since October 2025. In addition, CTNC implemented the SMART patrol system, training 67 rangers and equipping patrol teams with mobile tools to enhance habitat protection and anti-poaching efforts. Beyond enforcement, CTNC conducted wide-reaching community engagement, reaching over 1,000 students and residents, distributing books and posters, and broadcasting legal messages to over 10,000 residents around the site. The initiative combines scientific monitoring, local outreach, and policy advocacy—including a proposal to upgrade the area, that spans 130,000 ha, to be the largest National Park of Vietnam.

SMART training for local community patrol team and rangers of sites where *Cuora picturata* occur.

Rescued *Cuora picturata* released back to the wild with an attached transmitter.

Turtles in Trouble: The World's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles – 2025

Craig B. Stanford, Anders G.J. Rhodin, Peter Paul van Dijk, Torsten Blanck, Eric V. Goode, Rick Hudson, Andrew D. Walde, Jordan Gray, Russell A. Mittermeier, and Vivian P. Páez

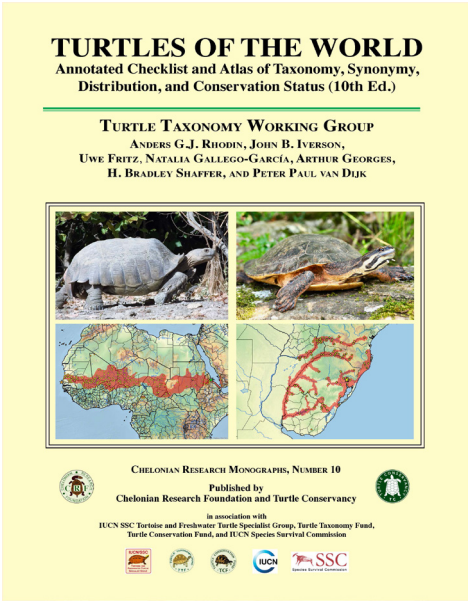


In 2025, the Turtle Conservation Coalition (TCC) issued the fifth updated installment of the *Turtles in Trouble* assessment, listing 66 species of the 364 chelonian species (18.1%) as being the most endangered of all freshwater turtles and tortoises (https://iucn-tftsg.org/turtles-in-trouble-2025/). The TCC is composed of several organizations working together on behalf of turtle conservation efforts globally: the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG), Turtle Conservancy, Turtle Survival Alliance, Chelonian Research Foundation, Turtle Conservation Fund, and Re:wild.

TCC [Turtle Conservation Coalition: Stanford, C.B., Rhodin, A.G.J., van Dijk, P.P., Blanck, T., Goode, E.V., Hudson, R., Walde, A.D., Gray, J., Mittermeier, R.A., and Páez, V.P. (Eds.)]. 2025. Turtles in Trouble: The World's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles – 2025. Ojai, CA: IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, Turtle Conservancy, Turtle Survival Alliance, Turtle Conservation Fund, Re:wild, and Chelonian Research Foundation, 77 pp. https://iucn-tftsg.org/wp-content/uploads/file/Top%2025/TCC_2025_Turtles-in-Trouble.low_.rez_.pdf.

Turtles of the World: Annotated Checklist and Atlas – 10th Edition Published in 2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin and Eric V. Goode



Chelonian Research Foundation (CRF) and Turtle Conservancy (TC) co-published the updated and expanded 10th edition of *Turtles of the World: Annotated Checklist and Atlas* in *Chelonian Research Monographs* in 2025. Compiled by the Turtle Taxonomy Working Group of the TFTSG (Anders G.J. Rhodin, John B. Iverson, Uwe Fritz, Natalia Gallego-García, Arthur Georges, H. Bradley Shaffer, and Peter Paul van Dijk), this is a 575-page comprehensive resource with 631 maps and 1,437 turtle photos documenting all 364 species and 393 taxa of modern turtles and tortoises generally recognized as of mid-2025. It includes their taxonomy, nomenclature, full synonymies, distributions, maximum sizes, etymologies, and conservation status. In addition, it covers 20 taxa

of turtles and tortoises that went extinct during the Holocene. See https://iucn-tftsg.org/checklist/, where an open access pdf is available for download. Printed hardcover bound copies are also available for sale at https://www.turtleconservancy.org/shop/.

Updates from the Turtle Taxonomy Working Group

Anders G.J. Rhodin, John B. Iverson, Uwe Fritz, Natalia Gallego-García, Arthur Georges, Flora Ihlow, H. Bradley Shaffer, and Peter Paul van Dijk

The Turtle Taxonomy Working Group (TTWG) is a working group of the TFTSG that was founded in 2007. Having just completed and published the 10th Edition of our Turtles of the World: Checklist and Atlas (https://iucn-tftsg.org/checklist/) in July 2025, we have begun work on the next edition, publication of which is currently provisionally planned for either late 2026 or 2027. We have also expanded our TTWG team by including Flora Ihlow as an additional contributor for this next edition.

In the meantime, we provide the following summary of proposed new taxonomy that has recently been published, as well as a list of pertinent publications that we are in the process of assessing since the publication of the 10th Edition of the Checklist.

Široký et al. (2025) described a new species, *Pelusios hyneki*, based on analysis of mitochondrial and nuclear genetics and plastral morphology, previously considered part of *Pelusios subniger*. They divided the new species into two subspecies, *P. h. hyneki* and *P. h. tanganyika*. In addition, based on their genetic analysis, they recommended that the subspecies *P. subniger parietalis* from the Seychelles be synonymized with a monotypic *P. subniger*.

Reid et al. (2025) analyzed extensive genetic data and morphometrics of *Kinosternon (Thyrosternum) subrubrum* and its two recognized subspecies, *K. s. subrubrum* and *K. s. hippocrepis*, and compared them to three other members of the subgenus *Thyrosternum*: *K. flavescens, K. baurii,* and *K. steindachneri*. They found deep phylogenetic divergences between *subrubrum* and *hippocrepis* and recommended elevation of *hippocrepis* to species status.

Liang et al. (2025) continued and expanded the previous work of Gong et al. (2023), and analyzed genetics and morphology of the genus *Platysternon*. Results revealed that the formerly recognized subspecies *P. m. megacephalum* and *P. m. peguense* represented deeply divergent evolutionary lineages, which they recognized as distinct species, *P. megacephalum* (sensu stricto) and *P. peguense*. The third previously recognized subspecies, *P. m. shiui*, was found to be genetically indistinct and was synonymized with *P. megacephalum* (sensu stricto). However, a highly divergent lineage endemic to the Baise-Hechi region of Guangxi, China, previously noted by Gong et al. (2023) to be distinct, but unnamed at that time, was formally described as the new species *Platysternon baiseensis*.

Joseph-Ouni et al. (2025b,c) described two new species, *Kinosternon iversoni* and *Kinosternon mariamadre*, from coastal Sonora and Sinaloa and the offshore Tres Marías Islands, Nayarit, Mexico, respectively, as being members of what they termed the *Kinosternon integrum* complex. However, they provided no analysis of genetics, morphometrics, or variation in their taxa, calling into question the distinction and diagnosability of these forms.

The TTWG is currently assessing and evaluating these newly described taxa and will provide recommendations regarding which of these we may recognize, and which we may not, in our next release of the Checklist. We encourage any TFTSG members and others who publish literature with taxonomic implications for turtles to please send us your articles as they appear.

Below is a listing of the literature cited above and other recent articles on taxonomy, phylogenetics, conservation genetics, or other pertinent conservation papers or books on freshwater turtles and tortoises published since the 10th Edition of the Checklist and being included by the TTWG in the next edition:

Abedin, I., Singh, A., Purakayastha, J., Singh, S., Das, K.C., Kim, H.-W., Kang, H.-E., and Kundu, S. 2025. Unveiling the evolutionary lineages and habitat dynamics of the monotypic Crowned River Turtle *Hardella thurjii* (Gray, 1831) (Testudines: Geoemydidae): strategic conservation insights for an endangered freshwater turtle from southern Asia. Ecology and Evolution 15:e71530, 20 pp.

Abedin, I., Putra, A., Kang, H., Singh, A., Singh, S., Singha, H., Kim, H.W., and Kundu, S. 2025. Evolutionary relationships and landscape genetics of the endangered Indian Peacock Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia hurum*) for strategic conservation plan-

ning in South Asia. Ecology and Evaluation 15:e72751, 21 pp.

Assis, C.L., Valadão, R.M., Novaes, C.M., Lustosa, A.P.G., Vasconcelos, R.M.D., Mota, A.P., and Feio, R.N. 2025. Rediscovery of the endangered Hoge's side-necked turtle *Ranacephala hogei* in the Itapemirim River, south-eastern Brazil. The Herpetological Bulletin 174:28–30.

Bauer, A.M. 2025. *Testudo atlas* Barton, 1806, a long-forgotten synonym of the Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and a senior secondary homonym of the largest tortoise that ever lived. Bibliotheca Herpetologica 19(7):101–107.

Becerra, E., Rodríguez López, B., Borja, M., and Rico, Y. 2025. Conservation genetics of a freshwater turtle (*Trachemys hartwegi*) in a threatened riverine ecosystem. Molecular Biology Reports 52:761, 11 pp.

Brito, E.S., Valadão, R.M., Malvasio, A., Freitas, A.F.F., Muniz, F.L., Molina, F.B., Souza, F.L., Moura, G.J.B., Costa, H.C., Bassetti, L.A.B., Friol, N.R., Rocha, S.B., Gomides, S.C., Marques, T.S., and Portelinha, T.C.G. 2025. Quelônios Continentais e Crocodilianos do Brasil. Recife: Agência Estadual de Meio Ambiente do Estado de Pernambuco, 350 pp.

Burroughs, R.W., Parham, J.F., Stuart, B.L., Smits, P.D., and Angielczyk, K.D. 2024. Morphological species delimitation in the Western Pond Turtle (*Actinemys*): can machine learning methods aid in cryptic species identification? Integrative Organismal Biology 6(1): obae010, 22 pp.

Dumans, A.T., Selvatti, A.P., Sarzi, D.S., Furtado, C., Drummond, G., Coutinho, M., Carvalho, D.C., and Prosdocimi, F. 2025. The complete mitochondrion genome of the Hoge's Side-necked turtle *Ranacephala hogei* (Chelidae), a critically endangered species from South America. Genetics and Molecular Biology 48(3): e20240203, 5 pp.

Gong, S., Suwannapoom, C., Le, M., Nguyen, T.Q., Ge, Y., Wei, Y., and Gao, Y. 2023. Genomic analyses reveal three phylogenetic species and their evolutionary histories in the big-headed turtle. iScience 26:107343, 15 pp.

Ji, Y.-E., Park, K.-H., Choi, J.-H., Park, J., Sung, H.-C., and Lee, D.-H. 2024. Complete mitochondrial genome of the southern painted turtle (*Chrysemys dorsalis*, Testudines: Emydidae) in Korea. Mitochondrial DNA Part B 9(1):70–74.

Joseph-Ouni, M., Vander Schouw, P., Frewer, J., Uhrig, D., and McCord, W.P. 2025a. *Kinosternon integrum* (Testudines: Kinosternidae): neotype designation, morphology and distribution. Chelonological Contributions 6:1–43.

Joseph-Ouni, M., Vander Schouw, P., McCord, W.P., Frewer, J., and Uhrig, D. 2025b. *Kinosternon iversoni* sp. nov. (Testudines: Kinosternidae), a new species of Mud Turtle from Sonora and Sinaloa, Mexico. Chelonological Contributions 7:1–23.

Joseph-Ouni, M., Vander Schouw, P., Frewer, J., Uhrig, D., and McCord, W.P. 2025c. A new species of Mud Turtle (Testudines: Kinosternidae) from the Tres Marías Islands, Nayarit, Mexico. Chelonological Contributions 8:1–32.

Liang, Q.-R., Li, J.-X., Ge, Y., Ou, J.-M., Yin, Y.-Q., Suwannapoom, C., Le, M., Nguyen, T.Q., Fritz, U., and Gong, S.-P. 2025. Taxonomic revision of the critically endangered big-headed turtles (Reptilia: Testudines: Platysternidae Gray, 1869), with description of a new species. Zoological Research 46(5): 1047−1058.

Páez, V.P., Bock, B.C., and Cartagena-Otálvaro, V.M. 2025. Life history characteristics of the Colombian Wood Turtle, *Rhinoclemmys melanosterna* (Gray, 1861), in the middle Magdalena River, Colombia. Herpetology Notes 18:921–930.

Reid, B.N., Ngo, H.T., Nguyen, T.H., and Iverson, J.B. 2025. Integrated phylogenetic analysis of south-eastern mud turtles (*Kinosternon*) using genomic data and morphology supports deep divergence and species status for the Mississippi mud turtle (*Kinosternon hippocrepis* Gray, 1856). Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society 205(3):zlaf156, 14 pp.

Široký, P., Bilbija, B., Paetzold, C., Kehlmaier, C., and Fritz, U. 2025. Two new African hinged terrapins (Testudines: Pelomedusidae: Pelusios). Zootaxa 5717(3):301–317.

Sunny, S., Vijayasree, A.S., Panikkaveetil, N.T., and Williams, E.S. 2025. Preliminary investigation on morphometrics and habitat of the Indian Flapshell Turtle *Lissemys punctata* (Bonnaterre, 1789) (Reptilia: Trionychidae) in rural wetlands of Alappuzha, Kerala, India. Journal of Threatened Taxa 17(11):27970–27975.

Valdez-Villavicencio, J.H., Peralta-García, A., Hollingsworth, B.D., Galina-Tessaro, P., Fisher, R.N., Alvarez, J.A., and Lara-Resendiz, R.A. 2025. The Southwestern Pond Turtle (*Actinemys pallida*) in Baja California, Mexico: new localities and persistent threats. Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences 124(2):67–79.

Wang, F., Chen, Z., Song, G., Xu, X., Zhou, X., Ji, S., Zhu, C., Su, Y., Wang, M., Fang, G., Wu, H., Liu, X., Jiang, Y., and Hou, G. 2025. Effect of interstrain hybridization in the Chinese Softshelled Turtle (*Pelodiscus sinensis*) assessed by morphological traits, genetic diversity, and growth performance. Aquaculture Research 2025(9118268):1–14; doi.org/10.1155/are/9118268.

Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Volume 24 Published in 2025

Jeffrey A. Seminoff, Anders G.J. Rhodin, and Eric V. Goode

Chelonian Research Foundation (CRF) and Turtle Conservancy (TC) continued to co-publish the peer-reviewed professional journal *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* (CCB) under the editorial leadership of Jeffrey A. Seminoff (www.chelonianjournals.org). Founded in 1993 as the scientific journal of the TFTSG, CCB covers all aspects of the biology and conservation of all turtles and tortoises, including marine turtles. CCB published its 24th volume in 2025, with a total of 28 articles, of which the following 20 concerned freshwater turtles and tortoises. We encourage our TFTSG members and other turtle experts, including marine turtle specialists, to submit their work for consideration of publication.

Averill-Murray, Roy C. 2025. Individual growth of Sonoran Desert Tortoises (*Gopherus morafkai*) in an Arizona population: implications for conservation and management. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):11–27.

Bassetti, Luís A.B., Thiago S. Marques, André Yves, Barbara Protocevich, Neliton R.F. Lara, Ronnie Von M. Ferreira, and Luciano M. Verdade. 2025. Blood parameters of the turtle *Mesoclemmys vanderhaegei* (Testudines: Chelidae): insights into its health status in southeastern Brazil. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(2):xxx–xxx.

Boback, Scott M., Lily M. Bieber-Ham, Elizabeth A. Brandt, Nicole A. Davidson, Julia B. McMahon, Matthew W. Miller, Robert F. Page, Nicholas M. Schwab, Danielle L. Staunton, Andrew J. Veselka, and Kevin A. Wood. 2025. Nesting ecology of Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta picta* × *C. p. marginata*) at an anthropogenic site in south-central Pennsylvania. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(2):xxx–xxx.

Bradke, Danielle R., Mark G. Dodd, and John C. Maerz. 2025. Potential and limitations of unmarked population surveys to inform state-wide management for Diamondback Terrapins. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):77–89.

Butterfield, Taggert G., Alejandra Monsivaís-Molina, Martha Harfush, Eduardo Reyes-Grajales, José Garrido, Daniel Beck, Abel Domínguez-Pompa, Felix Garcia, and Rodrigo Macip. 2025. Ecology of the Painted Wood Turtle (*Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima* Gray 1856): insights from three populations in Mexico and morphological comparisons of all four subspecies. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):1–10.

De Nardi, Lauren, Olivier Le Duc, Siravich Viriyataveekul, Lou Charpentier, Benjamin Leprince, and Andrew D. Walde. 2025. New records of the Critically Endangered Asian Narrow-Headed Softshell Turtle, *Chitra chitra*, in Thailand. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(2):xxx–xxx.

Garrison, John C. and Michael T. Jones. 2025. Home range and survival of headstarted Northern Red-Bellied Cooters (*Pseudemys rubriventris*) in Plymouth County, Massachusetts. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):149–153.

Gaviria-Hernández, Juliana and Claudia P. Ceballos. 2025. An approximation of the reproductive cycle of the Atrato River Slider, *Trachemys medemi*. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(2):xxx–xxx.

Grageda, Miguel and Michael Bogan. 2025. Conservation status of the Sonoyta Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon sonoriense longifemorale*) and comparison of estimated abundances in different historical sites along the Sonoyta River in Sonora, Mexico. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(2):xxx–xxx.

Iverson, John B. 2025. Frequency, patterns, and possible etiology of kyphosis in turtles. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(2):xxx–xxx.

Iverson, John B. and Daniel U. Greene. 2025. The phenology of brumation emergence in the Yellow Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens*) in Nebraska. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):28–45.

Iverson, John B., Josh Ennen, and Jeffrey Lovich. 2025. Life-history and ecology data for the turtles of the world. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):136–141.

Jorgewich-Cohen, Gabriel, Nicole Scholte Lubberink, Madeleine Wheatley, Maël Leroux, Camila R. Ferrara, Lucas Pacciullio Gaspar, Peter Praschag, and Marcelo R. Sánchez-Villagra. 2025. Ontogenetic changes in turtle vocal behavior. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):46–55.

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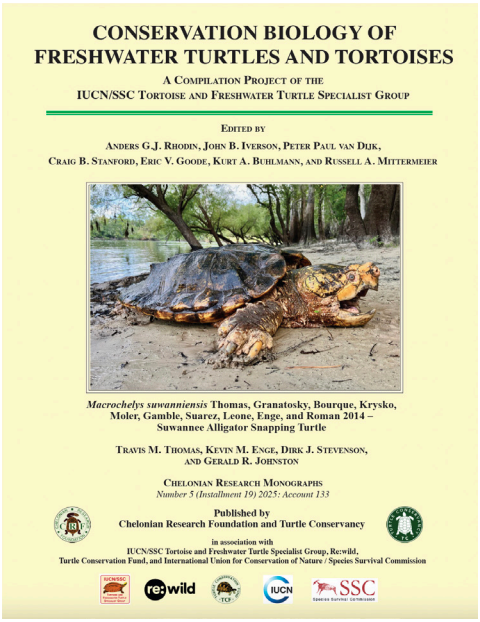
Wijewardena, Tharusha, Nicholas E. Mandrak, Andrew M. Lentini, and Jacqueline D. Litzgus. 2025. Demographic assessment of a freshwater turtle assemblage in an urban protected area in the context of ongoing threats and a mass-mortality event. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):90–101.

Wilson, Emma M., Laramie B. Mahan, and Ivana Mali. 2025. An evaluation of physical abnormalities and melanism in freshwater turtles (Testudines, Emydidae) of the Lower Pecos River, New Mexico, USA. Chelonian Conservation and Biology 24(1):56–66.

Conservation Biology of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises: Species Accounts Published in 2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin, John B. Iverson, Peter Paul van Dijk, Kurt A. Buhlmann, Craig B. Stanford, Eric V. Goode, and Russell A. Mittermeier



Chelonian Research Foundation (CRF) and Turtle Conservancy (TC) co-published the following 6 species review accounts in the *Conservation Biology of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises* (CBFTT) series in *Chelonian Research Monographs* during 2025, bringing the total number of CBFTT accounts published since 2008 to 133. See www.chelonian.org/crm and https://iucn-tftsg.org/cbftt/, from where open access pdf's are available for download.

We are actively seeking additional authors for species that have no published accounts or older accounts that need updating as a revised account. We encourage members of the TFTSG or other experts to volunteer to lead as authors on unassigned accounts. See details of needed authorships at https://iucn-tftsg.org/toc/. We also seek authors for accounts that are ≥10 years old, which can include original authors and/or added new authors.

Blanck, Torsten, John B. Iverson, Ting Zhou, and Fengting Zhou. 2025. *Cuora yunnanensis* (Boulenger 1906) – Yunnan Box Turtle. Chelonian Research Monographs 5(19):130.1–13. https://iucn-tftsg.org/cuora-yunnanensis-130/.

López-González, Nadin E., Torsten Blanck, Fabio G. Cupul-Magaña, Jose Rafael Nolasco-Luna, Peter Praschag, Marco A. López-Luna, Taggert G. Butterfield, Gabriel Barrios-Quiroz, and Shannon Diruzzo. *Kinosternon vogti* López-Luna, Cupul-Magaña, Escobedo-Galván, González-Hernández, Rangel-Mendoza, Ramírez-Ramírez, and Cazares-Hernández 2018 – Vallarta Mud Turtle, Casquito de Vallarta. Chelonian Research Monographs 5(19):32.1–15. https://iucn-tftsg.org/kinosternon-vogti-132/.

Marques, Thiago S., Andrés Estrades, Alejandro Fallabrino, Gabriel de F. Horta, Thiago C.G. Portelinha, André Yves, Rafael M. Valadão, Mario R. Cabrera, M. Florencia David, and Priscila S. Miorando. *Acanthochelys spixii* (Duméril and Bibron 1835) – Black Spiny-necked Turtle, Spix's Sideneck Turtle, Tortuga de Canaleta, Cágado do Cerrado. Chelonian Research Monographs 5(19):131.1–10. https://iucn-tftsg.org/acanthochelys-spixii-131/.

McGovern, Pearson, Ertan Taskavak, Peter A. Meylan, Luca Luiselli, Gift Simon Demaya, Gabriel H. Segniagbeto, Mathias Behangana, Fabio Petrozzi, Edem A. Eniang, Yaron Tikochinski, and Mehmet K. Atatür. 2025. *Trionyx triunguis* (Forskål 1775) – African Softshell Turtle, Nile Softshell Turtle. Chelonian Research Monographs 5(19):129.1–21. https://iucn-tftsg.org/trionyx-triunguis-129/.

Reyes-Grajales, Eduardo, John B. Iverson, Andrew D. Walde, and Thomas S. Akre. 2025. *Kinosternon abaxillare* Baur *in* Stejneger 1925 – Central Chiapas Mud Turtle, Casquito Pardo. Chelonian Research Monographs 5(19):128.1–13. https://iucn-tftsg.org/kinosternon-abaxillare-128/.

Thomas, Travis M., Kevin M. Enge, Dirk J. Stevenson, and Gerald R. Johnston. *Macrochelys suwanniensis* Thomas, Granatosky, Bourque, Krysko, Moler, Gamble, Suarez, Leone, Enge, and Roman 2014 – Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle. Chelonian Research Monographs 5(19):133.1–20. https://iucn-tftsg.org/macrochelys-suwanniensis-133/.

Turtle Conservation Fund: Grants in 2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin, Hugh R. Quinn, Russell A. Mittermeier, Vivian P. Páez, and Peter Paul van Dijk

The Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) provided support for the following 16 grants during 2025. TCF has supported 387 turtle and tortoise projects since its founding in 2002, for a total of US$ 1,659,349 disbursed, at an average of US$ 4,288 per project. See https://turtleconservationfund.org/ for further details and how to apply for support; there are two application deadlines annually: June 1 and December 1. We encourage members of the TFTSG to submit proposals and to indicate their membership in the group on the application.

Acosta-Peña, Augusto Rafael, Pearson McGovern, Diego Alejandro Gómez Hoyos, and Jorge Augusto Valverde Hernández. 2025. Community-based monitoring and conservation of the Magdalena River Turtle (*Podocnemis lewyana*) in Plato, lower Magdalena Basin, Colombia.

Augustine, Lauren, Valerie Corado Garcia, Diana Velásquez, and Chris Bednarski. 2004. Continued investigations into the range and population dynamics of six species of Kinosternids in Guatemala.

Bell, Zachary W. and Aya Narukiyo. 2024. Assessing the population, distribution, and threats to *Geoemyda japonica*. (Ryukyu Islands, Japan).

Bower, Deborah. 2024. Quest for Kuchling's Turtle. (*Chelodina kuchlingi*, Western Australia, Australia).

Davy, Benirina Fabrice, Juliette Velosoa, Randriamahatantsoa Bernard, Mandimbihasina Angelo Ramy, and Rabibisoa Nirhy H.C. 2025. Conservation assessment of *Erymnochelys madagascariensis* in Ankarafantsika National Park, Madagascar: a focus on population estimation and status update.

Delgado-Martínez, Carlos, Taggert Butterfield, and Alejandra Monsiváis-Molina. 2025. Foundations for turtle conservation in Calakmul, Mexico: ecology, road mortality, and community engagement.

Doody, J. Sean, George Heinrich, and Deborah Bower. 2025. Conservation of the Pig-nosed Turtle in Australia. (*Carettochelys insculpta*).

Dutta, Sreeparna and Arunima Singh. 2024. Investigating the home range of Crowned River Turtle (*Hardella thurjii*) to declare Sarju River as a Turtle Conservation Reserve in Uttar Pradesh, India.

Macip-Rios, Rodrigo, Raúl López-Vivanco, and Fernando Daniel Antelo-Barbosa. 2024. Population and thermal ecology of Kinosternon hirtipes hirtipes in an urban area in central Mexico.

McGovern, Pearson. 2025. Ecology and conservation needs of El Salvador's turtles, with an emphasis on *Staurotypus salvinii* (draft EN) and *Trachemys grayi grayi* (draft DD).

McKnight, Donald, Day Ligon, and Denise Thompson. 2024. Assessing population size, demographic structure, and patterns of growth in Critically Endangered Central American River Turtles (*Dermatemys mawii*). (Belize).

Páez, Vivian P. and Craig B. Stanford. 2025. IUCN Red Listing and conservation planning workshop for Sub-Saharan African turtles and tortoises. (Senegal).

Pareek, Pawan Shantiprakash and Arunima Singh. 2025. Tracking the return of *Batagur kachuga*: participatory monitoring and threat abatement following reintroduction in the Upper Ganga, India.

Peñaranda Barrios, Efraín Miguel and Mario Cabrera. 2024. Community participatory pilot project for the conservation of the Chaco Side-necked Turtle, *Acanthochelys pallidipectoris* (Freiberg 1945) (Chelidae) by the Weenhayek-Tapiete indigenous people in Community Lands of Origin (TCO) of the Chaco Tarijeño of Bolivia - Phase III.

Peñaranda Barrios, Miguel. 2025. Participatory community-based conservation and population dynamics study of the Chaco Side-necked Turtle (*Acanthochelys pallidipectoris* Freiberg, 1945) (Chelidae) in indigenous 'Weenhayek and Tapiete Communities. Phase I: Weenhayek indigenous community of Campo Verde.

Schoppe, Sabine, Diverlie Acosta, Ronelito Esuma, Ernie Socrates, Eudelyn Gabuco, and Lyca Sandrea Castro. 2024. Thriving or declining? (*Siebenrockiella leytensis*, Palawan, Philippines).

Congdon-Dickson Turtle Ecology Fund: Grants in 2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin and Justin D. Congdon

The Congdon-Dickson Research Fund (CDRF) provided the following 3 Turtle Ecology Fund grants during 2025. CDRF has supported 25 turtle and tortoise projects since its founding in 2021, for a total of US$ 95,985 disbursed, at an average of US$ 3,839 per project. See https://chelonian.org/cdrf/ for further details and how to apply for support; there are two funding cycles annually, with application deadlines of May 1 and September 1.

Butterfield, Taggert. 2025. Home range, nesting, and paternity: investigating reproductive success in Sierra Box Turtles (*Terrapene nelsoni klauberi*) in southeastern Sonora, Mexico.

Fokidis, H. Bobby. 2025. Ecological and health impacts of wildfire frequency on Marginated Tortoise (*Testudo marginata*) in Mount Hymettus, Athens, Greece.

Stone, Paul A. and Marie E.B. Stone. 2025. Survival and growth of hatchling Sonora Mud Turtles (*Kinosternon sonoriense*) in the Peloncillo Mountains, New Mexico.

Turtle Taxonomy Fund: Grants in 2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin and John B. Iverson

The Turtle Taxonomy Fund (TTF) provided the following grant during 2025. TTF has supported 14 turtle and tortoise projects since its founding in 2021, for a total of US$ 94,011 disbursed, at an average of US$ 6,715 per project. See https://chelonian.org/ttf/ for further details and how to apply for support; there are two funding cycles annually, with application deadlines of June 1 and December 1.

Gallego-García, Natalia and H. Bradley Shaffer. 2024. Using whole-genome sequencing to clarify evolutionary relationships and define conservation units in the Endangered Madagascar Spider Tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides*).

Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund: Turtle Grants in 2025

Anders G.J. Rhodin, Russell A. Mittermeier, and Nicolas Heard

The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ) provided the following 12 grants for freshwater turtle and tortoise conservation projects during 2025. MBZ has supported 187 turtle and tortoise projects since its founding in 2009, for a total of US$ 1,958,722 disbursed, at an average of US$ 10,474 per project. See https://www.speciesconservation.org/ for further details and how to apply for support; there are three funding cycles annually, with current application deadlines of March 31, June 30, and October 15. We encourage members of the TFTSG to submit proposals and to indicate their membership in the TFTSG on the application.

Bell, Zachary W. and Aya Narukiyo. 2025. Assessing the population status of the Ryukyu Black-Breasted Leaf Turtle (*Geoemyda japonica*) in the Ryukyu Islands, Japan.

Delgado-Martinez, Carlos, Taggert Butterfield, Alejandra Monsiváis-Molina, and Andrew Walde. 2025. Foundations for turtle conservation in Calakmul, Mexico: ecology, road mortality, and community engagement.

Doody, J. Sean, Deborah Bower, George Heinrich, and Andrew Walde. 2025. Conservation of the Pig-nosed Turtle in Australia. (*Carettochelys insculpta*).

Luiselli, Luca, Andrew Walde, Mathias Behangana, Achilles Byaruhanga, and Micheal Kibuule. 2025. Fighting the refugee crisis for the Nubian Flapshell Turtle *Cyclanorbis elegans*. (Uganda).

Maringa, Dominic, Timothy Kaaria, and Mercy Kinya. 2025. Leveraging community action to restore Pancake Tortoise populations in northern Kenya conservancies. (*Malacochersus tornieri*).

McGovern, Pearson, Andrew Walde, and Augusto Rafael Acosta-Peña. 2025. Demographic and population monitoring of *Mesoclemmys dahli* in Bolivar and Magdalena Departments, Colombia.

McKnight, Donald and Day Ligon. 2025. Post-release growth and survival of captive-reared Central American River Turtles (*Dermatemys mawii*). (Belize).

Megnizang Tsane, Regine Chirelle, Francis Forzi, Eric Nana Djomo, and Camus Tchantchou Tchankeu. 2025. Saving the Critically Endangered Home's Hinge-back Tortoise (*Kinixys homeana*) in a tropical evergreen forest area of Cameroon.

Natusch, Daniel, Benjamin Muller, Warren Strevens, and Alastair Freeman. 2025. Population monitoring and spatial ecology of the Jardine River Turtle (*Emydura subglobosa angkibaanya*) in northern Cape York, Queensland, Australia.

Oskyrko, Oleksandra, Ge Luyuan, Weiguo Du, and Li Sen. 2025. Research on key technologies for releasing captive bred Asian Giant Softshell Turtles back to the wild of Qingtian, China. (*Pelochelys cantorii*).

Páez, Vivian P. and Craig B. Stanford. 2025. IUCN Red Listing and conservation planning workshop for Sub-Saharan African turtles and tortoises. (Senegal).

Razafimamonjiraibe, Hery Lova, Tojotanjona Patrick Razanaparany, Andrew Walde, Noelikanto Ramamonjisoa, and Tsanta Fiderana Rakotonanahary. 2025. Documenting population densities of endangered species at a new protected area in southern Madagascar. (*Astrochelys radiata*).

Wishing all of you much turtle conservation success and health for 2026!

Craig Stanford, Natalia Gallego-García, and Anders Rhodin

IUCN/SSC
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