



## IN FOCUS

### 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the IUCN Red List

Throughout 2014 IUCN is celebrating the significant contribution of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in guiding conservation action and policy decisions over the past 50 years. The IUCN Red list is an invaluable conservation resource, a health check for our planet – a Barometer of Life.

> [Learn more about the IUCN Red List in Asia](#)



## ACTION

### Cambodian government shows new commitment to dolphin protection

In a clear demonstration of resolve to protect the critically endangered Irawaddy Dolphin, the Cambodian Government has destroyed nearly 60,000 metres of confiscated gillnets. Gillnet entanglement is a major cause of dolphin fatalities in populations that inhabit the 190km stretch of Cambodia's Mekong River. IUCN supports the dolphin protection programme through the Save Our Species (SOS) global coalition.

> [Read more](#)



### First ever World Wildlife Day highlights need to join forces

On the eve of the first World Wildlife Day, IUCN Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre highlighted the need for joining forces, more than ever before, to address major threats to wildlife from habitat destruction to illegal trade, invasive species and climate change.

> [Read more](#)



### Nepal celebrates "Zero Poaching" year

Nepal recently marked a successful year of species conservation by announcing that during the previous 365 days, not a single rhino was lost to poaching. The success is a good example of combined efforts in protected area and species management, two core areas of IUCN's work.

> [Learn more](#)



### CEPF grants help to address biodiversity crisis in Southeast Asia

The Indo-Burma region is home to some of the world's most unique and

threatened biodiversity. With increasing recognition of the role of healthy ecosystems in sustaining human wellbeing, conservation efforts are being intensified to protect the region's biodiversity.

> [Learn more](#)



## EVENTS

### Registrations now open for the IUCN World Parks Congress

Taking place once only every 10 years, the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 is a landmark global forum on protected areas. The theme of the Congress is "Parks, people, planet : inspiring solutions" and delegates will share knowledge and innovation, setting the agenda for protected areas conservation for the decade to come. The deadline for registration is June 30 2014.

> [Click here to register](#)



### World Wetlands Day observed in Asia

IUCN offices all over the Asia region celebrated World Wetlands Day on February 2 by organizing various activities and interaction programmes with government partners, local communities, students and youth. Celebrated each year globally, the theme for 2014 was 'Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth'.



In addition, IUCN has published a [report on wetland governance](#) based on a workshop held in 2013 in Lao PDR. The report highlights the role of wetlands in supporting human populations and biodiversity.

> [Read more about celebrations in Cambodia](#)

> [Read more about celebrations in Nepal](#)

## KNOWLEDGE

### First online Global Freshwater Biodiversity Atlas launched

A new online atlas of freshwater biodiversity presenting spatial information and species distribution patterns was launched at the landmark Water Lives symposium. The online atlas will provide water managers and scientists with an open-access and interactive gateway to key geographical information and spatial data. The online atlas adopts a book-like structure allowing easy browsing through its four thematic chapters.

> [Read more](#)

> [Log on to the BioFresh platform](#)



### Workshop to share best practices on Ecosystem-based Adaptation

In order to help communities in South Asia adapt to climate and socio-economic changes and give options to reduce their vulnerability, the IUCN World Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) in collaboration with UNEP and ISET-Nepal organized a workshop to share knowledge and lessons learned.

> [Read more](#)



### Biodiversity loss in the Mekong linked to human pressures

IUCN recently published the results of a two-year study conducted along the 450 km section of the Mekong river between Vientiane and Luang Prabang in

Lao PDR. According to the survey, the levels of biodiversity were lower than expected and revealed ongoing declines due to local people's dependence on wild plants and animals.

> [Read more](#)

> [Download Report : Livelihood survey Mekong IUCN/CEPF](#)

> [Download Report : Ecological survey Mekong IUCN/CEPF](#)

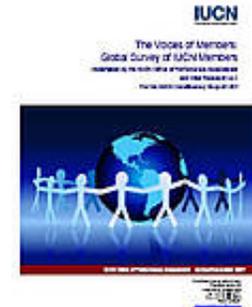


## IUCN MEMBERS

### Membership in Asia region grows

The IUCN council has recently welcomed 21 new members to the Union of which six are from Asia. The new Asian members are from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Thailand bringing the total number of IUCN member organizations in Asia region to 246.

IUCN members benefit from being a part of the world's oldest and largest global environmental network, its scientific credibility, access to a vast knowledge base, and extensive networking opportunities.



To find out how to apply for IUCN membership, [Click here](#)

To go to the IUCN Members' web pages [Click here](#)

### IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature © 2014

IUCN helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

For questions, comments and feedback,

[jane.lawton@iucn.org](mailto:jane.lawton@iucn.org)

[sameer.singh@iucn.org](mailto:sameer.singh@iucn.org)

IUCN Asia Regional Office,  
Bangkok, Thailand