

**The saiga antelope – teetering on the brink but still cause for hope**

Following a sharp population decline caused by heavy poaching the saiga antelope *Saiga tatarica tatarica* was upgraded from Near Threatened to Critically Endangered on the 2002 IUCN Red List (Milner-Gulland *et al.*, 2001, *Oryx*, 35, 340–345). Since then, range state governments have shown impressive commitment to saiga conservation. The Kazakhstan government has provided substantial funding for anti-poaching patrols and aerial surveys, has passed legislation strengthening rangers' powers of arrest, and is considering establishing two protected areas for saigas. In the Republic of Kalmykia (Russian Federation), the Government and the Department of Natural Resources have been active in strengthening saiga conservation, and the President has issued a decree on emergency measures for saiga conservation.

Several international conservation projects have been started to support the efforts of the range state governments. The UK Darwin Initiative is funding a 3-year project in Kalmykia and Betpak-dala (Kazakhstan) that has three main aims: (1) Strengthening institutions for saiga conservation, particularly the Chernye Zemli Biosphere Reserve, which holds a substantial proportion of the European saiga population. (2) Carrying out social surveys to assess the role of saiga poaching in rural livelihoods and local attitudes to conservation, followed by education and public awareness campaigns. (3) Developing a robust quantitative framework for population monitoring to ensure that conservation decisions are based on sound science.

In Betpak-dala the Darwin project is collaborating with a Frankfurt Zoological Society/WWF-Russia project that is supporting governmental anti-poaching activities and engaging local people in conservation. Other international organizations funding saiga conservation include the People's Trust for Endangered Species, INTAS, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and Fauna & Flora International.

This clear investment in saiga conservation both internationally and in the range states has not yet translated into population recovery. In Kalmykia, annual government-funded surveys suggest that the population has stabilized, but changes in survey methodology cast doubt on this. Preliminary results of social surveys

by the Darwin Initiative team suggest that poaching is widespread, organized and ongoing. Estimated saiga numbers in Kazakhstan, where organized poaching is also ongoing, dropped from 30,000 in 2002 to 21,000 in 2003. The current population estimate for the Betpak-dala population (which numbered 250,000 in 1996) is now 1,800, although this is probably an underestimate as it is based on a partial vehicle survey. The Kazakhstan government funded a full aerial survey in May 2004 that will reveal more accurately the status of Kazakhstan's populations. It is clear, however, that the Betpak-dala population is now at a critically low level, with a distinct possibility of local extirpation.

The problem of commercial poaching has not affected the Mongolian saiga *Saiga tatarica mongolica* until recently. However, there is no longer room for complacency about its status. A recent survey by WWF- Mongolia and the Mongolian Institute of Biology revealed that the population has been subject to poaching since 2002 and has declined from a high of 5,200 in 2000 to c. 1,000 animals in 2002 and 750 in 2003. Based on this information, IUCN-SSC upgraded the Mongolian saiga from Vulnerable to Endangered in April 2004. The subspecies is in grave danger of imminent extinction.

Thus, although there has been much positive activity for saiga conservation, more is needed if we are to ensure the survival of this regionally important and totemic species. Immediate action is needed to safeguard the Mongolian subspecies, including effective law enforcement and the establishment of a captive breeding centre. This is now a feasible option because of the achievement of the Centre for the Study and Conservation of Wild Animals, Kalmykia, in establishing a successful captive breeding herd. In Kazakhstan there is a need to increase the number of mobile anti-poaching units and establish temporary protected areas to protect animals during the rut and birth periods. In Kalmykia, strengthening protected areas and achieving local engagement with saiga conservation could be a focus of activity. Internationally, it is important that range states formally ratify the Memorandum of Understanding and action plan for saiga conservation that was drawn up by the Convention on Migratory Species in 2002.

The saiga is now at a critical stage; actions taken over the next 1–2 years will determine the fate of this species. If the commitment demonstrated by all parties over the

last year is translated into effective action, the saiga may yet be saved from extinction.

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### New populations of the Critically Endangered Delacour's langur confirmed in Pu Luong Nature Reserve, Vietnam

Scientists from a group comprising conservation NGOs and Vietnamese national authorities today confirmed the existence of several new groups of the Critically Endangered Delacour's Langur *Trachypithecus delacouri*, in Pu Luong Nature Reserve, Quan Hoa and Ba Thuoc Districts, north-west Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. The discovery comes at a crucial juncture for the langur, which is endemic to northern Vietnam and considered one of the world's top 25 most threatened species of primate. The discovery was made during a joint study conducted by the Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC), managed by Frankfurt Zoological Society, and the Pu Luong – Cuc Phuong Conservation Project, managed by Fauna & Flora International, and the Vietnam Forest Protection Department.

Delacour's Langur, popularly known as *vooc mong trang* (the langur with a white rump) in Vietnamese because of the white colour of its lower body and upper legs, occurs only in a belt of limestone karst mountains that stretch across northern Vietnam (see also pp. 257–265). This area, known as the Pu Luong – Cuc Phuong limestone range, is the last refuge for the species, which is estimated to have declined by over 50% in the last 10 years. The population of Delacour's Langur in the wild is now believed to have dwindled to only 300 animals; most of the subpopulations are very small, and only two of the known subpopulations comprise as many as 30–35 animals. One of these subpopulations is in Van Long Provincial Nature Reserve, in Gia Vien District in Ninh Binh Province, and the second is the new sighting in Pu Luong Provincial Nature Reserve.

Tilo Nadler, Director of the EPRC, which was founded 10 years ago specifically to promote efforts to conserve the Delacour's Langur, believes the latest sightings offer additional hope for the survival of the species. However, he notes that much remains to be done to

prevent extinction of the langur in the wild: 'Over half of all subpopulations of the langur are severely threatened by hunting, which represents the greatest short-term threat to this species. Additionally, habitat loss and further fragmentation of the remaining subpopulations makes them extremely vulnerable to extinction'.

Programmes to strengthen law enforcement and educate the local people are urgently required. Stricter enforcement of existing anti-hunting and forest protection laws, and prosecution of offenders, is a necessity. Measures to control firearms and the rampant trade in wildlife for meat and medicine will be necessary for successful conservation of this primate.

The Pu Luong – Cuc Phuong Conservation Project is working to support the efforts of the Forest Protection Department and their locally-based rangers, who at present lack the capacity to effectively protect all subpopulations. The project also aims to raise local awareness of the species' plight, as its survival will depend heavily on gaining not only the support of local and national authorities but also of local communities.

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### Reintroduced western gorillas reproduce for the first time

On the 13 April 2004 a newborn gorilla was seen in the Lefini Reserve, Republic of Congo, for the first time in over 50 years, possibly in over a century. His mother is a 16-year-old orphan of the illegal bush-meat trade. She was reintroduced to the Lefini Reserve in January 2003, along with two other females and two males, one of whom is the father of the new-born baby. This group of five adult western gorillas *Gorilla gorilla gorilla* was the first to be released in a long-term programme to reintroduce the species to the Lefini Reserve, an area of rolling savannah and gallery forests 150 km north of the capital Brazzaville. Gorillas, and several other large mammals, were extirpated from the area by hunting, probably during the first half of the 20th century. Since 2002, protection of the reintroduction site has been achieved through the efforts of the Projet Protection des Gorilles (PPG), funded by the John Aspinall Foundation, UK, in collaboration with the Congolese Ministry of Forest Economy and the Environment (MEFE). PPG has been working in the Republic of Congo since 1989, rehabilitating young gorillas orphaned by the bush-meat trade and confiscated by MEFE. It is these rehabilitated orphans that have provided, and will continue to provide, the initial release stock for the reintroduction

programme. A group of nine subadults and juveniles currently under the care of PPG in the neighbouring Lesio-Louna Reserve are planned for release into the reintroduction site during 2004, although they should not come into contact with the first released group for another 2 years or more. A further group of juveniles is being prepared for release in the following years.

Despite the artificial nature of the groups, early signs suggest that the behaviour of the group already reintroduced is similar to that of wild gorillas elsewhere in Congo and Gabon. During the first year following release the territory of the group contained c. 4 km<sup>2</sup> of forest. However, during almost the entire 3-month dry season they remained in a small forest patch of just 1.3 km<sup>2</sup>. Conversely, during the subsequent wet season until the end of 2003 they travelled regularly to the limits of their established range, increasing their range south westwards and remaining in any one forest patch no longer than 3.5 weeks. This ranging behaviour is typical of wild western gorilla groups, which have been shown to travel further during periods of fruit abundance than during periods of low fruit availability, when low herbaceous vegetation becomes the major component of the diet.

The news of the birth came as an unexpected but welcome surprise to all involved with the project. The mother had been with PPG since arriving as a 3-year-old orphan in July 1990, and had been ovulating regularly since 1992. As part of the rehabilitation programme she was released into the Lesio-Louna Reserve in April 1996 with two males of similar age. For 6 years she was living freely in the Lesio-Louna Reserve, during which time group dynamics shifted such that she was associated with three separate dominant males. Despite this long history, and despite being the oldest female in the project, she never became pregnant. However, since the release into the final reintroduction site in south-west Lefini, the increased independence of the group from humans may have helped the group develop increasingly natural dynamics, which in turn may have facilitated reproduction.

The future of the baby is uncertain. The fact that the mother was relatively old when she was orphaned may have allowed her to learn how to care for a baby from her own mother. Nevertheless, it will be a difficult learning experience for her, and there are many hazards ahead. If she succeeds, however, the group will become the first typical mixed-age family group within the project. The progress of such a group will give the truest indication yet of the long-term success of this ambitious reintroduction programme.

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### Possible existence of previously unrecorded subpopulations of Critically Endangered Cross River gorilla and chimpanzee

Conservationists from the Cameroon-based Environment and Rural Development Foundation have discovered 12 previously unrecorded nesting sites of what are believed to be the Critically Endangered Cross River gorilla *Gorilla gorilla diehli* and the Endangered Cross River chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes vellerosus*. If verified, this discovery, made during February–March 2004 in Bechati-Fossimondi-Besali forest in south-west Cameroon and comprising over 40 individual nests, would confirm that the range of both subspecies extends further than originally thought and that total population numbers are higher than current estimates. The surveys were funded by the Flagship Species Fund – a joint initiative between Fauna & Flora International and the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

Present figures estimate that less than 300 Cross River gorillas survive in the wild, all of which are found in the Lower Guinean Forest that straddles the border between Cross River State in south-east Nigeria and the south-west Province of Cameroon. In recent years groups of gorillas have become more fragmented and isolated as their habitat is further encroached upon by humans. The Cross River chimpanzee suffers similar threats. The next step will be to carry out a more systematic and long-term study to confirm these new records, to determine the species/subspecies classification and the number of individuals, and to assess any threats to the new nesting sites.

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### Nepal's new strategies to protect its rhinos

From mid 2000 to mid 2003 more rhinos were killed in Nepal than in the rest of Asia put together, at least 91 out of a population of c. 600. This alarming spate of rhino poaching has been due to a growing break down in law and order associated with the activities of Maoist rebels.

One of the main problems was reduced vigilance in both the Royal Chitwan and Bardia National Parks, areas of nearly 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> each. With threats of Maoist attacks, many of the soldiers stationed in each Park moved out from the Park's guard posts to fortify other areas within the two Parks, leaving large areas unprotected. In response, staff of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation implemented a new and more effective anti-poaching policy in 2003. Part of this policy

involved game scouts taking over some of the original army posts in the two Parks. In Chitwan a so-called 'sweeping strategy' was adopted in 2003, as is used in Bardia, whereby a large group of soldiers and Park staff patrol intensively for 3–5 days through an area where poachers are suspected to be working. In Chitwan a flying squad was also set up to allow soldiers and Park staff to reach critical areas quickly. In Bardia the sweeping strategy in the remote Babai Valley, home to most of the Park's rhinos, was made more effective by using 10 elephants and about 45 Park staff and soldiers. WWF Nepal provided Chitwan Park with a motorboat and a new communications network, because during the monsoon in mid 2002 the Park's communication repeater station broke down and communication between Park staff and guards almost collapsed.

Another problem that was rectified in 2003 concerned Chitwan's intelligence network. The UK-based NGO, the International Trust for Nature Conservation, which funds monthly payments to informers (to provide information on potential traders and poachers), stopped its financial support from July 2002 to April 2003 as the Parks department was losing control of operations. With the new anti-poaching policy in place, funding resumed, a vital ingredient in keeping the poachers out of the Park. Another important development was that the Army and Park staff were permitted to go beyond the boundaries of the Parks to chase poachers, rather than having to rely on the police and Forest Department as formerly. Perhaps most importantly of all, coordination among all organizations involved in protecting rhinos improved with the arrival in Chitwan of a more effective Chief Park Warden and a new, more motivated Army commander in mid 2003.

The government has not cut its budgets for the two Parks, even though more money now has to be allocated to the military to fight the Maoist rebels. Since 2001 the government has allocated half of the Parks' revenue to villagers in the buffer zones (see also pp. 334–341). In addition, local villagers are also allowed, with permits, to cut reeds for thatch and fencing in Chitwan and Bardia; this is restricted to limited time periods, giving cutters sufficient time to collect reeds for their household needs but not for sale. In both buffer zones there are now more education programmes on rhinos, and NGOs have helped provide more resources for watchtowers and trenches (which help prevent rhinos from leaving the Park). In return, villagers are providing information on suspected poachers. Around Chitwan, one district has started a volunteer youth group to locate poachers along the Park's Nayarani river boundary. By encouraging the 300,000 villagers in the 750 km<sup>2</sup> buffer zone of Chitwan and the 100,000 villagers in the 328 km<sup>2</sup> buffer zone of Bardia to become more sympathetic to rhinos, both poaching and human-rhino conflict should lessen. As a

result of all these measures only one rhino was known to have been poached in Chitwan in the last 6 months of 2003, and there was no poaching at all in Bardia.

This note is based on fieldwork carried out by EM in December 2003.

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### Conservation status of Anshi National Park and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary

A study of the conservation status of Anshi National Park (345 km<sup>2</sup>) and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (475 km<sup>2</sup>) in the Western Ghats (see also pp. 321–327), a biodiversity hotspot and also among the 200 globally important ecoregions in southern India, has recently been completed. The study was supported by 21st Century Tiger, with assistance from the Karnataka State Forest Department. These protected areas are situated in the north-west of Karnataka state and border other forest reserves and six protected areas in the neighbouring state of Goa to form a contiguous wildlife habitat of nearly 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Anshi and Dandeli are a part of the Level – 1 Tiger Conservation Unit. Wildlife of global conservation importance found in the area include tiger *Panthera tigris*, leopard *Panthera pardus*, Indian wild dog *Cuon alpinus* and Asiatic elephant *Elephas maximus*.

The conservation status of wildlife was assessed through field surveys, and suggestions for future management plans have been developed. Habitat fragmentation is the most important threat to these protected areas, followed by overexploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) collected for local and global markets. Seventy-six NTFP species have been identified that are collected from the area, of which 18 are extensively harvested for commercial purposes. *Terminilia chebula*, *Sapindus emarginata*, *Viteria indica*, *Garcinia cambogia*, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, *Artocarpus lakoocha*, *Myristica malabarica*, *Embilica officinalis*, *Acacia concinna*, *Calamus* spp. and *Apis* spp. are amongst the commercially harvested species. Fruits of *Garcinia gummi-gatta*, which contain the anti-obesity agent hydroxycitric acid, are heavily harvested to cater to international markets, clearly indicating the link of local collection with global trade.

Grazing of livestock is the next most important threat, followed by wildlife poaching. Of the 38 mammal species recorded in the area, 11 species are extensively hunted for wild meat. We documented a total of 18 species of mammals, birds and reptiles, some of which are listed as Endangered or Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List

of Threatened Species, which are being hunted for consumption and often sold in local markets. Unregulated development activities, lack of protection, forest fires, and planting of exotic plant species are some of the other threats to these protected areas.

Voluntary resettlement of villages to areas with better access to basic amenities, control of NTFP harvesting and livestock grazing, improvement of the protection infrastructure, and compensation for attacks on cattle by predators and crop damage by wild herbivores, are the priorities for minimizing threats to these wildlife habitats.

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### **Gold mining threatens biodiversity in the East Usambara Mountains, Tanzania**

The East Usambara Mountains contain the highest known number of rare and endemic plant and animal species of any site in East Africa. Internationally, the East Usambara Mountains are best known as the source for the African violet *Saintpaulia* spp., having the highest diversity of globally threatened species worldwide, and having the highest diversity of globally threatened bird species in East Africa. Furthermore, one-third of all plant species in the East Usambara Mountains have local medicinal uses.

Unfortunately, the recent discovery of gold in the East Usambara Mountains is seriously threatening the areas' biodiversity. In April 2003 gold was discovered at the base of the East Usambara Mountains at 160 m altitude along a stream running adjacent to the Semdoe Forest Reserve. Local residents who made the discovery rapidly began excavating the streambed and over the following 3 months diverted large portions of the stream from its original streambed. In June 2003 the District Commission for Muheza banned gold mining in the Semdoe Forest Reserve and thereafter local villagers began to explore upstream for additional deposits. In October 2003 gold was discovered in the village of Sakale on the Amani Plateau, 5 km to the north of the Amani Nature Reserve. Between October and December 2003 the population of Sakale grew from a few hundred inhabitants to more than 10,000. In January 2004 large numbers of gold miners invaded the Amani Nature Reserve after the discovery of gold. Over the following 2 months the staff

of the Reserve were successful in evicting most of the illegal miners but it is believed that individuals are still entering the Reserve to mine at night.

Serious adverse environmental, social and economic impacts have occurred as a result of these mining activities, and these impacts have been highlighted in a recent report by WWF-Tanzania. The most immediate adverse environmental impact resulting from recent gold mining has been the destruction of watercourses and wetlands. Possibly the most serious long-term threat that gold mining in the East Usambara Mountains poses to Tanzania as a whole is the potential catastrophic loss of potable water for the city of Tanga, one of Tanzania's largest cities. Although it is believed that artisanal miners are not currently using mercury to process gold, it is also known that they are aware of this technology, which has been used elsewhere in Tanzania. If local miners in the East Usambara Mountains were to use mercury to process gold, this could seriously jeopardize the water supply for the city of Tanga as well as for most of the residents in the East Usambara Mountains.

Over the last two decades, bilateral and multilateral donors have invested more than \$15 million in establishing the Amani Nature Reserve, protecting critical catchment forests, and rehabilitating commercial tea estates on the Amani Plateau. The recent gold mining activities in the East Usambara Mountains pose a serious threat to the long-term sustainability of these investments as well as to biodiversity conservation as a whole.

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### **Rediscovery of *Tragulus versicolor*, the silver-backed chevrotain**

In the April 2004 issue of *Oryx* (p. 133), attention was drawn to *Tragulus versicolor*, a possibly extinct species of chevrotain or mouse-deer from Vietnam. The species is only known from a few specimens collected in the beginning of the 20th century, all from Nhatrang, a coastal town in central Vietnam. Recently, AVB and GVK reinvestigated several *Tragulus* specimens from Vietnam deposited in the Zoological Museum of Moscow University, Russia. Among these they found one with the unmistakable characteristics of *T. versicolor*. This specimen, an adult male, had been obtained from local hunters in January 1990 nearby Tra River, c. 20 km north of Kan Nack in Gia Lai Province at an altitude of c. 500 m.

This new *T. versicolor* specimen is important because it demonstrates that the species still existed 14 years ago and also significantly expands the range of *T. versicolor*. The specimen was collected in tall forest in a river valley, giving some indication of the species' habitat. The original vegetation of this area was lowland, semi-evergreen forest, with the understorey relatively free of dense thickets and the forest floor well-exposed and passable. Much of this once extensive vegetation type has now disappeared, but a few areas, some of which are protected, still contain sizeable stands of semi-evergreen forest. Based on vegetation maps (MacKinnon, J., 1996, *Review of the Protected Areas System of the Indomalayan Realm*) the following protected areas could be important targets for a *T. versicolor* survey: Kon Kha Kinh, Kon Cha Rang, Mom Ray, Nam Ca, and Nam Lung.

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### 'Lost' frogs and reptiles rediscovered on Palawan Island, Philippines

Team members of *Herp Watch Palawan 2001*, a herpetological research and conservation project funded by the BP Conservation Programme, recently rediscovered several endemic species of frogs, lizards and turtles during field surveys in various forested regions of Palawan Island, Philippines. Among the notable finds were the Philippine flat-headed frog *Barbourula busuangensis*, Mary Inger's frog *Ingerana mariae*, Palawan bent-toed gecko *Cyrtodactylus redimiculus*, Palawan gecko *Gekko athymus*, and the Philippine forest turtle *Heosemys leytensis*. Both the Philippine flat-headed frog and Mary Inger's frog are Vulnerable species, and the Philippine forest turtle is Critically Endangered. Field biologists last documented these endemic species 15–60 years ago, and now for the first time photographs of the species have been obtained. These species were primarily found in ultrabasic and limestone lowland forests at elevations of 100–600 m. Their major habitats are presently under pressure from the pollution of rivers and streams, *kaingin* (slash-and-burn agriculture), and small-scale logging; the latter is supposedly banned throughout the whole island. In addition, poaching and the illegal wildlife

trade are seriously affecting the populations of these endemic species.

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### BP Conservation Programme award winners

The BP Conservation Programme, a partnership between BP, BirdLife International, Fauna & Flora International, Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society, recently judged their 2004 awards. These aim to address global conservation priorities at a local level by assisting and encouraging student-led teams of young people from around the world to undertake conservation research projects through grants, training and advice. This year 29 teams, working on a range of species and habitats from 23 countries, have been awarded a total of \$600,000.

Three top \$75,000 Consolidation Awards were given to the best continuing conservation projects that the Programme has helped to seed. The first of these builds on a series of successful, but short-term, bat conservation projects in Madagascar funded by BP and others. The team aims to create an independent and self-sustaining national conservation organization, Bat Conservation Madagascar, which will work on bat-plant interactions, cave conservation, species ecology and the role of bats in maintaining biodiversity.

The second Consolidation Award went to the Mpingo Project in Tanzania. The East African Blackwood *Dalbergia melanoxylon*, locally known as *mpingo*, is exported for the making of clarinets and oboes, and is the medium of choice for skilled local wood-carvers (see also pp. 266–272). Using *mpingo* as a flagship species, the team will work with foresters to develop sustainable forestry under the management of local communities, and thereby conserve large areas of forest and woodlands in southern Tanzania.

The final \$75,000 was awarded to a team working on the protection of the threatened birds of Bolivia. The project's goal is to help in the conservation of all 29 of Bolivia's globally threatened bird species and their habitats. Along with a range of research and specific conservation measures for these species and habitats, including two Critically Endangered species, this project aims to develop a national Ornithology Conservation Centre that will provide the infrastructure support needed to develop these initiatives into projects that will permanently conserve these threatened species.

All 29 award winning teams will send a representative to the UK in late May 2004 to attend 3 weeks of training,

during which they will have the opportunity to meet and share ideas with each other and a wide range of conservation experts.

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### New and improved internet resources

*The Natural History Museum, London: Butterflies and Moths of the World* (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/entomology/butmoth/index.html>) is a comprehensive interactive catalogue of all the published genus-group names of Lepidoptera from Linnaeus, 1758, up to the present, and also provides full-colour images of representatives of most included families. The online catalogue contains 31,147 entries, over 400 full-colour images, and a bibliography that provides 6,155 references by 1,281 different authors or author combinations. Searches can be conducted for a specific genus, type species, bibliographical reference, or image.

*The Natural History Museum, London, The Cockayne database. British & Irish Butterflies and Moths Part 1: Butterflies* (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/entomology/cockayne/index.html>) is named after Dr E.A. Cockayne. The Cockayne database website was developed collaboratively by the Natural History Museum in London and Dr Cockayne's Trust. The website provides free access to a comprehensive atlas of British butterflies and moths, illustrating all native and introduced species and their variation. This site represents the first phase of the Cockayne project, focusing on British Butterflies, and it currently provides *c.* 1,700 images illustrating

geographic, seasonal, genetic and major individual variations. The database can be searched by scientific or common name, or by browsing images of native and regular migrant species.

*European Register of Marine Species* (<http://erms.biol.soton.ac.uk/>) is a European Union-funded marine biodiversity research consortium involving research groups in nine European nations. The goal of the project is to produce a register of marine species in Europe, linked with a bibliography of identification guides, register of taxonomic experts, locations of collections of reference specimens, and an Information Pack on European marine biodiversity. The site links to brief and full checklists for numerous taxa including information on genus, higher taxon, authority, specific epithet, distribution, and more. From the species pages users can link to information about the checklists, identification guides, and taxonomic hierarchy.

*Nature Conservation in Indonesia* (<http://users.bart.nl/~edcolijn/index.html>) provides descriptions of National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, Nature Reserves and Recreation Parks in Indonesia. It also contains checklists of mammal and bird species that occur in Indonesia, with information on scientific and common name, Indonesian distribution, status, and more. The site also provides links to related organizations and resources, a What's New section, and other useful information.

*American Museum of Natural History, Department of Herpetology: Amphibian Species of the World* (<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.html>) includes mention of over 35,000 species. The site can be searched by taxonomic names or geographic place names, and each species account includes the class, order, family, and genus, common name and the species' distribution.