

Proceedings of the Second International Mongolian Biodiversity Databank Workshop: Assessing the Conservation Status of Mongolian Reptiles and Amphibians.

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Abstract

The Second International Mongolian Biodiversity Databank Workshop was held at the National University of Mongolia and Hustai National Park from 11th to 15th September 2006. Participants assessed the conservation status of all Mongolian amphibians and reptiles using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. The existing Mongolian Biodiversity Databank created in 2005 and housed at the National University of Mongolia was extended to include these two vertebrate groups, complete species lists were agreed upon, distribution maps were revised and updated, and summary conservation action plans were developed for all species categorised as threatened or Data Deficient during the workshop. This article details the preliminary results of this workshop, presenting the most up-to-date species list for Mongolian amphibians and reptiles accompanied by the conservation status of each of species. A total of six amphibians and 21 reptiles were included on the native species list, along with seven possible species (not evaluated). Of the 24 species of reptiles and amphibians assessed, 25% were categorised as threatened and a further 21% were assessed as Near Threatened.

Key words: Biodiversity, extinction risk, reptile, amphibian, Mongolia, conservation

Introduction

The Second International Mongolian Biodiversity Databank Workshop was held at the National University of Mongolia and Hustai National Park from 11th September to 15th September 2006. The aim of this event was to bring together like minded experts who share a common interest in the amphibians and reptiles of Mongolia. All available data on these little known species was brought together to extend the Mongolian Biodiversity Databank established following the first Mongolian Biodiversity Databank workshop held in 2005. Taxonomic meetings of key experts were held prior to the workshop with to draft an initial species list for the workshop, and prior to conducting the assessments during the workshop, all participants were involved in a meeting to agree upon a final native species list. Two days of the workshop were devoted to training all participants in the application of the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: version 3.1* (IUCN, 2001) both globally and at a regional level following the *Guidelines for*

application of IUCN Red List Criteria at regional levels version: 3.0 (IUCN, 2003), following which they completed regional conservation assessments for all Mongolian amphibians and reptiles. In addition, distribution maps for each species were updated, and the databank was populated with all available information on such as habitat types, conservation measures and population trends. These conservation assessment results were reviewed in a final meeting, and summary conservation action plans for each species assessed as threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable) or Data Deficient were compiled. As a result, the conservation status of Mongolia's amphibian and reptile species have been assessed using a quantitative and objective approach, and many students and experts have been trained in the application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. As many young herpetologists of Mongolia attended this workshop, we believe that awareness of the state of Mongolia's biodiversity was raised, and that training in the application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria provided an opportunity to aid the effectiveness