
News Release

World Conservation Union Launches 2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Ottawa, September 28, 2000 - Karen Redman, MP for Kitchener-Center and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment David Anderson today participated in the Canadian launch of the World Conservation Union's *2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. The Red List is the most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of plant and animal species.

"I congratulate the World Conservation Union who worked in the field to put together such a compelling snapshot of the global situation for species at risk.. Canada has contributed its expertise to this important project and has helped designed a new, consistent and science based assessment system for species at risk," stated Karen Redman. "As the IUCN Red List makes clear, many countries are struggling with this challenge. We have to work together," she added.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), created in 1948, is the world's largest conservation-related organization. The IUCN 2000 Red List is founded on the scientific data contributed by over 6000 voluntary members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), chaired by David Brackets of Canada. The IUCN Red List is updated periodically and is recognized as the most authoritative guide to the status of global biological diversity. The criteria used by the IUCN to evaluate the extinction risk of thousands of species and sub-species are relevant to all species and all regions of the world.

"The Red List must enable resource managers, policy makers and citizens around the world to make current and informed decisions," noted Mr. Brackett. "Web-based technology allows us to bring the IUCN list to a larger audience and make it relevant to national and regional needs. This was made possible through a partnership between IUCN and Cymbiont Inc., a Canadian company, and support from GeoInnovations, the industry-partnership program of GeoConnections," noted Mr. Brackett.

Earlier this year, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) released the *2000 List of Species at Risk in Canada*. An important component of this year's work by COSEWIC was the reassessment of 123 species, using quantitative criteria that estimate the risk of extinction and are built on the global model used by the IUCN.

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“Our actions will reveal our true commitment. Actions that take the necessary steps to protect species at risk and their critical habitat. Canada is committed to protecting species at risk. The Government of Canada’s strategy for the protection of species at risk includes the proposed Species at Risk Act. It is designed to achieve concrete results for protecting Canada’s wildlife species,” concluded Karen Redman.

The 2000 IUCN Red List is accessible at www.redlist.org
For more information on Canada's Strategy for Species at Risk, consult Environment Canada's Greenlane at www.ec.gc.ca.

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Background Information: Canada and the 2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

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