

EDITORIAL

Endangered Species Research — a journal on the move!

Brendan J. Godley*

Centre for Ecology & Conservation, School of Biosciences, University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus, Penryn TR10 9EZ, UK

Endangered Species Research (ESR) was launched in 2004 by Professor Otto Kinne, President of Inter-Research (IR), himself an ardent conservationist, with some of his own work on threatened amphibians from his homeland in Germany (Kinne 2004, Kinne et al. 2004a,b). The overarching aim of the journal is to provide the knowledge needed for practising human stewardship. Having experience with the high standards of IR journals, I was delighted to be invited aboard, first as Subject Editor, and a year ago as Editor-in-Chief. During 2006, ESR has gained critical momentum with a substantial increase in submissions and the appearance of the first print issues.

Rigorous standards

As expected for an IR journal, ESR has industry-leading editorial and production standards. Prior to distribution for in-depth peer-review, manuscripts are screened by the Editor-in-Chief and, in conjunction with the relevant Subject Editors, a swift decision is made as to their suitability for the journal. Informal pre-submission enquiries as to the suitability of material are welcome. ESR manuscripts are assessed by a growing staff of dedicated expert Review Editors and referees. With the able assistance of ESR's Managing Editor, Penny Kuhn, we do our best to limit the initial review process to 6 weeks. Time for acceptance to publication is an outstanding 4 to 5 weeks, with articles published online as soon as they are approved by authors. This, and IR's progressive Open Access policy, gives the highest possible visibility for your work; as of 1 December 2006, there have been over 15 000 pdf downloads of ESR articles. We also seek to harness the power of online publication through the incorporation

of supplemental online materials, such as videos, which can greatly facilitate the transmission of novel insights (e.g. Schofield et al. 2006, this volume).

ESR's niche and expanded scope

ESR publishes research on all species and habitats of conservation concern. This includes empirical, theoretical and philosophical approaches to work *in situ* and *ex situ*. Unlike other journals in the field, we welcome individual species accounts, as long as the work meets our rigorous editorial standards. Whilst we recognise the utility of the red-listing process by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) for many species, our interpretation of 'endangered' is broader, as we are also interested in work pertaining to species and habitats included in national or regional conservation strategies. We recognise the high priority for research on wider cross-cutting issues and themes pertinent to the conservation of biodiversity, and we have highlighted a number of critical issues. Over the past months, we have expanded the subject area coverage of our Editorial Board and are proud to have the support of world-leading experts in these key areas:

- Captive breeding and re-introductions
- Sustainable use
- Conservation medicine
- Conservation genetics
- Population monitoring
- Conservation economics
- Restoration ecology
- Invasive species
- Effects of climate change

*Email: b.j.godley@exeter.ac.uk

- Consequences of fisheries bycatch
- Bushmeat
- Biodiversity assessment

Articles in this second volume of ESR focus on several marine taxa, including fishes, turtles, seabirds and mammals. Our taxon coverage is increasing further, with articles on shore-birds, freshwater invertebrates and land plants. I am sure that confidence in ESR by scientists working in the terrestrial and freshwater realms will further increase through our inception of regular print issues and our rapidly increasing rate of manuscript submissions.

Supporting initiatives

The 1st IR-sponsored Symposium will be held in February 2007 as part of the 27th International Sea Turtle Symposium (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA). Entitled 'Satellite Tracking for the Conservation of Migratory Vertebrates', the meeting will bring together synthetic, critical, and multi-taxon overviews of the value of satellite tracking for conservation practices. Case studies on sea turtles, seals, pelagic fishes, seabirds and whales will be presented, and these papers, along with contributions from the wider research community, will be published in a Special

Issue of ESR. We also invite proposals for future Theme Sections, Special Issues, and IR Symposia to be conducted in partnership with ESR.

The future

ESR is here to stay, and I am sure that 2007 will be the year in which the journal really takes off, attaining an important role for scientists working in the field, botanic gardens, zoos and aquaria, and in laboratories striving for the knowledge needed as the basis for effective human stewardship. Whether you are a reader, author, reviewer or editor, I look forward to your support in advancing the journal.

LITERATURE CITED

- Kinne O (2004) The essence of IR involvement. *Endang Species Res* 1:5-6
- Kinne O, Kunert J, Zimmermann W (2004a) Land and equipment. *Endang Species Res* 1:7-9
- Kinne O, Kunert J, Zimmermann W (2004b) Breeding, rearing and raising the red-bellied toad *Bombina bombina* in the laboratory. *Endang Species Res* 1:11-23
- Schofield G, Katselidis KA, Dimopoulos P, Pantis JD, Hays GC (2006) Behaviour analysis of the loggerhead sea turtle *Caretta caretta* from direct in-water observation. *Endang Species Res* 2:71-79