

TOP 25 TURTLES ON DEATH ROW

THE WORLD'S TOP 25 MOST ENDANGERED TURTLES—2003



BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

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|---|-----------------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | TROPICAL ANDES | 8 | PHILIPPINES | 15 | NEW CALEDONIA | 22 | CENTRAL CHILE |
| 2 | SUNDALAND | 9 | CAPE FLORISTIC PROVINCE | 16 | CHOCÓ-DARIÉN-WESTERN ECUADOR | 23 | CAUCASUS |
| 3 | MEDITERRANEAN BASIN | 10 | MESOAMERICA | 17 | GUINEAN FORESTS OF WEST AFRICA | 24 | WALLACEA |
| 4 | MADAGASCAR & INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS | 11 | BRAZILIAN CERRADO | 18 | WESTERN GHATS & SRI LANKA | 25 | EASTERN ARC MOUNTAINS & COASTAL FORESTS OF TANZANIA & KENYA |
| 5 | INDO-BURMA | 12 | SOUTHWEST AUSTRALIA | 19 | CALIFORNIA FLORISTIC PROVINCE | | |
| 6 | CARIBBEAN | 13 | MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHWEST CHINA | 20 | SUCCULENT KAROO | | |
| 7 | ATLANTIC FOREST REGION | 14 | POLYNESIA/MICRONESIA | 21 | NEW ZEALAND | | |

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The top 25 most endangered tortoise and freshwater turtles cling to survival in small numbers in: Asia (12), South Africa (2), Madagascar (3), the Mediterranean (1), Australia (2), South America (2), Mesoamerica (1) and the United States (2).

Twenty-one of the world's top 25 most endangered tortoise and freshwater turtle species occur in 11 of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots, areas which house the greatest number of species yet face the most severe threats. Critical to the turtles' survival will be protection of these hotspots where small populations still remain: Indo-Burma (9), Sundaland (2), Philippines (1), Wallacea (2), Madagascar & Indian Ocean Islands (3), Succulent Karoo (1), Cape Floristic Region (1), Mediterranean Basin (1), Southwestern Australia (1), Choco-Darien-Western Ecuador (2) and Mesoamerica (1).

INDO-BURMA HOTSPOT

Striped Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle (*Chitra chitra*), S.E. Asia
Chinese Three-striped Box Turtle (*Cuora trifasciata*), Northern Vietnam & China
Arakan Forest Turtle (*Heosemys depressa*), Myanmar
Burmese Star Tortoise (*Geochelone platynota*), Myanmar
Burmese Roofed Turtle (*Kachuga trivittata*), Myanmar
Vietnam Leaf Turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*), Vietnam
Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*), China & Vietnam

INDO-BURMA AND SUNDALAND HOTSPOTS (COMBINED)

River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*), S.E. Asia
Painted Terrapin (*Callagur borneoensis*), S.E. Asia

PHILIPPINES HOTSPOT

Philippine Forest Turtle (*Heosemys leytenis*)

WALLACEA HOTSPOT

Roti Snake-necked Turtle (*Chelodina mccordii*), Southern Indonesia
Sulawesi Forest Turtle (*Leucocephalon yuwonoi*), Indonesia

SUCCULENT KAROO HOTSPOT

Southern Speckled Padloper Tortoise (*Homopus signatus cafer*), South Africa

CAPE FLORISTIC REGION HOTSPOT

Geometric Tortoise (*Psamnobates geometricus*), South Africa

MADAGASCAR AND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS HOTSPOT

Madagascar Big-headed Turtle (*Erymnochelys madagascariensis*), Madagascar
Ploughshare Tortoise (*Geochelone yniphora*), Madagascar
Flat-tailed Tortoise (*Pyxis planicauda*), Madagascar

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN HOTSPOT

Egyptian Tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*), S.E. Mediterranean

SOUTHWESTERN AUSTRALIA HOTSPOT

Western Swamp Turtle (*Pseudemydura umbrina*), Australia

CHOCO-DARIEN-WESTERN ECUADOR HOTSPOT

Abingdon Island Tortoise (*Geochelone nigra abingdoni*), Galapagos Islands

MESOAMERICA HOTSPOT

Central American River Turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*), Central America

Top 25 species not occurring in hotspots:

AUSTRALIA

Mary River Turtle (*Elusor macrurus*)

COLOMBIA

Dahl's Toad-headed Turtle (*Batrachemys dahli*)

UNITED STATES

Bog Turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*)
Yellow-Blotched Map Turtle (*Graptemys flavimaculata*)



Photo: Anders G. J. Rhodin, Chelonian Research Foundation



Photo: R. Andrew Quinn, Toledo Zoological Society

This list was compiled by the Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF)—a partnership of the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS) at Conservation International (CI), The World Conservation Union Species Survival Commission's (IUCN/SSC) Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG), and IUCN/SSC Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA).