



Asian Turtle Coordinator Position Created Advancing the Mission and Goals of the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)

Through a joint initiative of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (CMZ) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), an Asian Turtle Coordinator position was recently created to help reduce the threat to freshwater turtles and tortoises in East and Southeast Asia posed by massive and unsustainable hunting and trade. The Coordinator works with TSA and other relevant parties such as TRAFFIC, IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, and the Turtle Conservation Fund. Additionally, important alliances are being formed with range country governments, non-government organizations, institutions, agencies and individuals.

Specifically, the Coordinator was hired to enhance the development in East and Southeast Asia of 1) appropriately managed turtle assurance colonies, 2) turtle rescue facilities, and 3) a regional prioritization strategy and action plan for controlling turtle hunting and trade. Overall this position facilitates a coordinated and improved response from the conservation community, and promotes a collaborative strategy for saving Asian turtles.

In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Coordinator performs such duties as 1) assisting in the implementation, coordination and evaluation of turtle husbandry and veterinary care courses, 2) conducting need assessments of captive turtle facilities, 3) initiating formative cooperative turtle breeding programs, 4) assisting with confiscations to place turtles in appropriate facilities, 5) planning a follow-up workshop of the one conducted in Cambodia in 1999 to enhance regional collaboration among CITES management authorities, 6) facilitating training courses that will help control turtle trade, and 7) working with

management authorities to improve enforcement of laws regulating turtle trade. The Coordinator is also compiling a database of East and Southeast Asian institutions, individuals and agencies involved or interested in turtle conservation, which is being utilized to create a network that will enhance conservation efforts within the region. A prioritized list of critical conservation initiatives for the region's chelonians is also being created as part of Range State Action Plans for all SE Asian countries. These documents are also very useful for fund raising.

CMZ and WCS are happy to announce that **Doug Hendrie** was contracted as the Asian Turtle Coordinator. Doug is stationed in Hanoi, Vietnam, and served as Technical Advisor for Education for Nature - Vietnam (ENV), program Manager/Technical Advisor for the Turtle Conservation and Ecology Project (TCEP) in Vietnam, and as Cuc Phong Conservation Project Manager, Vietnam.

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Don't Forget!
The 2nd Annual TSA
conference is August 16-17,
2004 in Orlando, Florida