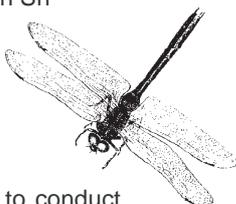
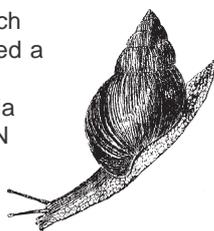


## CAMP for Freshwater Biodiversity of Pakistan Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshop, 13-17 December, 2004

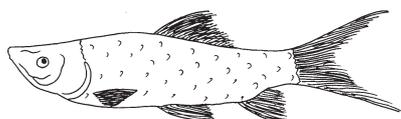


Introduction : In August 2003 Zoo Outreach Organisation / CBSG, South Asia facilitated a CAMP Workshop for the Mammals of Pakistan. This workshop, held in Margalla Hotel, Islamabad and organised by IUCN Pakistan was the first step in a long range project tasked to us by IUCN Asia Biodiversity Programme to assist IUCN Pakistan Biodiversity Programme to develop a Red List Programme. This workshop assessed 199 species of mammals of Pakistan and has recently published a Report. The second part of this programme took place on 13-17 December 2004 also in Islamabad in Dreamland Hotel, organised by IUCN Pakistan, facilitated by ZOO/CBSG, South Asia and sponsored by IUCN Pakistan, Chester Zoo, Sea World, Florida, and Lord Robin Russell, Woburn, UK. This was the first such workshop in a series under the CBSG, South Asia Regional Freshwater Biodiversity Initiative, which aims will join with the IUNC SSC Global Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment GFBA in about 2006. The next FWB CAMP is likely to be held in Sri Lanka or Bangladesh and in other South Asian countries subsequently. A Regional CAMP for Freshwater Biodiversity will be conducted in Coimbatore, India in February 2006. At that time the IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Programme will join with us to conduct the global assessment for the region. The IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Programme Chair, Will Darwell, was in touch with Kashif Sheikh, Head, IUCN Biodiversity Programme, and Sally Walker, Convenor, CBSG, South Asia and gave his blessing for this exercise.



### The Workshop

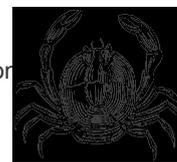
The Freshwater Biodiversity CAMP for Pakistan started with a dignified inaugural featuring Dr. Abdul Latif Rao, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan, Dr. B. A. Wani, Inspector General, Ministry of Forests, Government of Pakistan, Dr. Kashif M. Sheikh, Head, IUCNP and Sally Walker, Convenor, CBSG South Asia on the dias. Short presentations were given by them and also by Dr. Nasim Akhtar, Dy. Dir. General, Animal Sciences Institute (Freshwater Resources and its Conservation in Pakistan), Sanjay Molur, Chair, Reinroduction Specialist Group, South and East Asia and Red List Specialist, and by Dr. B.A. Daniel, Chair, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group. A group photograph and tea preceeded the start of the technical sessions of the workshop.



Participants introduced themselves and a few groundrules were explained to participants before Sanjay Molur gave a detailed explanation of the IUCN Criteria and Categories.

There were many good questions by participants during and after this presentation which went on until lunch.

After lunch Sanjay Molur explained the Taxon Data Sheet in detail using a well-known species, the Himalayan Maseer (*Tor macroleupatus*) of the Family Ciprinidae, with all participants contributing information from the plenary group before dividing into specialised groups.



The groups prioritised by the IUCN SSC Freshwater Biodiversity Programme are Freshwater fishes, Crustaceans (crabs), Molluscs (snails), and Odonata (dragonflies & Damseb files), so the participants agreed to also prioritise these groups of their five day assessment.

By 10 am the last day, 14 species of fish and a few other species of invertebrates remained to be assessed. At that point a plenary discussion was held to review the assessments of endemic fishes that had been done and to discuss which special issue working groups would be formed. The following issues and other issues were discussed by the plenary group : legislation, policy, management, human factor, habitat management, impact of exotic species, protection of native species, research, etc. Some topics were selected after the remaining species were assessed and Working Group exercises held. The Reports of the Working Groups were presented before the Validictory Ceremony, after which participants disbursed. In a forthcoming issue we will publish the list of fish and invertebrates and their status. It is sufficient to report now that a very large number of endemic freshwater fishes of Pakistan are threatened with 17 Critically Endangered; 15 Endangered; 7 Vulnerable; 4 Least concern. There could be minor additions or changes of the list. Generally participants agreed that Pakistan had lost at least 50% of its freshwater systems in the last 20 years. That would account for the very large number of threatened species. Pakistan is not alone in losing vast amounts of freshwater systems. The conservation community of the world is concerned about this issue all over the globe with large projects focused on Freshwater systems and freshwater biodiversity in big organisations like IUCN, WWF, and others. ZOOS' PRINT readers will hear more about freshwater biodiversity and freshwater systems is issues to come, both of the magazine and of the Journal.

Many thanks to our sponsors who assisted IUCN P and ZOO to make this workshop happen in a better way.

