

Turtles in Trouble: The World's Top 25 Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles – 2007

IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG)

This second updated and ranked list was compiled by the TFTSG in 2007. Following Group-wide consultation and review, 25 species were ranked as the most endangered species of tortoises and freshwater turtles in the world, exchanging 4 species from the original 2003 Top 25 list produced by the Turtle Conservation Fund (www.turtleconservationfund.org) and providing a rough hierarchical listing of which species are currently in the most trouble. This new Global Top 25 List was first presented at the TSA/TFTSG 5th Annual Symposium on Conservation and Biology of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises held in Atlanta in July 2007, and is documented here.

Compiled by Anders G.J. Rhodin, Peter Paul van Dijk, and Russell A. Mittermeier, with input from many members of the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group.

1 *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra abingdonii*

2 *Cuora yunnanensis**

3 *Rafetus swinhoei*

4 *Batagur (=Kachuga) trivittata*

5 *Geochelone platynota*

6 *Heosemys depressa*

7 *Cuora trifasciata*

8 *Chitra chitra*

9 *Astrochelys (=Geochelone) yniphora*

10 *Mauremys annamensis*

11 *Chelodina mccordi*

12 *Batagur baska*

13 *Testudo kleinmanni*

14 *Pyxis planicauda*

15 *Leucocephalon yuwonoi*

16 *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*

17 *Pseudemydura umbrina*

18 *Cuora aurocapitata**

19 *Terrapene coahuila**

20 *Batagur (=Callagur) borneoensis*

21 *Elusor macrurus*

22 *Psammobates geometricus*

23 *Chitra indica**

24 *Dermatemys mawii*

25 *Siebenrockiella leytensis*

* = new species added in 2007 that were not on the 2003 list.

Notes:

• *Cuora yunnanensis* was not listed in 2003 because it was at that time believed to be Extinct, but two live specimens were found recently in markets and their genetic identity has now been confirmed.

• Though *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra abingdonii* is represented by only a single individual living in captivity (Lonesome George) and could be considered functionally Extinct, recent work in the Galápagos

has demonstrated the presence of mixed *abingdonii* genotypes in some tortoises from the Volcan Wolf area of Isabela, raising hope that a compatible mate might eventually be located and the taxon possibly saved.

• **2007 Regional Lists:** Using the data reviewed in 2007 to determine the Global Top 25 List presented above, the TFTSG also compiled Regional Top Threatened Lists to provide rough hierarchical rankings of the currently most threatened species of tortoises and freshwater turtles for various geographic regions. These lists are documented here. **The species on these lists also included on the list of the Top 25 globally threatened species are indicated in bold type.**

• Links below indicate those taxa for which accounts have been published on this website in the TFTSG project on [Conservation Biology of Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises](#).

Turtles in Trouble: Africa's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - 2007

- 1 *Astrochelys (=Geochelone) yniphora*
 - 2 *Pyxis planicauda*
 - 3 *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*
 - 4 *Psammobates geometricus*
 - 5 *Homopus signatus cafer*
 - 6 [*Pelusios castanoides intergularis*](#)
 - 7 [*Pelusios subniger parietalis*](#)
 - 8 *Centrochelys (=Geochelone) sulcata*
 - 9 *Astrochelys (=Geochelone) radiata*
 - 10 *Malacochersus tornieri*
 - 11 *Pyxis arachnoides*
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Turtles in Trouble: Asia's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - 2007

- 1 *Cuora yunnanensis*
- 2 *Rafetus swinhoei*
- 3 *Batagur (=Kachuga) trivittata*
- 4 *Geochelone platynota*
- 5 *Heosemys depressa*
- 6 *Cuora trifasciata*
- 7 *Chitra chitra*
- 8 *Mauremys annamensis*
- 9 *Batagur baska*
- 10 *Leucocephalon yuwonoi*
- 11 *Cuora aurocapitata*
- 12 *Batagur (=Callagur) borneoensis*
- 13 *Chitra indica*
- 14 *Siebenrockiella leytenis*
- 15 *Cuora galbinifrons*
- 16 *Cuora zhoui*
- 17 *Manouria emys*

- 18 *Chitra vandijki*
 19 *Cuora bourreti*
 20 *Cuora picturata*
 21 *Cuora mccordi*
 22 *Cuora pani*
 23 *Batagur (=Kachuga) kachuga*
 24 *Indotestudo forstenii*
 25 *Mauremys nigricans*
 26 *Pelochelys cantorii*
 27 *Nilssonia (=Aspideretes) leithii*
 28 *Nilssonia (=Aspideretes) nigricans*
 29 *Batagur (=Kachuga) dhongoka*
 30 *Mauremys mutica*
 31 *Mauremys reevesii*
 32 *Cuora flavomarginata*
 33 *Cuora mouhotii*
 34 *Geoemyda japonica*
 35 *Geoemyda spengleri*
 36 *Heosemys annandalii*
 37 *Heosemys spinosa*
 38 *Indotestudo elongata*
 39 *Mauremys sinensis*
 40 *Orlitia borneensis*
 41 *Nilssonia formosa*
 42 *Palea steindachneri*
 43 *Pangshura sylhetensis*
 44 *Platysternon megacephalum*
 45 *Sacalia bealei*
 46 *Sacalia quadriocellata*
 47 *Vijayachelys silvatica*

Turtles in Trouble: Australasia's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - 2007

- 1 *Chelodina mccordi*
 2 *Pseudemydura umbrina*
 3 *Elusor macrurus*
 4 *Elseya bellii*
 5 *Rheodytes leukops*
 6 *Carettochelys insculpta*
 7 *Elseya albagula*

Turtles in Trouble: The Mediterranean Region's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - 2007

- 1 *Testudo kleinmanni*
 2 *Rafetus euphraticus*
 3 *Testudo graeca nikolskii*
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Turtles in Trouble: MesoAmerica's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - 2007

- 1 *Terrapene coahuila*
 - 2 *Dermatemys mawii*
 - 3 *Gopherus flavomarginatus*
 - 4 *Apalone spinifera atra*
 - 5 *Terrapene nelsoni*
 - 6 *Trachemys taylori*
 - 7 *Kinosternon angustipons*
 - 8 *Trachemys terrapen*
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Turtles in Trouble: North America's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - 2007

- 1 *Glyptemys muhlenbergii*
 - 2 *Pseudemys alabamensis*
 - 3 *Graptemys gibbonsi*
 - 4 *Pseudemys gorzugi*
 - 5 *Graptemys flavimaculata*
 - 6 *Graptemys oculifera*
 - 7 *Gopherus agassizii*
 - 8 *Sternotherus depressus*
 - 9 *Macrochelys temminckii*
 - 10 *Glyptemys insculpta*
 - 11 *Gopherus polyphemus*
-

Turtles in Trouble: South America's Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles - 2007

- 1 *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra abingdonii*
- 2 *Mesoclemmys (=Phrynops) hogei*
- 3 *Podocnemis lewyana*
- 4 *Hydromedusa maximiliani*
- 5 *Kinosternon dunni*
- 6 *Mesoclemmys (=Phrynops) zuliae*
- 7 *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra hoodensis*
- 8 *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra duncanensis*
- 9 *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra darwini*
- 10 *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra porteri*
- 11 *Chelonoidis (=Geochelone) nigra vicina*
- 12 *Trachemys adiutrix*
- 13 *Podocnemis expansa*
- 14 *Mesoclemmys (=Phrynops) dahli*

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