TOP 25 TURTLES ON DEATH ROW
THE WORLD’S TOP 25 MOST ENDANGERED TURTLES—2003

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

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

INDO-BURMA
Striped Narrow-headed Softshell Turtle
Chinese Three-striped Box Turtle
Arakan Forest Turtle
Burmese Star Tortoise
Burmese Roofed Turtle
Vietnam Leaf Turtle*
Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle
*Photo: Rick Reed, Fort Worth Zoo

NEW CALEDONIA
River Terrapin*
*Photo: Hugh Quinn, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN
Egyptian Tortoise
*Photo: Omar Attum, CRF

UNITED STATES
Bog Turtle
Yellow-Blotched Map Turtle*
*Photo: David E. Collins

PHILIPPINES
Philippine Forest Turtle

AUSTRALIA
Mary River Turtle

MADAGASCAR AND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS
Madagascar Big-headed Turtle*
Ploughshare Tortoise
Flat-tailed Tortoise
*Photo: Gerald Kuchling

SOUTHWESTERN AUSTRALIA
Western Swamp Turtle

CHOCO-DARIEN-WESTERN ECUADOR
Abingdon Island Tortoise, Galapagos Islands
*Photo: Anders G. J. Rhodin, CRF

SUCCULENT KAROO
Southern Speckled Padloper Tortoise
*Photo: Thomas F. J. Leuteritz

COLOMBIA
Dahl’s Toad-headed Turtle

MADAGASCAR & INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS
River Terrapin*
Painted Terrapin
*Photo: Hugh Quinn, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

WESTERN GHATS & SRI LANKA
Yangtze Giant Softshell Turtle
*Photo: Rick Reed, Fort Worth Zoo

MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHWEST CHINA
Chinese Three-striped Box Turtle
Arakan Forest Turtle
Burmese Star Tortoise
Burmese Roofed Turtle
Vietnam Leaf Turtle*

PHILIPPINES
Philippine Forest Turtle

AUSTRALIA
Mary River Turtle

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN
Egyptian Tortoise
*Photo: Omar Attum, CRF

UNITED STATES
Bog Turtle
Yellow-Blotched Map Turtle*
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Philippine Forest Turtle

AUSTRALIA
Mary River Turtle

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Egyptian Tortoise
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PHILIPPINES
Philippine Forest Turtle

AUSTRALIA
Mary River Turtle
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 *(Batagar baska)*, S.E. Asia
- Painted Terrapin *(Callagur borneoensis)*, S.E. Asia

**PHILIPPINES HOTSPOT**
- Philippine Forest Turtle *(Heosemys leytensis)*

**WALLACEA HOTSPOT**
- Roti Snake-necked Turtle *(Chelodina mccordi)*, 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 abingdonii)*, 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)*

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).