

general environment, we believe there is a greater chance the participants will understand such behaviours, understand the role of the Wild Dogs in the ecosystem, and leave with a greater understanding of broader ecological principles and the human-induced impacts on this ecology. If we have truly succeeded they will leave with a passion for Wild Dog conservation.

Wild dogs disperse in single sex groups from their family packs from about the age of 1.5 years. They can cover great distances in short periods of time (49 km in 3 days was a reading gained from a satellite collar attached to such a wild dog in 2006!) searching for mates or other packs to link up with. Through several years of research on the wild dogs of HiP we are starting to scratch at the surface of

understanding where (and why they go where they go) dogs run when they are dispersing.

Routes in the past years have indicated paths covering over 140 km of community land. That is a lot of communities to slip through avoiding feral dogs, bullets and the wrath of those people assuming the worst if they catch a glimpse of these sleek, animated animals.

The project to expand and understand the current range of Wild Dogs through northern KwaZulu-Natal is carried out through a partnership between the Endangered Wildlife Trusts' Carnivore Conservation Group and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife; supported by The Green Trust and Land Rover South Africa, and in collaboration with The Smithsonian Institute.

Author Biography: Brendan Whittington-Jones is currently Coordinator of the KwaZulu-Natal Wild Dog Project where he has been employed for just over one year. KwaZulu-Natal is the province along the north eastern coast of South Africa up to the Mozambique border (and boasts a city that is Durban, with the highest population of Indians in any city outside of India. Brendan works out of Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve which is in the province of KZN. His Head quarters are the Endangered Wildlife Trust based at the Johannesburg Zoo, South Africa. Earlier (2000-2003) Brendan worked as Manager/Ranger at Thula Thula Private Game Reserve 20km south of Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve. He left Africa for Baghdad to join his intrepid colleague helping out at the beleaguered Baghdad Zoo for over a year. He was based for some time end 2004 at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs and then first half of 2005 commuting between North Carolina and Kabul Zoo. He invested some time in training in environmental management in between further Kabul Zoo consultancy visits. He worked on the website for SEAWASTE (Southern and East Africa information network on sea pollution and land based sources) before joining his current position. Brendan has visited India as a guest speaker at ZOO's SAZARC meeting. He is a member of a small group of correspondents keeping an eye on Kabul Zoo for lending a hand whenever it is deemed appropriate to do so. He is 31 years of age.

Zoo community adds a new vertebrate species to the global biodiversity list: Rare endemic tiger gecko discovered off-shore northern Vietnam

Thomas Ziegler*

Consistent with the International Conference of the Parties (Convention on Biological Diversity), which currently takes place in Bonn, Germany, a new splendidly coloured vertebrate species was recently discovered.

It is a tiger gecko that only occurs on Cat Ba Island, which is located off-shore northern Vietnam. Cat Ba National Park and Biosphere Reserve is not only famous for its beautiful steep karst cliffs projecting from the South Chinese Sea, but also due to a threatened primate species which can only be found on that island - the Cat Ba langur.

In the framework of a recent expedition consisting of international scientists that was initiated by the Zoological Society for Species and Population Conservation (ZGAP) another endemic vertebrate species was discovered on that island:

The beautiful tiger gecko was discovered by the project manager of the "Cat Ba Langur Conservation Projects", Dr. Roswitha Stenke, together with the scientists Nguyen Quang Truong from the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi, and Dr. Thomas Ziegler from the Cologne Zoo.

To support the long-term conservation of this attractive species that probably only exists in low individual numbers and in order to prepare to better preserve the Biosphere Reserve, the scientists named the new species after the National Park in the issue 1771 of the international Journal ZOOTAXA that was published

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on 19 Mai 2008: namely Cat Ba (*Goniurosaurus catbaensis*).

According to the motto "We are only able to protect what is well known to us" it is important to document the biodiversity first, to study their ecology and subsequently develop respective long-term protection measures. Thus, the life habits of the Cat Ba tiger gecko are currently studied to prepare for appropriate conservation measures.

The Vietnam's diversity is only poorly studied so far is impressively shown by recent research within Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park as well. Here, the Cologne Zoo engages since a decade in the research and conservation of the local biodiversity within the framework of a long-term nature conservation project. In this area of about only 80,000 ha, eleven (!) new species of reptiles could be discovered and described by the scientific team around the zoologist Dr. Thomas Ziegler from Cologne Zoo in the past few years.

But also the discoveries within the whole country are more than impressive: In the past decade about 40 new species of amphibians were discovered by international teams of zoologists in Vietnam. Who likes to find out more about it in the "Year of the Frog 2008", it is referred to the current Magazine of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) – a special issue focusing on Vietnam's biodiversity (see also www.waza.org). In this issue, several projects of WAZA-Zoos are introduced. WAZA also will appear with the topic "conservation of Vietnam's species diversity" on the International Biodiversity Conference which currently takes place in Bonn, Germany.



Cat Ba Gecko (*Goniurosaurus catbaensis*). © Dr. Thomas Ziegler



Cat Ba Island. © Dr. Thomas Ziegler