

As with other vultures occurring in Asia and elsewhere, the White-backed Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis* (illustrated above), feeds on animal carcasses and thus contributes to the overall health of the environment. Without the vultures, carcasses will stay in the environment for a long time and thus will be a major health hazard to humans or to other animals. Asian vultures, especially the three species of *Gyps*, are greatly endangered today because of their sensitivity to diclofenac, used very commonly in Veterinary Medicine in Asia to treat inflammation and other ailments in livestock. The carcass of one treated animal contains enough of the chemical to cause multiple vulture deaths (see story on page 3).

**Editor**  
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Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General  
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**Managing Editor**  
STEPHEN AITKEN, B.Sc.  
aitken@tc-biodiversity.org

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**Book Review Editor**  
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**Research & Development Director**  
ROBERT McFETRIDGE  
rmcfet@tc-biodiversity.org

**Editorial Submissions**  
Managing Editor  
c/o Tropical Conservancy (see address below)  
m-editor@tc-biodiversity.org OR aitken@tc-biodiversity.org


**Subscription & Charitable Donations**  
V. CHUNG  
subscription@tc-biodiversity.org OR chungv@tc-biodiversity.org

**Graphic Designer**  
T.D. TRINH  
trinhtd@tc-biodiversity.org

**Queries**  
P.T. DANG, Ph.D. - *President*  
Tropical Conservancy  
94 Four Seasons Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2E 7S1  
Tel: 1-613-224-9518 or 1-613-325-9518  
dangpt@tc-biodiversity.org URL: www.tc-biodiversity.org

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## ARTICLES

**The collapse of vulture populations in South Asia** ..... 3  
*Richard T. Watson, Martin Gilbert, J. Lindsay Oaks, and Munir Virani*

**The Coastal Temperate Rainforests of Canada: The need for Ecosystem-Based Management** ..... 9  
*Moola, F.M., D. Martin, B. Wareham, J. Calof, C. Burda, P. Grames*

**Biodiversity mapping in Kenya: the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** ..... 16  
*John Momanyi Mironga*

## ON THE GROUND

**Madagascan Moth, *Ogoa vitrina*, A Novel Pupa Protection Strategy** ... 2  
*William D. Toon*

## FORUM

**Strengthening the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the CBD** ... 40  
*Vladimir Bocharnikov and Alexey Fedotenkov*

**CBD - the unmaking of a treaty** ..... 43  
*S. Faizi*

## IN EVERY ISSUE

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Man-made disasters and the need for action ..... i  
*Stephen Aitken*

### SPECIES BY SPECIES

Blossoming Treasures of Biodiversity 11:  
African Devil's Claw, *Harpagophytum procumbens* and *H. zeyheri*:  
conservation and ethical trade ..... 26  
*P.M. Catling and E. Small*

### BIODIVERSITY NEWS

Biodiversity in South Asia; Oxygen-sensing worms; The Manganese Complex; Krill decline, Sea-turtle economics; Biological control of Asian Long-horned Beetles; Bamboos under threat; Wisent reproduction program in Russia; New CITES trade rule proposals; Chimps and White Rhinos under threat; South African biodiversity; Flying reptile fossils; "Lights out" policy saves birds; Biodiversity on the net ... 31

### BOOK REVIEWS

2002 Biodiversity Book List (Part 2) ..... 45

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To engender and foster respect for all living species, this journal capitalizes the common names of all formally named species.