

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Zoologists united on effects of climate change on animals, and claim Darwin would be alarmed**

BEIJING—In a move that indicates the importance zoologists now place on climate change, the International Society of Zoological Sciences has published a collection of papers on this issue calling for immediate and global action.

In a series of papers based on research in environments across four continents, the authors and editors in the June 2010 issue of *Integrative Zoology* argue that species across the world are now being affected by anthropogenic climate change at an unprecedented rate.

Editors-in-Chief John Buckeridge, an Australian and Zhibin Zhang, of China, argue that this year, the 200<sup>th</sup> since Charles Darwin's birth, is an appropriate time to tackle this interdisciplinary issue.

"Darwin would have been delighted with the understanding that has arisen through our discoveries in molecular biology. He would have been overjoyed with knowledge of the nature of DNA, but we suspect he would have been surprised, perhaps even alarmed at the impact that humans have had on the biosphere", they write.

The effect of climate change on species around the world is one part of what is now referred to as the biological consequences of global change.

Every species on Earth will be affected in some way by our changing climate. Agricultural pests, pollinators, disease-spreading insects and endangered species are examples of key groups of animals undergoing change right now.

"We are well aware that environments change, and the geological record is testament to this, but it is the rapidity with which this change is occurring that is of concern. We have lost many taxa already, and sadly we will lose many more—perhaps even before they are described," the editors say.

This special publication is part of a research program looking into the effects of climate change on animals and their environments.

The program aims to bring together scientists from a range of disciplines to discuss the effects of climate change on biodiversity, conservation and ecological disasters.

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Notes to editors

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