

# PROLOGUE

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## **Editorial: A New Turtle and Tortoise Journal**

This inaugural issue of *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* marks the introduction of a new scientific journal dedicated to the study of turtles and tortoises of the world. The goals of the journal and its Editors are manifold. We hope to serve the turtle and tortoise research community by producing a professionally administered and quality-controlled peer-reviewed journal, that will provide an available publication outlet for the diverse investigational endeavors that constitute our multi-disciplinary fields of Chelonian Conservation and Biology. We will attempt to bind those disparate disciplines into a unified research journal that can fulfill the multiple requirements of its contributors and readership and achieve lasting success within its field. We hope thereby to facilitate and stimulate open scientific communication between the various research specialists within the greater field of turtle and tortoise studies, so that we may better understand and more successfully preserve the wonderful diversity of chelonians of the world.

Our primary aim is to serve as the official publication outlet of the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, but our goals extend beyond those guidelines to offer this journal as a potential publication outlet for all other scientific chelonian research as well. Contributions are therefore welcome from any individuals, and are not limited to members of the Specialist Group. We welcome all contributions dealing with any aspects of conservation or biology not only of freshwater turtles or tortoises, but also marine turtles. We are especially interested in any manuscripts dealing with conservation biology, systematic relationships, chelonian diversity, geographic distribution, natural history, ecology, reproduction, morphology and natural variation, population status, human exploitation, and conservation management. All manuscripts will be reviewed by the Editors and selected members of the Editorial Review Board, plus independent outside peer-review as necessary.

As a nascent publication, we are solicitous of our readers' views and invite your participation in our efforts at producing a professional and successful journal. We encourage you to submit original research articles and notes for consideration for publication, and welcome any comments or suggestions as to how we may improve the journal to better serve the turtle and tortoise research community. We will be dependent on your support for manuscripts for publication and urge our Specialist Group members specifically, and chelonian research professionals in general, to consider this journal as a potential publication outlet for your research reports.

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