

# Endangered earth

Inside this Issue

Summer 2004

## Center's international program saving wildlife worldwide

From the halls of the International Whaling Commission to the shores of Okinawa, the Center's International Program is strategically advancing the protection of rare wildlife throughout the world.

The Center for Biological Diversity is working to compel the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to revive its foreign endangered species program, which became essentially moribund in the early 1990's. That program is rooted in the U.S. Endangered Species Act, which extends beyond our borders to protect plants and animals around the globe.

In recent years, our international work has earned the Center invitations to present at conferences and join conservation coalitions around the world.

Most recently, a Center delegation traveled to Okinawa, Japan to attend the 10th International Coral Reef Society Conference. The visit followed a Center petition this spring to protect three species of Caribbean coral, and campaigns initiated in 2003 to save the highly imperiled Okinawa dugong and Okinawa woodpecker. (*See related stories, this issue, on the Center's corals petition and our Okinawa work.*)

The Okinawa woodpecker is also at the forefront of Center efforts



The Andean flamingo is among 73 of the world's rarest birds for which the Center is working to secure swift protections. The flamingo, which occurs in mountainous areas of Peru, Chile, Argentina and Bolivia, has declined due to habitat destruction and collection of its eggs.

to secure long-overdue protections for 73 of the world's most rare bird species, ranging from the South Pacific to South America. Petitions were filed with USFWS in 1980 and 1991, requesting Endangered Species Act listings for the imperiled birds. But the birds have languished for

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years while the agency exploits loopholes to delay protecting them.

The Center filed suit to end those delays in December 2003. In May, the suit ended in a settlement between USFWS and the Center, requiring the agency to promptly publish a plan to protect the 73 birds.

But the published plan is woefully inadequate. Under it, the agency would take more than a decade to protect all the birds included in the settlement—many of which have already been in limbo for more than 20 years. The Center plans to return to court to win swifter protection for the birds.

In another case, the Center and Xerces Society filed suit in May to compel USFWS to protect seven swallowtail butterfly species that occur in Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nepal. Collectors prize the rare tropical butterflies—a factor that, along with habitat destruction, is wiping out the seven species.

Again, the USFWS determined long ago—in 1994—that the swallowtails International program continued on back page...



# ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT

Peter Galvin, *Conservation Director*

## Preserving Dugongs

Center leads international coalition to save Okinawan icon from ill-planned U.S. airbase atop fragile coral reef

In March 2003, I traveled to Okinawa to represent the Center for Biological Diversity at the first annual conference on Military Activities and the Environment. The Okinawa Environmental Network invited the Center to the international meeting in recognition of our work to halt U.S. bombing of the Pacific island Farallon de Medinilla, an important stopping point for rare and endangered migratory birds.

A focal point of the meeting was the fate of the endangered Okinawa dugong, a relative of the manatee and a cultural icon of the Okinawan people.

That fate is hanging in the balance, as the U.S. Department of Defense pushes forward with plans to construct a massive military airbase facility atop a fragile coral reef on the east coast of Okinawa.

Conservationists are concerned that the proposed 1.5-mile-long airbase—to be built on reclaimed land over the reef—would destroy the best remaining habitat of the endangered dugong population in Okinawa. The site, located adjacent to the coastal village of Henoko, is also the site of sea grass beds (*jungusa*, or literally, “dugong-grass”) upon which the dugong depends for food.

The waters off Okinawa are the northern-most home of the dugong, and the Okinawa population is genetically isolated from other populations. In fact, the Okinawa dugong is considered the most isolated and imperiled dugong population in the world—so threatened that it has been classified

as nearly extinct. Scientists believe that only approximately 50 dugong survive in the waters off Okinawa. The air base, if constructed, would very likely drive the Okinawa dugong into extinction.

### Protecting a national treasure

In September 2003, six months after my first visit to Okinawa, a coalition of conservation groups from both sides of the Pacific, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, filed an historic lawsuit against the

U.S. that might impact the natural and cultural resources of other nations.

To Okinawans, the dugong is truly both a natural and a cultural resource.

Due to its rapid decline, the Okinawa dugong is protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and is on Japan's Mammalogical Society's “Red List” of critically endangered mammals.

But for many in Japan, protecting the dugong is as much a spiritual matter as a scientific one. The dugong has been listed by the government of Japan as a “Natural Monument” under its “Cultural Properties Protection Law” since 1972.



Okinawa dugong

Photo by Mr. Nitta



92-year-old Yoshi Shimabukuro pledged to go into the water and place her body in the way of construction.

U.S. Department of Defense over its plans to construct the new airbase.

The Center's lawsuit asks the Department of Defense to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by completing a public analysis assessing the impacts of the proposed project on the dugong. The NHPA requires federal agencies to conduct a full public process before undertaking activities outside the



Peter Galvin (fifth from right), during the 2003 conference in Okinawa, tours the site of a proposed airbase that would destroy dugong habitat.

Japan's autonomous Ryukyu Prefecture has protected the dugong as a cultural monument since 1955, due largely to its status as a revered and sacred animal among native Okinawans.

“For Okinawans, the dugong compares only to the American bald eagle in terms of cultural and historical significance,” said Takuma



Higashionna of the Okinawa-based Save the Dugong Foundation. “The myth of the mermaid comes from sailors who saw the dugong. Historically, Okinawans believe the dugong to be a friendly harbinger of sea disasters such as tsunamis.”

Despite its historical connections to myth, locals who live near the proposed construction site speak of a more corporeal connection between the dugong’s world and their own.

“Living here in Yambaru for 17 years, I have learned many important things from nature,” said Ms. Anna Koshiishi, an individual plaintiff in the coalition’s case. “All life on the Earth has close connection and plays an important role. Every life is indispensable to keep the balance of this connection. To save (the) Okinawa dugong, which is a globally threatened species, is to save my own life.”

That sentiment has been echoed by others protesting the airbase, including a close-knit group of elderly women—Henoko villagers—who take turns keeping a vigilant watch over the waters where construction is planned.

In an interview for the April 4, 2004 Pacific edition of *Stars and Stripes*, the newspaper for U.S. servicemembers stationed abroad, 77-year-old Kiyoko Miyagi made a remarkably moving statement on behalf of the women in her group.

“We all believe it is our duty to hand down the beautiful sea to our children and grandchildren,” Miyagi said. “If worse comes to worse, we will go into the water and stop the construction with our bodies. We are prepared to die.”

### Ecosystem under threat

The dugong is of special significance to Okinawans, but it is not the only animal threatened by the planned airbase.

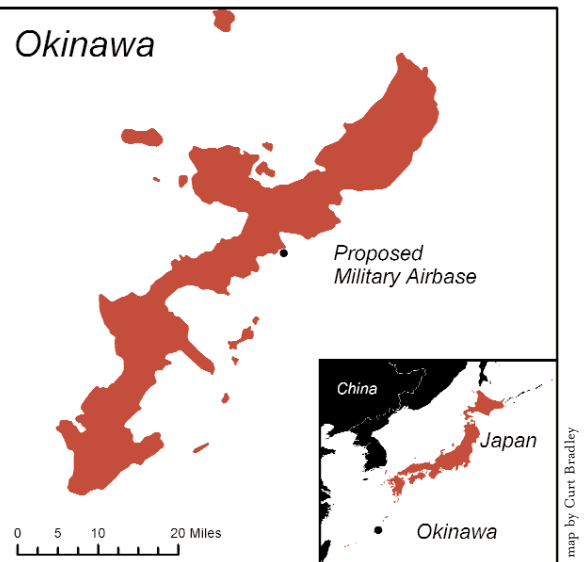
Okinawa has been called the “Galapagos of the East” because of the incredible diversity of marine life sustained by its coral reefs and diverse terrestrial environment. The coral reef over which the airbase

would be built is home to numerous species threatened with extinction, including three sea turtles listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Base construction and associated reservoir construction is also likely to further imperil endangered bird species and other wildlife that rely on the adjacent Yanbaru Forest for habitat.

Okinawa’s coral reefs themselves are also suffering dramatically, stressed by global warming and pollution. More than half have disappeared over the past decade. Added stress to the Henoko coral reef from base construction is likely to cause the already fragile ecosystem to collapse.

As a result, 889 of the world’s leading coral scientists and researchers from 83 countries have signed a petition opposing the controversial construction on top of the coral reef.

The deep dedication of the Okinawan people to their national treasure, the dugong, and the coastal ecosystem where it thrives is a great



inspiration to me. The Center’s lawsuit seeks to keep the Defense Department’s ill-informed plans from derailing the hope that future generations of Okinawans will not only know the mythical dugong, but will still share the seas with the real thing. ■

*Earthjustice represents the coalition bringing the lawsuit, including U.S. plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Turtle Island Restoration Network, and four Japanese groups: Dugong Network Okinawa, Save the Dugong Foundation, Committee Against Heliport Construction—Save Life Society, and Japan Environmental Law Federation. You can take action on behalf of the endangered dugong by visiting [http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/dugong\\_aa](http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/dugong_aa).*

## Center delegation visits Okinawa

In late June, four Center staff members attended the 10th International Coral Reef Society conference in Naha City, Okinawa. The rapid destruction of the world’s corals has alarmed scientists and coral enthusiasts globally.

Brent Plater, one of the Center’s delegates to the conference, recently authored an endangered species listing petition to secure protection for declining coral species that occur off the Florida coast. (See story, page 6.)

Brendan Cummings, Julie Teel, and Peter Galvin rounded out the Center’s delegation, attending the conference as well as several rallies and press events designed to

bring attention to the plight of the world’s coral reefs and to threats to the dugong and Okinawa woodpecker.

The Center’s delegation toured the fabled Iriomote and Ishigaki islands, where planned resort developments threaten the fragile ecology of the now pristine waters off the coast of Okinawa’s outlying islands. They also visited the Yanbaru forest, the only place in the world where the highly imperiled Okinawa woodpecker lives, and were delighted by a rare sighting of the woodpecker.

(See front page story on Center agreement to hasten protections for 73 bird species, including the Okinawa woodpecker.)

# PROGRAM NEWS...

## Court halts construction in bald eagle habitat

In May, a U.S. District Court in California ordered that construction be stopped on the Marina Point Project on Big Bear Lake in Fawnskin, California. Plans for the site, located on the north shore of Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino National Forest, include more than 130 condominiums and a 175-boat marina that would require extensive dredging and deepening of the lake for its construction.

Bald eagles, listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act, winter at the lake. Already, urban growth has eliminated most



Bald eagle near project site.

bald eagle habitat from the lake's south shore, leaving the Marina Point site among the last habitat in Big Bear.

The Center and Friends of Fawnskin requested the injunction because developers had not obtained federal permits required under the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act. The court ruled the development would likely harm the eagle, ordering that construction be stopped until the case is resolved.

Earlier this year, the Center filed a lawsuit in state court challenging the developers' reliance on long-expired county permits and arguing that state and county agencies failed to require proper environmental reviews. That case is pending.

The Center is represented by Staff Attorney Kassie Siegel and private attorney Everett DeLano III.

## Nesting season protection sought for blackbird

In April, the Center submitted a petition to wildlife agencies to grant emergency Endangered Species Act protection for the tricolored blackbird, a California endemic that has precipitously declined in the past decade.

The tricolor is the most colonial land bird in North America, with some flocks numbering upwards of 40,000 birds (although some colonies consisted of more than 300,000 birds at the turn of the last century). The beautiful spectacle of these massive flocks is reminiscent of the flight of the now-extinct passenger pigeon.

Unfortunately, the population is plummeting at an alarming rate due largely to harvest of agricultural fields in California's Central Valley. Tricolors often establish nests in these fields that are subsequently mowed down, killing thousands of eggs and young chicks each year. Tricolors also suffer from high predation rates in little-remaining native marshes on wildlife refuges, and widespread habitat loss due to urbanization.

Once one of the most abundant birds in California, the entire population is now half the size of single colonies reported in the 1930s.

The Center's petition requests immediate action to prohibit or delay harvesting and plowing activities on private lands used by tricolors during the nesting season.

In May, the California Fish and Game Commission neglected to list the tricolor on an emergency basis, but agreed to review the listing petition by the 90-day deadline.



Tricolored blackbird

## Center fights San Diego border fence

In February, the Center filed a lawsuit against John Ashcroft and the Department of Homeland Security to fight expansion of the existing border fence separating San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico.

The Center opposes the expansion of the fence because of its expected impact on numerous imperiled plant and animal species, including the San Diego fairy shrimp, San Diego button celery, least Bell's vireo and Quino checkerspot butterfly. The expanded fence would heavily impact the Tijuana Estuary and destroy a large portion of Border Fields State Park.

The project calls for sandwiching a 130-foot-wide paved "race-track" between two additional fences. It would necessitate lopping the tops off two mesas, using that earth to fill two steep canyons—moving the equivalent of two Hoover Dams' worth of fill.

About 25 million dollars has already been spent to build nine miles of triple fence, and the Army Corps of Engineers estimates at least 30 million dollars more will be needed for the remaining five miles of fence. The fence will ultimately "secure" only the first 14 miles of border starting at the Pacific Ocean.

The California Coastal Commission unanimously rejected the project, setting

up a possible showdown between the State of California and the Bush administration. The lawsuit was filed by a coalition of six local and national environmental organizations.

The Center is represented by Staff Attorney Adam Keats and Everett DeLano III.

## New Mexico commission backs wolf program

By unanimous vote, the New Mexico Game Commission moved in April to reverse the state's opposition to new measures for the Mexican gray wolf reintroduction program that would allow more wolves to survive.

The vote by appointees of Governor Bill Richardson followed overwhelmingly pro-wolf testimony the previous day at a public hearing in Silver City, near the Gila National Forest. The wolf-friendly crowd had been organized by a broad coalition of conservation groups led by the Center.

The Commission directed its Department of Game and Fish to negotiate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to implement recommendations of the Paquet Report, an independent scientific review of the reintroduction program.

It specifically cited two of the report's recommendations: that wolves be allowed to roam freely outside the boundaries of the Mexican wolf recovery area—the Apache and Gila National Forests—and that the government gain authority to release wolves from the captive breeding program into New Mexico.

Previously dominated by livestock interests, the Commission has supported

rules requiring capture or killing of wolves that establish territories outside the recovery area, and forbidding release of wolves in New Mexico unless they had previously been captured from the wild. Such “translocations” often lead to packs breaking apart, whereas direct releases from captivity are usually successful.

Neither of these rules apply to any other endangered species managed by USFWS. The federal agency has sole authority to change the rules and implement the Paquet Report’s recommen-

Photo courtesy of California Wolf Center



Mexican gray wolf

dations, but has refused to do so. The number of monitored wolves has gone down from 27 to 15 since the report’s release in June 2001.

Now that the Commission has given notice that scientific recommendations must be followed, it remains to be seen whether the federal government will finally grant desperately needed protections to the wolves. The Center, whose founders were among those who brought about the reintroduction, will keep working to ensure the lobo has a fighting chance.



## Center stops illegal grazing trespass

The Center and other groups, led by National Wildlife Federation, successfully intervened on the side of the U.S. Forest Service in a

rancher’s lawsuit and trespass grazing operation, which sought to establish private rights to 272 square miles of the Gila and Apache National Forests of New Mexico.

Most of that land consists of the world’s first designated wilderness areas—the Gila and Aldo Leopold—protected in 1924. It is also home to Mexican gray wolves, Mexican spotted owls, Gila trout and other imperiled species impacted by ranching.

Trespass cattle and private rights claims are not new. Historically, the western livestock industry repeatedly introduced bills to confer such rights, but Congress passed none.

In 1996, nonetheless, the Diamond Bar and Laney Cattle Companies, which had refused to renew expired grazing permits because of new measures to protect Gila trout, herded their cattle into the wild. On April Fools Day that year, they filed suit claiming property rights to the forests.

Kit Laney, co-owner of both companies, was quoted by the Associated Press as warning Forest Service employees to “bring a gun” if they intended to impound his cattle.

Laney lost his suit in federal court in 1997 and a subsequent appeal, and removed the cows that year. In an unrelated case, the Supreme Court unanimously reaffirmed in 2000 that grazing is a privilege and not a right.

But in March 2003, Laney again herded hundreds of cattle into the forests.

The Forest Service refused to round up the cattle, taking no action until June—finally asking the court to reopen the case and find the Laney’s in contempt. But through most of 2003, the case went unheard while

cattle destroyed streamside habitat only beginning to recover from over a century of abuse.

The conservation groups requested intervenor status to compel Forest Service enforcement. Within days after granting our request in December, a federal judge held the Diamond Bar and Laney Cattle companies and their owners Kit and Sherry Laney in contempt, ordering removal of the cattle.

Not all of the cattle are out yet, but the Forest Service impounded about 450 of them after the Laney’s refused to do so. Kit Laney spent over three weeks in jail and has been charged with five counts of assaulting federal officers brought in to round up his trespassing herd.



## Suit filed for freshwater invertebrates

Emanating from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico, the Pecos River flows through grasslands and desert in southeastern New Mexico and Texas. Here, the river takes on the burdens and pollutants of dams, non-native species, livestock grazing, irrigated agriculture and oil and gas drilling.

In a few places within the Pecos River’s watershed survive vestiges of an ancient wilderness: springs and pools teeming with native fish and invertebrates that are found nowhere else on Earth. But these pure waters are also at risk from drilling and groundwater depletion. To protect them and their unique life forms, the Center and Forest Guardians filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Interior Secretary Gale Norton to secure Endangered

Species Act protections for three tiny snails and a freshwater shrimp: the Roswell springsnail, Koster’s tryonia, Pecos assiminea and Noel’s amphipod.

Because each of these four animals is isolated from other populations by extensive areas of unsuitable habitat, they are vulnerable to localized extinctions.

Endangered Species Act protections would lead to recovery plans that might



Photo by Brian Lang

Koster’s tryonia

allow for reintroduction of the animals to suitable sites.

The Center’s suit also requests critical habitat designation for the four invertebrates, which would limit the federal government’s authorization of activities that would adversely affect their survival—such as drilling leases on public lands near New Mexico’s Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the principal home for these creatures.

These four invertebrates were part of a binding agreement the Center negotiated in 2001 with Interior Secretary Norton to prioritize Endangered Species Act listings for 29 of America’s most imperiled plants and animals. In 2002, USFWS proposed listing the four species as endangered and designating more than 1,500 acres of critical habitat. However, contrary to our agreement, the agency failed to finalize that proposal and left these creatures in limbo, necessitating our suit.



# PROGRAM NEWS...

## Coral petition takes on global warming policy

Global climate change has been a driving force behind the decline of the elkhorn, staghorn and fused-staghorn coral species, found in the waters of southeast Florida and the Caribbean. Once forming the backbone of coral reef ecosystems in the Caribbean, these species have suffered 80 to 98 percent declines throughout their range since the 1970s.

The declines are attributable to threats that include bleaching, disease, storm damage, predation and other activities that degrade water quality and habitat. But science indicates that each of these threats have been exacerbated by global warming.

Because the decline of these corals has occurred at an unprecedented rate, the Center petitioned the Bush administration in March to protect them under the Endangered Species Act.



Elkhorn coral in foreground (left), staghorn coral in background (right)

That level of protection for the corals would limit the legal "right to pollute" of greenhouse-gas emitting industries that might harm fragile reefs—and also force the Bush administration to come to terms with its do-nothing approach to global climate change.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration did not take action on the Center's petition by the appointed deadline. As a result, the Center filed a notice of intent to sue the Administration to compel prompt consideration of the petition. In response, the National Marine Fisheries Service published an initial finding in favor of Endangered Species Act listings for the corals.

## Court order ends in longline ban; Center asks U.N. for moratorium

In March, the National Marine Fisheries Service banned longline swordfishing from a huge swath of the Pacific Ocean off the California coast.

The ban came on the heels of an August 2003 decision by a federal appeals court concurring with the Center, Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN), and Earthjustice that the Fisheries Service had failed to conduct the proper environmental review before issuing permits to the fishery.

Banning longlining off California will protect endangered leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles, which become snared on long lines of hooks intended for commercial fish catch. Thousands of sea turtles die each year from injuries sustained by fishing industry snares. Pacific leatherback turtles have declined so

severely that scientists predict the 100 million-year-old species—a survivor of the age of dinosaurs—will go extinct in as little as 10 years.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration announced in March its plans to reopen Hawaii's longline swordfishery, which the Fisheries Service closed three years ago because it determined the fishery poses grave threats to endangered leatherbacks.

The Administration justifies the move because the fishery will use new equipment—off-set circle hooks and mackerel bait that are predicted to reduce turtle mortality. However, scientific studies have not shown adequate evidence that the new fishing gear will be sufficient to spare the leatherback from extinction. The Center continues to fight the re-opening of the Hawaii fishery.

In May, the Center and TIRN led a coalition of scientists and conservationists to call on the United Nations to issue an international moratorium on longline fishing. ■

## Udall speaks out on forest policy at Center forum

by AJ Schneller,  
Education & Outreach Coordinator

In April, the Center hosted a national forest policy education forum at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque with keynote speaker Congressman Tom Udall of New Mexico. "National Forest Management Policy and Law: The Bush administration's Plan for Public Lands" drew about 150 Center members and local conservationists affiliated with the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, League of Conservation Voters, and the UNM Environmental Law Society.

Congressman Udall has been a vocal opponent of the Bush Administration's systematic attempts to insulate the U.S.

Forest Service's decision-making process from public, scientific, and judicial oversight, in order to ease

restrictions on logging in our national forests. Udall has been a staunch defender of the environment in his role as a senior member of the House Resources Committee, the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest



AJ meets Congressman Tom Udall at a Center-hosted National Forest policy education forum in Albuquerque.

Health, and the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands.

Udall's talk critiqued the changing face of national forests under the Bush administration—including the Administration's Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, National Environmental Policy Act rollbacks, and proposed changes to the National Forest Management Act. In conclusion, Udall regretfully remarked that the Bush administration has written off the larger concerns of the conservation community by reversing 30 years of legal protections for the environment.

Many thanks go out from the Center and its members to Congressman Tom Udall for taking a stand to protect our cherished national forests and the imperiled plants and animals that call these wild places home. ■



# New leadership team takes shape

We've undergone an exciting change this summer: we have a new Executive Director, Chelsea Reiff Gwyther. But the Center is uncommonly fortunate: we've gained an exceptionally skilled leader in Chelsea—without losing the strategic savoir faire of outgoing Executive Director Kieran Suckling, who held the position for 15 years.

Instead, we have a dynamic new leadership team at the helm.

As our new Policy Director, Kieran remains a key part of that team and realizes a long-time goal to focus more fully on the work he loves most: large-scale analysis of national environmental policy and tireless advocacy for endangered species worldwide.

Kieran's new role will allow the Center to launch more broad-based initiatives and more effectively fight political attacks on our environmental laws. Kieran will also undertake long-planned writing projects, authoring books and articles that will introduce the Center's work to a larger audience.

Peter Galvin, whom many of you know as a founder of the Center and long-time director of our California conservation programs, is also expanding his leadership role to become our Conservation Director. Peter will continue to play a key role developing strategy for our conservation, outreach and fundraising programs. He will also work closely with staff to more effectively integrate our wide-ranging work across programs and regions. (*See our Advocacy Spotlight, page 2, to learn about Peter's work to protect the Okinawa dugong.*)

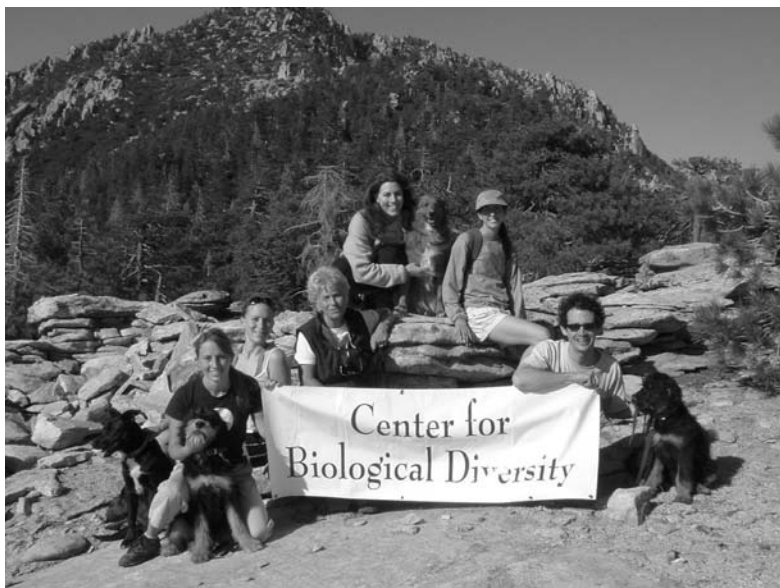
Chelsea, who steps into the role of Executive Director, has brought tremendous energy and vision to the Center as our Associate Director and lead member of our development team. Fulfilling both roles has been no easy task. But before joining our staff, Chelsea was well primed for the challenge, serving for two years as the Executive Director and Development Director of the Catawba River Foundation in Charlotte, North Carolina. Chelsea's love of the Southwest—sparked while she earned an environmental studies degree

from Prescott College—translated to a desire to protect it, landing her on the Center's doorstep in 2002.

Since then, Chelsea has been a catalyst for creative change at the Center. She has skillfully steered the Center through a transition many organizations find difficult to navigate: building our core to sustain the significant growth of our conservation work—while still honoring our core principles.

Knowing it's not every organization that has such depth of talent and passion to draw from, we welcome Chelsea, Kieran, and Peter to their new roles—and we look forward to the conservation victories we will gain by their combined leadership.

Center supporters took to the trails May 1 as part of the inaugural **Great Earth Walk**. Sponsored by friends, family, and fellow members, we had a great time raising more than \$4,000 for the Center's conservation work. Special thanks to Emily Ritt for her organizing efforts, and to our top volunteer fundraiser, Tara Mueller, who raised nearly \$1,000.



Pictured here: Great Earth Walk hikers at South Ridge Trail Lookout, Idyllwild, California. From left: Idyllwild Office Manager Emily Ritt, Staff Attorney Julie Teel, member Charlotte Masarik, Staff Attorney Kassie Siegel, Conservation Biologist Monica Bond, legal fellow Kyle Kreischer, and four-legged hikers Josie, Monte, Trina, and Iggy.

## Endangered earth

*Endangered Earth* is the quarterly newsletter of the Center for Biological Diversity, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting endangered species and wild places through science, advocacy, education and environmental law. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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On occasion, we trade our mailing list with organizations that share our mission. If you would prefer that your name not be exchanged, please contact us.

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## **International program** *continued from front page*

should be protected. And again, the agency has delayed those protections for years, well after the deadline to act on their initial finding.

Endangered Species Act protection would mean threats to the butterflies would have to be addressed before the U.S. carries out activities in the areas where they occur. It would also make importing the butterflies illegal.

Other highlights of the Center's scientific and legal efforts to protect rare wildlife around the world include:

■ On behalf of the Center, Dr. Martin Taylor attended several meetings of the International Whaling Commission and presented his population modeling of whale species, which was instrumental to keeping in place a moratorium on commercial whaling.



The Kaiser-I-Hind is a very rare, stunning swallowtail known from Nepal to southern Myanmar. It is threatened by over-collecting and rapid destruction of high elevation forests upon which it depends. It is one of seven swallowtail butterflies for which the Center seeks long-overdue Endangered Species Act protection. Left: male. Right: female.

■ Botanist Dr. Emily Roberson of the Center's Native Plant Protection Campaign traveled to the Hague, where we successfully campaigned to have a native plant protection strategy added to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the first time.

■ The Center initiated legal action to protect three highly imperiled North African antelope—the scimitar horned oryx, the addax, and the dama gazelle—under the Endangered Species Act.

■ In coalition with other groups, the Center raised public outcry indefinitely delaying a Bush administration policy to revive legalized import of foreign endangered species.

■ The Center has worked through a variety of means to restore the Colorado River Delta ecosystem and Gulf of California, protecting endangered species including the Colorado River delta clam and vaquita (a porpoise).