Terms of Reference 2021-2025

IUCN Species Survival Commission
Red List Authority Coordinator

As revised and adopted by the SSC Steering Committee, 4 September 2020

1. Relevance of the role of the RLAC for the IUCN SSC

The role of a RLACs is among the most important in the Red List process and can be very rewarding but at the same daunting. However, the responsibilities of a RLAC are many, and the role should not be entered into lightly. Further, where a RLAC fails to comply with the responsibilities listed in 3, and in a manner that unduly jeopardizes the credibility or reputation of the Red List, the Chair of the SSC may at any time revoke the appointment of an RLAC, following consultation with the relevant SG Chair and the Red List Committee.

2. Profile description

The Red List Authority Coordinators (RLACs) is an individual or institution responsible for managing Red List activities within the Specialist Groups of their remit (SGs), serving as a contact person between the various IUCN structures and SSC Chair's Office, ensuring the assessments feeds into the Red List Unit (RLU). There are three types of Red List Authority:

1. **IUCN SSC Specialist Groups** typically are the recognized Red List Authorities for the species in their remit (for example, the Cat Specialist Group is the Red List Authority for all species in the family Felidae). In some cases, Specialist Groups appoint subsets of individuals within the group to form an RLA group.
2. **Stand-alone Red List Authorities** are groups of individuals established only to do Red listing (e.g., the Brazil Plant RLA is responsible for Red List assessments for all Brazilian plants)
3. **An institution** serves as the Red List Authority (e.g., NatureServe is RLA for a number of different North American taxonomic groups).

The RLACs are appointed by the SSC Chair in consultation with the SGs, RLU and the Red List Committee and are ideally not the same person as the Chair of the SGs.

3. Responsibilities of Red List Authority Coordinator

RLACs are responsible for establishing mechanisms for assessing and re-assessing the species within their SGs remit through:

a. Assessments

- Working closely with the IUCN Global Species Programme staff and any global or regional species assessment projects being implemented by IUCN, SSC and Red List Partners to provide updates on Red List projects in their remit, including the development of funding proposals;
- Ensuring that members of the SGs are familiar with and up-to date with the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, and their application, and arranging for training of members as may be required / necessary;
- Assisting Assessors to seek and locate the best available background data relating to the threats likely to affect the taxon;
- Requiring Assessors to consult internally within the SGs, with specialists in SGs with overlapping jurisdictions, and externally with appropriate specialists and other interest groups;
- Ensuring that for each assessment, the Assessors provide supporting information in line with the Required and Recommended Supporting Information for IUCN Red List Assessments;
- Ensuring that Assessors adhere to the current version of the "Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria", as may be updated from time to time;
- Ensuring that Assessors adhere to the current version of the "Documentation Standards and Consistency Checks for IUCN Red List Assessments and Species Accounts", as may be updated from time to time;
- Ensuring that all Assessors have completed and signed a Conflict of Interest declaration; and
- Resources permitting, ensuring that all species are reassessed at least once every ten years, or preferably (again, resources permitting) once every five years.

b. Review

- RLACs are responsible for verifying Red List assessments through:
- Ensuring that at least one named independent Reviewer (who was not directly involved with the assessment or an external party to the RLA) agrees with the status of each taxon based on the supporting documentation provided;
- Ensuring that Reviewers have access to all of the supporting documentation provided;
- Ensuring that Reviewers are familiar with the current version of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, and their application, and adhere to the current version of the "Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria", as may be amended from time to time;
- Ensuring that Reviewers are provided with the latest version of the "Required and Recommended Supporting Information for IUCN Red List assessments";
- Ensuring that, for any particular assessment, the Reviewers are not the same people as the Assessors or Contributors;
- Ensuring that all Reviewers have completed and signed a Conflict of Interest declaration;
- In the event that a SG cannot perform the review, proposing an alternative solution for assessments to be reviewed, including the option to assign authority to the IUCN Red List Unit, or to identify an appropriate process to undertake the reviews;and
- Submitting all reviewed assessments including changes in categorization and/or changes in supporting documentation to the IUCN Red List Unit in the format required using the Species Information Service (SIS)

c. Regional and National Red List processes

The RLACs are responsible for:

- Acknowledging receipt of the request to participate in a regional or national assessment project;
- Circulating the request around SGs members with appropriate regional/national expertise as soon as possible after the initial contact has been made.

d. Petitions process

In the case of a petition against the listing of any taxon for which the SG is responsible, the RLAC is responsible for:

- Establish a process for handling the petition; and
- Abide by any decisions of the arbitrating IUCN SSC Red List Standards and Petitions Committee.
- Familiarize with IUCN Species Strategic Plan and SSC By-laws and other governing documents:

Governance Framework	
1	IUCN Programme 2021-2025
2	IUCN One Programme Charter
3	SSC Mandate
4	SSC By laws
5	Code of Conduct for IUCN Commissions
6	Guidance on the Code of Conduct and Practices for its Implementation
7	IUCN Species Strategic Plan, Species Conservation Cycle
8	Red List Partnership
9	Guidelines for IUCN SSC Leaders
10	Guidelines for SSC Members on Engaging in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Terms of Reference	
11	Terms of Reference of the SSC Steering Committee members
12	Terms of Reference IUCN SSC Regional Vice-Chairs
13	Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC Conservation Committees
14	Terms of Reference of the Chair of the IUCN Red List Committee
15	Terms of Reference of Chairs of Specialist Groups and Task Forces
16	Terms of Reference of the Red List Authority Coordinators
17	Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC National Species Authority
18	Terms of Reference for SSC Members
19	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Ex-situ Conservation
20	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Conservation Planning
21	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Sustainable Use