

IUCN SSC Freshwater Plant Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Richard Lansdown

Chair

Richard Lansdown ⁽¹⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Melanie Bilz ⁽²⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Ardeola Environmental Services, UK

⁽²⁾ Institut für Landschaftsarchitektur und Umweltplanung, Technische Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Number of members

194

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Freshwater Plant Specialist Group



Mission statement

The FPSG exists to promote and further the conservation of plant species which are dependent upon wetlands and the habitats upon which they depend.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. Over 1,000 new assessments of freshwater-dependent plants completed in 2016-2017. (KSR #1)

ii. Baseline for a Red List Index of Mediterranean Freshwater plants completed in draft, working with IUCN RLU to publish assessments. (KSR #2)

■ Research activities

i. Chapter published: Lansdown, R., et al. 2015. Review of Alien Freshwater Vascular Plants in South-East Europe. In: Rat, M., Trichkova, T., Scalera, R., Tomov, R. and Uludag, A. (Eds.) ESENIAS Report 2015 - State of the Art of Invasive Alien Species in South-Eastern Europe. University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology and Ecology, Novi Sad, Serbia East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species, Sofia, Bulgaria. (KSR #32)

ii. Publication on wetland vegetation restoration literature review. (KSR #32)

iii. Taxonomic clarification of charophytes in the Northern Territory in Australia, ten new species already identified. (KSR #32)

Bolster work at national scales

■ Research activities

i. Vegetation maps prepared for two wetland Natura 2000 sites in Hungary.

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. Training course delivered in Omsk, Russia in May 2017: "Plant Translocation: Theory and Techniques". (KSR #17)

ii. Development of a decision support tool to improve restoration projects with emphasis on freshwater wetland vegetation. (KSR #18)

iii. Guidance on assessment of aquatic macrophytes in rivers in Northrhine-Westphalia (Germany), under the EU Water Framework Directive. (KSR #18)

iv. Paper "Use of charophytes for description and monitoring of inland waters in Sicily", presented at conference in Valencia, Spain. (KSR #18)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Symposium held at the 19th International Botanical Congress in Shenzhen, China, in August 2017, including talks by six FPSG members. (KSR #28)

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. Preparation of accounts for freshwater wetland dependent plant species under the Portuguese Flora Red List project <http://listavermelha-flora.pt/>.

ii. Species Conservation Strategy for *Damasonium alisma* prepared in 2015 is under review by IUCN. (KSR #15)

iii. One Species Conservation Strategy completed for *Callitriche pulchra*, the Genus Conservation Strategy for *Callitriche* is nearing completion. (KSR #15)

iv. Report on assessment of conservation requirements of *Crinum malabaricum* completed, article under preparation for publication. (KSR #27)



Richard Lansdown explaining the monitoring protocol for Malabar River-lily (*Crinum malabaricum*) to students from the Government College, Kasaragod, Kerala 2017
Photo: Shijith Raghavan



Malabar River-lily (*Crinum malabaricum*), Critically Endangered, Embate, Kerala 2017
Photo: Richard Lansdown

- v. First global list of accepted names in the genus *Isoetes* published in 2017. (KSR #27)
 - vi. All “ferricretes” in Santara district, Western Ghats, India, declared Conservation Zones. (KSR #27)
 - vii. First successful reintroduction of *Isoetes malinverniana* in Italy, in 2017. (KSR #27)
 - viii. Article on reintroduction of *Stratiotes aloides* in Italy published and talk given as part of symposium. (KSR #27)
 - iv. Three populations of *Lythrum thesioides* now known in France, including one new found in 2017. (KSR #27)
- **Research activities**
- i. Research into reproductive strategies along water depth gradient of *Vallisneria natans* and *V. spinulosa* in shallow lakes of the Yangtze River, China. (KSR #32)
 - ii. Research into plant community patterns in Moroccan temporary ponds along latitudinal and anthropogenic disturbance gradients. (KSR #32)
 - iii. Research into the botanical species-richness of peat bogs in the Larache region, Morocco. (KSR #32)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for supporting work on *Crinum malabaricum* and the genus *Callitriche*.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) complete assessment of 4,000 species of freshwater-dependent plants; (2) establish a baseline for a Red List Index of Mediterranean Freshwater plants.

Research activities: (1) review of the status of alien freshwater vascular plants in South-east Europe; (2) wetland vegetation restoration liter-

ature review; (3) taxonomic clarification of charophytes in the Northern Territory in Australia.

Bolster work at national scales

Research activities: documentation of wetland Natura 2000 sites in Hungary.

Capacity building

Capacity building: (1) training in plant translocation; (2) development of a decision support tool to improve restoration projects with emphasis on freshwater wetland vegetation.

Technical advice: (1) guidance on assessment of aquatic macrophytes in rivers in Northrhine-Westphalia (Germany), under the EU Water Framework Directive; (2) use of charophytes for description and monitoring of inland waters in Sicily.

Communications

Communication: raising awareness of global conservation of freshwater wetland plants.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) preparation of accounts for freshwater wetland dependent plant species under the Portuguese Flora Red List project <http://listavermelha-flora.pt/>; (2) conservation of *Damasonium alisma*; (3) preparation of species and genus conservation strategies; (4) assessment of conservation requirements of *Crinum malabaricum*; (5) global conservation action for the genus *Isoetes*; (6) conservation of “ferricretes” in Santara District, Western Ghats, India as Conservation Zones; (7) reintroduction of *Isoetes malinverniana* in Italy; (8) reintroduction of *Stratiotes aloides* in Italy; (9) conservation of *Lythrum thesioides* in France.

Research activities: (1) research into reproductive strategies along water depth gradient of *Vallisneria natans* and *V. spinulosa* in shallow lakes of the Yangtze River, China; (2) research into plant community patterns in Moroccan

temporary ponds along latitudinal and anthropogenic disturbance gradients; (3) research into the botanical species-richness of peat bogs in the Larache region, Morocco.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Unless the funding situation changes, we do not envisage any significant change in the conservation condition of freshwater plants as a result of action by the FPSG.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 5/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (5 activities)
- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Capacity building (4 activities)
- Communications (1 activity)
- Conservation action (12 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 15, 17, 18, 27, 28, 32

KSR: Key Species Result