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Chair

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

26



Mission statement

Provide information and analyses on the status, trends and threats to species in order to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The goal of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is to provide information and analyses on the status, trends and threats to species in order to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation.

This goal includes the “traditional” role of the IUCN Red List in identifying particular species at risk of extinction. While the role of the IUCN Red List in underpinning priority-setting processes for single species remains of critical importance, the goal has been expanded to encompass the use of data from the IUCN Red List for multi-species analyses in order to identify and monitor trends in species status and to catalyse appropriate conservation action.

To achieve this goal, the IUCN Red List has three main objectives:

- (1) To establish a baseline from which to monitor the change in status of species;
- (2) To provide a global context for the establishment of conservation priorities at the local level;
- (3) To monitor, on a continuing basis, the status of a representative selection of species (as biodiversity indicators) that cover all the major ecosystems of the world.

With these objectives in mind, the IUCN Red List Committee sets forth ten key strategic results as its measures of success and which it aims to achieve by year 2020:

- (1) IUCN Red List taxonomic and geographic coverage is expanded to achieve the Barometer of Life target of 160,000 spp assessed;

- (2) More IUCN Red List Assessments are prepared at national and, where appropriate, at regional scales;
- (3) The IUCN Red List Index is widely used as an effective biodiversity indicator;
- (4) The IUCN Red List is a scientifically rigorous tool for conservation;
- (5) IUCN Red Listing capacity built through expanded training programmes;
- (6) The IUCN Red List is underpinned by cutting-edge information management technologies;
- (7) The IUCN Red List is used effectively to inform policy and action;
- (8) The IUCN Red List is widely communicated and recognized;
- (9) The IUCN Red List is sufficiently and sustainably financed;
- (10) Strategic oversight is provided to the IUCN Red List.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) global comprehensive assessments completed for 58,836 taxa; (2) global non-comprehensive assessments completed for 56,434 taxa; (3) global sampled assessments completed for 15,765 taxa; (4) core reassessments conducted for long-term indicator groups (mammals, birds, amphibians, corals, cycads, conifers), totalling 25,790 taxa; (5) comprehensive reassessments to produce RLIs for key new indicator taxa completed, focusing on marine, fresh water and invertebrate taxa, totalling 3,728 taxa; (6) reassessments undertaken for selected regions where appropriate policy or implementation mechanisms, adequate funding and capacity exist (e.g., Europe, Africa) totalling 4,352 taxa; (7) sampled reassessments conducted for speciose taxonomic groups,



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totalling 10,500 taxa (representing ~420,000 taxa); (8) SIS interface is improved and made easier to use (building on SIS Connect), including new developments (such as dynamic publishing); (9) SIS is developed to allow for increased uptake and use at the national level; (10) the functionality of Species Information Service (SIS) is enhanced for storing, managing, manipulating and querying data; (11) update key existing documents and tools for supporting global and regional Red Listing; (12) produce new guidance notes to support the Red Listing process; (13) the Red List Partnership successfully renewed and strategically grown (three new full partners and new parallel partnership process instituted); (14) the governance structures (Red List Committee and working groups meeting annually and working inter-essionally) to ensure the targets in this strategic plan are met.

Bolster work at national scales

Red List: (1) at least 10 new priority countries, 80% of which are mega diverse, involved in capacity building / twinning activities / and conducting assessments that feed into national decision making processes (5,000 taxa); (2) a searchable database for all National and Regional Red Lists developed and maintained and linked to the global IUCN Red List.

Capacity building

Capacity building: (1) all IUCN and Red List Partner staff directly involved in managing Red List assessment and all SSC RLA's trained and have passed the Red List online exam; (2) IUCN Red List training resources regularly updated, augmented, translated into additional languages and made available online; (3) the number of Red List assessors and Red List trainers increased (assessors 250 via online training, 400 via workshop training, 35 trainers trained).

Communications

Communication: (1) the IUCN Red List enhances its credibility in the academic and scientific community (40 peer reviewed publications, symposia at SCB meetings, DOIs continue); (2) the IUCN Red List enhances its external communication potential and effectiveness; (3) the IUCN Red List improves linkages with peer organizations and agencies including other biodiversity knowledge products.

Policy

Green List: implement processes for documenting conservation success ("green listing").
 Policy advice: (1) Red List data in IBAT are used by 80% of international financial institutions (IFIs, etc.) in environmental safeguard screening policies and by 50% of the net worth of Fortune 500 companies to reduce biodiversity risk in investment decisions and business operations; (2) 90% of governments use Red List data in NBSAPs and all species conservation plans and funding mechanisms make effective and appropriate use of Red List data; (3) Red List data and the Red List Index are profiled appropriately in all assessments and processes informing the post-2020 biodiversity framework and its associated mission, targets and indicators.
 Proposal development and funding: (1) implement a mechanism for engaging with institutions or organizations not currently meeting all the admission criteria for full Red List Partners, nor the strategic commitment, but interested in making a substantial financial or in-kind contribution; (2) online donation campaigns continue to be explored as a mechanism for generating targeted support for specific re/assessment initiatives; (3) the Red List website includes more proactive requests asking users downloading data to consider making a nominal donation to support continuing making the data available.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

- i.** Large first time assessments are underway for reptiles with 1,405 of the suspected 10,000 reptiles assessed during 2017, accompanied by significant fundraising efforts to help raise the resources required to complete the Global Reptile Assessment by 2020. (KSR #1)
- ii.** Work is underway to complete comprehensive assessments of all 15,000 freshwater fish and 17,000 marine fish; however, progress towards achieving these comprehensive assessments was limited with only 286 freshwater fish and 965 marine fish submitted for publication in 2017. (KSR #1)
- iii.** First time comprehensive assessments have been completed for all seahorses and pipefish. (KSR #1)
- iv.** 3,912 new assessments for invertebrates were added to the Red List during 2017. (KSR #1)
- v.** 2,898 new assessments for plants were added to the Red List during 2017. (KSR #1)
- vi.** For highly speciose groups, a representative sample of species has been selected. These species are known as Sampled Red List Index (SRLI) species. During 2017, 691 sampled species were assessed for the first time. The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew completed the sampled assessments for monocots and legumes. (KSR #1)
- vii.** Core reassessments for long-term indicator groups needed to populate the Red List Index progressed during 2017 with all of the worlds birds reassessed (11,000 spp). In addition, 3,123 mammals, 591 amphibians and 17 conifers reassessments completed. The aim is to have all of these groups as well as cycads and corals

comprehensively reassessed by August 2019, so that the Red List Index can be used to measure progress towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and inform the Global Biodiversity Outlook. During this quadrennium we also aim to add new comprehensive reassessments to produce new Red List Indexes for key indicator taxa focusing on marine, fresh water and invertebrate taxa. During 2017, good progress was made with the reassessment of freshwater crabs, marine grouper fish and a global reassessment of the world's cartilaginous fish (sharks and rays) was initiated. Groups that still require a first reassessment before August 2019 are marine seagrasses, mangroves, freshwater crayfish, horseshoe crabs and terrestrial bumblebees. Unfortunately, there has been poor progress with reassessment of the Sampled Red List Index (SRLI) species, with no reassessments for plants or invertebrate taxa submitted. The IUCN Red List Committee is currently working to raise the profile and importance of the reassessment of these samples, as we urgently need indicators for the trend in status of these more speciose taxonomic groups. (KSR #3)

viii. A number of enhancements and changes were made to the Species Information Service (SIS) database used to manage and store the Red List data. These included improvements to the way the taxonomic backbone is managed; addition of new fields for recording criteria met and nearly met for Near Threatened species; addition of new fields for capturing and storing Red List Index (RLI) data; new functionality to tag species with the appropriate Specialist Group and/or Red List Authorities; addition of a new field to enable credit to be given to institutions/organizations that support Red List assessments; new functionality for managing the creation of errata and amended assessments so that the PDF versions can be updated or corrected appropriately; addition of new fields and functionality to enable the handling of assessments written in French, Spanish and Portuguese; and new functionality to the Publications Workflow. (KSR #6)

ix. The data upload interface (SIS Connect), which facilitates the import of Red List assessments from external databases (especially national Red Lists) into SIS and their publication on the IUCN Red List, was built and used for importing assessments of species assessed for national Red Lists. SIS Connect is also being used to extract national Red List assessments done in SIS, so that they can be published on national Red List websites (for example the South African National Biodiversity Institute is doing this for various taxonomic groups to support national red listing work in South Africa). (KSR #6)

x. At the beginning of this quadrennium, the IUCN Red List Committee position of Chair was vacant. During 2017, the SSC Chair's office undertook a process of requesting nominations from across the entire SSC network. By the middle of the year, a strong candidate was identified, Dr Jon Hutton, from the Luc Hoffman Institute, based in Switzerland. The 23rd meeting of the Red List Committee took place in November 2017. The current Red List partnership consists of the nine institutions that work closely with IUCN's Global Species Programme and the SSC network of specialist groups to ensure the Red List is maintained and expanded. (KSR #10)

xi. During 2017, one of the IUCN Red List Committee's working groups, The National Red List Working Group Alliance, was reconstituted and a core coordination group set up to promote national Red Listing globally. Target countries that will be approached and worked with over the next three years include (Chile, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China and Indonesia). A regional Red List coordinator has been employed by the SSC to boost national red listing work in Africa, five African countries have been shortlisted to start national Red List processed. (KSR #2)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. Twenty five Red List training workshops and sessions were facilitated by certified Red List Trainers between the beginning of September 2016 and the end of March 2018. This included 11 full Red List Assessor Training workshops (3-4 day workshops, often involving two Red List trainers), 10 short training workshops (1-2 days long), and four training sessions (sessions usually lasting 1-3 hours, often attached to other meetings and assessment workshops). Five hundred and sixty five people were trained through these training events: 215 participants attended full training workshops, 267 participants attended short training workshops and 83 people were presented with very short training sessions attached to other meetings and workshops. (KSR #5)

ii. Between the beginning of September 2016 and the end of February 2018, a total of 1,765 people enrolled on the Online IUCN Red List Training Course. The total number of people who have enrolled on the course since it was released (in 2013) reached 4,237. Not all of these people go on to complete all modules in the course, or take the final exam: around 13%

of those who enrolled since 2013 completed all seven modules in the course (544 people), with 15% completing all modules required for global assessors (657 people). (KSR #5)

iii. Two Red List Trainer workshops have been held since September 2016. This includes one in Cambridge, UK (June 2017) and one in Arizona, US (October 2017), resulting in 18 new Red List Trainers receiving their certificates. Currently, there are 68 certified Red List Trainers. Not all of the trainers can actively facilitate workshops every year; this is a task that they carry out in addition to their normal workloads, and is often restricted to specific projects they are directly involved in. The training events held between September 2016 and March 2018 were facilitated by 18 Red List Trainers. (KSR #5)

Communications

■ Communication

i. The Red List Committee approved the final design for the new Red List website in early 2017, and following an open and competitive tender process, Lunar Logic <https://lunarlogic.io/> was appointed as the developer in May 2017. Work on the new site started in June 2017. A 'staging' version of the website was completed by the end of 2017 and a process to obtain feedback from key stakeholders was initiated. The 'staging' version was demonstrated to the Red List Committee in November 2017 and to Toyota Motor Corporation (a key donor) in December 2017. (KSR #8)

Policy

■ Green List

i. The Green List Task force met during 2017 and further developed a new methodology to measure species recovery and conservation success in order to produce an IUCN Green List of Species. A paper was drafted and submitted for publication to explain this new methodology and has since been published see: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/cobi.13112>. (KSR #11)

■ Policy advice

i. The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) is basic risk screening on biodiversity that is available to both financial institutions and governments. Through an interactive mapping tool, decision-makers are able to easily access and use this up-to-date information to identify biodiversity risks and opportunities within or close to development project boundaries. By 2020, our target is to get 80% of international financial institutions (IFIs, etc.) in environmental safeguard screening policies and by 50% of the net worth of Fortune 500 companies to reduce biodiversity risk in investment decisions and business operations through the effective use

Coffea sessiliflora, Least Concern
Photo: Quentin Luke



Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
Photo: Thomas Hinsche

Western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), Vulnerable
Photo: Rich Hatfield, The Xerces Society



Ceriops tagal roots entangling *Rhizophora mucronata* propagules in Gazi Bay (Kenya, 2003)
Photo: Griet Neukermans



Lamproderma ovoideum
Photo: Alain Michaud

of IBAT. IBAT subscriptions are documented at <https://www.ibatforbusiness.org/subscribers>. Among the financial institutions, IBAT, including the IUCN Red List data, is currently used by 12 Equator Principles Financial Institutions and OECD Export Credit Agencies, as well as by the Asian Development Bank, International Finance Corporation and World Bank. Among companies, it is used by 12 oil and gas companies, four mining companies, two insurance companies, two multi-industry groups, and one each automotive, cement, chemicals, food processing, and packaging and paper companies. Between them, these corporations represent about \$2 trillion (8%) of the \$27 trillion net worth of the Fortune 500 companies. (KSR #7)

ii. A second target that has been set is that 90% of governments effectively use the Red List data in NBSAPs, and all species conservation plans and funding mechanisms make effective and appropriate use of Red List data. Currently, a very high proportion of governments utilise data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs; <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>). Every one of a sample of the ten most recently-published NBSAPs (8 June 2018)

use the IUCN Red List. Similarly, a sample of the first listed species conservation plans for each of seven taxonomic groups (amphibians, birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals, plants, reptiles), documented at <https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/publications>, reveals that every one of these groups uses the IUCN Red List. (KSR #7)

iii. We aim to ensure that the Red List data and the Red List Index are profiled appropriately in all assessments and processes informing the post-2020 biodiversity framework and its associated mission, targets and indicators. The IUCN Red List and the Red List Index were heavily used in the Convention on Biological Diversity's fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook (<https://www.cbd.int/gbo4/>) and are expected to be similarly profiled in the fifth one, due in 2020. The Red List Index is used as an indicator for tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 15 (see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=15.5.1>) and was featured in the 2017 UN Sustainable Development Report (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/>). Finally, the IUCN Red List is heavily used by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, notably in the summaries for policy-makers of the platform's regional assessments (<https://www.ipbes.net/event/ipbes-6-plenary>). (KSR #7)

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Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (11 activities)
- Capacity building (3 activities)
- Communication (1 activity)
- Policy (4 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11

KSR: Key Species Result