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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 2017-2020 quadrennium

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 species 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 is 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 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Green List: implement processes for documenting conservation success (“green listing”).

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



(7) involve at least 10 new priority countries, 80% of which are mega diverse, in capacity building / twinning activities / and conducting assessments that feed into national decision-making processes (5,000 taxa); (8) conduct sampled reassessments for speciose taxonomic groups, totalling 10,500 taxa (representing ~420,000 taxa); (9) the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) interface is improved and made easier to use (building on SIS Connect), including new developments (such as dynamic publishing); (10) SIS is developed to allow for increased uptake and use at the national level; (11) the functionality of SIS is enhanced for storing, managing, manipulating and querying data; (12) update key existing documents and tools for supporting global and regional red listing; (13) produce new guidance notes to support the Red Listing process; (14) the Red List Partnership is successfully renewed and strategically grown (three new full partners and new parallel partnership process instituted); (15) the governance structures (Red List Committee and working groups meeting annually and working intersessionally) to ensure the targets in this strategic plan are met; (16) a searchable database for all National and Regional Red Lists is developed and maintained and linked to the global IUCN Red List; (17) IUCN Red List training resources are regularly updated, augmented, translated into additional languages and made available online.

Plan

Policy: (1) Red List data in the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (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 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (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.

Network

Capacity building: (1) the number of Red List assessors and Red List trainers is increased (assessors by 250 via online training and 400 via workshop training; 35 trainers trained); (2) all IUCN and Red List Partner staff directly involved in managing Red List assessment and all SSC Red List Authorities are trained and have passed the Red List online exam.

Proposal development and funding: (1) online donation campaigns continue to be explored as a mechanism for generating targeted support for specific re/assessment initiatives;

(2) 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.

Synergy: (1) the IUCN Red List improves linkages with peer organizations and agencies including other biodiversity knowledge products; (2) 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.

Communicate

Communication: (1) the IUCN Red List enhances its credibility in the academic and scientific community (40 peer reviewed publications, symposia at Society for Conservation Biology meetings, DOIs continue); (2) the IUCN Red List enhances its external communication potential and effectiveness.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Green List

i. A Green List task force was set up and in March 2018, a paper was published outlining the Green List methodology. Since the paper was published, we have been working on getting valuable input from 15 SSC Specialist Groups. We are hoping to have a few hundred species assessed across a wide range of taxonomic groups. (KSR #11)

Red List

i. Global comprehensive assessment is ongoing for cycads, mangroves, sharks, birds, amphibians, mammals, corals, and conifers. (KSR #1)

ii. Global non-comprehensive assessment is underway for freshwater crustaceans (crabs and crayfish), Horseshoe crabs, Bumblebees (genus *Bombus*), Groupers (subfamily Epinephelinae), Seagrasses, Tunas and billfishes, Dragonflies (order Odonata), Pteridophytes, Bryophytes, Eudicotyledons, Monocotyledons and Reptiles (class Reptilia). (KSR #1)

iii. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is conducting sampled assessments for butterflies, dung beetles and cephalopods, and re-assessment of sampled reptiles. (KSR #1)

iv. Re-assessment for groups that are on the Red List Index (RLI) and first time groups are being tracked on a 6-month basis. (KSR #1)

v. The taxa included on the global RLI have now accounted for both taxonomically and geographically, with the disaggregation of the RLI at national level, using South Africa as an example. (KSR #2)

vi. The establishment of a national Red List coordination group consisting of members from mega diverse countries is underway. In Africa, this process is championed by the Biodiversity for Spatial Prioritisation in Africa (BASPA) project and includes Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Madagascar. In Asia, the following countries will be involved: China, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Indonesia. Small European countries such as France, Norway, Italy, Portugal, Croatia, Denmark and Sweden are also involved. Invitation letters have been sent to mega diverse countries to join the National Red List Alliance. Progress has been slow due to financial constraints. (KSR #2)

vii. Progress has been made on institutional credit, criteria calculator and validity checker. (KSR #6)

viii. SIS Connect continues to be developed to allow assessments to be submitted based on existing assessments (such as national level). Spanish and French language assessments are already accepted in SIS, and for Chinese assessments the rationales will need to be translated into English. Specifically: (1) 93 assessments are on the Red List in Portuguese (the initial batch of 20 plants from National Center for Flora Conservation – CNCFlora and the rest are reptiles that have come from the Chico Mendes Institute for Conservation of Biodiversity (ICMBio) in Brazil, entered into SIS by Marcelo Tognelli in our Biodiversity Assessment Unit (BAU) in the US); (2) 57 plant assessments from Haiti in French (all done through the auspices of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Global Tree Specialist Group); and (3) two plant assessments in Spanish. There are lots more Spanish assessments in the pipeline (e.g. almost 400 trees from the Colombian Plant RLA being submitted via SIS Connect), plus Marcelo is working on getting additional animal assessments in Portuguese done via ICMBio into SIS. The BAU team is working on getting Chinese assessments added. Many of the reptile assessments done for China had English text with a Chinese translation; however, the translation was done before the final edits to the English text was made, so the translations did not match. In addition, some of the translations were copied and pasted into SIS from external Word files which created formatting issues which would impact how the characters would be rendered on the Red List

website. As a result, the translated text had to be deleted, but we are still working with the BAU to figure out the best way to do this in the future. No work has been done in SIS or on the website end to translate all field names, headings, classification schemes, etc., into the other languages – the core structure is all still in English. It is just the text fields where the information can be presented in another language and there is a language selection feature in SIS (and on the website) to specify the language being used. (KSR #6)

ix. Some progress has been made and mostly related to SIS Connect. There is still work to be done, and potentially always something to improve. (KSR #6)

x. The Red List Technical Working Group published “Mapping Standards and Data Quality for the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria” in September 2018, and a new version is underway. (KSR #6)

xi. Several issues related to author’s accreditation, Extinct in the Wild (EW) Red List category, *Homo sapiens* Red Listing, and the taxonomy guidelines have been identified to be amended in the next Red List guideline document. (KSR #6)

xii. Progress is ongoing to investigate changes and solutions to expanding the Red List Partnership model. This should be completed and signed off by 2020. Additionally, negotiations to include new Red List Partners (i.e. Missouri Botanical Garden and Global Wildlife Conservation) are underway. (KSR #10)

xiii. The Red List Committee convenes meetings twice a year (i.e. face to face and virtually) to track progress on the delivery of the Red List Strategic Plan. Meetings were held 16–18 May 2018 and 7 December 2018. (KSR #10)

xiv. The Spanish version of the online exam was released, including the default level exam (three versions for global, regional and full exam) and advanced level exam (two versions for global and full exam). We now have the full course and exam available in all three official IUCN languages. (KSR #6)

Plan

Policy

i. A new IBAT platform will be launched in 2019 offering enhanced functionality. There are currently 66 subscribers to IBAT. (KSR #7)

ii. Richard Jenkins is still exploring ways to retrieve this information. (KSR #7)

iii. The Red List Index is the official UN indicator for Sustainable Development Goal Target 15.5, and is reported annually to the UN Statistical Division (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>). The Red List Index graph was published in the 2018 Sustainable Development Goals Report (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2018/>; page 11). The Red List Index is an official indicator for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, used to track progress towards Aichi Target 12, as well as disaggregated to track progress towards Aichi Targets 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, and 19 (Decision XIII/28 Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-28-en.pdf>). It is mobilised as such through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (<https://www.bipindicators.net/indicators/red-list-index>). The Red List Index was profiled in the WWF 2018 Living Planet Report (https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living_planet_report_2018/; pages 104-105). The Red List serves as the input data

to assessment of “species recovery metrics”, for which methods are under development to support establishment of “science-based targets” towards the post-2020 biodiversity framework. (KSR #7)

Network

Capacity building

i. Ten new Red List Trainers received their certificates in 2018 (we now have a network of 75 Red List Trainers); 188 people passed the online course exam (pass mark 75% or more) and 10 people passed the advanced exam (pass mark 90% or more). A total of 696 people participated in 25 Red List Training workshops facilitated by Red List Trainers in 2018. (KSR #5)

ii. Red List Authority Coordinators and Red List Partner staff coordinating projects are already asked to pass the online exam. (KSR #5)

Synergy

i. Several linkages have been made with peer organisations and other biodiversity knowledge products such as IBAT, Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), National Geographic, Threatened Island Biodiversity Database, Red List of Ecosystems, etc. (KSR #10)

ii. Progress is ongoing to develop an evaluation and monitoring process of whether existing partners are continuing to meet the criteria for being an effective partner and also to investigate changes and solutions to expanding the Red List Partnership model. (KSR #9)

Communicate

Communication

i. The assignment of DOIs to IUCN Red List assessments and re-assessments is standard practice, and has continued throughout the period, with 127,430 DOIs assigned to date. Red List DOIs are being found by Google Scholar if they are cited in other works or if they are uploaded by Assessors to their profiles on sites

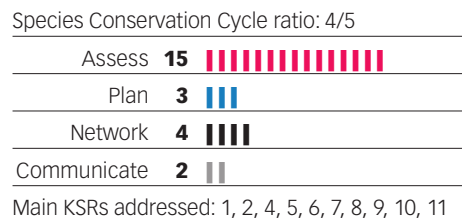
like ResearchGate. However, it appears there is a way to get Google Scholar to index all of the Red List DOIs (see <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/inclusion.html#overview>) – this is under investigation. Progress has also been made to check on our DOI provider, CrossRef, as they apparently also offer a service to do this. Searching the Web of Science for scientific papers listing the keyword “Red List” since 2017 yielded 931 papers (see link for full details: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NunsMf_EjqU9t3rxyfAE0TsmKjzrtCBm/view). (KSR #4)

ii. The new website for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species was launched in October 2018. (KSR #8)

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Summary of activities 2018



KSR: Key Species Result