



Guidelines for Proposals

for the Establishment of IUCN SSC Stand-alone Red List Authorities

The Species Survival Commission was established by IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in 1949. Since that time, the SSC has grown into a global, science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts, working together towards achieving the vision of “*A world that values and conserves present levels of biodiversity*”. The strength behind the SSC is the organization of this network of volunteer experts, who donate their time and expertise to build a scientific and practical foundation for the effective delivery of conservation, into more than 100 Specialist Groups (SGs), Stand-alone Red List Authorities (RLAs) and Task Forces (TFs) – hereafter “groups” – arranged taxonomically, thematically and/or regionally¹, and convened by the SSC in response to pressing conservation issues. These groups serve as the main working units of the Commission and provide the breadth of expertise and commitment that drives the SSC towards achieving its objectives. These groups are unique blends of individuals who operate independently, but are committed to SSC’s vision, mission, objectives and policies and to those of the IUCN.

New groups are established as the need arises. The primary objective of a Stand-alone Red List Authority is to organize around the objective of a comprehensive conservation assessment of a particular group of species for the IUCN Red List (and for which there is no existing RLA). However, if there is an identifiable conservation need, and a demonstrated commitment to actively pursue conservation goals on the ground, then we may seek to establish a Specialist Group (although this is unusual in instances where groups have undertaken no Red List assessments at all to help guide conservation action). While IUCN encourages and embraces the establishment and formation of new groups, the formation of a new group is not a small undertaking. On the one hand, it requires a not insignificant investment of time, effort and expertise on the behalf of the proponents; on the other, there are considerations around issues of support from IUCN (mainly its Species Programme) and from SSC.

With this in mind, IUCN and SSC have established a set of questions (listed below) to guide the development of proposals around the establishment of new Stand-alone Red List Authorities. These questions are intended to serve as guidelines, rather than criteria. If you are interested in establishing a new group, please contact: edgard.yerena@ssc.iucn.org

¹<https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/1445>

Questions for the establishment of new Stand-alone Red List Authorities:

1. Why is this taxonomic level and / or geographic scope considered to be the most appropriate level at which to constitute a Stand-alone RLA?
2. Is there a clear gap for the group to fill, and a value-added benefit that the formation of the group would deliver, rather than duplicate efforts of existing Specialist Groups, Stand-alone RLAs, or IUCN partner institutions?
3. Will the activities of the group contribute to the relevant objectives of the IUCN Red List Strategic Plan 2021-2024?
4. Is there a unique/core group of relevant experts willing to dedicate energy, time and expertise towards undertaking Red List assessments for the particular taxon or group of species?
5. Is clear leadership available?
6. Is there an institutional source for support and co-ordination? Are there any institutions that are immediately identifiable as key partners to mobilizing assessments for the group of species under consideration?