Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Red List Technical Working Group reports to the Red List Committee and is responsible for ensuring consistency and developing improvements in: (a) the application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria; (b) the documentation of Red List assessments, including through the design and coding of the IUCN Classification Schemes and creation of GIS data; (c) the design and implementation of Red List Indices; and (d) the use of the Species Information Service (SIS) to facilitate (a) to (c). In particular, the Red List Technical Working Group seeks to ensure that the SSC’s major global and regional biodiversity assessment projects are implemented in a consistent manner.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

The impact of the Red List Technical Working Group (RLTWG) on species’ conservation status is the delivery of high-quality assessments with appropriate documentation. This will be achieved by ensuring consistency and developing improvements in: (a) the application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria; (b) the documentation of Red List assessments, including through the design and coding of the IUCN Classification Schemes and creation of GIS data; (c) the design and implementation of Red List Indices; and (d) the use of the Species Information Service (SIS).

Assess

Red List: (1) identify major areas of possible inconsistency in the data generated by the different assessment projects, evaluate the nature and extent of the problems, and propose solutions; (2) provide comments and, wherever possible, examples to the Standards and Petitions Committee on the practical consequences of proposed revisions to the Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria; (3) propose developments and improvements to the documentation of Red List assessments, and develop/improve associated guidance, definitions, etc.; (4) monitor, and develop when appropriate, the structure, content, guidance and implementation of the Classification Schemes; (5) oversee the continuing development of The IUCN Red List Index, and advise on its use; (6) monitor the development of SIS and its use, make proposals for changes and improvements as needed, and review all requests for changes and modifications to SIS; (7) provide feedback and guidance on the presentation of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species data on the IUCN Red List website.

Act

Technical advice: (1) monitor the implementation of all the major biodiversity assessment projects, and other assessment work carried out by Red List Authorities, Red List Partners and the IUCN Global Species Programme; (2) identify issues that need to be covered and clarified in the Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/redlistguidelines), and refer these issues along with, wherever possible, real examples to the Standards and Petitions Sub-Committee.
Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. In September 2018, the “Mapping Standards and Data Quality for the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria” were published, providing an overview of spatial data on the Red List and outlining the spatial data required with each Red List assessment, along with relevant formats and standards, with a particular focus on the distribution map. (KSR #4, 5)

ii. The RLTWG has started investigating both the processes needed and the impacts of adopting new Classification Schemes for the IUCN Red List. In first instance the Threats and Conservation Action schemes have been investigated, but the issues extend to all classification schemes. (KSR #4, 6)

iii. Guidance on the Red List Index Documentation has been drafted in 2018, and will be discussed at the 2019 RLTWG meeting. (KSR #3, 4)

iv. In 2018, the RLTWG suggested several changes and improvements to the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) Toolkit. This included enhancements and improvements of the Validity Checker and the Criteria Calculator. (KSR #6)

v. The new IUCN Red List website was launched in 2018, and the RLTWG will be discussing feedback on this at the meeting in early 2019. (KSR #8)

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Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 1/5

Assess 5

Main KSRs addressed: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

Resolutions addressed: WCC 2016 Res 016

KSR: Key Species Result