Minutes

IUCN Species Survival Commission
Orchid Specialist Group

1600, 2 June 2011, Hubloká, Czech Republic

Present: Dr Mike Fay (Chair); Prof. Kingsley Dixon (KD; Vice-chair); Dr. Andrew Rodrigues (IUCN SSC) plus 40 other attendees.

Apologies: Ken Cameron, Marge From, Kathy Gregg, Henrik Pedersen, Phil Seaton, Jyotsna Sharma.

Agenda Review: no items added

Minutes of Last Meeting: Moved: Marilyn Light (ML); Seconded: KD; passed.

Matters arising

- Geographical Taskforces: Cássio van den Berg (Brazil) to prepare proposal for new Eastern South American group – no action following. Action: to be followed up by Chair.
- Red Listing: Chair discussed the need for streamlining the uploading of national listings – to be discussed with IUCN. Some discussion on delisting to be considered. Action: Chair to discuss facilitation (possibly commencing with the Australian listed taxa) with IUCN via Dr Rodrigues and provide report.
- Website: Chair highlighted issues with updating the web page – further work required. Action: Chair to explore web options including new business item below.
- Reintroduction Database: ML discussed options for including reintroductions both successes and failures in the database for North American orchids. Action: Database to be updated in 2011.

Chairman's Report

Vote of thanks expressed to Pavel Kindlmann for hosting the 4th International Orchid Conservation Congress so splendidly and providing the opportunity to hold this meeting.

- Reconstitution of the Group:
  Group has to be reconstituted each quadrennium (four years) and this is now largely complete for the current quadrennium (2009-2012). Non-respondents will be contacted once more and if they do not respond they will be removed from the list. The Chair flagged up the problem of email addresses changing but not being notified to the Chair. This makes the reconstitution process more time consuming than it needs to be. A general invitation was issued to participants to volunteer as members of the OSG and contact Chair for action. Next reconstitution will be due in 2012. Action: Chair to finalize reconstitution.
• Additional meetings in 2011 (IBC, WOC):
  Two additional meetings to be held at the International Botanical Congress in July 2011 in Melbourne and the World Orchid Congress in November 2011 in Singapore. **Action:** Chair to arrange meetings and agendas and to notify OSG members of arrangements.

• Organisation (taskforces/subgroups):
  Participants invited to make suggestions of changes to existing taskforces/subgroups or to suggest new ones. **Action:** Chair to field offers and recommendations.

• Red Listing:
  Chair outlined significant issues with updating the current Red list. **Action:** Chair to further discussions with IUCN regarding orchid Red listing

• Website hosting by IUCN:
  As the Palm Specialist Group webpages have successfully migrated to the IUCN home, it has now been agreed that the OSG will follow suit. It was noted that this will provide greater security for the information and probably lead to greater visibility. **Action:** Chair to coordinate migration of OSG website to IUCN home pages.

• Newsletter:
  Chair discussed option to relocate newsletter to website. Members discussed use of electronic rather than paper updates. **Action:** ML volunteered to prepare newsletters when sufficient information was received. **Action:** Chair to provide ML with information regarding contact details for other appropriate OSG members.

**Report from the IUCN (Dr Andrew Rodrigues (AR), Species Program Officer)**

AR provided an overview of the structure of IUCN and of Red listing and activities of the IUCN in analyzing threats, risks and trends. Red listing can lead to funding support being identified by the IUCN. A key benefit of being an OSG member is free access to ArcGIS licensing and training through IUCN.

**Reports from Geographical and Thematic Groups**

• **Afro-Madagascar**
  Chair reported that the group is attempting to reinvigorate itself and increase activities. The proposed venue for the 5th IOCC (La Réunion) should facilitate attendance by African and Madagascan members.

• **Australasia**
  KD provided a report on activities in Australia. As there are seven states in a federal system, national approaches can be difficult. The Australian Orchid Foundation – providing national focus for research funding. ca. eight projects across genetics, propagation, reintroduction, seed conservation, taxonomy, bio-inventory. In New South Wales - $14M Plant Bank – orchids included. Federal programs (Mark Clements et al.) on threatened orchids in NSW (*Rhizanthella, Cryptostylis*). In Victoria, the Royal Botanic Gardens has programs in taxonomy; translocation,
propagation. Pollination research. In Tasmania, there are emerging orchid programs in rare species conservation. In Queensland barcoding and mycorrhizal research are being undertaken. In South Australia bioinventory, propagation research and mycorrhizal research are taking place. In Western Australia, the Millennium Seed Bank collaboration, translocation genetics, ecology, pollination, mycorrhizal research and ecophysiology were flagged. Major national programs include pollination ecology, pheromone chemistry, national phylogeography, molecular reevaluation of taxonomies and barcoding.

- **Indian subcontinent**
  Simmi Aggarwal offered to provide a report, possibly later in the year. Chair reported that Suranjjan Fernando has expressed his intention to do red list assessments for the orchids of Sri Lanka.

- **Meso-America**
  Has not been formally reconstituted due to lack of a Chair. Activities are, however, underway, including work from Belize (on which Brendan Sayers presented a short report) to develop a public guide to the diversity of orchids in Belize. He also reported on an updated checklist of taxa and on ex situ collections in Belize and Ireland. Jim Ackerman reported on an active group in Colombia and also a workshop that has been was held in Cuba on demographics and the work on *Broughtonia* on pollination ecology.

- **North America and Education**
  ML highlighted their very active membership and acknowledged and thanked the professionalism and passion of members. The newsletter is successful. Workshop held leading to conservation techniques booklet. Capacity building being undertaken with other orchid groups in the sphere. Newsletter to be initiated in 2011.

- **East Asia**
  Luo Yi-Bo has taken over as Chair and is reconstituting the group. It is hoped that there will be a report on the activities at WOC.

- **Europe**
  Chair reported that there has been little contact from this group, and it is not clear what activities are happening. **Action:** Chair to follow up.
  [Following the meeting, the Chair has heard from the Chair of this group, and will report back at the next meeting].

- **South America**
  Work in Colombia (see above) was noted. Hopefully members will be present at the WOC. As noted above, this group may split into two in due course.

- **South East Asia**
  Propagation of *Paphiopedilum* in Laos, genetics in Malaysia and organization of the WOC in Singapore are among the activities in this region. Hopefully the WOC will give members of this group the chance to meet formally.

- **Early Career**
  The Chair asked if any attendees would like to join this group. A meeting of this group is being planned for WOC.

- **Education**
see above (under North America).

- **Ex situ conservation**
  The chair of this group (Phil Seaton) could not be present, but the success of the orchid seed banking program worldwide (through OSSSU - Orchid Seeds for Sustainable Use) was noted.

- **In situ conservation**
  Chair noted the talks presented at the 4th IOCC on the long-term demographic studies by members of this sub-group, who were not able to attend the OSG meeting, demonstrated the activeness of this group.

**Future IOCCs**

- IOCC 5 – Proposed to be Reunion in December 2013. Sponsorship to be actively sought.

- IOCC 6 – 2018?

**New Members. Action:** people wishing to join the OSG were encouraged to provide their details to the Chair.

There being no additional new business items, the meeting closed at 1730.