

Regional Red Lists (www.regionalredlist.com)

Jonathan Baillie, Annemarie Greenwood, Mala Ram

Assessing Extinction Risk on a Regional or National Basis

Following the success of the IUCN Categories and Criteria designed to assess the conservation status of species globally, there was increasing demand for guidelines to apply the system at the regional level. In 2003, IUCN developed a set of transparent, quantitative criteria to assess the conservation status of species at the regional and national level. This approach is now accepted as an international standard and is being applied in many countries throughout the world.

Regional Red Lists provide countries and regions with an internationally-recognised method for assessing the status of their biodiversity and informing conservation decision-making.

Regional Red Lists assist nations or regions in:

- Determining the conservation status and trends of species
- Identifying species or ecosystems under greatest threat
- Informing conservation planning and priority setting
- Raising awareness of threatened species

The Regional Red List Process

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) can provide expert assistance at all stages in the development of Regional Red Lists. This includes:

- Collection of relevant species information
 - Provision of training in the application of the Regional IUCN Categories and Criteria
 - Construction of an electronic biodiversity database
 - Organization of a regional workshop in collaboration with local experts
 - Production of a printed Regional Red List
 - Production of Summary Conservation Action Plans identifying the state of biodiversity at the regional level
- Indicators and Assessments Unit

Building the Regional Red List Network

ZSL is leading the development of an active global network of countries and individuals working on Regional Red Lists. This will include a centralised online database where Regional Red List assessments and Action Plans can be stored, managed, and made accessible. With this strong regional network there will be opportunities to learn from each other's experiences in applying the IUCN Categories and Criteria and in using this information for conservation planning and priority setting.

Interactive Data Sharing

The Regional Red List website (www.regionalredlist.com) will provide a central location for all Regional Red List information. Visitors to the website will be able to find out more about the Regional Red List process, access relevant Red List documents and links, search the species database, and browse the downloadable library of all existing Regional Red Lists and accompanying Action Plans produced around the globe.

Towards 2010 Targets

In April 2002 at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 188 Nations committed themselves to actions to "...achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels...". When a Regional Red List is conducted repeatedly for a region, it can provide trend information on how the status of the region's biodiversity is changing throughout time. This information is important for policy makers, conservationists, and the general public, as it assists countries in meeting their obligation to the CBD.

Future Directions

Regional Red Lists have the potential to lead conservation planning on the national or regional scale where programmes and legislation may be most effectively implemented. The Regional Red List database will provide a focal point for the global conservation community to share biodiversity data, Actions Plans and Red Listing experiences, and in doing so, work together towards the effective conservation of species worldwide.

More Information

For more information on Regional Red Lists please contact Dr Jonathan Baillie (jonathan.baillie@ioz.ac.uk), Dr Ben Collen (ben.collen@ioz.ac.uk), or Jon Paul Rodriguez (jonpaul@ivic.vc)

