

Abbreviations and acronyms used by SSC and IUCN

Abbreviations and Acronyms	
AFTF	Authority Files Task Force of the BASC
BASC	Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee
BAU	Biodiversity Assessment Unit
BISC	Biodiversity Indicators Sub-Committee
BRAC	Bureau régional pour l’afrique centrale
BRAO	Bureau regional pour l’afrique de l’ouest
CABS	Center for Applied Biodiversity Science
CAMP	Conservation Assessment and Management Plan
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COF	Commission Operation Fund
CNG	Conservation Networking Group
DEM	Data Entry Module of the SIS
EARO	East Africa Regional Office
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GAA	Global Amphibian Assessment
GMA	Global Mammal Assessment
GMSA	Global Marine Species Assessment
GRA	Global Reptile Assessment
GSA	Global Species Assessment
GSPC	Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
IBA	Important Bird Area
IPA	Important Plant Area
ICSC	Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
MCSC	Marine Conservation Sub-Committee
NRLWG	National Red List Working Group of the BASC (“Narliwog”)
ORMA	Oficina regional para Mesoamérica
PCSC	Plant Conservation Sub-Committee
PHVA	Population and Habitat Viability Assessment
RL	The Red List
RLA	Red List Authority
RLI	Red List Index
RLIWG	Red List Index Working Group of the BASC
ROfE	Regional Office for Europe
ROSA	Regional office for southern Africa
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SC	Steering Committee
SG	Specialist Group
SIS	Species Information Service
SPWG	Standards & Petitions Working Group of the BASC
SRLI	Sampled Red List Index
SSC	Species Survival Commission
SUR	Oficina regional para América del Sur
SUSG	Sustainable Use Specialist Group
TF	Task Force
UNEP-WCMC	United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UVA	University of Virginia
UWG	Users’ Working Group of the BASC
WCC	World Conservation Congress
WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WESCANA	Regional office for West/Central Asia and North Africa
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

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Authority Files	A set of standard criteria used by SIS to describe species, eg., habitat type, threats, etc.
Authority Files Task Force AFTF	The AFTF reports to the BASC and is responsible for defining and proposing changes to the IUCN Authority Files that will be needed in order to carry out new analyses and produce agreed priority products by 2008.
Biodiversity Assessments	<p>The Biodiversity Assessment Initiative was established in 2001 as a collaborative effort between IUCN/SSC and the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science at Conservation International. It aims to provide an effective method for gathering and disseminating the most accurate scientific data available for biodiversity conservation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Programme. The Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Programme aims to put in place a factual basis for efforts to conserve and manage freshwater biodiversity. • Global Mammal Assessment. (GMA) The GMA will be a complete reassessment of the threat status of all 5,000 plus mammal species. • Global Amphibian Assessment. (GAA) An analysis of the distribution and conservation status of all 5,743 known amphibian species, completed in 2004.
Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee BASC	BASC reports to the SC and oversees and guides the work of SSC on biodiversity assessments. This includes responsibility for the <i>IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> and advising on the functioning of the Species Information Service (SIS). (Formerly known as the Red List Committee).
Biodiversity Indicators Sub-Committee BISC	BISC reports to the SC and has a networking role focusing on the global indicators being developed (i.e., those based on threat assessments and those based on other data types) and the world's need for these indicators.
Conservation Networking Group CNG	Initially a group of technical experts within IUCN who meet regularly at HQ to exchange ideas and also communicate through an email group, +CNG. Non-technical staff are welcome to participate as well.
Commission Operation Fund COF	Core funds provided by IUCN to Commission chairs.
Conservation Assessment and Management Plan CAMP	A process used by the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) that allows the objective and systematic prioritization of research and management actions needed for species conservation.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora CITES	An international agreement between Governments whose aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
Data Entry Module DEM	A locally installed software application for recording species assessments. It is used by SSC Specialist Groups and others to systematically enter Red List assessments and background information about the species. The information captured is standardized and thus provides a wealth of global information about species that can be analyzed and used to promote and conduct biodiversity conservation.
E-Bulletin	Monthly electronic bulletin that supplements <i>Species</i> and provides up to date news and announcements from the SSC and the Species Programme.
Global Species Assessment GSA	The comprehensive analysis of RL and biodiversity assessment

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	data. It is released every four years at the WCC. The first GSA was released in Bangkok in 2004, and was the most thorough evaluation ever of the status of the world's species.
Global Strategy for Plant Conservation GSPC	The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was adopted on 19 April 2002 by the 6th CBD Conference of the Parties.
Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee ICSC	ICSC reports to the SC and focuses on the conservation of invertebrates.
Marine Conservation Sub-Committee MCSC	MCSC reports to the SC and focuses on the conservation of marine species.
National Red List Working Group NRLWG	The NRLWG reports to the BASC and is responsible for overseeing the use of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (particularly the <i>Guidelines for Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional Levels</i>) at the national level, and for building linkages between the <i>IUCN Red List of Threatened Species</i> and species assessment processes at national levels. NRLWG is a sub-group of BASC.
Occasional Papers	Occasional Papers (soon to be renamed Thematic Publications on the website) cover a broad range of subjects including conservation of groups of species in a particular geographical region, wildlife trade issues, and proceedings of workshops.
Plant Conservation Sub-Committee PCSC	The Plants Programme priorities are set by the IUCN/SSC Plant Conservation Sub-Committee, guided by the IUCN/SSC Plant Conservation Strategy. (Formerly known as the Plant Conservation Committee.) The PCSC reports to the SC.
Plants Programme	The SSC Plants Programme leads IUCN's efforts in stemming the loss of global plant diversity through its wide-ranging network of plant conservationists.
Population and Habitat Viability Assessment PHVA	An interactive, participatory workshop process that generates extinction risk assessments based upon in-depth analysis of information on the life history, population dynamics, ecology, and history of a population.
Red List Authority RLA	In most cases, the Red List Authority (RLA) is the SSC Specialist Group responsible for the species, group of species or specific geographic area. The role of the Red List Authorities is to ensure that all species within their jurisdiction are correctly evaluated against the IUCN Red List Categories at least once every ten years and, if possible, every five years. An exception is birds, where BirdLife International is the designated RLA.
Red List Categories	<p>The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria are intended to be an easily and widely understood system for classifying species at high risk of global extinction. The general aim of the system is to provide an explicit, objective framework for the classification of the broadest range of species according to their extinction risk. The Categories and Criteria were reviewed between 1997 and 1999 and the revised system came into use in 2001.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extinct (EX) Species for which extensive surveys show there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. • Extinct in the Wild (EW) Species that survive only in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range. • Critically Endangered (CR) Species that are facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild when the best available evidence indicates that they meet any of the criteria for the category Critically Endangered. • Endangered (EN) Species that are facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild when the best available evidence

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	<p>indicates that they meet any of the criteria for the category Endangered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable (VU) Species that are facing a high risk of extinction in the wild when the best available evidence indicates that they meet any of the criteria for the category Vulnerable • Near threatened (NT) Species that do not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable now, but are close to qualifying for or are likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future. • Least concern (LC) Species that do not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened. Widespread and abundant species are included in this category. • Data deficient (DD) Species for which there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of extinction risk based on distribution and/or population status. A species in this category may be well studied, and its biology well known, but appropriate data on abundance and/or distribution are lacking. Data Deficient is therefore not a category of threat. • Not evaluated (NE) A species is Not Evaluated when it has not yet been evaluated against the criteria. NE species are not shown on the IUCN Red List. • Threatened Species Threatened Species are any of those classified as CR, EN or VU.
Red List Index RLI	Red List Indices chart overall changes in the threat status of the world's major taxonomic group. They are based on the number of species that moved between categories as a result of genuine changes in threat status (excluding moves resulting from improved knowledge or taxonomic changes). The IUCN Red List Programme will improve the taxonomic coverage of the Red List Indices in the coming years as they are central to monitoring the progress of global efforts to reduce biodiversity loss.
Red List Index Working Group RLIWG	The RLIWG reports to the BASC and is responsible for overseeing and developing the <i>IUCN Red List Index</i> as a tool for monitoring changes in the status of biodiversity at the species level.
Sampled Red List Index SRLI	Recognizing the infeasibility of regularly assessing the conservation status of all species in large groups, SRLI assesses a representative sample of many of the world's major species groups.
Sir Peter Scott Fund for Conservation Action	This fund provides small grants, up to a maximum of \$15,000 each, to support the activities of SSC Specialist (expert) Groups.
Specialist Group SG	The SSC is made up of over 100 independent Specialist Groups, Disciplinary Groups, Task Forces, and Working Groups that focus on the conservation concerns of a species, group of species, or disciplinary area. Specialist Groups and Task Forces are the main working units of the Commission.
Species	SSC's biannual newsletter, distributed electronically.
Species Action Plans	Publications written by Specialist Groups that assess the conservation status of species and their habitats and outlines conservation priorities.
Species Information Service SIS	Data management tools/software/services to facilitate the efficient collection and compilation of species biodiversity and Red List assessments.
Species Programme	The Species Programme is responsible for supporting the activities of the SSC's Specialist Groups and network-wide initiatives. It forms part of the IUCN Secretariat and is based in Gland, Switzerland, with further offices in Cambridge, UK and Washington, DC, USA.

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Species Survival Commission SSC	The largest of the six Commissions of IUCN. It serves as the main source of advice to the Union and its members on the technical aspects of species conservation. SSC seeks to mobilise action by the world conservation community for species conservation, particularly those species threatened with extinction and those of importance for human welfare.
Species Survival Commission Awards	Realizing that the voluntary contributions of the specialist group experts often pass with little formal notice, the SSC has established an awards system to more publicly recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of its membership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership • SSC Chair's Citation of Excellence • Sir Peter Scott Award for Conservation Merit
SSC Members' Toolkit	A package of information designed to help SSC volunteers in critical areas such as fundraising and communication. It will be further developed in the coming months.
SSC Strategic Plan	The SSC Strategic Plan sets out the key activities and goals of the SSC network for the next 10 years (2001-2010).
SSC Voluntarism Study	With the rapid expansion of the SSC network, there has been a growing sense of loss of support to the network and over-burdening of volunteers. There was a concern that this situation was unsustainable and in March of 2001, the SSC Executive Committee recognized the risk in the SSC system and commissioned a study on voluntarism in the SSC.
Standards & Petitions Working Group SPWG	The SPWG reports to the BASC and is responsible for ensuring the quality and standard of the <i>IUCN Red List</i> , focusing on the correct use of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This includes updating the User Guidelines. The SPWG also makes decisions on any petitions against current assessments on the <i>IUCN Red List</i> . SPWG is a sub-group of BASC.
Steering Committee SC	The Steering Committee provides strategic vision and direction to the work of the SSC and is headed by the Commission Chair (Holly T. Dublin). The Steering Committee contains within it the plant conservation sub-committee, the marine conservation sub-committee, and the invertebrates conservation sub-committee.
Subcommittees of the Steering Committee	The current sub-committees are: Plant Conservation Sub-Committee, Marine Conservation Sub-Committee, Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee, Sustainable Use Sun-Committee, Biodiversity Indicators Sub-Committee, Biodiversity AssessmentS Sub-Committee.
Sustainable Use Sub-committee SUSC	
Task Force TF	These differ from Specialist Groups in that they are convened in response to pressing conservation issues and aim to deliver on agreed outputs within a finite time frame.
Technical Guidelines	Technical guidelines provide guidance to specialized conservation projects and initiatives, such as re-introductions, handling confiscated specimens and halting the spread of invasive species.
The Red List RL	The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is an annually updated inventory of the extinction risk and global conservation status of plant and animal species.
Top 50 Plants Campaign	A project that aims to help save plant species that face a high risk of extinction by providing information to and raising awareness among decision makers, conservation practitioners and the general public. The Mediterranean Island Plant Specialist Group, with support from the MAVA Foundation, is leading the pilot Top 50 project.
TRAFFIC	The wildlife trade monitoring network is a joint programme of IUCN and WWF. TRAFFIC's mission is to ensure that trade in wild

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	plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC provides direct and indirect support to CITES.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity CBD	Signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the CBD is dedicated to promoting sustainable development. Its three main goals are: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.
Users' Working Group UWG	The UWG reports to the BASC and is responsible for ensuring consistency in the application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, the IUCN Authority Files, and the SIS Data Entry Module (SIS-DEM). UWG is a sub-group of BASC.
Wildlife Trade Programme	Initially established to enhance the SSC's input to CITES, the WTP has broadened its focus to encompass a wide range of trade issues. SSC formally recognizes TRAFFIC as its primary source of expertise on trade data, and TRAFFIC recognizes SSC as its primary source of expertise on the biological status of species in trade. Based in Cambridge, UK.
World Conservation Congress WCC	The World Conservation Congress is the general assembly of IUCN members, which takes place every three to four years. The Congress encompasses three principal elements: conducting the business of the Union, assessing the work of IUCN Commissions and taking stock of conservation.
World Conservation Monitoring Center WCMC	The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is the biodiversity assessment and policy implementation arm of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It is also where part of the Species Programme staff in Cambridge, UK, are located.