

CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Classification Schemes Working Group reports to the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee and is responsible for defining and proposing changes to the IUCN Classification Schemes that will be needed in order to carry out new analyses and produce agreed priority products by 2008. To do this, the Classification Schemes Working Group will:

- Define the major analyses that need to be produced by 2008 in order to achieve the agreed targets in the Biodiversity Assessment Strategy;
- Review the current IUCN Classification Schemes (Habitats, Major Threats, Utilisation, Conservation Actions);
- Propose changes to current Classification Schemes that are needed in order to achieve the agreed targets (bearing in mind the trade off between making data changes versus the utility of data fields for filtering and analyses);
- Develop a system for cross-walking changes between the current Classification Schemes and the revised Classification Schemes (so that it is clear how database updates can be carried out as easily as possible);
- Consider the use of possible additional Classification Schemes and additional coded fields, given new developments in the work and the strategic need for additional analyses;
- Document all Classification Schemes (definition of terms, guidance to filling in the fields, and how the resulting coding will be used); and
- Make recommendations to the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee on changes needed to the IUCN Classification Schemes.

The Chair of the Classification Schemes Working Group is appointed by the Chair of the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee. The membership of the Classification Schemes Working Group is appointed by the Chair of the Working Group.