

# RED LIST INDEX WORKING GROUP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Red List Index Working Group reports to the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee (BASC) and is responsible for overseeing and developing the *IUCN Red List Index* as a tool for monitoring changes in the status of biodiversity at the species level. As a guiding principle, the Red List Index Working Group seeks to ensure that the *IUCN Red List Index* (RLI) is scientifically defensible, and that the necessary data collection is taking place in a timely fashion to allow the RLI to be calculated in line with agreed programmatic targets. To do this, the Red List Index Working Group will:

- Review and develop options for calculating, presenting and interpreting the RLI
- Review and develop options for aggregating asynchronous RLIs from different taxonomic groups
- Review the progress of work on completely assessed species groups (birds, amphibians, mammals, cycads and conifers initially) and advise the global assessment projects to ensure that adequate data are produced in a timely fashion to allow robust RLIs to be calculated;
- Explore the development of RLIs showing trends in internationally traded species (relevant to CITES), utilised species (relevant as sustainable use indicators), species required for specific ecosystem services (e.g., pollination or water filtration), species vulnerable to specific threat processes (e.g., disease, habitat loss, climate change), and the impact of conservation measures.
- Develop methods and guidelines for the regional application (e.g., country based application) of the RLI.
- Develop and expand on the methods recommended at the IUCN Sampled Red List Index (SRLI) Technical Workshop (9-10 March 2005), including:
  - Identifying and agreeing the minimum sample size in a defensible way;
  - Developing clear guidelines for the SRLI sampling methodology;
  - Developing clear guidelines for the selection process for subgroups of species;
  - Developing clear guidelines for aggregating and weighting the index;
- Develop and expand on the implementation plan recommended at the 9-10 March IUCN Sampled Red List Index Technical Workshop (9-10 March 2005), adjusted as needed to the availability of resources;
- Ensure that the SRLI process continues to move forward as fast as possible within available resources
- Advise the BASC on particular breakdowns of species to be used in the RLI and SRLI; and
- Advise the BASC on technical aspects of particular disaggregations of the RLI and SRLI (e.g., by biome, realm and groups of species relevant to particular international treaties.

The Red List Index Working Group will normally meet once a year immediately prior to a meeting of the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee. All formal decisions and recommendations of the Red List Index Working Group will be sent to the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee before final adoption.

The Co-chairs of the Red List Index Working Group are appointed by the Chair of the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee and serves as full members of the Biodiversity

Assessments Sub-Committee. The membership of the Red List Index Working Group is appointed by the Co-chairs of the working group.