

# **BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT USERS WORKING GROUP**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group reports to the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee and is responsible for ensuring consistency in the application in the use of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, the IUCN Authority Files, and the Species Information Service Data Entry Module (SIS-DEM). In particular, the Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group seeks to ensure that the SSC's major global and regional biodiversity assessment projects are implemented in a similar manner. To do this, the Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group will:

- Monitor the implementation of all the major biodiversity assessment projects, and other assessment work carried out by Red List Authorities;
- Identify major areas of possible inconsistency in the data generated by the different assessment projects, evaluate the nature and extent of the problems, and propose changes in project implementation to remove these inconsistencies;
- Identify issues that need to be covered and clarified in the Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (<http://www.iucn.org/webfiles/doc/SSC/RedList/RedListGuidelines.pdf>), and refer these issues and, wherever possible, real examples to the Standards and Petitions Working Group;
- Provide comments and, wherever possible, examples to the Standards and Petitions Working Group on the practical consequences of proposed revisions to Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria;
- Advise on the use and implementation of the IUCN Authority Files;
- Regularly review the implementation of the SIS Data Entry Module, and make proposals for changes and improvements, as needed;
- Review all requests for changes, modifications and upgrades to the SIS Data Entry Module;
- Oversee the development of training packages and courses in Red Listing, biodiversity assessment, and the use of the SIS-DEM; and
- Report biennially to the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee on progress against the above terms of reference.

The Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group will normally meet twice a year immediately prior to the meetings of the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee. All formal decisions and recommendations of the Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group will be referred to the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee for formal adoption. In particular, all proposed changes to the SIS Data Entry Module must first be agreed by the Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group.

The Chair of the Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group is appointed by the Chair of the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee and serves as a full member of the Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee. The membership of the Biodiversity Assessment Users Working Group is appointed by the Chair of the working group.