

SSC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING WCC 3.2

Meeting of the 2005-2008 SSC Steering Committee
Puerto Madryn, Argentina, 7th-9th December 2005

Minutes

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Summary of decisions and action points

Decisions:

- Species assessments should identify needs and inform the Specialist Group structure, but not decide it. The Restructuring TF will advise the SSC SC on SG structure (Agenda Item 4.1 Chair appointments).
- The Wolf SG is to be reinstated (Agenda Item 4.1 Chair appointments).
- The name of the Salmon SG was changed to the Salmonid SG (Agenda Item 4.1 Chair appointments).
- The BASC ToR were adopted conditional to their amending the text to clarify BASC’s responsibilities versus those of the Species Programme management (Agenda Item 5.3 SSC Sub-Committees).
- The RLA ToRs were adopted conditional to making the changes noted (Agenda Item 5.3 SSC Sub-Committees).
- A half day meeting is to be included in the next Steering Committee meeting agenda to discuss SSC priorities and focus on higher-level targets for the purposes of prioritising SSC’s work (Agenda Item 5.3 SSC Sub-Committees).
- The Biodiversity Indicators sub-Committee should remain a sub-Committee (Agenda Item 6.3 Choice of Sub-Committees).
- A joint initiative is to be convened with WCPA to develop a unifying framework for systematic conservation planning (Agenda Item 10.1 Conservation and management planning).
- AZE to be placed on the next SC agenda (Agenda Item 12 Any Other Business).

Action points:

Who	Action	Agenda Item	Timeline
SSC Chair’s Assistant	Make changes suggested by L Bennun in the WCC3.1 minutes and post the corrected version on the web	3. Previous minutes	asap
H Dublin	Contact IUCN ARO to follow up on the Asian vulture issue, ask whether they feel a TF is necessary and to ensure liaison amongst SSC, IUCN ARO and the DGO.	4.1 Chair appointments	asap
H Dublin	In subsequent updates from the Chair to the SSC SC, aim to find a balance between no reporting on single species matters and a summary of relevant undertakings.	5.1 Chair’s update	asap

H Dublin with Nik Lopoukhine	A joint initiative is to be convened with WCPA to develop a unifying framework for systematic conservation planning	10.1 Conservation and management planning	asap
H Dublin	Continue to investigate ways to integrate the best of all the available species planning tools and approaches, within and outside SSC, into an improved, standardised strategic planning process for the SSC network	10.2 Species-level action planning	asap
J Smart	Support for climate change to be incorporated into TORs of a staff position in the SP	4.1 Chair appointments	Following the review
J Smart	Consult with IUCN Legal Counsel regarding the liability of those volunteering for the SSC, such as Red List assessors or members of the SPWG	5.3 SSC Sub-Committees	asap
J Smart/ Mike Maunder	Discuss nomination of Clive Jermy to Members Emeritus list and report back to SSC Chair	6.4 Members Emeritus	asap
J Smart	Action Plan guidelines to be sent to the SGs as “new draft guidelines” and SGs to be informed that the SSC species AP process is under review and that there are resource limitations to publishing APs	10.2 Species-level action planning	asap
J Smart	Pass on press material for the AZE launch to SP communications staff for further transmission	12 Any Other Business	asap
JC Vié	Contact the proposed Chair of the Climate Change TF to discuss its reconstitution, ToR and grant proposals	4.1 Chair appointments	asap
L Bennun	To work with SSC on developing objective criteria for the establishment of new bird SGs	10.4 SSC and bird conservation	asap
T Brooks	Correspond with R Pethiyagoda on the possible need to provide potential petitioners with more information to guide them on deciding whether or not the filing of a petition is appropriate	5.3 SSC Sub-Committees	asap
T Brooks	Form a committee to review and revise the Guidelines on Implementing the “IUCN Policy Statement on Research Involving Species at Risk of Extinction,” with special reference to scientific collection of Threatened Species and bring them back to the SSC SC for approval	5.3 SSC Sub-Committees	asap
BASC	Provide H Dublin with a process for dealing with individual complaints on implementation of the Petitions Process	5.3 SSC Sub-Committees	asap
BASC	Technical details and definitions of the proposed “fast track” plants assessment process to be further detailed by BASC and reviewed by the SPWG prior to adoption.	5.3 SSC Sub-Committees	asap

J Hutton	Appoint an SUSC membership and then explore and define the primary roles for the SUSC and SUSG	5.3 SSC Sub-Committees	asap
C Imboden	Prepare a draft plan grouping the targets into the four categories of funding availability	5.4	15 th April 2006,
C Imboden	Lead a strategic planning exercise in the half day set aside at the next SSC SC meeting to further work on the revision of the Strategic Plan	5.4 SSC Task Forces	asap
C Imboden	Liaise with the SSC sub-Committees and Restructuring TF and bring various scenarios to be discussed at the next SC meeting	5.4 SSC Task Forces	asap
C Imboden	Prepare a "soft" revision of the Strategic Plan for period 2006-2008 (based on the outcomes of the sub-Committee meetings and the next SSC SC discussion on the topic)	5.4 SSC Task Forces	To be completed one month after the next SC meeting
R Kock	Alert SSC of emerging threats to West African vultures	4.1 Chair appointments	As necessary
R Lacy	CBSG to produce a contact list of chairs of Taxon Advisory Groups in regional zoo associations, and then to forward those names and contact information to the SSC Special Group chairs with responsibilities for those taxa.	10.3 <i>In situ</i> Conservation	By next SSC SC meeting
R Pethiyagoda	Circulate 1) a revised key communications messages paper and 2) a document on how to communicate these messages internally and externally	12 Any Other Business	asap

Present

Steering Committee Members: Leon Bennun, Luigi Boitani, Thomas Brooks, Claudio Campagna, Holly Dublin, Jon Hutton, Christoph Imboden, Richard Kock, Robert Lacy, Georgina Mace, Russ Mittermeier, John Robinson, Rohan Pethiyagoda, Yvonne Sadovy and Michael Samways.

Species Programme: Jane Smart, Jean-Christoph Vié

SSC: Amy Spriggs

Apologies

Mick Clout, Frederick Launay, Mike Maunder and Juan Rada.

NB: For the sake of coherence and clarity of understanding, these Minutes are presented in the order in which they appear on the agreed Agenda and not necessarily in the order in which discussions took place. This particularly refers to items in Section 7, 8, 9, and 10.

1. Welcome

H Dublin welcomed everyone to the second SC meeting of the WCC 2005-2008 intersessional period. She communicated the sad news of David Given's passing. R Lacy presented the good news that G Mace was this year's recipient of the Ulysses Seal award for Innovation and Conservation.

2. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

The agenda was adopted with several suggested structural changes.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes (WCC 3.1, Rölle, June 2005)

L Bennun asked for several changes to the WCC3.1 minutes (on pages 22 and 26). These were agreed and the minutes of the WCC3.1 SSC Steering Committee meeting in Rölle, June 2005, were adopted with no further changes.

Action Point (SSC Chair's Assistant): to make changes suggested by L Bennun in the WCC3.1 minutes and post the corrected version on the web.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 SG/TF Chair appointments

H Dublin drew attention to the three tables included in the meeting pack under Agenda Item 4.1. The first was a list of the current Specialist Groups (SGs), Task Forces (TFs) and Red List Authorities (RLAs) with their corresponding Chairs and Focal Points (FPs). The second a list of the SG or RLA Chair or FP appointments made that did not directly follow the decisions taken at the last SC meeting, together with an explanation for each decision taken. The third table showed the outcomes of the SG-related action points from the last SC meeting. H Dublin opened the floor to discussion on the information contained in the three tables.

R Mittermeier noted that a large number of mammals are not covered by SGs, for example the marsupials. G Mace asked why the some mammal groups were still pending and H Dublin explained that the information required to make Chair appointments for the mammal SGs was still being put together.

G Mace asked whether the Global Mammal Assessment (GMA) was to be the process to determine the mammal SGs, or whether it would be done through the Restructuring TF. H Dublin answered that it was to be advised by the Restructuring TF and that the species assessments process should not decide the SG structure. There was general agreement that the assessments should identify needs and inform the SG structure, but not decide it. J Robinson added that because the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the GMA originated from the SC it is the SC's responsibility to link the GMA to the mammal SG structure. It was noted that taxonomic groups with many species require a different functional mode to those SGs with relatively few species.

Decision: Species assessments should identify needs and inform the SG structure, but not decide it. The Restructuring TF will advise the SSC SC on SG structure.

R Mittermeier pointed out that SGs should be doing assessments. H Dublin replied that in the new SG Chair's ToR, it states that SGs must contribute to assessments and that they must choose a Red Listing Focal Point for the task. There are some SGs who are not willing to do assessments, but who contribute to the three SSC objectives. R Mittermeier remarked that the assessments do not stand alone, but drive other conservation actions. H Dublin noted that this issue is about volunteerism and competency. Some SG Chairs do not feel competent to do Red Listing and are therefore not willing to sign the ToR. R Lacy said that some SGs split their responsibilities between members who are interested in Red Listing and those interested in other conservation activities.

H Dublin moved on to discuss the Wolf SG, saying that there had been discussion to roll this group into the Canid SG. The Chair of the Wolf SG had sent a message after their October 2005 meeting requesting that the Wolf SG be allowed to retain its independence from the Canid SG. L Boitani felt that ideally the Canid and Wolf SGs should be merged, but added that considering the unfolding of events and the fact that the Wolf SG requested to remain autonomous, the issue should not be forced. There was a general agreement to retain the Wolf SG at this time.

Decision: The Wolf SG to be reinstated.

H Dublin put forward a request from the Salmon SG to change their name to the Salmonid SG, as this best describes the interests and expertise of their membership who intend to cover the family Salmonidae, including Pacific and Atlantic salmon, trout, chars and whitefish. There was general agreement to change the name of the Salmon SG to the Salmonid SG.

Decision: The name of the Salmon SG is changed to the Salmonid SG

H Dublin outlined the status of the SSC Task Forces. The Declining Amphibian Populations TF is merging with the new Amphibian SG, as its tasks were completed. M Samways agreed to update the meeting on the Declining Pollinators TF during his presentation.

H Dublin reported that there have been communication problems with the proposed Chair of the Climate Change TF. An action point from the last SC meeting was for J Smart and JC Vié to contact the Chair of the Climate Change TF and discuss the group's ToR with her. JC Vié stated that he was not able to make contact with the proposed Chair. In addition, it was noted that oddly IUCN was not invited to a Climate Change meeting that was chaired by her.

G Mace felt that climate change should be a top priority for SSC and T Brooks added that there was urgency for the Biodiversity and Assessments Sub-Committee (BASC) to address climate change issues and to work with the CCTF on the interaction between Red Listing and climate change. H Dublin noted that there were no resources available for climate change work. G Mace and R Mittermeier expressed their belief that there must be external funding that could be accessed to support SSC work. R Mittermeier added that two of the WCC resolutions deal with climate change, adding that SSC should drive the process as IUCN is floundering on

climate change issues. G Mace suggested that the Climate Change TF be reconstituted and assisted to write grant proposals. R Mittermeier suggested that further attempts are made to contact the proposed Chair and that if that fails, a new Chair will need to be selected. JC Vié agreed that he will try again to contact her.

Action point (JC Vié): To contact the proposed Chair of the Climate Change TF to discuss its reconstitution, ToR and grant proposals.

J Smart added that climate change can be incorporated into the restructuring of the Species Programme and their ToR. JC Vié stated that there was limited capacity, as the Species Programme contact, Brett Orlando, had left IUCN. He said that a Task Force at headquarters was set up to define IUCN's role in climate change and that he is on this TF and has flagged SSC's interest in climate change.

Action point (J Smart): Support for climate change to be incorporated into TORs of a staff position in the SP

J Smart explained that she had contacted the IUCN Director General on the Asian vulture issue and that he had replied that it was an SSC, not an IUCN matter. He had more recently asked that SSC should keep IUCN ARO informed. H Dublin noted that the IUCN offices in Sri Lanka and Pakistan were already heavily engaged with the Asian vulture issue. She added that the issue is too political for SSC and requires a high level IUCN lead. R Mittermeier and C Imboden agreed that the issue is playing out at a high level and felt that the DG needs to be made aware that this is not a species issue, but a political issue and further that it is an IUCN issue as there are resolutions on this. J Smart asked H Dublin to re-approach the DG to explain the complexities of the issue.

L Bennun noted that the Asian vulture issue is moving forward with urgency on all levels and many of those involved do not see the need for a TF any longer. H Dublin asked L Bennun if he felt that the issue could have been handled at an SSC level and L Bennun replied, yes, and reiterated that he had supported the idea of a two-tier approach. However, the need for that would have been 6 – 12 months ago. G Mace noted that if events have overtaken us, there may no longer be a role for the TF. LB felt that the need has diminished. R Kock suggested consulting with those involved on the ground on what they feel is useful. H Dublin agreed that she would contact IUCN ARO and to follow up with the DGO.

Action point (H Dublin): To contact IUCN ARO to follow up on the Asian vulture issue, ask whether they feel a TF is necessary and to ensure liaison amongst SSC, IUCN ARO and the DGO.

H Dublin asked if there were similar rates of vulture decline in West Africa and R Kock replied that more data are required on this. H Dublin asked R Kock to a watching brief so that SSC can act early if a similar situation develops there. T Brooks stated that recent work on this has shown that the West African vultures are not under threat.

R Kock to alert SSC of emerging threats to West African vultures

4.2 Further action points from WCC 3.1

H Dublin drew attention to the table included in the meeting pack under Agenda Item 4.2 showing the general action points from the WCC3.1 SC meeting in Rölle in June 2005. She asked the SC members to report back on their action points.

ACTION	WHO	PROGRESS
Circulate minutes of this meeting and post on the SSC website	SSC Chair Office	Completed
Provide outcomes of the Red List meetings to SC Members	J Smart	Completed
Discuss archiving with Zenda Ofir	J Smart JC Vié	Discussions took place, but Zenda is now leaving SSC.
Ask J Burton to locate and determine the extent of the SSC Chair documents and to advise on setting up the SSC Chair's office for archiving in the future	H Dublin	H Dublin has been in touch with J Robinson Burton, who is interested in inventorying the SSC Chairs' documents but he has not followed up on it
Bring the conflict in the number of objectives in the SSC Mandate and Strategic plan to the attention of the Programme and Policy Committee.	H Dublin R Mittermeier	Brought to the attention of the IUCN Programme and Policy Committee who responded that it was a clerical error and that SSC should operate according to the 3 objectives in the Strategic Plan. The problem will be corrected at the next WCC.
Find addresses and CVs of all Members Emeritus and post list on SSC website.	SSC Chair Office	Letters have been sent to all ME requesting short biographies and 8 have responded.
Look at the IUCN Statutes with regards inviting non-members to attend the WCC and then take a decision on the "Advisory members" category	H Dublin	Advisory Members are individuals who are in a working relationship with the SSC during the intersessional period but are outside of the SG, TF and RLA membership.
Identify someone for the SSC SC to fill the freshwater gap	R Pethiyagoda H Dublin	H Dublin attempted to find an SC member to represent freshwater fish issues through an IUCN councillor from West Africa, but no further progress has been made.
Post IUCN Programme onto the new SG Chairs' website	Species Programme	SG Chair's website needs to be set up.

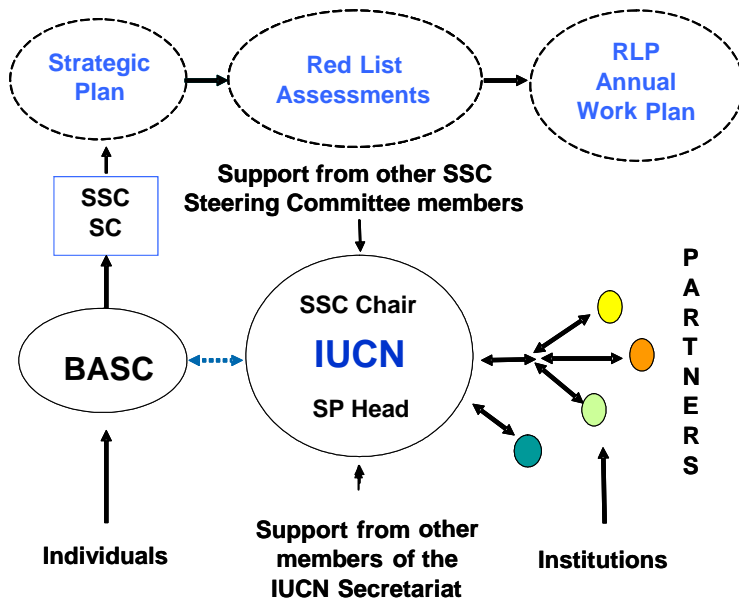
Try to have the SG/TF Chair's ToR translated into 3 languages	SSC Chair Office Species Programme	SSC Welcome document translated into French.
Develop a fundraising strategy to be presented at the next SC meeting	J Smart	Draft fundraising strategy completed
Send saiga letter to Achim for approval and joint signing	H Dublin	Completed
Explore possibilities for an official letter of invitation to zoo community requesting action on amphibian conservation	H Dublin R Pethiyagoda	H Dublin formally communicated this to R Lacy. IUCN has endorsed the declaration adopted at the Global Amphibian Summit in Washington
Approach members for additional stories	R Pethiyagoda	Waiting for Communications TF strategy
Form links between the Invertebrate Conservation and the Assessments and Indicators Sub-Committee	M Samways	Links have been made
Form links between the Plant Conservation and the Assessments and Indicators Sub-Committee	J Smart M Maunder	Links have been made
Tackle internal and external communications of the SSC	Communications TF	Communications TF held their first meeting.

5. Updates

5.1 Chair's Update

H Dublin provided a thorough presentation highlighting her work over the past six months.

Of particular note, she overviewed the Red List Partnership meeting, which was held in Gland in June 2005. The new structure is laid out in the diagram below:



H Dublin pointed out that IUCN sits in the middle bubble of the diagram, reflecting a desire for IUCN to establish the Red List priorities and oversee the Red List process. She stated that this will require co-ordination within IUCN. She added that the consortium of partners no longer exists in a formal manner and will be replaced by the Red List Partnership structured through bi-lateral MOUs with the partners, established through signed agreements. She also explained that the Biodiversity Assessments and Indicators Sub-Committee of the SC had been split into two sub-committees – the Biodiversity Assessments sub-Committee (BASC) and the Biodiversity Indicators sub-Committee (BISC) to accommodate this arrangement. The BASC will focus its work on the technical aspects of the assessments within the Red List Programme.

H Dublin updated the SC on the Global Amphibian Summit held in Washington, D.C. in September 2005 and briefly reported on other meetings she has attended over the past six months. These included a bushmeat meeting in Jersey and a meeting in Gland on the Conservation Measures partnership (also attended by G Mace) to discuss global biodiversity indicators. H Dublin outlined her involvement in the South African Panel of Experts on Sustainable Hunting Practices. The Panel reviewed the South African hunting industry, proposed draft national norms and standards and presented its recommendations to the Minister of Environmental Affairs who is now committed to making significant changes in the operations of South Africa's hunting industry. This work drew from the expertise of the SSC network and provides many lessons for the upcoming SUSG-convened meeting on Recreational Hunting, and hosted by the Zoological Society of London in October 2006.

H Dublin briefly described the single-species issues that have required her attention. The continuing issues are the northern white rhino, Tasmanian devil, Asian vultures, saiga antelope, Asian elephant and the African lion. The emerging issues included tigers in India, the tiger bone trade in China, the Amur leopard in Russia. She questioned how much of her time should be spent on single species issues. There was general agreement that species are the SSC's core business and need to be reported on. L Bennun said that single species issues are generally not the core business of the SC and a written report is sufficient.

Action Point (H Dublin): Subsequent updates from the Chair to the SSC SC will aim to find a balance between no reporting on single species matters and a summary of relevant undertakings.

5.2 Species Programme Update

J Smart began her update by following up on the outcomes of the June 2005 Red List Partnership meetings. She explained the link between the IUCN Programme and biodiversity assessments and indicators saying that a huge amount of information is generated that is of relevance to IUCN and needs to be linked to the Millennium Development Goals and the CBD 2010 targets. She also highlighted the agreement to review relevant targets in Objective 1 of the SSC Strategic Plan, clarify and improve branding and the need to invest more resources in the Red List Programme Office.

J Smart discussed the Species Programme review, which is being carried out by Price Waterhouse Coopers. The review will assess the extent to which the Species Programme has the human resources to support effective delivery of the Programme and to provide optimal support to the SSC. J Smart said that the Species Programme has run at an annual deficit for many years, and her top priority, and that of senior management, is to reverse this.

J Smart described the Species Information System (SIS) as an 11 year old programme that has to date failed to effectively deliver. She recruited an SIS manager in October 2005 to develop a clear understanding of the project, evaluate the existing SIS products, examine the business processes in place and help facilitate the Red List process at all levels. She explained that the SIS version 1.1 will be ready for use after the 2006 Red List launch. The next steps are to support SIS Version 1.1, create an SIS Steering Committee, work with stakeholders to develop an implementation plan for SIS version 2.0 and raise funds for the execution of the implementation plan. The SIS SC will include H Dublin, representatives of senior IUCN management and Juan Rada.

J Smart overviewed the progress of the Species Programme and its Biodiversity Assessments Unit, including updates on the Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA), the Global Mammal Assessment (GMA) and the Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA). She described the opportunistic approach being taken to the Global Reptile Assessment (GRA), including the recent workshops held in Mexico and the Mediterranean. She explained that assessment work on plants will focus (though not exclusively) on Target 2 of the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, in the hopes of preparing a preliminary global list of threatened plants. J Smart highlighted the work of the Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment initiative noting the publication of *The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Biodiversity in Eastern Africa* and *The Status and Distribution of Freshwater Fishes Endemic to the Mediterranean* now in press and the securing of €2 million from the EU for a five-year project on the integration of freshwater biodiversity in the development process throughout Africa. In addition, the freshwater team had secured Darwin Initiative funding for an integrated biodiversity and livelihood assessment project with the IUCN Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group.

J Smart reported that Alison Rosser has left the Wildlife Trade Programme, which was a huge loss but provided an opportunity to re-orientate this work. She further

reported on a new TRAFFIC agreement, which has been signed by WWF and IUCN, with the partnership clarified and strengthened and expressed the intention to further develop IUCN Species Programme's relationship with TRAFFIC.

J Smart noted that the Species Programme also provided input to some single species issues, such as the Yangtze River dolphins, saiga antelope, Amur leopards, wolves, tigers and lynxes.

J Smart outlined the recent work of the Red List Programme, which has involved providing training on the Red List Categories and Criteria, work on African primates and Australasian mammals for the GMA, work on Mexican reptiles for the GRA, and developing a methodology for the SRLI.

H Dublin opened the floor to questions. G Mace asked where and when a decision is made that an assessment is to be launched, as an example she asked whether the GRA has been launched. J Smart answered that it is largely a donor-driven process. T Brooks stated that the BASC report focuses on this and that BASC assumed that the responsibility fell on them to establish priorities. H Dublin replied that BASC are an SC sub-Committee, not a decision-making body and that BASC may make recommendations but it is the SC who makes the decision.

C Imboden said that no review will conceal the fact that SSC and the Species Programme are under-resourced. R Mittermeier said that he and H Dublin push for funding at every Council meeting, but that IUCN do not have discretionary funds. J Hutton suggested that SSC and the Species Programme focus on assessments, which is their unique and core work. L Bennun asked where the responsibility will lie regarding how new institutional partners will be brought into the Red List process (or how others might be removed from it) – with Species Programme or with the SSC? H Dublin replied that the SSC and Species Programme had a direct link to this decision-making process.

5.3 SSC sub-Committee Updates

Marine Conservation sub-Committee (MCSC)

Y Sadovy provided an update of the Marine Conservation sub-Committee (MCSC) meeting held in Puerto Madryn prior to the SC meeting. She explained that IUCN is formalising its focus on marine issues through identifying marine priorities that lie within their strategic objectives, capacitating their technical strengths in marine matters, facilitating problem-solving and establishing operational guidelines. Y Sadovy added that the main issues (sustainable use, bycatch, marine invertebrates, marine turtles, two fish groups, marine birds and marine mammals) were well covered at the meeting. The outcomes have been the identification of a need for species assessments in the marine realm and the need to establish a small core to MCSC.

Y Sadovy added that there is to be a Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA) meeting in November 2006, convened by Simon Stuart, to increase Red Listing capacity for marine organisms. The aim is to assess 15 000 fish by 2010 and there is therefore a need to prioritise species and also to coordinate efforts with partners and within SSC to develop a strategy to attract funding. Y Sadovy explained the prioritisation criteria, which were a scoring system based on concepts such as the

taxon being associated with threatened or changing habitats, being intrinsically vulnerable due to life-history characteristics, being phylogenetically unique or subject to heavy fisheries extraction. Also considered were the cost and logistic constraints relevant to the assessments. The preliminary conclusions were a proposed priority group of 8,000 species, an approximate associated cost of about US\$ 5 million for 10,000 species and a recommendation to start with existing fish SGs & establish others (Scombridae, Anguillidae, Clupeiformes, Scorpaeniformes) and relevant RLAs as needed. Marine invertebrates and plants were flagged at the meeting and additional workshops are required to develop a data entry model and address the problem of stitching together regional assessments, among others.

H Dublin opened the floor to questions and comments. G Mace said that the RL Programme has two goals – to look at the status of biodiversity and to highlight the most endangered species. She said that the proposed prioritisation exercise would achieve the second goal but not the first since it would not allow an assessment of the status of marine fish in general. Y Sadovy replied that it is a five-year plan that is part of a larger plan to assess all fish. G Mace said that if one sampled differently (i.e. across categories), then you would not have to assess all fish species. G Mace added that the proposed prioritisation addresses the question of where the most threatened fish species are, whereas another prioritization approach would assess the status of species across biomes and habitats. L Boitani said that sampling in this way would not allow taking up opportunistic funding.

T Brooks asked what the process was for assessing other marine organisms such as coral, sea grass and kelp. He also suggested that a sampled approach would be more appropriate for invertebrates within the GMSA, with fish being assessed comprehensively. Y Sadovy said that mangroves and sea grasses were discussed but there was not enough time for a full discussion of other organisms. She added that the fish assessment is a starting point, that this was the first GMSA meeting and that these issues would be considered in time.

Invertebrate Conservation sub-Committee (ICSC)

M Samways drew attention to the draft report of the first Invertebrate Conservation sub-Committee (ICSC) meeting held in South Africa in November 2005. He described the meeting as successful, cohesive and covering much ground. A skeleton work plan was produced from the meeting, with most of the proposed activities self funding.

The proposed activities are to:

1. Develop communications, partnerships and to raise funds;
2. Work on assessments and indicators –
 - a. Freshwater assessments: Odonata SG, Mollusc SG and the ICSC recommend the formation of a Crustacea SG with a freshwater or terrestrial Co-Chair and a marine Co-Chair.
 - b. Terrestrial assessments: Mollusc SG and a number of proposed new SGs (e.g. Ant, Bee, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera, Orthopteroidea, Aquatic Insects and Arachnids).
 - c. Marine assessment: with linkages to the MCSC, including the formation of an Echinoderm SG.
 - d. The ICSC proposed a global RLA for all invertebrates not covered by SGs.

3. Continue work on Action Plans, while recognizing the limitations highlighted by Fuller *et al.* (2003).
4. Prioritise work on the impending threats to invertebrates, such as by-catch, overexploitation and trade.
5. Work on ecosystem services provided by invertebrates. The following TFs were proposed: Pollinator Conservation TF (DPTF to be dissolved as it has run its course), Soil Conservation TF, Islands Conservation TF and Cave invertebrates TF. The possibility of a Threatened Invertebrates Phenomena TF (e.g. Monarch butterflies) and Biological Control TF (e.g. agriculture) were also flagged.
6. Form a directory of invertebrate specialists to deal with invertebrates outside of the SGs.
7. Possibly reform geographically-based invertebrate networks in South Asia, Southern Africa and Europe but would need to further investigate the appropriate structures and mechanisms.
8. Develop an ICSC website.

M Samways added that the invertebrate community is very cohesive and, with the exception of the Social Insects SG, are happy with the SSC restructuring decisions.

H Dublin opened the floor to questions. R Lacy asked how the thematic and geographic SGs interact. M Samways responded that the taxonomic SGs take precedence. J Robinson asked to what extent the SSC has the capacity to develop a large number of SGs to cover invertebrates. L Boitani noted that the new structure of the SSC will come from this meeting and added that he is ambiguous about making new SGs if they have a good chair and ToR, and if the SSC can manage them. R Mittermeier added that if the leadership, network and the enthusiasm are in place then SGs should be created. H Dublin said that we would need to ensure that these characteristics were in place before forming more SGs and that we would need to be very well informed of the function of any proposed new SGs.

L Boitani asked if the ICSC had explored how to look at the status of invertebrate biodiversity. M Samways replied that the Molluscs, Odonata and Lepidoptera are the suggested flagship species. H Dublin asked what would be the timeline for these processes and M Samways replied that the Odonata assessment is half complete, the Mollusc assessment is 30% complete and the Crustacea assessment will be put in place soon. The other recommended SGs will be put in place as soon as possible, with a focus on Lepidoptera, bees, Coleoptera and Orthoptera.

H Dublin asked what the TFs will deliver and M Samways replied that the Soil Conservation TF will provide an overview of threats to soil invertebrates and the Island Conservation TF will carry out a threat assessment and an action plan. H Dublin said that the TFs need to be clear on their objectives and deliverables and that their lifespan must be time bound.

L Boitani requested that information be fed from the ICSC into the Restructuring TF. He asked whether the ICSC had explored the feasibility of breaking the ICSC into different sub-sub-committees. M Samways answered that they have done this and referred to Appendix 4 of the report which outlines the portfolios of the ICSC members.

Sustainable Use sub-Committee (SUSC)

J Hutton briefly described the history of the Sustainable Use SG (SUSG). He added that the Southern African and European sub-groups are most active and that the issues dealt with revolve around the Chair's interests and his institutional interests (e.g. work on the Precautionary Principle). He noted two major issues in light of the current changing political narrative that have arisen – the first is how to handle the issue of use and the second is the sustainable use label. The replacement of SU by concepts such as mainstreaming and sustainable management presents challenges.

J Hutton expressed a need for clear direction in the SUSC. He said that Global Concepts Working Group of the SUSG is basically already doing the work of SUSC. He added that SUSC had not yet been formally constituted. H Dublin said that the Global Concepts Working Group has much to contribute and the full membership or some subset could form the SUSC.

H Dublin opened the floor to discussion. R Mittermeier suggested starting again and looking for SU issues where SSC can provide leadership, for example on bush meat issues and ecosystem health. J Hutton agreed with the need to focus energies, saying that there are some issues that the SUSG are solely involved in, such as the 2010 targets. Participation in other issues should be reassessed. H Dublin added that the SUSG should concentrate on the currently functional regional groups of the SUSG. C Imboden pointed out that there is a need to look for areas where the SUSC can provide value. J Robinson said that the SUSG through sustainable use SSC can interface with issues that the rest of IUCN is involved in, such as poverty and ecosystem services. He suggested that the SUSG could focus on one or two directions – engage more meaningfully with taxonomic groups and/or become the interface between SSC and other relevant parts of IUCN. J Hutton said that they need to define their focus and chose people who fit the tasks. There is a meeting in January to look at SU indicators and he suggested tagging one day on to the meeting look at these issues and to begin the process. He added that he hopes to put one of his own staff on to fundraising for SUSG work.

Action Point (J Hutton): Needs to appoint an SUSC membership and then explore and define the primary roles for the SUSC and SUSG.

Biodiversity Assessments Sub-Committee (BASC)

NB: The discussions, below, on the BASC matters took place in two different sessions but are consolidated here and reordered for ease of reference and clarity of understanding.

T Brooks presented the BASC update. H Dublin asked for clarification on two sentences from the BASC report: “BASC is responsible for evaluating the need for RLAs” and “BASC needs to ensure that the workload of the Red List Programme Office is manageable”. She said that these were functions of the Species Programme and the SSC SC, not BASC. J Smart agreed.

T Brooks introduced a draft of the new Red List petitions process, involving the Standards and Petitions Working Group (SPWG) for adoption by the SC. He added that the draft had been reviewed by the Species Programme and by H Dublin. The

topic of liability emerged in the discussion. R Mittermeier asked if any legal action had taken place previously to elicit this review and G Mace answered that legal action was once threatened regarding the assessment of a harvested invertebrate. G Mace felt that because individuals are acting on behalf of a body (IUCN), they are not personally liable. JC Vié clarified, saying that at the IUCN Legal Counsel stated that individuals on the IUCN staff were not at risk but that the status of members of the SPWG, working in a volunteer capacity for the SSC, was not at all clear. R Mittermeier suggested that the Species Programme/SSC obtain a statement from IUCN saying that our volunteers working on Red Listing is part of IUCN's work and therefore, provided indemnity in the same way as staff. J Robinson suggested bringing this to Council for affirmation that they are willing to take responsibility. H Dublin noted that one of the IUCN Statutes indemnifies IUCN from taking responsibility for SSC activities, and that it may not be straight forward. R Mittermeier also expressed hesitancy in taking this issue to Council. It was agreed that J Smart would consult with the IUCN Legal Counsel to determine the liability situation for members of the SSC engaged in Red List assessments as well as members of the Standards and Petitions Working Group.

Action Point (J Smart): To consult with IUCN Legal Counsel regarding the liability of those volunteering for the SSC, such as Red List assessors or members of the SPWG

T Brooks asked for specific input on two of the items covered in the BASC report - the revised Petitions Process and the Scientific Collection Guidelines. R Lacy, R Kock and G Mace made some suggestions about the structure of the document. R Pethiyagoda suggested a standard format should be provided on the website for submitting a petition, which would ensure that specific criteria are adhered to. G Mace pointed out that "The Formal Petitions process" being proposed under Annex 1 of the BASC report provided this format. H Dublin clarified that the issue R Pethiyagoda was highlighting was the need for providing more guidance for the petitioner prior to filing to assist in deciding whether to even file a petition. T Brooks said that he would correspond with R Pethiyagoda further on this. L Boitani asked what would happen if the relevant RLA was disbanded between the Red Listing and the filing of a formal Petition. H Dublin suggested that a flow diagram be included to allow petitioners to follow which stage in the process they are at. H Dublin requested that BASC provide her with a process for dealing with complaints regarding implementation of the Petitions Process.

Action Points (BASC):

- T Brooks to correspond with R Pethiyagoda on the possible need to provide potential petitioners with more information to guide them on deciding whether or not the filing of a petition is appropriate
- BASC to provide H Dublin with a process for dealing with individual complaints on implementation of the Petitions Process

T Brooks went on to discuss the issue of governments enacting mandatory legal procedures based directly on the Red List categories, particularly with regard to scientific collecting, He said that this often leads to a blanket ban on collection which hinders scientific research and compromises the willingness of specialists to involve themselves in the Red List process. There is a generic IUCN policy statement for research on species facing extinction and BASC have provided guidelines for the implementation of this policy statement. The guidelines were not adopted at the

SSC EXCO meeting in Bangkok (WCC 2.7), as they were considered too prescriptive. T Brooks suggested that a small group (including R Pethiyagoda and Simon Stuart) revise the guidelines, addressing the comments from the previous SSC EXCO and bring the draft back to the SSC SC for approval. This was met with general agreement.

Action Point (T Brooks): Committee to be formed to review and revise the Guidelines on the Implementation of the “IUCN Policy Statement on Research Involving Species at Risk of Extinction,” with special reference to Scientific Collecting of Threatened Species and bring them back to the SSC SC for approval

H Dublin drew attention to the BASC ToRs. G Mace commented that the BASC meeting appears to have had little input from others, such as the Species Programme. H Dublin referred to the “bubble diagram” [see section 5.1 above], clarifying that BASC reports to the SC and is “served” by Species Programme through the membership of relevant staff. For example, T Brooks is on the SC and J Smart in the Species Programme and so BASC will have information flow through both means. There was general agreement on this, on condition that the language of the ToRs is clarified. R Lacy suggested removing the eighth bullet point: “Maintaining an overview of the capacity of SSC SGs, RLAs, the IUCN SP and Red List partner organisations to carry out the necessary work ...” because this is the task of the Species Programme management, not BASC. L Bennun disagreed, saying that it is an important reality check. He suggested changing the wording to “Being mindful...”. G Mace added that she assumes for the seventh bullet point: “Reviewing progress towards the achievement of agreed targets and products...”, that this will be done in collaboration with the Species Programme. G Mace further noted that the membership of BASC should have the expertise required for the tasks. T Brooks said that the members would include the heads of the Working Groups, members of other SSC sub-Committees and regional experts.

Decision: The BASC ToRs were adopted conditional to their amending the text to clarify BASC’s responsibilities versus those of the Species Programme management.

T Brooks presented draft ToRs for Red List Authorities (RLAs) and asked the SC to approve them. He said that the revised ToR were based on the previous ones, but had four significant changes, which he outlined.

L Bennun questioned the wording in the second paragraph under “Red List Authority Membership and Governance”, saying that it is not clear who appoints the members. R Lacy pointed out that BASC have a role but are not doing the work of the SG. He suggested that the point c under “Red List Authority Activities” is removed from the text. He further commented that it was not specified who the RLA assessment should be submitted to. JC Vié added that the Focal Point may not know who is submitting an assessment. H Dublin suggested adding text saying that the RL office will direct assessors to the relevant FP. R Lacy further noted that under Annex 1 of the ToR “Documentation Requirements for Taxa on the IUCN Red List” – Additional Case-specific Documentation - if the assessment is based on a Population Viability Analysis model, there would not be any structural equations.

Decision: The RLA ToRs were adopted conditional to making the changes noted.

T Brooks moved on to the proposed biodiversity assessment targets in the work plan. BASC reviewed the possible targets and ordered them into four categories to help the SC make decisions on priorities. The categories were: 1) targets that are going to happen, 2) targets that relate to ongoing activities that need to happen (and the target would therefore add little in the way of additional resources), 3) targets on which work has started but which require significant additional resources and 4) targets that can be deferred to the next quadrennium. C Imboden noted that the categories were not prioritised, but were rather convenient groupings around the criterion of available resources. T Brooks agreed and said that Category 3 is the key and attempts have to be made to resource the targets in this category. R Mittermeier expressed concern over how to prioritise the long list of assessments in Category 3. C Imboden asked what process is in place to prioritise which targets within Category 3 to select and whether this will be dictated by funding opportunities. H Dublin said that the question is what IUCN should actively prioritise to proactively fundraise for. R Mittermeier suggested that the Species Programme fundraise for assessments in general, rather than specific assessments, noting that the bottleneck was the Red List Programme Office capacity. H Dublin said that the difficulty is that donors rarely support core costs and that the cost of staff might be more likely met by building these into proposals for specific taxonomic assessments. J Robinson commented that there are two approaches – either strategic (develop a strategy and fundraise for priorities) or opportunistic (donor driven). G Mace added that SSC should not “follow the funding” as it has a Strategic Plan with stated its objectives and these should be adhered to if at all possible. T Brooks said that the key is donor targeting and fundraising coordination. He added that SSC is not opportunistic and is not diverging from the Strategic Plan.

C Imboden stated that the SSC Strategic Plan can accommodate most targets that we would want to do and it is therefore important to set higher level targets as a means of truly prioritising. He said that SSC can either do as much as possible in the realm of assessments or focus our efforts to achieve the Red List Programme objective on measuring the status of biodiversity. J Robinson felt that the focus is on priorities that do not come with funding and SSC must therefore do what it can. He added that SSC has its own priorities, which were discussed during this meeting, and they do not have to link to other priorities.

J Smart said that IUCN priorities need to be articulated and the MEAs and CBD considered. H Dublin felt that IUCN needs to decide on its priorities and present these to SSC SC for advice on how to bring them to bear. J Smart suggested that SSC could ask its partners which areas they would like to cover. T Brooks said that it is difficult to define IUCN's priorities as it is such a complex organisation. He added that the maintenance and curation of the assessment data is not negotiable as it is not worth the initial investment if the data are not updated. BirdLife has shown that this can be done. G Mace said that SSC can carry on as it is (following funds) or it can focus on one area to the exclusion of others.

J Smart asked that time is allocated to setting SSC's priorities for assessments during the period set aside for Strategic Planning at the next SC meeting. She felt that IUCN's priorities could be determined by the end of January and fed into the half-day process. H Dublin suggested asking other programmes in IUCN if SSC's priorities are considered priorities by them (e.g. climate change and invasive species) and try to integrate their priorities as ours. T Brooks added that while SSC's work must be relevant to other constituencies such as the MEAs, including CBD and the 2010 targets, most importantly SSC must address its core business which, in his

view, is identifying the world's most threatened species. C Imboden concluded that the half day meeting at the next SC meeting would focus on higher-level targets for prioritising, on continuing and improving SSC's capital (e.g. the Red List) and on SSC's tools (e.g. SIS).

Decision: A half day meeting to be included in the next SC agenda to discuss SSC priorities and focus on higher-level targets for the purposes of prioritising SSC's work.

Biodiversity Indicators Sub-Committee (BISC)

G Mace noted that the first result area of the Strategic Plan promotes "Indicators of biodiversity status and trends in status developed and disseminated as part of a continuing process" and that this area is where SCC works to connect with the outside world. There are many global processes that that rely on SSC data to inform their processes. Knowledge, information and data from SSC's networks can be used by the IUCN Global Programme, integrated planning (e.g. the MDGs), biodiversity targets (e.g. CBD 2010), the MEA and for work on the impacts of climate change. Currently of most importance is the CBD 2010 target; this has seven focal areas and within these focal areas there are indicators which SSC could help to deliver on. G Mace provided a list of CBD indicators and pointed out those already underway and those on which no work has been done. She further pointed out those which SSC could have inputs on.

G Mace explained how the Sustainable Use SG and Invasive Species SG will feed into BISC, which also has strong links to BASC. BISC is seen as a small group that includes individuals from outside SSC. The question is whether it should in fact be a sub-Committee and who the members should be. J Smart and C Imboden said that the group should be a sub-Committee to give it status and make IUCN aware of SSC's work on biodiversity indicators. L Boitani said that there was no need for a sub-Committee at this point and that a Task Force would be suitable. J Hutton agreed but H Dublin pointed out that a TF is time bound, and this group is not. Y Sadovy noted the importance of linking the work to issues of human livelihood and wellbeing. G Mace agreed, saying that the SUSG and ISSG would bring in human dimension. The topic was concluded later in the Agenda, under Item 6.3.

Plant Conservation sub-Committee (PCSC)

J Smart presented some outputs from the Plant Conservation sub-Committee (PCSC) report on behalf of Mike Maunder. She drew attention to the document "Addressing CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Target 2" in the meeting pack. Target 2 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation is a preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels. In 2002, IUCN committed to facilitate the work to achieve this target and in the keynote address to the International Botanical Congress in July, IUCN was challenged to achieve this target. J Smart has encouraged the PCSC to rise to this challenge. She overviewed the proposed three steps to compiling a "fast track" preliminary assessment process as follows:

1. Reporting the scientific name and taxonomic authority, asking questions around occurrence, decline and rarity, grouping species into possibly threatened, unlikely to be threatened and don't know (wording to be refined) and generating the preliminary species assessment.

2. Applying the Red List Categories and Criteria to establish whether the species are critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.
3. Eventually, entering the data into the Red List database to produce the full gold standard, maps etc.

J Smart said that the three steps were important to draw people into the process. She reassured the SC that the standards of the Red List Categories and Criteria would not be undermined and that cross checks will be made with results from Sampled Red List Index.

J Smart stated that Ali Stattersfield of BirdLife International and Craig Hilton-Taylor (Chair of the Biodiversity Assessment Users WG) had co-chaired a working group on this matter at the recent BASC meeting. G Mace asked if the BASC Standards and Petitions WG (SPWG) would also look at the process, saying that further deliberations and technical debate on the proposed approach would need to be taken up by the SPWG at some point. H Dublin stated that this would need to be taken up more formally by the BASC in order to work out the technical details and definitions.

Action (BASC): Technical details and definitions of the proposed preliminary plants RL assessment process to be further detailed by the BASC and reviewed by the SPWG prior to adoption.

R Mittermeier asked about the plant groups that were already planned for assessment at the global level, such as palms, conifers and cycads. J Smart replied that the above process was not an alternative to full assessments. T Brooks said that 15,000 plant species have been assessed for the Red List and about 1,000 of these were at step 3, most being at step 2. He noted that for other taxa on the RL, many were incompletely documented and were actually at step 2. He further pointed out that SSC is only following this unusual process for plants because of the GSPC challenge. R Mittermeier agreed, saying that full assessments must be carried out for some plant taxa at the global level.

5.4 SSC Task Forces

Restructuring Task Force (RTF)

L Boitani presented the main findings of the SSC gap analysis which identifies a need for:

1. strengthened presence in West and Central Africa, South Asia (not including India) and East Asia (not including China);
2. increased coverage of marine species, invertebrates and some plant taxa;
3. an increase in the number of cross-disciplinary members.

He presented the objectives of the new SSC network structure, which shall:

- be comprehensive (able to capture taxonomic/issue variation)
- be adequate (able to provide the best expert support)
- be representative (able to represent the variation of disciplines, approaches, methods, etc.)
- be efficient (able to minimise redundancy)
- be manageable by a small staff
- complement our strategic objectives

- be mission-oriented
- be proactive on conservation issues
- serve the Union and strategic alliances (CBD, CITES, etc.)
- improve information flow within SSC

L Boitani said that in order to deliver the Strategic Plan and Mandate, SSC has to maintain and expand its work on assessments and indicators (status), on threats like climate change and disease (pressures) and its conservation action to relieve pressures, deliver action on the basis status assessment, inform policy, etc. (responses).

L Boitani said that he is open-minded regarding the number of specialist groups in SSC. C Imboden felt that the number of SGs is not a structural problem but a management problem and that management means costs, energy and effort. He said that SSC must get something out of their SGs. He suggested a new model of self-regulatory SGs or a large network of experts. L Boitani agreed but warned that SSC management should not deal with SSC members, only with the Chairs. H Dublin pointed out the potentially negative reaction to change, for example the negative feedback received after changing some SGs to RLAs. R Mittermeier pointed out that it comes down to management which means funding. L Bennun asked about the expected timing of the restructuring work and H Dublin replied that the restructuring should be complete by the end of 2006. She asked SC members to flag L Boitani on any urgent matters within the network, for which progress would be inhibited without the decisions of the Restructuring TF.

Communications Task Force (CTF)

H Dublin said that a Communications TF (CTF) meeting was held in Gland facilitated by J Hutton and attended by all the Communications TF members, except R Pethiyagoda and A Spriggs. She drew attention to a two-page brief drafted by the SP Communications staff in as an action item from the meeting. J Hutton said that the CTF decided on two main messages – 1) to put across their work on species to the broader IUCN and external world and 2) to put species into context. He added that the minutes did not adequately reflect the outcomes of the meeting and that the two-page document was not a good reflection of the progress that had been achieved.

R Pethiyagoda said that the challenge was to develop the core messages to send to different audiences. The two-page document that came out of the meeting in Gland provides some of the messages but it does not reflect why species are important economically and socially. He said that the document required more work to convert it into a strategic document and offered to produce an improved document for SC sign off. He further requested the SC to identify the key audiences. M Samways said that the key audience should not be SSC members, as they are already on board. R Mittermeier said that the target audience is the general public and donors. He said that it is essential to convince people that biodiversity conservation is central to life and also to link it to poverty alleviation.

J Robinson said that there are two themes to conservation. The first is that species are essential to life and the second is that species are culturally important and have inherent value. The second theme is not adequately captured in the document and many donors focus on this theme. G Mace agreed saying that species provide both

direct and spiritual benefits. She said that theme one does not require all species to be conserved and so theme two is important for conservation. R Mittermeier said that for theme one, there must be linkage with economics and livelihoods. Y Sadovy added that different cultural backgrounds need to be considered in the message and gave the example of the utilitarian Asian perspective on species where the word “conservation” is seen as a western ideal.

R Mittermeier said that the IUCN positioning statement was poor and was not accepted by Council, providing an opportunity for SSC to add to the statement. He added that the idea of unknown biodiversity should be included and SSC should drive the race to discover all species. C Campagna warned against promoting the undiscovered species and people will not understand the need for conservation of species if there are so many more out there. JC Vié asked that the idea of diversity increasing the productivity of a system be incorporated into the message. J Smart asked for a list of messages – a menu - from which the Species Programme can select to produce a two page document.

J Robinson asked what SSC is trying to change. If it is the perception of SSC within IUCN and the world then there are two audiences, each requiring a different message. The SC must decide on the primary audiences and on what they are trying to change and then the messages must be tailored. J Hutton said that the primary audience is the IUCN, which should be tackled first. JC Vié disagreed, saying that the external audience should be tackled first and IUCN will follow. R Pethiyagoda said that two products are required – a statement of strategy to guide SSC on how to communicate and who to communicate to and a clearly defined message. Then the practical question of gathering stories needs to be addressed.

H Dublin noted that both IUCN and SSC must also be incorporated into the messages. J Hutton asked if press stories should be released as IUCN or as IUCN SSC – saying that he prefers IUCN. H Dublin said that SG Chairs associate with SSC and want to keep its identity and that; furthermore, as it is SSC struggles to maintain its profile and fundraising ability relative to the larger machinery of IUCN.

Feedback on Strategic Planning

C Imboden presented the SSC vision, goal and objectives with their result areas, as well as the top ten SSC priorities. He noted that SSC has made progress on many of its priorities. He explained that there remains much in the Strategic Plan that can be used and taken forward. For example, under the operational targets, Output 3.8 (“Key operational measures enabling the SSC Secretariat to implement the annual Programme, and coordinate, support and facilitate the required contributions from other parts of the Commission”) is very relevant. The Strategic Plan is a ten-year plan and C Imboden said that a half way review such as this is “good practice” and is well timed with the new IUCN Programme cycle and SSC leadership. He feels that the current plan was overly ambitious, especially in light of the current financial restrictions on staff and on the volunteer network. He pointed out that SSC work is substantially donor-dependent and that SSC has no free funding and further noted that the Species Programme staff are primarily, on project money, thus their time is fully committed. C Imboden said that while the Species Programme is vibrant, it is increasingly devoted to targets not identified in the original Strategic Plan, with many new sub-targets and activities creeping into the Plan. He further questioned the role of partners in determining the work taken on by the Species Programme staff.

Regarding the way forward, C Imboden suggested a soft revision for period 2006-2008 to be completed one month after next SC meeting, a SC discussion on the future role and type of Strategic Plan (in 2006) and the development of a substantially revised Plan for the period 2009-2012 (to begin in 2007). The soft revision of the current plan will require a close look at the outcomes of the sub-Committee meetings. Prioritising from the four categories of targets provided in of the BASC report, a new draft plan is to be prepared by 15 April 2006, with targets grouped into: those going to happen anyway (funding available), high priority on-going targets requiring small amounts of additional funding and major targets without funding. The draft Plan will be discussed at the next SC meeting to prioritise Category 3 (and possibly Category 2, as well). The plan should be finalised one month after the next SC meeting. H Dublin asked C Imboden what areas he needed feedback on to move forward with his work. He said that he would discuss the outcomes of the Sub-Committee meetings on an individual basis with the relevant people.

C Imboden opened the floor to discussion on his presentation and asked if SSC should have a Strategic Plan at all and suggested that it could either be a Programme document that is constantly adjusted (reflecting on-going projects) or a Strategic Plan with a limited number of well defined, higher-level targets. JC Vié noted that the Strategic Plan runs until 2010 and this revision is in preparation for the 2008 WCC and the revised SSC mandate. H Dublin replied that SSC is required to have a Strategic Plan and C Imboden said that the first option could be presented as a Strategic Plan. R Mittermeier felt that rather than posing the SSC work as being donor driven, it would be better to state that SSC has found funding for different parts of the Strategic Plan. He suggested that the Strategic Plan allows flexibility. L Bennun disagreed, saying that SSC is donor dependent, not donor driven, and has therefore deviated from its targets. He supported C Imboden's second Strategic Plan option, determining a set of higher-level targets. G Mace agreed, suggesting a Strategic Plan with a small number of deliverables that will have an impact on species conservation. C Imboden asked how to identify these high-level targets and suggested a workshop. H Dublin agreed that it should be discussed at the next SC meeting and asked C Imboden to come to the SC meeting with various scenarios. R Kock agreed with the high-level targets approach but warned that they should be linked to reality. R Mittermeier agreed that it is important to have a small number of high-level targets and that they should be linked to the IUCN Resolutions (to climate change and to invasive species) and to the 2010 targets. C Imboden agreed to workshop this at the next SC meeting and to work on this before then. H Dublin asked C Imboden to liaise with the Restructuring TF and proposed that she be the linkage person on topics regarding strategic planning.

L Bennun said that there are two components in strategic thinking for SSC's future and they must be kept separate. The first is what the best strategic goal is for species conservation (regardless of the network) and the second is how SSC's network best can be used to implement this. H Dublin asked who should do this and L Bennun answered that it should be done by the SC. H Dublin asked who should do the work if it fell outside of the SSC network and L Bennun said that the partners should coordinate the task, adding that the Strategic Plan is too ambitious and requires the contributions of partners without explicitly stating it.

Action Points (C Imboden):

- C Imboden will prepare a draft plan is to be prepared by 15 April 2006, grouping the targets into the four categories of funding availability.

- C Imboden will lead a strategic planning exercise in the half day set aside at the next SSC SC meeting to further work on the revision of the Strategic Plan.
- C Imboden will liaise with the SSC sub-Committees and Restructuring TF and bring various scenarios to be discussed at the next SC meeting.
- C Imboden will prepare a “soft” revision of the Strategic Plan for period 2006-2008 (based on the outcomes of the sub-Committee meetings and the next SSC SC discussion on the topic) is to be completed one month after the next SC meeting.

5.5 Update on the Avian Influenza situation and SSC’s potential role

H Dublin said that the way in which the Veterinary SG (VSG) responded to IUCN’s request for information on the Avian Influenza situation is a good example of how technically-accurate and up-to-date information feeds out of the SSC network to respond to emerging issues. R Kock provided background to Avian Influenza, saying that it is a common disease of birds and that the highly pathogenic strain is the cause for concern as it leads to major mortality in birds and has the potential to cross over to humans. The epidemic is spreading west and there are still outbreaks in the epicentre (SE Asian, China and Russia). The key issue is the link between the wild bird infections and poultry outbreaks and whether further mutation will lead to human-human transmission. The role of wild birds in the current epidemics (i.e. spill over or reservoir) still remains to be confirmed, although the spread across to Europe has followed known wild bird migration flyways.

The VSG co-Chairs have been working on this problem over the past few years, centred mainly on the Asian outbreaks but more recently on the African continent, which is considered at risk. The situation allows SSC to promote its bird assessment work (population and migration) as important to epidemiological risk analysis, to promote facts on the role of wild birds in the epidemiology of Avian Influenza in order to reduce panic reactions and unnecessary cull initiatives, and to promote the concept of the role of species in providing ecosystem services.

R Mittermeier said that SSC must be proactive in mobilising the message that wild birds are not the issue and that this could be a good media hook for the Communications TF. H Dublin noted that this is a migratory species issue and that CMS has already set up a TF with many partners, though not including SSC or the Vet SG, specifically.

6. SSC Governance issues

6.1 Feedback from Council meeting

H Dublin said that it is important to link the SSC to the decisions of Council. She gave a brief overview of the last Council meeting in September 2005 and the report presented by SSC to Council. At the meeting, the Commissions presented a bare-bones, basic budget for running a Commission to the Council – the outcome of which was a recommendation from the IUCN Finance and Audit Committee for a 10% increase in the Commission Operating Funds.

6.2 ToRs for SSC sub-Committees

H Dublin explained that the IUCN Finance Department requires ToR for each sub-Committee before releasing their funds from the COF. She asked if the SC was comfortable with her working with the Chair of each sub-Committee to develop the ToR, or if the SC would like to be involved in the process. M Samways suggested that H Dublin send the final ToRs to the SC for approval, but C Imboden felt that H Dublin should deal with the ToR on behalf of the SC. T Brooks said that it is useful to have the ToRs so that the Chairs of sub-Committees can avoid conflict or overlap. H Dublin said that she looks out for overlaps, but agreed with T Brooks that the sub-Committee Chairs should review one other's ToR. L Boitani felt that the ToR should have a standard format to ensure that they have the correct content. H Dublin said that she had asked the Chairs to follow the ToR of the SC as a guideline and added that she will work with them to standardise the ToR but that there will always be inherent differences.

H Dublin asked whether updates should be given at SC meetings. There was general agreement that written rather than verbal updates should be presented and followed by discussion.

6.3 Choice of SSC sub-Committees for 2006

H Dublin asked if there were critical sub-Committees missing or any sub-Committee that should be disbanded. G Mace again raised the question of whether BISC should be a Sub-Committee. Again there was the general feeling that it should remain a sub-Committee. T Brooks noted that a major gap was in looking at the data emerging from the assessments in a spatial framework, in the same way that other exercises, including indicators work, require looking at them in a temporal framework.

Decision: The Biodiversity Indicators sub-Committee should remain a sub-Committee

H Dublin asked the sub-Committees to inform her of how often they need to meet and how much money is needed so that she can prepare the 2006 COF budget. She reminded the SC that the COF funds are for governance and strategic work only and not for implementing projects.

6.4 Nominations for Members Emeritus

H Dublin stated that Clive Jermy, previous Chair of the Pteridophyte SG, had been nominated for Member Emeritus by Wendy Strahm. It was decided to defer the recommendation to the PCSC for comment. H Dublin said that process for appointing the Harry Messel award required further examination. She put forward the idea of setting up a small grant fund for SSC members.

Action (J Smart/Mike Maunder): Discuss nomination of Clive Jermy to Members Emeritus list and report back to SSC Chair.

7. Finances

NB: This section of the Minutes is presented in sequential order on the agreed agenda and not the order in which the discussion took place.

7.1 Commission Operating Fund

H Dublin explained that the COF had received a 10% increase for 2006. She said that she required information from the sub-Committees in order to prepare her draft budget for 2006. She reminded the SC that any unused COF funds from 2005 to be carried forward would be taxed 40%.

7.2 Fund-raising

J Smart drew attention to the draft Fundraising Strategy in the meeting pack. She explained that this was not really a strategy but presented early thinking towards optimising fundraising and fund management. She noted that WWF had withdrawn its longstanding, annual CHF150 000 commitment. In addition, the Director of Global Programmes has said that the Canadian Framework Agreement for IUCN is under threat and has requested staff to cut back on all expenses, including travel. She is changing staff ToR to include fundraising activities.

H Dublin asked whether current projects listed in the Fundraising Strategy have accompanying proposals and J Smart replied that the projects were a mix of some with proposals and some without. R Mittermeier noted that the Red List website receives many hits and suggested SSC uses “internet giving” as a fundraising strategy – for example a certain number of dollars per assessment. JC Vié said that the Species Programme had been successful in fundraising for the RL Programme and are about to appoint a RL assistant.

H Dublin suggested taking donors to interesting places, but noted that a deal would need to be made with the regional offices to provide mutual benefit. C Imboden said that SSC needs to be imaginative, particularly when moving and storing money. J Robinson said that WCS is committed to supporting SSC and is willing to consider administering SSC project funds as and when requested.

8. External liaisons: Discussion Points

8.1 ARKive

Further to the background document in the meeting pack, H Dublin briefed the SC on ARKive and explained how keen they have been to secure a formal relationship with IUCN/SSC. In addition, H Dublin also mentioned that ARKive had asked her to serve on their Board in her personal capacity and that she also sought SC advice on this. She explained that due to ARKive's well-intended but naïve understanding of the complexities within IUCN and, subsequently, their multiple approaches within the organization, matters had become unnecessarily complicated over preceding months. This took some time to sort out within IUCN. In doing so, it became clear that ARKive was primarily looking for a partnership with SSC and enhanced access to SSC SG members' photographs. Two draft MOUs had been prepared by ARKive,

both involving SSC. Between the DGO, the Global Communications Unit, the Species Programme and the SSC it had been discussed and agreed that neither IUCN nor SSC should sign an MOU with ARKive. In the case of the SSC, it was not possible for the Chair or the SSC SC to commit to any action on the part of Commission members due to possible infringement on their individual, intellectual property rights.

M Samways agreed that the MOUs should not be signed. C Imboden asked what was in the deal for SSC and SSC members. H Dublin replied that ARKive would professionally archive their photographs in exchange for special access. R Mittermeier asked if they sell the photographs and G Mace replied that they do not, as they are a charitable organisation. J Robinson suggested H Dublin writes to the SG Chairs encouraging them to send their photographs to ARKive, but suggested that she should then not be on their Board as it could be construed as a conflict of interest. H Dublin replied that the SP communications staff has encouraged the SGs to contribute to ARKive. She said that she could look into the idea of writing a letter encouraging the SGs to work with ARKive under no obligation but would consult with the SP Communications staff to determine the necessity of doing so.

8.2 SSC/SP Contributions to the peer-reviewed RL literature

H Dublin explained that it is not clear whether IUCN and SSC has intent to publish their own science or to have others do it, thus risking interpretation our science being portrayed in a manner that we may or may not agree with. M Samways felt that SSC and the SP staff must publish and also send letters and comments to editors. G Mace noted that there are many papers on the RL but that the papers outline what others are doing with the RL, not what SSC/SP says should be the correct uses of the RL data. H Dublin said that SSC/SP and also the SC should publish these papers. J Hutton recommended that the papers be reviewed by the SC before being sent for publication. T Brooks noted that the two papers in the meeting pack are responses to a paper in TREE that was critical of the RL.

R Lacy asked whether the authors on RL papers should state their affiliation to SSC and H Dublin replied that they should not unless the papers are being submitted under the IUCN or SSC banner. J Robinson said that it would give SSC visibility and authority. T Brooks said that they decided against this in their recent paper, as their paper was a defense of the RL from outside of IUCN. H Dublin asked the SC to provide guidance to SSC and the SP when there is something that needs to be published and which should be published under our own brand.

9. SSC Success Stories

M Samways told the story of a damselfly that came back from the brink of extinction due to the removal of alien invasive trees. G Mace said that the Przewalski horse was recommended to be down listed from Extinct in the Wild to Endangered at the Mongolian RL Mammals workshop. H Dublin reported that Lamine Sebogo, Programme Officer for IUCN West Africa office, received a presidential award. J Hutton said that the Precautionary Principles project was a success with more than 1000 people making web-based contributions.

10. Brainstorming and Sharing

10.1 Developing a strategy for SSC's engagement in systematic conservation and management planning

H Dublin gave a brief overview of the intent of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to look at conservation planning and their need to link this work with species data held by the SSC. She said that many were involved in conservation planning and prioritisation processes, and that there was a need to initiate a dedicated process to move these issues forward. An agreement was made with the IUCN DG and the IUCN Global Programme Director for WCPA and SSC to convene an initiative to integrate different conservation planning approaches. H Dublin drew attention to the document in the meeting pack, which was sent to her and Nik by Mohamed Bakarr (ICRAF), L Bennun (BirdLife International), L Boitani (Viale Università), T Brooks (CABS-CI), Gustavo Fonseca (Conservation International) and Bob Pressey and responded to earlier in the year. The WCPA SC approved the process of carrying out a joint-initiative to develop a unifying framework for systematic conservation planning. The Chair of WCPA, Nik Lopoukhine, has signaled their agreement to move forward with SSC on this initiative. The remaining issue is for the SSC SC to determine our own willingness to share the lead in this process.

To set the stage for this discussion, H Dublin had asked G Mace, L Boitani and T Brooks to give several presentations to provide the SC a relevant backdrop to the discussion.

Systems for priority setting – G Mace

G Mace started by presenting a paper on priority-setting. She emphasised that conservation planning is a consequence of setting priorities, and is a statement of values. As such it is dependent on regional, cultural and contextual differences. As IUCN has a broad constituency, she suggested proceeding with care and that we should not engage in priority-setting, per se, before considering the broadest range of contexts in which any process might be applied. She gave the example of problems that have arisen when the RL system has been applied to contexts where it does not apply.

She presented the following contexts in which area-based priority-setting may apply:

- in policy development and planning by governments, NGOs, international agencies.
- at different spatial scales globally, regionally, locally.
- within protected areas (which may be subject to varying levels of actual protection and management) as well as in other public and private lands.

G Mace provided examples of various goals for conservation, such as maximising species richness globally or regionally, minimising extinction risk locally, maximising the sustainability of ecosystem function and maximising local benefits.

G Mace presented an example comparing different values and issues (see Table 1, below), which often play a role in prioritising.

Table 1. What aspects go into priorities?

BIOLOGICAL VALUE	ECONOMIC VALUE	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL VALUE	URGENCY	PRACTICAL ISSUES
Degree of endemism	Cost of management or recovery	Scientific and educational benefits	Threat status = extinction risk	Feasibility and logistics
Relictual status	Direct economic benefits	Cultural status (e.g. ceremonial)	Time limitation, ie. opportunities will later be lost	Recoverability, ie reversibility of threats, rate of response
Evolutionary uniqueness	Indirect economic benefit	Political status (e.g. symbolic or emblematic)	Timeliness, ie. likelihood of success varies with time.	Popularity – will there be support from the community?
Collateral costs or benefits to other species	Ecological services	Popularity		Responsibility, ie. how much is another's responsibility?
Ecological uniqueness		Local / regional significance		Land tenure
Keystone species status				Governmental / agency jurisdictions
Umbrella species status				

Table 2 demonstrates a set of criteria for prioritising and Table 3, the results of its application among different managers. In this exercise, she had asked different people to rate these values and she showed four sets of results. For example, she showed that for Manager 1, high importance and chance of success were top priorities while for Manager 2 biological value and urgency were major concerns. This showed how people can differ in their values and that prioritisation is not straight forward.

Table 2. A classification of priority criteria

CRITERION	EXPLANATION	SCORES
Importance	'Does anyone care?'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important • Moderately important • Unimportant
Feasibility	'How easy is this to achieve?'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasible • Moderately difficult • Difficult
Biological benefits	'What good will this project do for the species?'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly beneficial • Moderately beneficial • Unclear benefits
Economic benefits	'What will it cost?'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive • Moderately costly • Inexpensive or gain
Urgency	'Can it be delayed?'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent • Moderately urgent • Less urgent
Chance of success	'Will it work?'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievable • Uncertain • Highly uncertain

Table 3. Priority sets from 4 people

	Manager 1			Manager 2			Idealist'			Politician'		
	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Importance	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Feasibility	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Biological benefits	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Economic benefits	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Urgency	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Chance of success	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Broad area-based approaches – L Boitani

L Boitani said that area-based priority setting is based on three main variables: irreplaceability of the site, threats to the site and the cost of action. Accounting for all three variables is the most robust theoretical framework for conservation planning. Priority areas may be identified without accounting for the cost of action, but this lacks the true context in which planning takes place.

He stated that species are the most obvious currency for area-based planning. Hot spot, gap analysis, IBAs, IPAs and KBAs are different interpretations of the same concept that use species data to identify areas of high priority. As species data drive all these planning processes, the results are taxon and scale dependent. There are important limitations to using taxonomic datasets, for example using such data does not ensure effective conservation of individual species, likewise using a few species as surrogates does not ensure the conservation of all biodiversity. There are alternative currencies, such as environmental diversity, habitat sustainability, ecological land types, climatic features and ecosystems types and processes, but these too have their criticisms and have given rise to lively debate. He added that whatever the currency, species data will always play a central role, hence SSC's central importance to the discussion. He added that most scientists agree that the way forward is to use multiple data sets and a combination of biodiversity surrogates at a range of scales. SSC and WCPA have an interesting opportunity to provide a unifying framework over all these approaches.

Rationale for the development of a joint mechanism between SSC and WCPA to support conservation planning – T Brooks

T Brooks gave a brief history of the process, saying that the rationale for the development of a joint mechanism between SSC and WCPA to support conservation planning emerged from advances through the 5th World Parks Congress to link SSC to WCPA. There were simultaneous independent proposals for joint SSC and WCPA task forces put forward back in 2004, led respectively by Bob Pressey and Mohamed Bakarr and Gustavo Fonseca. The two proposals were brought together at a meeting of the Society of Conservation Biology in Brasilia in 2005. The proposals were generalised so as not to propose a specific mechanism, but rather highlight the urgency of feeding information emerging from SSC into WCPA's planning processes.

T Brooks went on to highlight two specific issues that have arisen in this context: the Alliance for Zero Extinction, Key Biodiversity Areas and other site (sea/landscape) scale approaches and opportunities. He said that the assessments and indicators

work of SSC has been primarily in a temporal dimension and this discussion will focus on SSC data across a spatial dimension.

The Alliance for Zero Extinction is a group of more than fifty biodiversity conservation NGOs committed to identifying and conserving the 595 sites globally to which one or more Critical or Endangered species are wholly confined. An AZE paper on the first analysis of AZE sites is now in press in PNAS and a global launch is scheduled for the 12th December 2005. T Brooks asked how SSC should interact with AZE given the fundamental dependence of AZE on the IUCN Red List data and that some SGs have signed the AZE MOU (NB: according to the AZE website, these are: CBSG and Iguana SG).

The Key Biodiversity Areas opportunity is an ongoing process of identifying sites of global biodiversity conservation significance, relying fundamentally on IUCN Red List data and building from more than twenty years of work through the BirdLife network, more recent work through PlantLife (GSPC), the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Program and CI. Over the past few years some organisations have called for a global “umbrella” of standards and criteria over IBAs, IPAs, etc. and SSC was mandated to convene this process in WCC RES3.013. This is parallel to the RL process but different in that it refers to geo-spatial, site identification. It should be a bottom-up process to maximize the use of sites for conservation action implementation. T Brooks stated that funding was on offer from CI to the IUCN Species Programme to convene the process to provide the “global umbrella” of standards and criteria for KBAs.

T Brooks said that site-scale targets for conservation are not always the ideal scale and sometimes need to be complemented by targets at sea/landscape scales and that some groups, such as BirdLife are compiling data to ask what the most appropriate scale is for conservation of the world's threatened bird species.

H Dublin thanked G Mace, L Boitani and T Brooks for their presentations and opened the floor to discussion. She prefaced the debate by saying that she had been in touch with many relevant individuals and organisations on the issue of systematic conservation planning at the global scale and it had become clear that there were many, sometimes diverging views on approaches to the topic and on the role of the SSC in supporting these approaches. Therefore, she felt it was important that all players on the SC who have interests in the issue declare them before proceeding more deeply into the discussion.

J Smart stated that her background was with PlantLife International and that she helped develop criteria for the identification of IPAs and spearheaded the development of the CBD GSPC Target 5. She expressed her support for the KBA approach as it takes RL data and turns it into conservation. She also pointed out that Species Programme are working with the KBA concept in their freshwater assessment work.

L Bennun said that BirdLife have been developing the concept of IBAs for more than 20 years, turning RL data into the identification of key conservation sites. They have applied this site-based, bottom-up approach world wide and their partners are using these sites to implement conservation action. BirdLife is interested in feeding the knowledge and experience developed for bird conservation into SSC.

R Mittermeier said that CI has pushed for the hotspots and high biodiversity areas approaches but does not push this in the SSC agenda, knowing that SSC must take a more general approach. He said that KBAs and AZE are appropriate approaches and are supported by many NGOs. CI's financial support is not to push a particular agenda but aims to aid SSC in moving ahead on this issue and working out the correct approach. There has been endless discussion of the need to interface with WCPA but it has never happened. R Mittermeier hopes that this process will stimulate the SSC/WCPA collaboration.

JC Vié said that the Freshwater Programme began in 2002 as part of a bigger IUCN initiative to find criteria to identify important sites for freshwater biodiversity conservation. The objective was to produce technical guidelines, which have now been published. In the broader context they have looked at all existing schemes and selection criteria and have joined the KBA approach.

R Lacy said that CBSG was approached by many zoos asking them how to identify site-based priorities for funding. CBSG are aware that any prioritisation scheme is based on values and assumptions and are not sure if they should pick up on the KBA approach or whether they should examine all approaches and suggest what schemes will be appropriate.

J Robinson said that WCS has only lately become involved in conservation planning and so can now take advantage of what is on offer. Their site-based activities tend to respond to two criteria, the analysis of the human footprint (impact of human activities on landscapes), and the focus on large landscapes and large seascapes. Their Range Wide Priority Setting (RWPS) approach looks at single species and is focussed on world class sites. WCS has been involved in trying to reconcile different priority-setting approaches and Kent Redford has chaired an ad-hoc scientists' forum to bring together these geographic approaches and see how they overlap. He produced 35 maps that recognise different value systems and different criteria. However, the attempt to bring these maps together into a single vision has been deferred because it was not deemed possible due to organisational imperatives.

H Dublin said that she is mandated to have as open a process as possible and has committed to move forward with the process, but so far there are no clear mechanisms except for the suggestion of a workshop to look at these approaches. She noted that this has been tried by others before and failed, but she and Nik feel that IUCN can successfully convene the process because of who the unique characteristics of IUCN. She added that IUCN membership includes governments, and NGOS, who may have very different approaches.

C Campagna asked if there were any equivalent conservation planning approaches developed by governments. J Smart, L Bennun and R Mittermeier said that the IBA/IPA approach was developed in close collaboration with governments and gave examples of where they have tied in with policy directives and planning (e.g. Europe and Madagascar). R Pethiyagoda said that IBAs have been a very successful mechanism for conservation and have proceeded without government resistance – in fact with government involvement in his part of the world.

M Samways supported the approach because it translates to Red List implementation and provides feedback for the Red List. He asked if it is global or national and T Brooks replied that the aim is to set global standards and criteria for local/site-based application, but that the approaches can be adjusted for national

level planning, for example BirdLife have national IBA identification. Y Sadovy questioned whether this approach would work for marine environments where there are relatively few data and little understanding of connectivity.

L Boitani stated that there are two levels to the conservation planning issue under discussion: 1) tools to identify important areas to certain taxa (e.g. IPAs, IBAs) and 2) more general conservation planning which includes other dimensions (e.g. political, social and economic contexts). He said that the discussion should not focus on the approaches, but on the opportunities presented through working with WCPA at the conservation planning level. C Imboden felt that there are three levels, which need to be kept separate: 1) conservation planning in general, 2) whether SSC should be involved in advocating sites, and if so then 3) whether it should be through KBAs or some other approach.

H Dublin requested that for the purposes of coming to a decision, the discussion be kept at the general conservation planning level. G Mace agreed with L Boitani that there is no value in SSC doing the KBA work as a starting point it is too specific. SSC should concentrate on broader-scale conservation planning, with some statement about what the priorities are. L Bennun disagreed with G Mace. J Smart asked why SSC should be involved in conservation planning but not focus on KBAs. G Mace replied that the KBAs was a specific approach identifying specific sites for action, and funds would therefore be invested in too narrow an approach.

R Kock asked if there is current knowledge on the overlap between proposed KBAs and existing protected areas and T Brooks replied that there is. R Kock said that governments have settled into the post-colonial system of existing protected areas and will now be confronted by a new set of recommendations and regulations from outside. He suggested providing countries with the tools and allowing them to come to their own decisions on priorities and actions so that they could take ownership of the process and outcomes. T Brooks responded that SSC should not identify KBAs but rather provide a bottom-up process with global standards and criteria for their application.

R Mittermeier stated that the core value is preventing extinction and priorities should be driven by that value. It will not be possible to reach consensus on a single priority-setting or planning approach, but he agreed that it is nonetheless important to set up a TF to look at all the approaches.

L Boitani felt that the implicit assumption is that scientists can pull together objective information accumulated through assessments and put a "value-free" model on the table and interface it with the socio-economic context. The first part of the process is scientific and the latter is a government process. Both are value laden. He said that one may be able to achieve a lowest common denominator that is value-free, but it would probably be irrelevant. The real challenge lies in weighting values. H Dublin replied that the SSC-WCPA partnership would therefore look for the lowest common denominator or, better put, a unifying framework which can integrate the different approaches. The original TF concept, from 2004, was felt to be much more specific, to KBAs and working at site level. That is why SSC is engaging with WCPA about a building consensus at the higher level of conservation planning first.

H Dublin asked for a decision on the collaboration with WCPA on conservation planning. R Mittermeier expressed his hopes that SSC was to help WCPA look at

how to expand networks to provide more complete coverage and link this with CBD Protected Areas Programme of Work. L Boitani said that if the aim is to identify priority sites then the relationship with WCPA is not necessary and the KBA work can be carried out within SSC. If the aim is to establish tools to answer conservation planning questions, then SSC can make a real contribution by building a theoretical framework that belongs to IUCN in order to build a system of protected areas (and this is more than a set of KBAs). T Brooks said that the levels are not exclusive, but are a hierarchy and that SSC should do both.

H Dublin asked again for a decision on whether to engage with WCPA to move forward with a process for commencing an IUCN initiative for conservation planning. She asked whether the CI funds were available for this higher-level process and T Brooks replied that the funds were tied to the KBA process, but that these were not the only funds available. L Bennun said that he is in favour of working on the “global umbrella” and that KBAs can be looked into afterwards. A show of hands for supporting the joint SSC/WCPA initiative was 11 “in favour” and 5 “opposed”.

J Robinson noted that there were conditionalities attached to the positive votes and that a workshop will be required to give this due consideration. H Dublin replied that this has already been agreed with WCPA, once we have endorsement from the SC to move forward. R Mittermeier asked who would be at the workshop and H Dublin said that this was still to be decided and that the workshop should include people from outside the SC.

Decision: A joint initiative is to be convened with WCPA to develop a unifying framework for systematic conservation planning

She then asked what to do about the site-based planning initiatives, especially noting that CI has offered the IUCN Species Programme funds which are restricted to the KBA work. L Boitani felt that it should be looked into, but only after the conservation planning. G Mace agreed and was against SSC becoming involved in site-based prioritization without the broader context. Y Sadovy said that SSC should see what comes out of the bigger planning-framework initiative with WCPA before making a further commitment. J Hutton asked what the implications were of doing KBAs. C Imboden asked how far the discussions were advanced, saying that SSC could and should be involved in a discussion about criteria for KBAs if they are to be adopted. Then SSC should decide what role to fulfill in any future work associated with KBAs. He felt that SSC must ensure that the RL data SSC is responsible for are used in a sensible way. T Brooks said that IUCN should convene a process to develop the standards and criteria for KBAs. He added that the CI funds for this purpose would, however, need to be allocated by March 2006. H Dublin asked if there was any other body that could convene the process if IUCN did not accept the KBA-dedicated funding offer from CI at this time. T Brooks replied that none of the players involved to date have the ability to convene the process to develop global standards and criteria for KBAs. He added that SSC was the logical choice as the process relies on SSC data. C Imboden said that this needs further thought and that there is a difference between SSC convening the players to define the way forward and implementing the agreed approaches.

H Dublin asked if, in the context of SSC’s agreed engagement in the higher-level conservation planning initiative, SSC should go ahead with the KBA process given CI’s statement that due to the timing of funds, it cannot be done in the preferred

sequential order (i.e. developing a higher-level integrated planning framework first, followed by convened initiative to look at site-based approaches). J Hutton asked if an all or nothing approach was required. He acknowledged that the SC was clearly split on the matter and said that H Dublin, as Chair of SSC, must make the decision. G Mace, C Imboden and J Robinson asked for more time to discuss the matter before taking a decision. H Dublin deferred the decision to the following day, asking that SC members come to the meeting with their contributions towards taking a decision.

It was confirmed that the SSC would now proceed with WCPA on the higher-level conservation planning initiative.

In the morning, H Dublin said that she had made an effort overnight to consult with SC members and others in the IUCN Global Programme and WCPA on the issue of SSC convening the process to consolidate conservation planning approaches - both the higher and the site-based levels. T Brooks informed the SC that CI had decided to remove the option for funding to convene a site-based approach to consider the development of standards and criteria for the KBA approach, at this time. J Robinson felt that that was a constructive move. J Hutton asked what we need to discuss now that the CI funding was off the table and H Dublin replied that it is the question of whether SSC would continue with site-level conservation planning, in future, following the joint initiative with WCPA to formulate a unifying framework for conservation planning. C Imboden said that now that the urgency is removed the issue could be reassessed in due course. He added that the higher level work with WCPA will also certainly address the lower levels and other scales such as the site-level planning, which will inform this process.

H Dublin stated that she would immediately engage in a more thorough dialogue with the Chair of WCPA. She noted that the issue of SSC involvement in convening work on site-based approaches and the development of KBA standards and criteria in the future remained unresolved for now. She felt that a decision could not be taken on the matter at this meeting and asked for any further feedback on these issues from members of the SC by the end of 2005.

Action point: (H Dublin with Nik Lopoukhine): A joint initiative is to be convened with WCPA to develop a unifying framework for systematic conservation planning

H Dublin asked that the AZE discussion be deferred to another SSC SC meeting, as this meeting's agenda was already very full as she had informed T Brooks prior to this meeting.

10.2 Developing a strategy for SSC's approach to species-level action planning

Traditional SSC Species Action Planning

H Dublin said that an external review had been carried out on the SSC Action Planning process and she drew attention to the meeting pack, which included a summary of the evaluation findings and recommendations and a paper by Fuller *et al.* (2003) on Species Action Planning. She said that most of the SSC Action Plans were funded from the Sir Peter Scott Fund, which is now depleted. H Dublin briefly discussed the CAMPs process and its parallels and overlaps with the Action

Planning process. She also drew attention to the WCS Range-Wide Priority Setting process and the papers on both these subjects in the meeting pack.

Conservation Assessment and Management Plans (CAMPs)

R Lacy noted that the CAMPs process is not a directive process, but rather the outcome of a CBSG process. CBSG has two different processes – CAMPs and PHVAs. CAMPs are broad taxon reviews that came out of the Red listing process and are usually geographically contained (e.g. reptiles of South Africa). Population and Habitat Viability Assessments (PHVAs) are closer to Action Planning as they are species-specific focussed. The PHVA process involves people coming together to produce an analysis and the data of those present is fed into the model. In terms of planning action, the issues are listed and prioritised and the outcomes evaluated and elaborated in terms of who will carry out what action and with what resources.

The PHVA process is different from SSC Species Action planning as it:

1. is carried out in response to an invitation (e.g. by a government);
2. is a multi stake holder process as it includes scientists, managers, local stake holders (but only a self-selected subset), etc.;
3. is single workshop focussed;
4. is model focussed;
5. focuses on those people present and what they can implement;
6. produces a product that is owned by the participants but has little, if any, follow up beyond the workshop report, from the CBSG side.

R Lacy said that CBSG has learnt many lessons from the PHVA process and is willing to change their process and merge with others. He asked how best to link the PHVA process to Action Planning and whether the two should merge, remain separate or a combination of both (for example the Tapir SG used the PHVA process as an initial round to compiling the traditional Action Planning process).

G Mace said that the CBSG process arose from a peer-reviewed scientific tool, whereas the APs approach is more one of a research project and therefore has more credibility. R Lacy agreed and said that what is important is what spins off from the PHVA. L Bennun asked whether the PHVA process used AP data and R Lacy replied that it does. L Bennun said that the PHVAs are true action plans because they involve input from stake holders. The SSC Action Plans are, historically, a compilation of scientific inputs by species experts and are not really action plans as they do not involve the stake holders necessary for implementing the recommended actions. R Pethiyagoda pointed out that the problem with PHVAs is that they are based on the opinion of a few individuals rather than on data. R Kock felt that the way forward is to combine all approaches into one and brand it. H Dublin said that this is what she would like SSC to do but that first we need to articulate the different processes in play and then articulate the roles and responsibilities for moving forward towards better integration and strengthening of the SSC action planning process.

Range-wide Priority setting (RWPS)

J Robinson noted that WCS's RWPS contrasts with the CBSG processes in that it is an expert process that is species-specific based. Scientists and managers are invited to the workshops because of their expert knowledge and the workshops are

used to direct WCS in their allocation of resources related to specific species. The goals are to develop consensus among experts, identify key threats and prioritise conservation sites from a species perspective. The process began with an effort to allocate Exxon funds to tiger conservation. It has been largely used internally by WCS, but has recently gained outside interest.

J Robinson briefly outlined the RWPS process, which consists of two steps: firstly a geographically-based systematic evaluation of the status and distribution of the species across its historical range and secondly a prioritisation of identified populations based on their long-term conservation potential. He added that a number of those invited to take part in the RWPS workshops are from SSC SGs. For example, the Bison SG will be involved in the upcoming American Bison workshop. In this case, WCS brings the mechanism or tool, but those who bring the expertise are critical to the process.

R Pethiyagoda noted that this process has been carried out for charismatic species with large range states and he asked whether the process was applicable for less charismatic species, particularly with regards to the cost. J Robinson replied that the species were chosen according to the funding to be allocated. He added that the process is not expensive and could be applied to all species with large distribution ranges. G Mace commented that the outcomes of the RWPS process could be a non-viable population if other factors (e.g. political and social) were not considered.

H Dublin asked for suggestions on a way forward for SSC on species action planning. G Mace said that there are three areas: Red listing and assessments (which overlaps with Action Plans and CAMPs), status surveys (traditionally covered by Action Plans) and recovery planning (similar to PHVAs and RWPS). SSC is interested in these three areas and should package and brand them into one. H Dublin described her view that the tools and products/outputs need to be linked in a step-by-step process and that this process must be inclusive of decision makers and implementers. R Lacy agreed that a toolbox is required. R Kock added that in the health field, the trend is to standardise all processes. He suggested that the conservation world do the same. H Dublin said that she would think of a way to knit together all tools, desired outputs and necessary stakeholders into a defined process. She asked R Lacy to thank Onnie Beyers for her work on putting together the information on the CBSG processes. She also asked R Lacy to send the message that SSC acknowledges the work of the CBSG and that the SSC aim is to bring together similar work.

Action (H Dublin): H Dublin to continue to investigate ways to integrate the best of all the available species planning tools and approaches, within and outside SSC, into an improved, standardised strategic planning process for the SSC network.
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J Smart asked for guidance on what to communicate to the SGs regarding Action Plans which are currently “in process”, adding that Anna Knee had communicated to them over a year ago to stop all Action Plan development until further notice. She felt that an interim message was required. It was decided that the draft guidelines developed by the SP communications staff could be sent out to the SGs as “new draft guidelines”. Additionally, the SGs were to be informed that there are resource limitations to publishing the APs in progress and that SSC’s species action planning process for the future is under review. H Dublin added that it was important to find funding to publish completed APs already in the queue.

Action Point (J Smart): Action Plan guidelines are to be sent to the SGs as “new draft guidelines” and SGs are to be informed that the SSC species action planning process is under review and that there are resource limitations to publishing APs.

10.3 The role of zoos in *in situ* conservation

H Dublin explained that IUCN had signed an MOU with the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA). She said that SSC has many linkages with zoos and zoo organisations, adding that zoos have the resources and willingness to become more involved in partnering *in situ* conservation efforts. R Lacy said that zoos are seeking guidance from IUCN on how to contribute to *in situ* conservation. He pointed out that the recently published World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy calls for zoos to do more to promote the conservation of species. He said that the way in which zoos interact with IUCN could parallel IUCN’s interaction with botanical gardens. He suggested that SGs and zoos form partnerships to ensure taxon-based funding is well allocated. He asked what benefits IUCN sees from such partnerships.

J Robinson asked how WCS can expedite the partnerships. He suggested a point of contact list of zoo curators and their taxon interests (similar to the list of SG Chairs on the SSC website). R Lacy said that CBSG could put this together. J Hutton noted that in Europe it is a legal imperative for zoos to be involved in conservation, but that rather than linking up with existing conservation organisations, they are starting up their own competitive projects. G Mace pointed out that zoos are a diverse set of organisations and that it is not useful to bracket them for such a discussion.

JC Vié suggested strengthening the link through a small grants programme for SGs (< CHF15,000 per project). He also suggested that IUCN Red List classifications are incorporated into zoo signage. He felt that there should be a focus on European aquaria for funds (similar to those who took part in implementing the “Shatter the Myth” campaign and gave funds to IUCN).

H Dublin said that she had contacted the President of WAZA for clarity on what they want from IUCN. J Smart said that Achim Steiner had asked for a zoo/aquaria focal point in the IUCN Secretariat and she suggested providing someone from the Species Programme. R Lacy noted that this is a good time to look at new linkages as there is a new SSC Chair and a new President of WAZA.

Action Point (R Lacy): CBSG to produce a contact list of chairs of Taxon Advisory Groups in regional zoo associations, and then to forward those names and contact information to the SSC Special Group chairs with responsibilities for those taxa.

10.4 How to bring more to SSC’s role in bird conservation

L Bennun began by saying that bird conservation within SSC is a success story. SSC collaborates on bird conservation with Wetlands International, the World Pheasant Association, the International Crane Foundation and BirdLife International.

BirdLife international is the Red List Authority for birds and contributes to Objective 1 through its link with SSC and to Objectives 2 and 3, separately. The problems or issues to come out of the SG support study were around recognition, organisational

structure and communication. L Bennun noted that less than 9% of bird species were covered by SGs, but that this did not appear to be a problem for bird conservation as, while SGs can be valuable, they also have a cost. He stated that BirdLife has taken the different structural approach of working through partner NGOs who carry out conservation planning, action and advocacy in a national context. Information is gained from a large expert network that includes partners, SGs and other individuals and institutions.

The Red List system run by BirdLife is based on flexible and transparent web-based discussion forums between more than 800 experts, with the final judgement on category resting with the BirdLife Secretariat. L Bennun added that from time to time there are requests to form specific bird SGs and a system needs to be developed to apply a set of criteria to these requests.

L Bennun posed the question of how to set up a better link to SSC for the benefit of both SSC and BirdLife. The options are to:

1. Draw up a new MoU between SSC and BirdLife, making roles, responsibilities and linkages clearer, and covering communications across BirdLife Partnership;
2. Incorporate an SSC registration process on BirdLife's web-forums (which may increase SSC membership by 500–700 experts);
3. Develop Species Guardians and Champions for critical species.

L Bennun added that he needed to work more closely with the SSC Bird SG support organisations in order to represent bird issues adequately on the SC. There was also need for the roles of SSC and the support organisations to be better defined, for example the Chair/Coordinator appointments process between SSC and WI needs strengthening and streamlining. JC Vié reported that he had attended the WI meeting and found WI to be somewhat autonomous from the IUCN SSC system. He found a positive feeling towards SSC and that some of the currently non-SSC interest groups requested to become a part of SSC. He added that WI and SSC are not working on the same cycle. H Dublin said that the CEO of WI, J Madgwick, has been very cooperative and that she had suggested that SSC send out its appointment letters to the WI bird SG Chairs (which was done). H Dublin added that the WI SG Coordinators (they are not referred to as SG Chairs) are part of the governance structure of WI and cannot be easily changed. It is not clear whether the WI SGs will deliver on the new ToR, but WI will not disengage from their relationship with SSC.

C Imboden felt that SSC has an agreement with BirdLife for them to act as, effectively, the overarching bird SG and so BirdLife should take the decisions on the establishment of new bird SGs. L Bennun said that BirdLife is not against the establishment of new bird SGs, but they must add value and objective criteria need to be established. L Bennun put forward the idea of incorporating experts outside of a SG structure, for example the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute in Cape Town. JC Vié asked why the Crane Foundation became a SG and other organisations did not and C Imboden answered that there was an original movement to form different bird SGs but BirdLife became an important force and in order to remove duplicate efforts many SGs were dissolved.

Action Point (L Bennun): To work with SSC on developing objective criteria for the establishment of new bird SGs.

11. Timing and Venue of 2006 SC meetings

H Dublin noted that the June 2005 meeting was held too late. She recommended holding the SC meeting before the IUCN Council meeting to allow feedback and decisions to flow between the two meetings. The possible venues for the next SC meeting are Cambridge (offer from L Bennun), Madagascar (offer from R Mittermeier), Washington DC (another offer from R Mittermeier) and Sri Lanka (offer from R Pethiyagoda). R Mittermeier said that funds and staff could be provided if the meeting was in DC.

12. Any other Business

R Pethiyagoda said that he would circulate the Communications TF two-pager in two parts: 1) the revised key communications messages paper and 2) a document on how to communicate these messages internally and externally. He then suggested running the success stories in the media. H Dublin said that the mechanism for this needed to be discussed amongst the SSC, SP, Regional and Global Communications Units.

Action Point (R Pethiyagoda): Circulate 1) a revised key communications messages paper and 2) a document on how to communicate these messages internally and externally

H Dublin reported that the relationship with TRAFFIC has been revisited by WWF and IUCN and that TRAFFIC would like to create closer, more direct links with relevant SSC SGs.

C Imboden suggested that the meeting documents are posted on a website and not sent as .pdf files. J Smart said that there are vacant staff positions in the Species Programme and asked for patience when dealing with the Species Programme on fundraising and proposals.

T Brooks reported that AZE was to have its global launch on 12th December and asked if there were any SSC-AZE interactions to be flagged at the launch or message to be brought from SSC to AZE. J Hutton suggested a letter from the SSC Chair acknowledging that they use SSC data, with the aim of building a relationship. J Smart said that there is an unsigned MOU with AZE. H Dublin and G Mace replied that it was decided not to sign the MOU. L Bennun said that BirdLife had signed the MOU. He requested that the issue be placed on the next SC meeting agenda. He further requested that the SP communications staff communicate the AZE launch and offered to pass on the press material to J Smart for further transmission.

Decision: AZE to be placed on the next SC agenda

Action Point (J Smart): To pass on press material for the AZE launch to SP communications staff for further transmission

H Dublin closed the second meeting of the SSC 2005-2008 Steering Committee (WCC3.2), thanking Claudio Campagna for hosting the meeting and Ana Carla and Amy Spriggs for their excellent logistical support.