

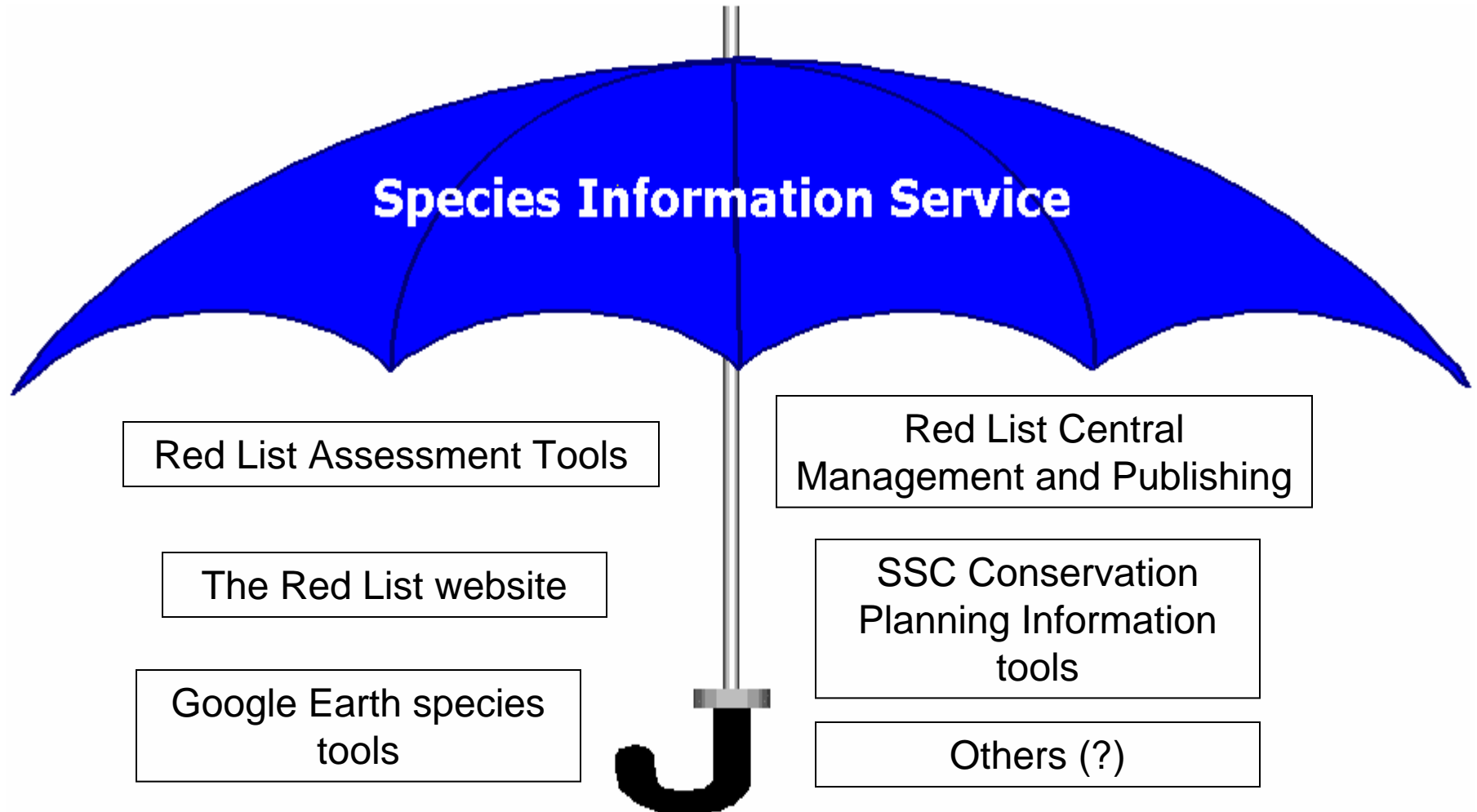


Red List Tools

Progress and Update on
Species Information Service

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Presented to SSC Chairs Meeting
February 2008 – Al Ain, UAE



Species Information Service a condensed history

The idea of SIS came about sometime around ...

Wednesday 5 May 1994

Several tools have been developed under the SIS umbrella since then

- **SIS Desktop Tool**
- **WESIS**
- **The Data Entry Module (DEM)**



Species Information Service

Why?

In 2001, the SSC «professionalized» the IUCN Red List with more scientifically sound, robust categories and criteria.

Since 2001, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of species assessed and the documentation requirements has increased as well.

Red Listing is MORE WORK today !!

For assessors

For evaluators

For the Red List Unit

Building the SIS foundation

We're now getting back to the original focus.



- Focus on data/information management tools for producing the Red List
- Develop this as the technological and informational foundation of SIS
- Other modules to extend the informational offerings of SIS (both internal and external), can be designed and built upon this working foundation.

The Data Entry Module (DEM)

- It was a good stop-gap tool, but...
- It depended on MS Access, which depends on Windows
- Installation and configuration was a mess
- It « trapped » the assessments within it
- Very poor for collaboration, made sharing and reviewing assessments very difficult.



Where are we today

SIS web application *for Red Listing* is nearing completion

- Beta release to Red List unit – February 2008
- Beta release to selected Red List assessors – February 2008
- Full functionality launched throughout Spring 2008 and Summer 2008

SIS Red List Objectives

Short and long-term...

- Ease software release management (support, updates, etc)
- Facilitate and ease data management for assessors and assessment coordinators
- Support and facilitate the review and evaluation processes
- Capture edits, versioning, comments to support « transparency » and credibility
- Provide an « Expert System » for users, in order to facilitate the standard application of the categories and criteria
- To allow for the easy contribution of maps, photos, and other supporting documentation files along with assessments.
- To create a mechanism for accomplishing regional/national assessments (increase capacity to do good Red List assessments)

SIS Red List Objectives

More objectives...

- To support the Red List Unit tasks in managing Red List data
 - Submissions processes
 - Consistency checks
 - Historic data
- To allow for the easy development and deployment of additional « modules » (i.e Trade and Use, Climate Change, etc)
- To support the needs of Specialist Groups in managing other types of species information (outside of Red Listing).
- To facilitate easy and accurate analyses of information within the Species Programme / SSC.



SIS Features

- **Online, web-based, no commercial software needed**
- **Completely offline compatible**
- **Expert System**
- **Commenting module for capturing review**
- **Cite every single field, auto bibliography**
- **Working Set Manager**



More features...

- **Different « views » of the data**
- **Attach files**
 - **Photos**
 - **Spatial data**
 - **Documentation (Excel, Word, etc)**
- **View RL history from any assessment**
- **And more ...**

Development details (the techie bits)

- **Google Web Toolkit (GWT)**
- **XML**
- **Javascript**
- **« AJAX » and Web 2.0**
- **MySQL**
- **Iterative development approach**



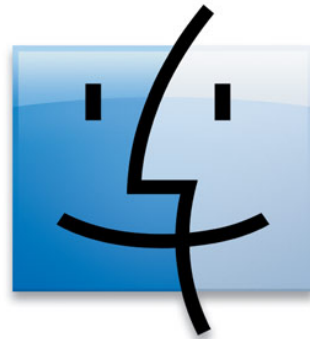
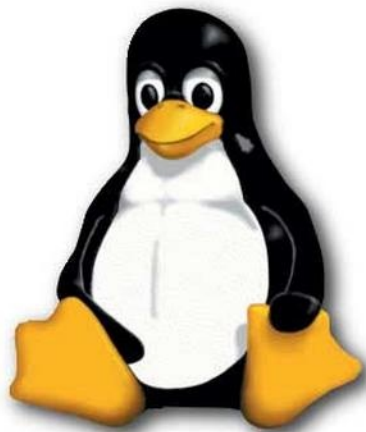
SIS is a browser-based application

Works both

-- online

-- offline

Supported Operating Systems



Mac



Supported Browsers



Supported Launchers



Having no installed software avoids the issue of users not having admin rights on their PCs



A demonstration will happen on Thursday at lunch, perhaps?

Location: ?