Assessing to Plan (A2P): Using the Red List to its best advantage

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AIM: The aim of this working group session is to explore how we can maximize the systematic and effective completion of the conservation actions section of Red List assessments, so they provide vital information for linking the assessment process directly through to a process of conservation action planning and delivery.

BACKGROUND: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species^{TM} provides a universally recognized, global approach for assessing the conservation status of the world's animal and plant species. Each species assessment is generated based on an analysis of a wide range of information including population status, trends and threats, which is then intended to be used to help inform and catalyze conservation action.

Within each species assessment, there is a comprehensive section for inputting information on conservation actions currently in place, and for those that are needed. Potentially, this could provide a huge leap for many species, into conservation action planning. However, there are currently some challenges:

- these fields are not mandatory (and so are often only partially completed)
- preliminary analyses of a sample of records from the database show a disconnect between the threats listed as impacting on species, and the kinds of conservation action recommended, suggesting that the data may require additional review before adoption for conservation action planning.
- the Red List data potentially tell us what conservation action is needed, but not where it is needed, or who might take it forward, which again suggests that an extra layer of work is needed to maximize the value of this information for conservation action planning.
- the Red Listing process (mostly) happens separately from conservation planning activities meaning these two intrinsically-linked processes end up being disconnected.

CPSG is renowned for its facilitation of conservation planning and 'transforming passion for wildlife into effective conservation'. This has typically focused on single species or population planning; however CPSG is now up-scaling this work across multiple taxa. Currently, two objectives of CPSG's work are: **i) to improve the complementarity between Red Listing work and conservation planning work and ii) to develop a tool for moving more species, more quickly, from assessing and into planning (in line with the SSC's ASSESS – PLAN – ACT model).**

PROCESS: The working group will begin with an overview of the Red List process, the IUCN Species Information System (SIS) Toolkit and discussion of the current scope and capacity of assembling

information on conservation actions 'in place' and' needed', within individual species assessments. The following issues and questions will then be discussed:

- Threat assessment – to conservation action review: what data do we have and what data do we need?
- Up-sizing: how do we scale up from single species to multi-species review of prioritizing conservation actions needed?
- Building momentum: how can we ensure that the assessment of taxon threat and conservation continues onto the next stages of conservation planning and implementation?

OUTCOMES: i) The group will produce a set of recommendations that describe the various stages of the Red List assessment process that CPSG can synergistically integrate into the development of a comprehensive summary report of the conservation actions needed, for a multi-species, taxonomic group; ii) the group will also make recommendations on how this information can best be delivered to support governments, and the wider conservation community to plan for and apply the most appropriate conservation actions that will most effective for improving the status of threatened species.

PREPARATION: Participants for this working group (especially those not involved with the IUCN Red List assessment process) are encouraged to have a look at various species assessments already published on the IUCN Red List website (www.iucnredlist.org), to become familiar with the information provided within the assessment fields. Other documents that will be useful to be aware of are the classification schemes for 'threats' and 'conservation actions needed', both available on the IUCN Red List website here:

http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes