

1.25 Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories at the Regional, National and Sub-national Level

WELCOMING the work that has been carried out by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to develop more objective means to identify and list threatened species, which resulted in the adoption of the IUCN Red List Categories by the IUCN Council in 1994;

ACKNOWLEDGING that IUCN's Red List Categories are designed to assess the level of threat to species at the global level;

NOTING that the global IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria when applied to populations at the regional, national and sub-national level (hereafter referred to as the regional level) may provide a misleading indication of the status of those populations;

AWARE that the SSC, in collaboration with several national institutions, has initiated a process to develop guidelines for using the IUCN Red List Categories at the regional level;

FURTHER EMPHASIZING the urgency to complete this work in the light of important provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in particular the following:

- a) Article 6, which requires Contracting Parties to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- b) Article 7, which requires Contracting Parties to identify and monitor the status, and threats to components of biological diversity within their territories;
- c) Annex I, which emphasizes the need to include a focus on threatened species in national programmes to identify and monitor components of biological diversity;

RECOGNIZING that the use of these guidelines will be at the discretion of countries and is not intended to supersede either existing guidelines or future guidelines a country might wish to develop;

EMPHASIZING the importance of ensuring that these guidelines are relevant and applicable to different species, populations and stocks especially those under management programmes;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. REQUESTS the SSC, within available resources, to complete the development of guidelines for using the IUCN Red List Categories at the regional level as soon as it is practicable, in an open and transparent manner in collaboration with:
 - a) experts and institutions throughout the world who are involved in monitoring and managing species at the regional level;
 - b) the Environmental Law Centre, members of the Commission on Environmental Law, NGOs and others involved in developing legislation and regulations concerning threatened species;
2. FURTHER REQUESTS the SSC :
 - a) to convene a representative international workshop as part of the process to develop these proposed guidelines;
 - b) to strengthen participatory processes whereby regional assessments feed into global assessments;
3. CALLS UPON the Parties to the CBD, non-governmental organizations and donor institutions to support financially the process to develop these guidelines;

4. REQUESTS the SSC to ensure that these guidelines reflect that there is a caveat to the existing criteria indicating that they may not be appropriate for assessing the risk of extinction for some species of marine fish, and take into account the continuing evolution of IUCN's Red List Criteria;
5. REQUESTS the Director General and the Chair of SSC:
 - a) to obtain the comments of IUCN members, SSC members and others on the draft guidelines once they have been developed;
 - b) to consider such comments, to revise the proposed guidelines and to circulate them to SSC members for further comments before submitting them to Council for formal adoption;
6. REQUESTS the Chair of SSC and the Director General to communicate with the SSC network of members, IUCN members and others to promote the appropriate use of the guidelines, once developed, on a national level.