

Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee (ICSC) Meeting 13-14 September 2010, Cambridge

The function of the Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee ICSC is to provide a structure and guidance for a pool of expert knowledge and practical expertise on invertebrate biology, assessments and conservation management, with special reference to the SSC Work plan. The activities of the ICSC may be categorized as: Co-ordinate and support work of Red List Authorities (RLA's), Specialist Groups (SGs) and Specialist Advisors (SAs) (i.e. individual scientific experts, who may form a Red List Group (an internal ICSC expression for more than one SA); communicate on invertebrate conservation issues; provide expert advice, often through SAs; Assessment of invertebrate species (Global Assessment, Red Listing, development of indicators); provide photographs to ARKive.

The ICSC addresses the following arenas and outcomes: networking - rapid assessment approaches - assessments and indicators - addressing key threats and - raising awareness on the role of invertebrates in providing ecosystem service.

Taxonomic focus: There are five existing and active taxonomic Specialist Groups (SGs): Butterfly, Dragonfly, Freshwater Crab and Crayfish, Grasshopper, and Mollusc. The remainder of the invertebrates is covered by the subgroup Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority (TIRLA). Feeding into TIRLA are two streams: 1) Taxon groups, 2) Geographical areas

South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAsISG) - Report (as on September 2010)

The South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group includes the following 8 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The SG is hosted by Zoo Outreach Organisation which is based at Coimbatore, South India. The objective of the SG is to assist individuals, institutions and agencies in South Asia to promote scientific study and conservation of invertebrates and to assist to accomplish ICSC objectives. The core members of the specialist group will have about 2-3 members from each country.

Networking invertebrate specialists of this region is one of the primary activities of this group. This regional specialist group will have sub-networks based on the functional groups such as invertebrate pollinators, terrestrial, freshwater, marine, agricultural and under soil invertebrates. So far two sub networks namely Invertebrate Pollinator (59 members) and Aquatic Invertebrate (21 members) networks have been formed and experts were identified. A directory of Invertebrate Pollinator Network of South Asia IPNSA has been brought out with the support of ZSL. The 3rd Asian Lepidoptera

Geographical focus: The second stream is Geographical Areas, each with regional focus. There is one geographical SG, the South Asian Invertebrate SG. There is also a North American Invertebrate SA, Southern African Invertebrate SA, European Invertebrate SA, a Western Indian Ocean Invertebrate SA and an Australasian SA. North America is covered by NatureServe and the Xerces Society which could possibly be a partner for taxa in addition to pollinators.

B.A. Daniel, Chair, South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group was invited to attend the annual meeting of ICSC held during 13-14 September 2010 at UNEP-WCMC office. The meeting was attended by Keith Alexander, Monika Bolm, Viola Clausnitzer, Neil Cumberlidge, Justin Gerlach, Craig Hilton-Taylor, Scott Hoffman Black, Mike Hoffmann, Baudewijn Odé, Jürgen Ott, Rachel Roberts (Rapporteur), Michael Samways (Chair), and Mary Seddon. During the meeting the Chair of the following SGs presented activity report of their group. Terrestrial Invertebrate RLA (Justin Gerlach), Dragonfly SG (Viola Clausnitzer), Crab and Crayfish SG (Neil Cumberlidge), Grasshopper SG (Baudewijn Odé), Mollusc SG (Mary Seddon), South Asian Invertebrate SG (B.A. Daniel). If you are interested to know about any of these group reports please write to badaniel@zooreach.org.



Conservation Symposium and Training Programme (3ALCS-2010) will be organised from 25-29th October 2010. The forum of the 3ALCS-2010 will be utilised to identify contributors who can help assess the status of butterflies and selected moths of south Asia. The SG is also assisting IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment project for the assessment of Eastern Himalayan and Western Ghats Freshwater molluscs and odonates. A review workshop for Western Ghats Freshwater biodiversity assessment has been planned in October 2010.

The SAsISG in association with the host organisations is undertaking extensive work on the survey of distribution of Theraphosid spiders. A poster has been published for free distribution among the public to create awareness to stop collection from the wild which is in practice. An education material on Biodiversity and Climate Change was developed for distribution through Zoos during wildlife week celebration in India from 2-8 October 2010. **Submitted by BA Daniel, Chair, SAsISG. Email: badaniel@zooreach.org**