

Report of the Invertebrate Conservation Sub-committee meeting: 11-12 April 2014

B.A. Daniel*

Group: Axel Hochkirch (Chair); Scott Hoffman Black (Deputy Chair & Facilitator); Simon Viola Clausnitzer; Neil Cumberlidge; BA Daniel; Louis Deharveng; Justin Gerlach; Sarina Jepsen; Michael Samways; Mary Seddon; Tony Whitten; Rachel Roberts (SSC); Paul Pearce-Kelly; Pedro Cardoso; Vicky Kindemba; Mike Hoffman; Annabelle Cuttelod; Craig Hilton-Taylor; William Darwall; Jamie Carr



A session during the meeting. Photo: Paul Pearce-Kelly

The biannual meeting of the Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee ICSC was held at the UNEP building, Cambridge from 11-12 April 2014, first meeting for the quadrennium 2013-2016. Axel Hochkirch, the chair of the ICSC invited and welcomed the participants and Scott Hoffman Black, Deputy Chair and chair of the Butterfly Specialist Group facilitated the meeting. Simon Stuart, chairs of all invertebrate Specialist Groups, members of Red List Committee, Paul Pearce-Kelly, ZSL, members from KBA and Climate change attended the meeting.

During the meeting it was discussed to broaden the taxonomic scope of Invertebrate Conservation Sub Committee ICSC. The number of invertebrates in the Red List has increased these days compared to a few years. However, lots of gaps exists and to fill them up the ICSC aimed to establish new specialist groups. During the meeting the possibilities of identifying the

Specialist Groups and Red List authorities were discussed. Pedro Cardoso and Vicky Kindemba proposed forming spider and St. Helena Island Specialist Groups. Followed by this, the Specialist Group chairs Viz., Grass hopper, butterfly, Bumble bee, Odonate, mollusc, Freshwater Crab and Crayfish Specialist Group, Terrestrial Invertebrate Red List Authority, and South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group updated on the Red List assessment status of their groups especially the commitments made in the Strategic plan for quadrennium 2013-16. Though most of the SGs felt that the commitments can be achieved, some of the barriers were discussed in detail.

Michael Samways, the outgoing chair of the Invertebrate Conservation Sub Committee put in many years of effort and started this sub committee, said SSC chair, Simon Stuart. He also said Michael's input for more than a decade for invertebrate



Prof. Michael Samways receiving SSC citation award from Simon Stuart, Chair SSC. Photo: Paul Pearce-Kelly

***Co-chair, IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group
Email: badaniel@zooreach.org**

conservation in SSC has flourished. In appreciation of this, Simon announced the SSC award 'SSC chair's citation of Excellence' for Michael for the tremendous work he did for the SSC and for the invertebrate conservation around the world and it stated "SSC commission citation of excellence presented by the IUCN SSC presented on this day to Professor Michael Samways in recognition of his highly charismatic leadership of the Invertebrate Conservation Sub Committee and for successfully raising the profile of the often forgotten invertebrate world in the Species Survival Commission for over a decade".

In continuation, Craig Hilton-Taylor gave a brief update on the invertebrates in Red List. He said that in 2013 the unit processed 8327 species assessments for the Red List, of those 6000 are new to Red List. Out of 6000 species assessed 2772 were invertebrates. Invertebrate committee are very active and contributing a lot. This year for the coming update, there will be 950 invertebrates that will be released on the 12th of June. Some challenges in assessing invertebrates were discussed.

Moving beyond Red Listing: The chair of ICSC mentioned that we are talking about Alliance for Zero Extinction AZE and there are many very important sites for invertebrates around the world that can qualify as AZE species. Now we use Red List for conservation to happen. We also take the knowledge and understanding for priorities. Now the task is to feed these into conservation organizations. He also stated that Key Biodiversity Areas process will be finished by the end of this year and we have to give input in to this process. Neil Cumberlidge, the chair of the Freshwater Crab and Crayfish Specialist Group shared his experience on the conservation of the Singapore Freshwater Crab (*Johora singaporensis*) a Critically Endangered species. For videos about this please click the link: <http://www.frequency.com/video/singapore-freshwater-crab-johora/159547230/-/5-1977>.

In the event of the existence of the IUCN Species Strategic plan 2013-2016 the need for a strategy for ICSC was also discussed. It was decided that ICSC will have its own objective, targets vision and mission. Outreach and practical conservation aspects will be included. It was decided that the draft will be circulated in due course for comments.

It was generally felt that there is substantial overlap in the aims of different Sub-committees and, therefore, need for cooperation. The Marine Conservation Sub Committee started a Bycatch initiative, and encouraging such initiative was suggested (together with the Policy Sub Committee and the Species Conservation Planning Sub Committee). There is overlap between some of

them. The chair suggested that the strategic species could be focused on and we can give support to that. There conservation depends on its role in the food chain, on the interaction and flows of water current etc. The chair suggested some one from the ICSC should be come a member of Policy Sub committee.

Craig Hilton-Taylor introduced the online Red List training programme. It has seven modules with 20 lessons and it has an exam. He encouraged everyone to take the course.

Benjamin Skolnik gave a presentation through Skype in detail about Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE). He talked about how important sites for highly threatened invertebrate species become listed. He explained the type of information required to get many invertebrates listed during the next update in 2015.

Annabelle Cuttelod gave an update on how Key Biodiversity Areas are identified and integrated into decision making and how invertebrates will be considered during this process.

Jamie Carr, Climate Change Unit, Species Programme gave a presentation on Climate change vulnerability. The IUCN Climate change unit of Species Programme is developing an approach to assess freshwater invertebrates' vulnerability to climate change. In this process the species' individual biological threats, life history and genetics to infer its vulnerability to climate change. This is to achieve more holistic assessments by including the emerging threats such as climate change. Observations in range size, changes in population, abundance such things will pick up from the emerging threats like climate change.

At the end the need to use the IUCN portal was discussed. For invertebrate Sub Group a portal is available. However it was decided we have listserve to add new additions to the listserve. Axel thanked everyone for their presence.

