

# Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee meeting: Abu Dhabi 12-13 September 2015: Report

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**ICSC Members / SG representatives:** Axel Hochkirch (ICSC Chair); Monika Böhm (RLA Butterfly SG); Paulo Borges (Co-Chair Mid Atlantic Island Invertebrate SG); Mark Bushell (Co-Chair Grasshopper SG); Pedro Cardoso (Chair Spider & Scorpion SG); Viola Clausnitzer (Co-Chair Dragonfly SG); Neil Cumberlidge (Chair Freshwater Crustacean SG); BA Daniel (Co-Chair South Asian Invertebrate SG); Sarina Jepsen (Deputy Chair Bumblebee SG); Vicky Kindemba (Co-Chair Mid Atlantic Island Invertebrate SG); Mary Seddon (Chair Mollusc SG); Tony Whitten (Co-Chair Cave Invertebrate SG); Rachel Roberts (SSC)

The IUCN SSC Sub-Committee meetings were organized prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> SSC Leaders meeting held between 15-18 September 2015 at Abu Dhabi, UAE. Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee ICSC meeting was conducted at Ritz-Carlton Hotel, attended by almost all members. The Chair of ICSC Axel Hochkirch welcomed the members and started the proceedings. The status of agenda items of the last year ICSC meeting was reviewed and all the SG Chairs gave a short report on the progress during the last year projects of the SGs. The chair gave a brief report of the Charismatic Invertebrate Project, that aims to assess a minimum of 500 invertebrate species from 11 taxonomic or thematic groups. The project has a coordinator at Trier who will compile and map species information from SGs for assessment.

The important task of the ICSC meeting was to contribute for the SSC's strategic plan 2017-2020. The group initially reviewed the progress with the existing strategic plan 2013-2016. Currently 77,000 species of flora and fauna have been assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, and IUCN have set the goal to assess the conservation status of 160,000 by the 2020, this is making the IUCN Red List more representative of the diversity of life on earth. The targets were grouped in to: Global Red-Listing: taxonomic groups, geographic areas or SRLIs to be completed during the next years; National / Regional Red-Listing; Population-level Monitoring and Analysis; Strategic Conservation Planning: targets that could be set concerning strategic plans; Conservation Breeding, links to *ex-situ* community; and Outreach. The group committed to complete assessments of dragonflies, bumble bees, South Asian millipedes, land and mangrove crabs, SE Asian Whip spiders, invertebrate Cave fauna of Southern Vietnam, Cave crabs, millipedes, springtails, trechine beetles, selected butterflies, spiders, grasshoppers, mantids, molluscs, crabs, dung beetles etc.

To address various issues related to invertebrate conservation, meetings were organized with other sub-committees such as Policy Sub-Committee, Conservation Planning Sub-Committee, Freshwater Conservation Sub-Committee and Marine Conservation Sub-Committee.

In 2004, the World Conservation Congress at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Session in Bangkok, Thailand, requested the SSC to convene a worldwide consultative process to agree a methodology to enable countries to identify Key Biodiversity Areas, drawing on data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and other datasets, building on existing approaches. Based on this a standard to identify sites of significance for biodiversity was developed. Annabelle Cuttelod, IUCN gave a detailed talk about Key Biodiversity Areas update and the members discussed the ways to use the new guideline to identify KBAs for invertebrates.

During the meeting other topics such as overlapping remits of SGs (eg. taxonomic vs. geographic SGs), cooperation with zoos and aquaria, fund raising for red-listing and other SG activities, publications etc., were also discussed. Nicolas Heard (Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund), Philip McGowan (IUCN SSC Policy Sub-Committee), Kira Mileham (SSC Director of Specialist Group Partnerships), Caroline Pollock (IUCN Red List Unit), Mike Hoffman (IUCN Red List Committee), Craig Hilton-Taylor (IUCN Red List Unit), Annabelle Cuttelod (KBA) and John Simaika (FCSC) attended this meeting as guests.



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