

National Red Lists

A Knowledge Network for National Conservation Decisions



Glossorhyncha sp. © Tim Utteridge

National Red Lists provide a baseline to monitor biodiversity trends and consolidate information on the effectiveness of current conservation projects.

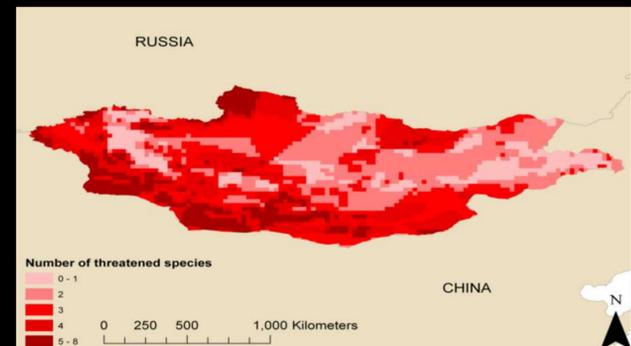
National Red Lists allow countries to assess their progress for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals.

Nationally Threatened Species

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is the most authoritative global inventory of species conservation status. The IUCN assessment guidelines have been adapted for National Red Lists (NRLs). Recognising the level at which conservation planning typically occurs, National Red Lists provide information which is directly applicable to national conservation policy.

National Red Lists assist countries in:

- Determining species conservation status and trends
- Identifying species or ecosystems under greatest threat
- Informing conservation planning and priority setting
- Raising awareness of threatened species



Distribution of threatened mammals in Mongolia. Mapping NRL status helps identify areas most in need of protection. Regular assessments track changes through time.

www.nationalredlist.org

IUCN criteria, mapping tools, case studies, network information and a database containing over

70 000
species accounts from

45
regions worldwide

For further details contact

Prof. Jonathan Baillie

jonathan.baillie@zsl.org

Dr. Ben Collen

ben.collen@ioz.ac.uk

Creating a National Red List

By applying the IUCN Red List Criteria at the national level, any country can create an NRL. This clear, repeatable protocol also allows countries to consolidate available data into a standardised format.

Information on species life history, population trends, threats and existing conservation measures is collected. IUCN guidelines are used to assign extinction risk status for each species, which are then reviewed by local experts. Assessments are collated into a National Red List document, and in some cases a Summary Conservation Action Plan is also created to recommend species – specific conservation measures.

The NRL Network

ZSL leads an active global network providing support for the development of National Red Lists. This includes:

- Providing local experts with tools to create and maintain an NRL
- Creating national biodiversity databases
- Coordinating an international resource network of government officials, policy advisors, academics and Red List assessors
- Running regular regional and network-wide workshops to assess progress and focus future effort



Countries with National Red Lists using IUCN Categories and Criteria (dark red) and other systems (bright red).

Future Directions

Conservation efforts are constantly hindered by the limited availability of accurate species extinction risk data. The strength of National Red Lists lies in providing countries with a clear, repeatable method of collecting this information and using it to tailor solutions for their particular biodiversity threats.

ZSL continues to develop and maintain the National Red List website. This website contains all necessary resources to complete a NRL and a database to collate international NRL data. It is a focal point for the global conservation community to share crucial national biodiversity knowledge.

As it grows, the NRL network will become more able to address taxonomic and geographic gaps in biodiversity data, implementing new NRLs worldwide. By leading conservation planning at the local scale, NRLs can be used to work effectively towards the global conservation of species.

Contributors

A full list of contributors can be found on the website.
www.nationalredlist.org



New Zealand Robin (*Petroica australis*) © Richard Lee



Tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*) © Richard Lee