

## **European Committee for the Conservation of Bryophytes Minutes of ECCB meeting held at Bečići, Montenegro, 27 April 2016**

### **ECCB Board members present:**

Beáta Papp (chair) (Hungary)  
Tomas Hallingbäck (vice-chair) (Sweden)  
Nick Hodgetts (secretary) (UK)  
Christian Berg (Austria)  
Steffen Caspari (Germany)  
Mesut Kirmaci (Turkey)  
Neil Lockhart (Ireland)  
Marko Sabovljević (Serbia)  
Lars Söderström (Norway)

A brief agenda for the meeting was agreed by all 27 ECCB members present. Neil Lockhart agreed to record the minutes.

### **Election of new ECCB board:**

Beáta announced that she wished to stand down from ECCB chair. She proposed Nick Hodgetts as new ECCB chair, herself as vice-chair and Neil Lockhart as secretary. This was unanimously approved by the meeting. She also proposed 5 new board members, also unanimously approved by the meeting:

Antun Alegro (Croatia)  
Annalena Cogoni (Italy)  
Rory Hodd (Ireland)  
Niklas Lönnell (Sweden)  
Oleg Maslovsky (Belarus)

Existing members of the board, who were not present at the meeting, were agreed to be retained:

Kristian Hassel (Norway)  
Nadya Konstantinova (Russia)  
Sébastien Leblond (France)  
Norbert Schnyder (Switzerland)  
Cecília Sérgio (Portugal)  
Kimmo Syrjänen (Finland)

Margaret Ramsey (UK) continues as an associate member with special responsibility for *ex situ* conservation.

As there are now 20 members of the board, this might need review at the next ECCB conference.

## Summary of achievements

Beáta summarised some of the achievements attained since the last conference in Budapest, 2012:

- April 2012: the ECCB board agreed to make a new European Red List of bryophytes
- October 2012: a new ECCB website was opened, hosted by the Hungarian Natural History Museum
- November 2012: renewed the network of ECCB country contacts which included new members
- November 2012: commenced the compilation of a European bryophyte checklist
- March 2013: Regional co-ordinator's meeting held at Ekenäs, Sweden to select a candidate list of species for a Red List, using country contact data
- March 2013: applied (unsuccessfully) for a COST Action grant
- October 2013: re-applied (also unsuccessfully) for a COST Action grant
- July 2014: discussions commence with IUCN to submit a Preparatory Project for an EU28/Pan-European Species Red List for bryophytes under EU LIFE programme
- September 2014: European liverwort and moss checklists uploaded to ECCB website
- February 2015: published *Checklist and Country Status of European Bryophytes – towards a new Red List for Europe*.
- April 2015: IUCN sign a LIFE agreement with European Commission for the European Red List project
- October 2015: ECCB regional assessors receive IUCN training in how to use IUCN Red List categories/criteria, use of Species Information System database and on-line mapping
- February 2016: ECCB regional assessors workshop meeting in Ekenäs, Sweden to share data and refine how IUCN categories/criteria apply to bryophytes
- April 2016: ECCB website upgrade from Drupal 6 to Drupal 7

Nick Hodgetts presented his views on future plans and proposals for the ECCB:

- Completion of the IUCN/EU LIFE project was clearly the main objective in the coming years, but there are other bryophyte conservation issues that the ECCB could address.
- Much data will accumulate as part of the IUCN project. The ECCB should consider how best to use this information, perhaps with an ambition to publish a book which would go beyond the scope of the IUCN Red List publication.
- Important Bryophyte Areas (IBrAs) for Europe, or bryophyte hotspots, which identify sites or localities for assemblages of rare and threatened bryophytes should be an objective for the ECCB, using the spatial data generated from the IUCN project
- It is also important that the checklist spreadsheets are maintained and kept up-to-date with taxon nomenclature, newly published references, country distribution and threat status data. Nick agreed to undertake this on-going work himself for the coming years but a successor will be needed for this work in the future.
- Species Action Plans are another task.
- The next ECCB conference should be held following the completion of the IUCN Red List project.

### **Next ECCB conference**

Antun Alegro proposed that the next ECCB conference could be held in Croatia in 3–4 years' time (2019/2020), stating that the Croatian Botanical Society has much experience in organising and managing such events. This was applauded and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Beáta concluded the meeting with warm thanks to Snežana Dragičević and her team for organising such a successful conference in Montenegro.

Nick Hodgetts and others congratulated and thanked Beáta for her stewardship of the ECCB during her term as chair.

Neil Lockhart  
ECCB Secretary