

European Committee for the Conservation of Bryophytes

Minutes of full ECCB meeting held at the Hungarian Natural History Museum, 19 April 2012

Report from the Board

Tomas Hallingbäck (acting chair) reported from the short Board meeting held the previous day (see separate notes).

Composition of the Board

Beáta Papp (Hungary) was proposed and voted in as new chair; Tomas Hallingbäck (Sweden) was voted in as vice-chair; Nick Hodgetts (UK) was voted in as secretary. A further twelve delegates were voted in as Board members:

Christian Berg (Austria), Steffen Caspari (Germany), Kristian Hassel (Norway), Mesut Kirmaci (Turkey), Nadya Konstantinova (Russia), Sébastien Leblond (France), Neil Lockhart (Ireland), Marko Sabovljevic (Serbia), Norbert Schnyder (Switzerland), Cecília Sérgio (Portugal), Lars Söderström (Norway), Kimmo Syrjänen (Finland).

It was agreed that Margaret Ramsey (UK) should continue as an associate member with special responsibility for *ex situ* conservation.

Towards a new bryophyte Red List for Europe

Nick Hodgetts led discussion about taking forward work on a new Red List, as described in the discussion document *Pilot project to assess the feasibility of revising the European bryophyte Red List*. Delegates were thanked for their contributions, without which the document would not have been possible. Main points arising from discussion:

- It was agreed that a new Red List was both desirable and feasible.
- Any such project should be led by an ECCB Steering Group composed of Tomas Hallingbäck, Neil Lockhart (as prime movers in the pilot project) and Beáta Papp (as ECCB chair), plus whoever else they deem necessary to progress the project.
- The work should be done (under direction from the Steering Group) by a contractor with some bryological expertise, or a number of contractors with a blend of bryological and technical expertise.
- The project will use the latest IUCN categories and criteria.
- Geographical coverage will include all the area covered by the previous Red List document (ECCB 1995) plus Cyprus and at least some of Turkey (to be finalised at a later date, but at least European Turkey and probably also Mediterranean Turkey). (Later meeting of SG in Mullaghmore decided against Cyprus and Asiatic Turkey!)
- The taxonomy will be based on Hill *et al.* (2006), plus more recent additions and accepted amendments, for the mosses, and the forthcoming world list of liverworts (Söderström *et al.*, in prep.) for the liverworts.
- All taxa will be considered for the Red List, but taxa that are undoubtedly Least Concern can be eliminated relatively quickly in a workshop meeting.

This has been done in 2006 for the liverworts (but this will have to be updated); it needs to be done for the mosses.

The funding was discussed. While the possibility of merely collating existing information rapidly and producing a Red List very quickly was raised briefly, it was widely considered that a Red List project would be likely to entail a lot of work and may cost more than the €20K over three years estimated. The EU LIFE and LIFE-plus funds were mentioned as possible funding sources. The former is for large sums and may be impractical; the latter may be more realistic. Funding may also be found from individual countries and other specific sources, such as botanic gardens or specialist societies.

- It was agreed that the Steering Group produce a small, glossy document based on the *Pilot project* document (essentially an executive summary) in order to show to possible funding sources in pursuit of funding.

The data collecting and mapping was also discussed. The program used by Lars Söderström for the ELPT project is likely to be useful but a finer resolution will probably be necessary (eg 50 km² squares on UTM grid). The liverwort distribution list (Söderström *et al.* 2008) and the draft equivalent moss list being worked on by Nick Hodgetts were considered useful tools for determining distribution of taxa by country/territory.

- It was agreed that Nick Hodgetts should distribute an electronic copy of the draft moss distribution list to all delegates for comments, additions and amendments.

No further firm conclusions were drawn but the Steering Group will explore the options.

Close of meeting

Tomas Hallingbäck closed the meeting with thanks to Beáta Papp and all her team at the Museum.

Nick Hodgetts
ECCB secretary