

European Committee for the Conservation of Bryophytes
Minutes of a meeting of some Board members held at Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo, Ireland.
September 11th, 2012.

Board members present: Beáta Papp (chair), Tomas Hallingbäck (vice-chair), Nick Hodgetts (Secretary), Neil Lockhart (Red List Steering Group).

Following on from the ECCB conference in Budapest, April 2012, this meeting considered actions required to move the revised European Red List project forward. The main topics for discussion were the revision of the ECCB website, updating of bryophyte data (check lists and distribution), provisional Red Listing (to filter out Least Concern taxa) and funding possibilities.

ECCB Website

BP reported that she has recently received the old version of the ECCB website data from Lars Söderström, but has not yet had an opportunity to review it. BP will ask Erzsébet Szurdoki of Hungarian Natural History Museum to examine the website structure with a view to overhauling and updating it. BP emphasised the importance of the ECCB website, especially to maintain momentum following the Budapest meeting in April. She recommended that the Budapest conference website, which now contains the conference papers and posters, should be maintained and should be included within, or linked to the revised ECCB website. BP suggested that an updated ECCB website could be used as a means of communication to ECCB country contacts, and to gather information from them for updating country Red List data.

Actions points:-

1. **BP** to ask Erzsébet Szurdoki to review and overhaul ECCB website structure.
2. **NH** to send **BP** the check-lists and updated country contact lists, for inclusion to ECCB website.
3. **NH** (and others) to send **BP** the individual country Red Lists, if available, as PDFs, for inclusion to ECCB website.
4. **NH** to issue a reminder to country contacts seeking corrections to the draft moss distribution list and country Red Lists circulated after the Budapest meeting. This could be done via an updated website, but in the interim might be by direct email contact.
5. **BP** to announce via Bryonet when the updated ECCB website becomes available on-line.

Bryophyte Data and Red Listing

The meeting considered the geographical coverage for the Red List project and concluded that European Turkey should be included, but that Asiatic Turkey and all of Cyprus should be excluded.

NH reported that he has nearly completed the moss distribution table (country checklists), to compliment the liverwort distribution list already completed by Lars Söderström. NH has a PDF of Lars Söderström's hepatic list. The distribution lists could usefully be circulated to country contacts for 'final' revision (see action point 4 above).

Next step is to commence provisional Red Listing to exclude and filter out Least Concern taxa. The meeting thought that this had already been 'done' for all the hepatics, at a meeting in Uppsala in 2006, but TH was not certain if this was only for Habitats Directive species. He will check this. In any event, the hepatic candidate Red List would need some revision and updating.

For mosses, and for a review of the hepatic candidate Red List, a 2-3 day workshop will be required to produce the final candidate taxa for the Red List process. BP suggested that for efficiency this should be just a small group, i.e. the ECCB Steering Group (BP, TH, NH & NL) plus representatives from the broad geographical coverage (suggested names were Belén Albertos, Steffen Caspari, Nadezda Konstantinova, Heike Hofmann). TH said that he might get funding for travel and accommodation if the workshop is held in Uppsala. A date in early 2013 was considered desirable, but this will be dependant on progress on completing the country checklists. BP suggested that country contacts should be given a deadline of end of 2012 for revision of their data. If data can be provided in Excel spreadsheet format, country contacts should be asked to fill in 2 extra columns: addition/deletion of country taxon checklists; update of Red List status.

Actions points:-

6. **NH** to convert hepatic lists from PDF to Excel and send to BP with moss Excel table, too.
7. **NH** to send BP the list of ECCB board members by recirculating minutes of Budapest meetings and send the country contacts list.
8. **TH** to check if the Uppsala 2006 workshop considered all hepatics in the candidate Red List process. To send what he has to BP to look through it.
9. **BP** to ask Check List and Red List reviewers to complete task by end of 2012.
10. **BP** to ask Norbert Schnyder about participation of Heike Hofmann in proposed 2013 workshop
11. **TH** to seek funding for workshop in Uppsala in 2013.
12. **TH** to circulate methodology used at Hepatic workshop to filter out Least Concern taxa.

Funding possibilities

NL reported on unsuccessful efforts to get funding from Missouri Botanical Garden. Noeleen Smyth, who discussed ECCB proposals with MBG director Peter Wyse Jackson, suggested that Vernon Heywood should be asked for advice and support. NL reported that National Parks and Wildlife Service has a small amount of money (€5000) to be spent in 2012, and that some elements of the actions above could be undertaken as part of a NH/NPWS contract. TH reported that he circulated a one-page fact sheet to Ana Nieto at the IUCN office in Brussels. A decision on whether a European bryophyte Red List can be included in EU priorities cannot happen until 2014.

Actions points:-

13. **NL** to arrange with Noeleen Smyth for letter to issue to Vernon Heywood.
14. **NL** to organise a contract for NH to undertake some of the action points above.
15. **TH** to lobby EU, perhaps with NL and BP to visit Brussels if needed.

Date of next meeting: to be arranged.

Neil Lockhart, ECCB.