

# Summary of the discussions on ECCB's future and a new Red List

Zürich 30/4-1/5 2011

Participants: Lars Söderström (chair, Norway), Ariel Bergamini (Switzerland), Tomas Hallingbäck (Sweden), Heike Hoffman (Switzerland), Nick Hogetts (UK), Kristoffer Hylander (Sweden), Neil Lockhard (Ireland), Nicklaus Müller (Switzerland), Beata Papp (Hungary), Cecilia Sérgio (Portugal), Norbert Schnyder (Switzerland), Edi Urmi (Switzerland).

ECCB have been dormant for many years although bryophyte conservation in Europe has been active on local basis. Recently, Neil Lockhard (Ireland) and Tomas Hallingbäck (Sweden) managed to receive some funds for a pilot project on a new Red List of bryophytes for Europe. Nick Hodgetts (UK) was contacted to do this pilot project. Nick, Neil and Tomas wanted ECCB to support this project. Thus, it was suggested to have a meeting with the ECCB Board and those involved in the pilot project. This meeting had 2 major scopes. The first aim was to discuss the future of ECCB. This is summarized below. The second aim was to discuss the pilot project. This is summarized by Nick Hodgetts below.

## General discussions on future of ECCB

The first question to put out was "Do we need ECCB?". All participants agreed that ECCB is important, that we in the past have achieved a lot, and that we need a new start. Discussions and around the table brain storming led to the following suggestions:

Chairman. The chairman should preferably be a person at a university or museum that have some time to spend on ECCB matters within working hours. Tomas Hallingbäck agreed to act as chairman until next meeting with ECCB. LS thank him for this offer.

Web page. It is important that we get the web page up and running. It is our face outwards. This web page should have a simple and clear address. It was agreed that we should try to get the address BryoConservation.eu. However, the old address (that does not work anymore) should be re-instated to re-direct users to the new web page (LS to arrange). A new web page will be built by TH. It was discussed the format of such a page and several suggestions came up. It is important that we include news on activities and links to other relevant sites. It is also important with a list of people involved, both ECCB board and the country contacts. Other suggestions were distribution maps, but as this includes more work it can be a later task.

Conference. It was agreed that we need an ECCB conference to restart the activities. BP offered to arrange one in Hungary. She will try to arrange it at low costs so that also persons without strong financial support can participate. The conference should be as soon as possible but it also needs time to prepare. Thus, it was suggested to be in April 2012. BP will investigate when the best time can be for them to arrange it and come with a first announcement as soon as possible.

It was discussed that the scope should be broad within conservation of bryophytes and keynote speakers should be invited to increase the interest. The title of the conference can also be a bit provocative.

Planta Europa representation: ECCB has been represented in the Planta Europa Steering Committee for the last 4 periods. We are also the lead organisation on several tasks in the EPCS. It was agreed that it is important to continue this participation. TH agreed to replace LS for the next period and will attend the PE conference in Krakow in May.

Trondheim 4/5 2011  
Lars Söderström

## Pilot project for a new European bryophyte Red List

### The following key points were agreed:

1. A new European Red List for bryophytes is both desirable and necessary, and that the present pilot project is a good first step.
2. The geographical coverage of such a list should probably be the same as was used in the 1995 list, with the addition of Cyprus. It was also agreed to consider Turkey in the pilot project.
3. The best checklists to use for the Red List (in our current state of knowledge) are (i) for liverworts and hornworts, the forthcoming world checklist (Söderström *et al.* in prep.) and (ii) for mosses, Hill *et al.* (2006), plus corrections and additions.
4. The most up-to-date IUCN criteria and categories should be used for the Red List: at the time of writing, version 3.1 (IUCN 2000). These should be used in conjunction with the latest Guidelines (at the time of writing, version 8.0, IUCN 2010), and special bryophyte guidelines (see Hallingbäck *et al.* 1995, and notes by Hallingbäck used at a meeting on European liverworts in Uppsala, 2006).
5. NH should work on the pilot project on behalf of the ECCB, with funding from Ireland and Sweden and co-operation from ECCB Board members and country contacts, reporting back to ECCB Board November 2011. TH to produce a 'glossy' version of the report winter 2011-12.
6. *All* the taxa in the European flora should be evaluated for a full Red List project. The liverworts and hornworts were last done in 2006 (Uppsala meeting), during which all Least Concern species were 'struck off' and IUCN criteria provisionally applied to the remaining species. The liverworts will need to be re-evaluated for a new Red List, and the same exercise needs to be done for the mosses.
7. NH should contact Marko Sabovljevic to get the most up-to-date version of the lists of ECCB country contacts.
8. TH should contact the IUCN Bryophyte Specialist Group, asking if the ECCB can be an official sub-group.
9. NL would collate details of existing European Red Lists for other taxonomic groups, as these will inform our work.
10. To use the mapping programme presented by LS to facilitate the Red Listing process. This has the potential to map taxa at different geographical levels. It will probably be a straightforward process to link existing liverwort/hornwort data to the programme. It was agreed that NH should approach Mark Hill to ask for permission to use his spreadsheet of European mosses listed by country for the same purpose. It was agreed that EU should contact René Schumacker to see if it would be possible to obtain the full set of European maps produced for the original 1995 Red List project. However, these are now likely to be considerably outdated. It was also noted that Flora Europaea has a European mapping system that we might be able to adapt at some point. In addition, it was noted that a French website (<http://www.tela-botanica.org>) has some very incomplete European mapping of

bryophytes. It was recommended that any mapping system should be placed on the web, as a motivator for people to contribute to the Red List.

11. For any full Red Listing exercise, a small number of people will do the assessments to allocate species to Red List categories. The result will be circulated to all ECCB members for comments and possible revision, and then a final assessment will be produced.

**Work for the pilot project will include:**

- Initially, a letter/e-mail to introduce the project to country contacts. NH to draft, TH (new ECCB chair) to send.
- A follow-up letter/e-mail to country contacts asking for specific information about the state of bryophyte conservation/Red Lists/checklists in their territories. The level of information sought at this stage will be very simple, at the level of metadata. NH to send.
- Contact with IUCN/SSC (Craig Hilton-Taylor and Dr. Helen Temple).
- Contact with Plantlife International/Planta Europa (ECCB is a member of Planta Europa).

**The pilot project report will include:**

- A mission statement at the beginning explaining what a Red List is and why it is necessary.
- A list of the latest Red Lists and checklists both Europe-wide and for each European territory. The list that was on the old ECCB website is a good starting point.
- A list of websites with information on bryophyte distribution in Europe.
- A list of ECCB country contacts for each European territory. There may be more than one per territory: the priority is getting people who are willing to contribute.
- A list of European bryological societies.
- An indication of the quality of bryological information for each European territory, including an indication of the most poorly known parts of Europe.
- An indication of existing and required resources needed for a full Red List project.
- Details of the proposed adaptation of the IUCN criteria to be used in the Red Listing process.
- A list of possible sponsors.
- An exploration of whether the ECCB structure should be changed to facilitate a full Red List project.
- Reference to the Global Plant Conservation Strategy.

- Something to emphasize the distinctness of the Macaronesian bryophyte flora (as it is not really geographically part of Europe).
- Possibly (it was not finally decided whether this was really within the scope of the pilot project) three data sheets on species for which we have a lot of information – one each for a moss, a liverwort and a hornwort (*Anthoceros neesii* was proposed) – to demonstrate the kind of information that might be presented in a new Red List.

**Possible outcomes resulting from the pilot project:**

- The ‘glossy’ version of the report from the pilot project will be used to try to obtain funding for future work. IUCN and EU are both possibilities for funding.
- In the short term, a new published Red List for European bryophytes, produced in co-operation with IUCN, along the lines of the recent dragonfly Red List.
- In the longer term, a strategic programme of work towards a better Red List, using targeted fieldwork in under-recorded areas of Europe, in co-operation with the European bryological societies.
- A list of European endemics.
- A recommendation that all countries contribute information to the GBIF project.

Nick Hodgetts  
3 May 2011