# Schematic Illustration of the IUCN Red List Assessment Process

This is Annex 2 of the "Rules of Procedure for IUCN Red List Assessments 2017–2020". Approved by the IUCN SSC Steering Committee in September 2016. (https://cmsdocs.s3.amazonaws.com/keydocuments/Rules_of_Procedure_for_IUCN_Red_List_Assessments_2017-2020.pdf)

# The Red List Process
## From Raw Data to Red List

## Red List Authority (RLA)
(SGs, stand-alone RLAs, Partner organizations)

### Pre-Assessment (see step 1.1)
RLA members review data sources and compile data (in SIS or other agreed system) appropriate for Red List

### Assessment (see step 2.1)
Carried out (in SIS or other agreed system) by one RLA member working alone; or a small group of members working together; or a large group of members in a workshop; or contributions from the whole membership through a workshop or email/internet forum.

Assessments submitted directly to RLA

Assessment rejected by Reviewers

### Review (see step 3.1)
RLA Coordinator arranges review by at least one appropriate expert in Red List Assessments

RLA comments returned to Red List Unit

## Global Species Programme & Partner Projects
(Includes Global Biodiversity Assessments and Regional Assessments; often involves RLAs & Partner organizations)

### Pre-Assessment (see step 1.2)
Appropriate RLAs identified and timeline agreed for assessment review. Data source review and data compiled in SIS by project staff, expert consultants, and project participants.

### Assessment (see step 2.2)
Draft assessments prepared in SIS through workshops, review, consistency checks, etc.

Post workshop review and consistency checks carried out.

Assessment rejected by RLA

### Review (see step 3.2)
Draft assessments in SIS referred to RLAs for assessment review.

Reviewed assessment accepted by RLA

### Consistency Check (see step 4.2)
Project coordinators check criteria use, supporting documentation, consistency, proofreading and formatting before submission to the RLU

## Red List Unit

Unreviewed assessment referred to RLA (see **step 3.1**)

Problem detected

Problem detected

### Submission (see steps 4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
All assessments from RLAs, Global Species Programme & Partner projects submitted via SIS. Red List Unit scans assessments submitted from above projects for obvious errors and checks consistency between projects.
Red List Unit checks criteria use, supporting documentation, consistency, proofreading and formatting for:
- Reviewed assessments from RLA.
- Unreviewed assessments from outside IUCN SSC network.

Assessments submitted directly to Red List Unit

Problem detected by RLU / assessment rejected by RLA

Reviewed and checked assessments accepted for publication on Red List

### Assessment (see step 2.3)
Assessments from individuals working alone, academia, National Red List projects (endemic species), etc.

### Pre-Assessment (see step 1.3)
Review of data sources and compilation of data appropriate for Red List assessment

### Publication (see step 5)
Assessments added to SIS database and appear on appropriate IUCN Red List web site update.

## External Assessors
(Assessors from outside the IUCN SSC networks and Global Species Programme activities)

*Important Notes*

1. This figure depicts a clear separation between the *Red List Authority* process on the left and the *Global Species Programme & Partner* projects on the right. In reality, those two processes are usually very closely interlinked and often one could not happen without the other. It is also often difficult to distinguish between the two. For example, Global Species Programme staff members initiate and raise the funds for assessment projects and provide the central coordination for running the projects. Red List Authority members are also closely involved in assessment projects, helping to gather the information required for the assessments, facilitating and participating in the assessment workshops, and checking the consolidated assessments once they are completed. In general, the bulk of the assessments that come into the Red List are as a result of the joint initiatives between the Global Species Programme and the RLAs.

2. The Red List Unit staff work very closely with the RLAs and are often requested to help facilitate assessment workshops arranged by the RLA or to provide Red List training to their members. Likewise, the Red List Unit staff may be used as facilitators/trainers in many of the global species assessment projects run by Global Species Programme staff or by Red List Partners. Hence there is usually direct involvement of Global Species Programme Staff in many of the steps outlined in the Red List Assessment process.