

3. Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria at Regional Levels

This section will help build up a working knowledge of how to use the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria at regional or national levels. The concepts and explanations presented in this section are based on the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: version 3.1* and the *Guidelines for Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional Levels: version 3.0* (both documents are included in the training pack).

There are seven parts to this section:

- 3.1. Issues at the regional level
- 3.2. Categories used at the regional level
- 3.3. Which taxa can be assessed at the regional level?
- 3.4. Regionally Extinct taxa
- 3.5. Contact with other populations
- 3.6. Procedure for using Red List criteria at regional levels
- 3.7. Documentation and publication of regional Red Lists

3.1. Issues at the regional level

From global to sub-global

The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria were developed for classifying species at high risk of global extinction, i.e. for assessment at the global level. All areas smaller than the global level are referred to as “regional”. This includes:

- Continents
- Countries
- States
- Provinces
- Biogeographical areas, e.g. a river basin spanning several countries or states

When assessing populations within a region there are important issues that do not apply at the global level but must be considered during the regional assessment (figure 3.1.). At the global level, the assessment uses data from the entire global population. If a taxon is endemic to a region, the regional assessment will be the same as the global assessment (since data from the entire global population is being used in the assessment). However, regional level assessments often focus on a part of the global population that occurs within a particular region. In such cases, events affecting conspecific populations outside the region may influence the conservation status of the population within the region. Other issues, such as how to treat non-indigenous taxa and categorising taxa that have become extinct from the region but still exist in other parts of the world, add to the complications of regional assessments.

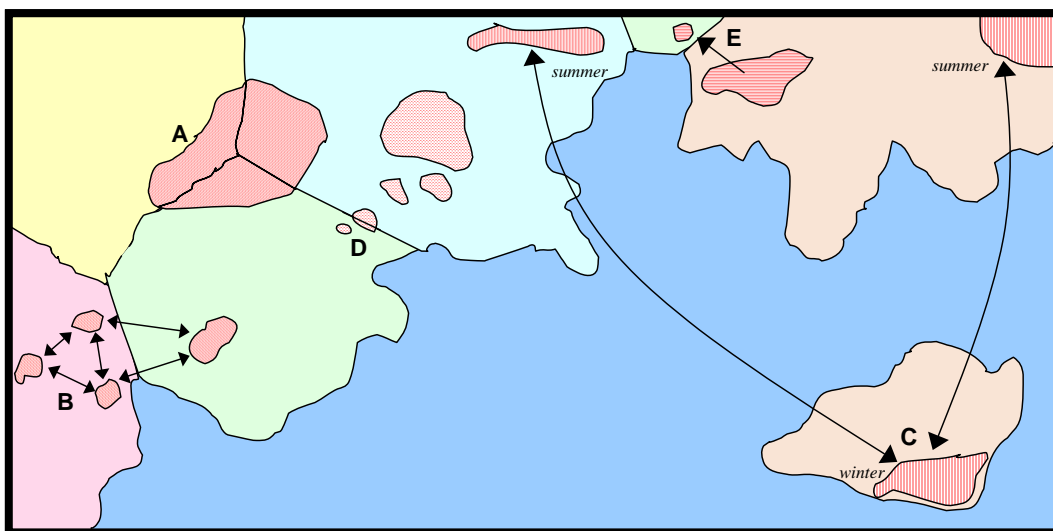


Figure 3.1. The status of regional populations may be influenced by conspecific populations elsewhere. **A** the regional population may range across political borders; **B** the taxon may be highly mobile and individuals may move between populations within and outside the region; **C** the taxon may be a non-breeding seasonal visitor in the region; **D** the region may be at the edge of the taxon’s natural range and hold only a small proportion of the global population; **E** the survival of the regional population may depend on immigration from a population outside the region (i.e. the regional population is a sink).

To help guide assessors through the many issues involved in regional Red List assessments, the IUCN Species Survival Commission developed *Guidelines for Application of IUCN Red List Criteria at Regional Levels*.

Definitions of terms used in the IUCN regional guidelines:

- **Benign introduction** - an attempt to establish a taxon, for the purposes of conservation, outside its recorded distribution but within an appropriate habitat and ecogeographical area. This is a feasible tool only when there is no remaining area left within a taxon's historical range.
- **Breeding population** – a (sub)population that reproduces within the region, whether this involves the entire reproductive cycle or any essential part of it.
- **Conspecific population** – Populations of the same species
- **Downgrading and Upgrading** – the process for adjusting the Red List category of a regional population according to a decreased or increased risk of extinction. Downgrading refers to a reduced risk of extinction; upgrading refers to an increased risk of extinction.
- **Endemic taxon** – a taxon naturally found in any specific area and nowhere else. This is a relative term in that a taxon can be endemic to a small island, to a country, or to a continent.
- **Global population** – total number of individuals of a taxon (see also **population**).
- **Metapopulation** – a collection of subpopulations of a taxon, each occupying a suitable patch of habitat in a landscape of otherwise unsuitable habitat. The survival of the metapopulation is dependent upon the rate of local extinctions of occupied patches and the rate of (re-)colonization of empty patches.
- **Natural range** – range of a taxon, excluding any portion that is the result of an introduction to a region or neighbouring region. The delimitation between wild and introduced populations within a region may be based on a preset year or event, but this decision is left to the regional authority.
- **Not Applicable (NA)** – category for a taxon deemed to be ineligible for assessment at the regional level.
- **Population** – this term is used in the IUCN Red List Criteria to mean the total number of individuals of the taxon. Within the context of a regional assessment, it may be advisable to use the term **global population** for this. In the regional guidelines, the term **population** is used for convenience when referring to a group of individuals of a given taxon that may or may not interchange propagules with other such entities (see also **regional population** and **subpopulation**).
- **Propagule** – a living entity capable of dispersal and of producing a new mature individual (e.g. a spore, seed, fruit, egg, larva, or part of an entire individual). Gametes and pollen are not considered propagules in this context.
- **Region** – a sub-global geographical area, such as a continent, country, state or province.
- **Regional assessment** – Process for determining the relative extinction risk of a regional population.
- **Regionally Extinct (RE)** – category for a taxon when there is no reasonable

doubt that the last individual potentially capable of reproduction within the region has died or has disappeared from the wild in the region. The setting of the time limit for listing under RE is left to the discretion of the regional authority, but should not normally pre-date 1500 AD.

- **Regional population** – the portion of the global population within the area being studied. This may comprise one or more subpopulations.
- **Rescue effect** – the process by which immigrating propagules result in a lower extinction risk for the target population.
- **Sink** – an area where the local reproduction of a taxon is lower than local mortality. The term is normally used for a subpopulation experiencing immigration from a source where the local reproduction is higher than the local mortality.
- **Subpopulations** – geographically or otherwise distinct groups in the (global) population between which there is little or no genetic exchange.
- **Taxon** – a species or infraspecific entity (e.g. subspecies, variety) whose extinction risk is being assessed.
- **Vagrant** – a taxon that is currently found only occasionally within the boundaries of a region.
- **Visitor** – a taxon that does not reproduce within the region but regularly occurs within its boundaries either now or during some period of the last century. Regions have several options on how to decide boundaries between visitors and vagrants, e.g. using a preset percentage of the global population found in the region or predictability of occurrence.

3.2. Categories used at the regional level

The nine categories outlined in section 1.1. also apply to assessments at the regional level. However, two extra categories are included specifically for regional assessments:

- **Not Applicable (NA)** – At the global level, taxa that have not yet been assessed using the IUCN Red List Criteria are assigned the Not Evaluated (NE) category. However, at the regional level, there may be cases where a taxon is not eligible for assessment within the region (see section 3.3.). In these cases, the Not Applicable (NA) category may be used to indicate that the taxon was considered but deemed unsuitable for inclusion in the regional assessment.
- **Regionally Extinct (RE)** – Taxa that are extinct within the region but are still extant in other parts of the world should be classified as Regionally Extinct (RE). A taxon is RE when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died or disappeared from the region, or, in the case of former visiting taxa, individuals no longer visit the region. Regionally Extinct taxa are discussed in more detail in section 3.4.

This means there are **eleven** categories to consider when carrying out a regional Red List assessment (figure 3.2.).

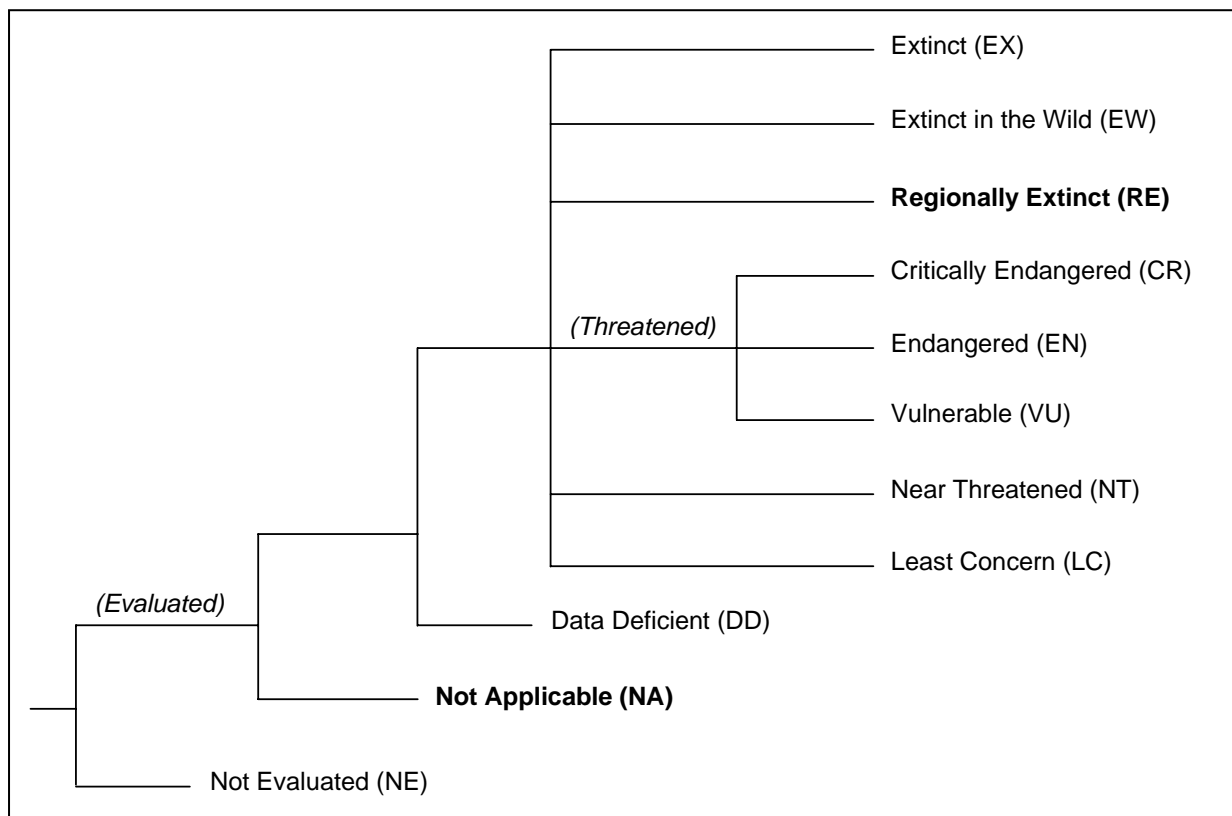


Figure 3.2. Structure of categories at the regional level. The Regionally Extinct (RE) and Not Applicable (NA) categories are specific to regional assessments only.

3.3. Which taxa can be assessed at the regional level?

Taxa eligible for regional assessments

The assessment process should only be applied to wild populations inside their natural range and to populations resulting from benign introductions.

- **Indigenous breeding taxa**

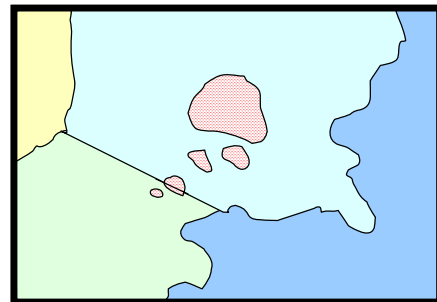
All indigenous taxa that breed, or can potentially breed, within the region should be included in the regional assessment.

- **Re-colonized or re-introduced taxa**

Taxa that were formerly Regionally Extinct but have now naturally re-colonized or have been re-introduced into the region can be assessed. Taxa that have naturally returned to the region may be assessed after the first year of reproduction in the region. Taxa that have been re-introduced to the region may be assessed as soon as at least part of the population has successfully reproduced without direct support and the offspring are shown to be viable.

- **Taxa only marginally within the region**

Taxa that occur only marginally within the region should be assessed. Regional authorities may decide to apply a filter in such cases. For example, it may be decided to exclude species where the regional population is less than 1% of the global population. If such a filter is used, it must be clearly specified in the supporting documentation.



- **Visiting taxa**

A taxon that does not breed within the region but regularly occurs and uses resources there should be included in the regional assessment. Again, the regional authority may decide to apply a filter, such as the proportion of the global population visiting the region, but this must be specified in the supporting documentation. For example:



The black-faced spoonbill *Platalea minor* has breeding populations in Korea and Liaoning province in China. However, it would be included in a Red List of Viet Nam because one of the species' main wintering sites occurs on the Red River delta.

Taxa not eligible for regional assessment

This includes taxa that are not indigenous to the region or are not regular visitors to the area. All taxa that are not eligible for inclusion in the regional assessment should be assigned the **Not Applicable (NA)** category.

- **Introduced taxa**

Taxa that have been introduced into the region, either accidentally or for reasons other than conservation of the taxon, should not be assessed. For example:

A Red List assessment of the species in Lake Victoria should exclude the Nile perch *Lates niloticus* because the species was introduced into the lake for commercial reasons in the mid-1900s.

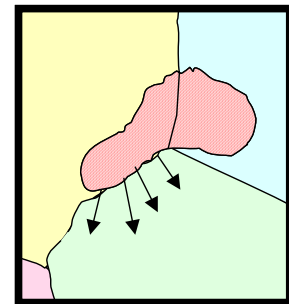


- **Occasional breeders**

Taxa that occasionally breed in the region under unusually favourable circumstances but regularly becomes Regionally Extinct should not be included in the regional assessment.

- **Taxa expanding into the region**

A taxon that is known to be expanding its range outside the region and appears to be in a colonization phase within the region should not be considered for a regional assessment until the taxon has successfully reproduced within the region for several years (typically at least 10 consecutive years).



- **Vagrant taxa**

A taxon that occurs only occasionally and irregularly within the region is a vagrant to the region and should not be included in the regional assessment. For example:



A national Red List of Kenya should not include the shoebill *Balaeniceps rex* because it occurs only occasionally in the country and is considered a vagrant species there. However, the species would be included in a Red List of Uganda as it is indigenous to that country.

3.4. Regionally Extinct (RE) taxa

The **Regionally Extinct (RE)** category is used when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual potentially capable of reproduction within the region has died or disappeared from the region or, in the case of a former visiting taxon, individuals no longer visit the region.

Extinct versus Regionally Extinct

A Regionally Extinct taxon may re-colonize or be re-introduced into the region since it still exists elsewhere in the world. The Extinct (EX) category is used only for taxa that are considered extinct across their entire global range, i.e. it will not appear again in the region. For example:

Schomburgk's deer *Cervus schomburgki* was endemic to Thailand. Commercial production of rice for export began in the late nineteenth century in Thailand leading to the loss of nearly all grassland and swamp areas this deer depended on. Intensive hunting pressure at the turn of the century restricted the species further and the last wild individuals are thought to have died around 1932. The species is thought to have become extinct when the last captive individual died in 1938. The 2003 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species listed *C. schomburgki* as Extinct (EX). In a national Red List of Thailand, the species would also be assessed as **Extinct (EX)**.



The historic range of the false gharial *Tomistoma schlegelii* included southern Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. The species has not been recorded in the wild in Thailand since the 1970s and is now thought to be extinct from the country. However, wild populations still exist in Indonesia and Malaysia and the 2003

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species listed *T. schlegelii* as Endangered. In a national Red List of Thailand, the species would be assessed as **Regionally Extinct (RE)**.

“Regionally Extinct in the Wild”

There is **no such category** as “Regionally Extinct in the Wild”. If a taxon no longer exists in the wild within the region, but does exist in captivity and wild populations exist outside the region, the assessment should be Regionally Extinct. The Extinct in the Wild (EW) category indicates that the taxon is extinct in the wild across its entire global range.

For example, although the wild population of false gharial *Tomistoma schlegelii* is extinct in Thailand, captive individuals are held in a number of private facilities in the country. The species is still assessed as **Regionally Extinct** in Thailand. If the

species had been endemic to Thailand and the only individuals known were in captivity, the species would then have been assessed as Extinct in the Wild (EW).

Unproductive resident populations

Populations of long-lived individuals that formerly bred within the region but have now ceased to reproduce (e.g. as the result of a deteriorating environment) should be regarded as being potentially capable of reproducing (i.e. at some point in the future the habitat may return to its former state and individuals may become reproductive again). Such taxa **should not** be assessed as RE.

Vagrant former breeders

If a taxon formerly bred within the region and has now disappeared from the area, but individuals occasionally reappear as vagrants, the taxon should not be considered as potentially capable of reproduction within the region and should be assessed as **Regionally Extinct**.

3.5. Contact with other populations

Does size matter?

The degree of contact with populations existing outside the region is dependent on the size of the region being examined and the biology of the taxon. The smaller the region, the more likely it is that a population will extend beyond the borders of that area. The more mobile and wide-ranging the taxon, the more likely it is that individuals will move between populations within the region and populations outside the region.

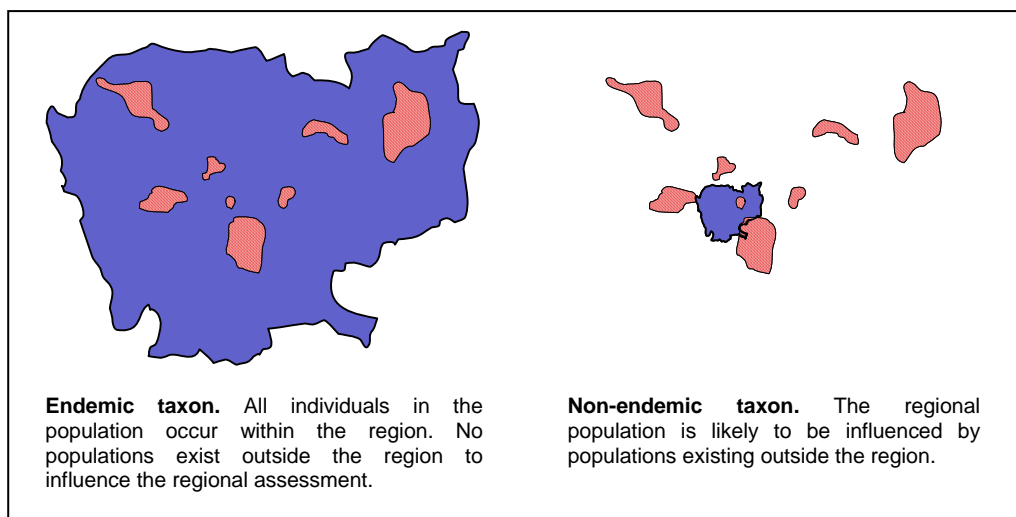


Figure 3.3. The smaller the region and the more widespread the taxon, the more often the regional population will be influenced by populations outside the region.

Endemic taxa

Taxa that are endemic to a region will not have any influence for populations outside the area. These can be assessed using the IUCN Categories and Criteria alone, i.e. the regional assessment is the same as the global assessment.

Non-endemic taxa

Taxa that are not endemic to a region may be influenced by populations outside the area.

- **Isolated populations**

A regional population that is isolated from conspecific populations elsewhere experiences little or no genetic exchange with populations outside the region. In this case the regional population can be assessed using the IUCN Categories and Criteria alone.

- **Immigration from outside the region**

A regional population that experiences immigration of individuals from elsewhere will be influenced by events affecting the populations outside the region. This may result in an increased or a decreased extinction risk for populations within the region and the regional assessment may need to be upgraded or downgraded accordingly.

3.6. Procedure for using IUCN Red List criteria at regional levels

At the regional level, the assessment should be carried out in a two-step process that is slightly different for breeding and non-breeding populations (figure 3.4.).

NOTE: If there are both breeding and non-breeding subpopulations of the same taxon within the region (i.e. the individuals in one subpopulation are non-reproducing migrants) each group should be treated as different taxa and be assessed separately.

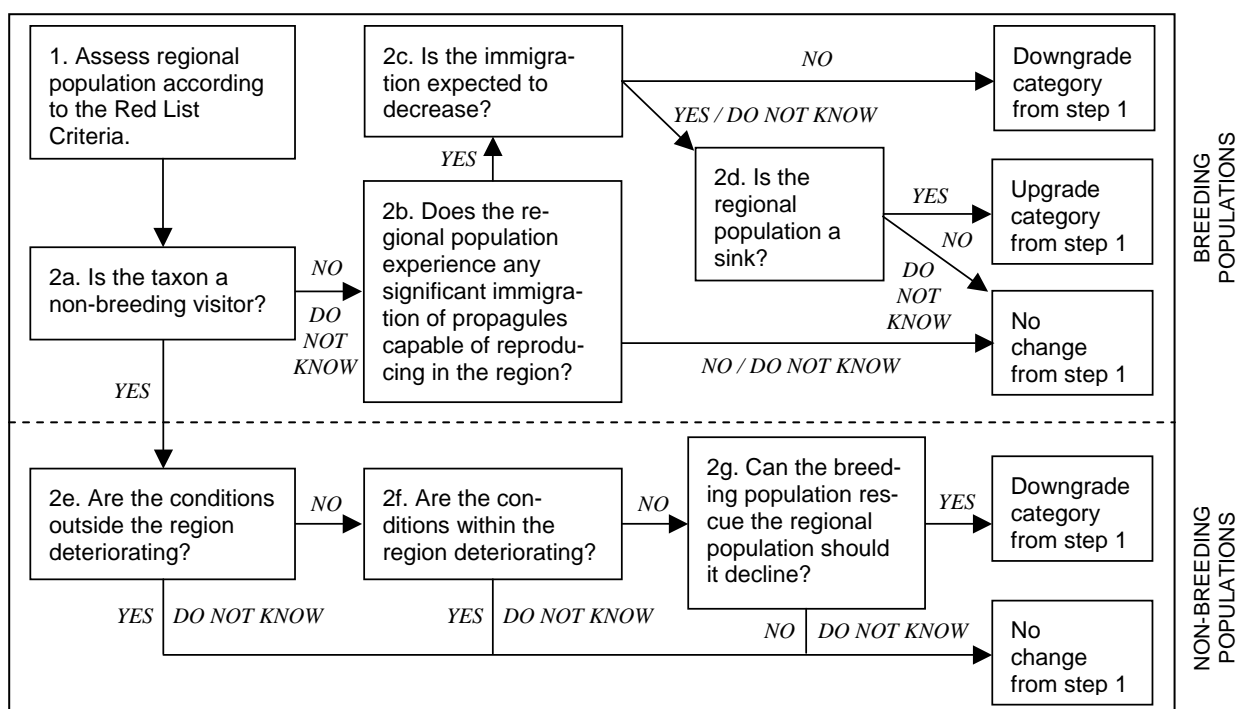


Figure 3.4. Conceptual scheme of the procedure for assigning an IUCN Red List category at the regional level.

Breeding populations

Step One (figure 3.4., boxes 1 and 2a)

- Treat the regional population initially as being endemic, i.e. all populations existing outside the region should be ignored.
- Use data from the regional population only to apply the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria version 3.1*. Note that for taxa that migrate to other regions during non-breeding seasons may be affected by conditions along migratory routes and at wintering sites – these should also be considered during the initial assessment. This results in a preliminary categorization.

Step Two

After the preliminary category has been determined, conspecific populations and conditions outside the region must then be considered. A series of questions are asked:

- **What is the likelihood of propagules migrating into the regional population?** (figure 3.4., box 2b).

Are there any conspecific populations outside the region within a distance from which propagules could reach the region? Is the regional population part of a larger metapopulation involving extra-regional patches? Are there any effective barriers preventing dispersal to and from neighbouring populations? Is the taxon capable of long-distance dispersal? Is it known to do so?

If there is no immigration from populations outside the region (or if it is not known whether immigration occurs), the regional population behaves as an endemic and the preliminary categorization should be left unchanged.

- **Is there any evidence for the existence of local adaptations?** (figure 3.4., box 2b).

Are there any known differences reflecting local adaptations between regional and extra-regional populations (i.e. is it probable that individuals from outside the region are adapted to survive within the region)?

If individuals from populations outside the region are unlikely to survive and reproduce within the region, then there is no effective immigration from outside and the preliminary category should be left unchanged.

- **Is suitable habitat available within the region?** (figure 3.4., box 2b).

Are current conditions of habitats and other environmental requirements of the taxon suitable for immigrating propagules to establish themselves successfully (i.e. are there habitable areas available)? Or is the taxon disappearing from the region because conditions are deteriorating?

If there is not enough suitable habitat available and current conservation efforts are not leading to an improvement within the foreseeable future, then there will be no effective immigration from outside and the preliminary category should be left unchanged.

- **What is the status of extra-regional populations?** (figure 3.4., box 2c).

How abundant is the taxon in neighbouring regions? Are the populations there stable, increasing or decreasing? Is the taxon already Red Listed in any of those regions? Are there any important threats to those populations? Is it probable that they produce an appreciable amount of emigrants and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future?

If the taxon in neighbouring regions is relatively common, there are no signs of decline, the taxon is capable of dispersing and there is (or soon will be) available habitat within the region, the preliminary category is likely to be an exaggeration of the extinction risk within the region and it would be appropriate to downgrade it to a lower category.

If the taxon in neighbouring regions is currently decreasing, the rescue effect is less likely to occur and the preliminary assessment should be left unchanged.

- **How dependent is the regional population on immigration from outside?** (figure 3.4., box 2d).

Are extant regional populations self-sustaining, showing a positive reproduction rate over the years, or are they dependent on immigration for long-term survival (i.e. is the regional population a sink)?

If there is evidence that a substantial number of propagules regularly reach the region and the population still has a poor chance of survival, the regional population may be a sink. If this is the case AND there are indications that the immigration will soon decrease or cease, the preliminary category is likely to underestimate the extinction risk within the region and it would be appropriate to upgrade it to a higher category.

Non-breeding populations

Step One (figure 3.4., boxes 1 and 2a)

- As with breeding populations, treat the regional population initially as being endemic, i.e. all populations existing outside the region should be ignored.
- Use data from the regional population only to apply the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria version 3.1*. Note that when evaluating a projected reduction or continued decline, conditions at areas used outside the region (breeding areas, migration routes) must be taken into account. This results in a preliminary categorization.

Step Two

After the preliminary category has been determined, conspecific populations and conditions outside the region must then be considered. A series of questions are asked:

- **What is the status of environmental conditions outside the region?** (figure 3.4., box 2e).

Are the habitat or other conditions deteriorating (or projected to deteriorate) in the breeding area or in other areas with resources important to the taxon?

If conditions outside the region are deteriorating, the regional population will experience a reduction or continuing decline, either current or projected, which will have affected the classification in step one. Consequently, such conditions should not be accounted for again in step two and the preliminary assessment should be left unchanged.

- **What is the status of environmental conditions inside the region?** (figure 3.4., box 2f).

Are the habitat or other conditions deteriorating, or projected to do so, within the region?

If conditions inside the region are deteriorating, the regional population will experience a reduction or continuing decline, either current or projected, which will have affected the classification in step one. Consequently, such conditions should not be accounted for again in step two and the preliminary assessment should be left unchanged.

- **What is the likelihood of a rescue effect from the breeding population?** (figure 3.4., box 2g).

Is the taxon globally very sparse (e.g. is it globally threatened under criterion D, Near Threatened because it almost meets VU D, or not yet evaluated for the global Red List (NE) but estimated to meet criterion D)?

If the breeding population is very restricted or very small, the regional population cannot expect a rescue effect to occur and the preliminary category should be left unchanged.

If the breeding population is substantial and conditions are not deteriorating inside or outside the region, the preliminary assessment is likely to be an exaggeration of the extinction risk within the region and it would be appropriate to downgrade it to a lower category.

Upgrading and Downgrading

The flow diagram (figure 3.4.) summarises the steps involved in carrying out a regional Red List assessment of a taxon. In some cases, the conclusion involves downgrading or upgrading the preliminary category from step one. In most cases, where immigration is influencing the regional population, the category will be downgraded because the regional population is experiencing a “rescue effect” from populations outside the region.

Normally, such a downgrading will involve a one-step change in category:

- Critically Endangered (CR) downgraded to Endangered (EN)
- Endangered (EN) downgraded to Vulnerable (VU)
- Vulnerable (VU) downgraded to Near Threatened (NT)

NOTE: The categories Extinct (EX), Extinct in the Wild (EW), Regionally Extinct (RE), Data Deficient (DD), Not Applicable (NA), Not Evaluated (NE) and Least Concern (LC) cannot be downgraded.

In some cases, a downgrading of two or even more steps may be necessary. For example:

- Expanding populations whose global range barely touches the edge of a region
- A very small region that is not isolated by barriers from surrounding regions and populations

Conversely, if the regional population is a demographic sink that is unable to sustain itself without immigration from populations outside the region, AND if the extra-regional source is expected to decrease, it may be appropriate to upgrade the preliminary category from step one:

- Near Threatened (NT) upgraded to Vulnerable (VU)
- Vulnerable (VU) upgraded to Endangered (EN)
- Endangered (EN) upgraded to Critically Endangered (CR)

NOTE: The categories Extinct (EX), Extinct in the Wild (EW), Regionally Extinct (RE), Critically Endangered (CR), Data Deficient (DD), Not Applicable (NA) and Not Evaluated (NE) cannot be upgraded.

Examples

Two examples of regional assessments from the Swedish Red List are given below.

Sandwich tern, *Sterna sandvicensis*

It is estimated that there are 450 breeding pairs in Sweden. Generation time is approximately eight years and surveys have shown that the population within the region has suffered a decline of 65% over the last 24 years.

The preliminary assessment of the regional population (step one) is Endangered (EN A2ac; C1).

The species is not endemic to Sweden. For example, there is a large and stable population in Germany and the population in Holland is increasing. Immigration from both of these populations into Sweden is very probable. The preliminary category has been downgraded from Endangered to Vulnerable based on the probable rescue effect from populations outside the country.

Final assessment: VU A2ac; C1



Caspian tern, *Sterna caspia*



Survey information from 1999 indicated that there were 415 breeding pairs existing in nine colonies in Sweden and 80 solitary breeding pairs. Generation time is estimated at 8-10 years and there is continuous population decline. About 65% population reduction has occurred over the last 24-30 years.

The preliminary assessment of the regional population is Endangered (EN A2ae; C1+2a(i)).

The species is not endemic to Sweden. However, a decrease in the Caspian tern population in the entire Baltic Sea area (Sweden, Finland and Estonia) of 39% has been noted over the last three generations. The nearest population outside of this area is in the Black Sea. In the event of extinction from Sweden and the Baltic Sea area, the probability of re-colonization from as far away as the Black Sea is very low. Consequently, the preliminary assessment remains unchanged.

Final assessment: EN A2ae; C1+2a(i)

3.7. Documentation and publication of regional Red Lists

The final design of a regional Red List is the decision of the regional authority. However, in order to facilitate easy exchange of information between assessors in different regions, it is recommended that all regional assessments follow the global assessment documentation standards (see the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria version 3.1. annexes 2-3*).

Printed Red Lists

For a printed version of the regional Red List, there may be sound reasons for omitting some of the documentation included in the global Red List assessments (e.g. including distribution maps, habitat preferences, current threats and conservation measures for every species may result in the Red List being too expensive to publish). However, a printed Red List should present at least the following information (see figure 3.5.):

- Introductory sections giving a list of the taxonomic groups within the region that have been evaluated against the Red List Criteria, an explanation of the taxonomic standards followed and an explanation of any regionally determined settings and filters, etc. (e.g. delimitation of natural range, time limits for regional extinction, decision factors used to determine what is a visitor and what is a vagrant)
- Scientific name and authority
- Vernacular name (in the national language)
- Regional Red List **Category and Criteria** met
- A clear indication of which taxa have been upgraded or downgraded
- If the taxon has been assessed at the global level the global Red List Category and Criteria should be indicated (see the IUCN Red List web site at www.redlist.org)
- Proportion of the global population occurring within the region, if this can be estimated. If this is unknown, it should be noted with a question mark.
- An indication of which taxa are non-breeding visitors to the region (e.g. visiting taxa may be listed in a separate section)
- If possible, a short summary of the supporting rationale for the assessment should be included.

Electronic Red Lists

An electronic version of the Red List on the World Wide Web is an easy way to include the full documentation supporting each assessment in the regional Red List, including the documentation above and:

- Supporting rationale for each assessment.
- Distribution map for each taxon (if possible)

- Current population trends
- Habitat preferences
- Major threats to the population
- Current and recommended conservation measures
- Any changes to the taxon's status since the previous Red List and reason's for this change
- Data sources
- Names and contact details of the assessor(s)
- Listings and documentation for taxa assessed as Least Concern

While the printed version would normally be published in the national language(s), publication of an electronic version both in the national language and in English is recommended as this will make the information available to a much wider audience. This version may also include the extensive listing and documentation of Least Concern taxa.

Taxon Name	Common Name	Breeder (B) Visitor (V)	Regional Red List Assessment	Global Red List Assessment	Proportion (%) of Global Population
<i>Sterna caspia</i> Pallas, 1770	Caspian Tern	B	EN A2ae; C1+2a(i)	LC	10
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> Latham, 1787	Sandwich tern	B	VU [*] A2ac; C1	LC	0.4

Figure 3.5. Example of a regional Red List presenting the two Swedish examples given above. The dot next to the category for *Sterna sandvicensis* indicates that the preliminary category has been adjusted after considering populations outside the region. The data and rationale behind each assessment should also be fully documented according to the *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria version 3.1*. Such additional documentation may be presented on the World Wide Web.

Conflicting regional and global assessments

Non-endemic taxa

A global threat category for a taxon may sometimes differ from a national or regional threat category that results from the application of the IUCN Red List Criteria at the regional level.

- Taxa that are assessed as globally Least Concern due to the global population being large and widespread may be threatened within a particular region because in that part of the taxon's range numbers are low and may be declining (i.e. the region holds a small proportion of the global population).
- Taxa that are assessed as globally threatened due to the rate of population decline across its total range (criterion A) may be Least Concern within a particular region because the population size there is over 10,000 and there has been little or no population decline in that particular part of the global range.

NOTE: Taxa that are globally threatened but regionally Least Concern should be included in the regional Red List (with the regional category noted as LC). The inclusion of such taxa is important for setting priorities for conservation action in the region since their protection within the region may be particularly significant at the global level.

Endemic taxa

In some cases there may be disagreement between a regional assessment of an endemic taxon and the current global Red List assessment of the same taxon. In such cases, it is important that the regional assessors contact the appropriate global Red List Authority (contact the Red List Programme office at redlist@ssc-uk.org for contact details of the appropriate Red List Authority).

- If the regional and the global assessors reach an agreement on the most appropriate assessment and the global category is changed, the new global category may be used in the regional Red List even if it is published before the next annual update of the global Red List.
- If no agreement is reached between the regional and the global assessors, the regional authority may submit an appeal based on the Red List Criteria to the Red List Programme office (redlist@ssc-uk.org) for judgement by the SSC Red List Programme Standards and Petitions Subcommittee.
- If no conclusion is reached before the finalization of the regional Red List, the category determined by the regional assessment may be used as the regional category, and the IUCN global category should be used as the global category.

NOTE: Where global and regional assessors disagree over the categorization of an endemic taxon, the issues involved must be documented under the listing for that taxon.

Regional Red List versus regional conservation actions

Regional Red Lists are often compiled to help regional authorities set priorities for conservation action within the region. It is important to note here that assessment of extinction risk and setting conservation priorities are two related, but different processes.

Regional Red List

- The compilation of the regional Red List generally precedes the setting of conservation priorities.
- The categorization process is limited to using data on population size, declines, range area and responses to threats.
- The Red List category gives a relative estimate of the likelihood of extinction of the taxon.
- The Red List is used as a tool in setting conservation priorities.

Conservation priority setting

- Setting conservation priorities normally includes the assessment of extinction risk (i.e. the Red List can be used as part of the priority setting process).
- Takes into account factors that have not been considered in the Red List criteria. These may be:
 - Ecological
 - Phylogenetic
 - Historical
 - Cultural preferences for some taxa over others
- Considers the probability of conservation actions for a particular taxon being successful.
- Must take into account the availability of funds and personnel to achieve the targets set for conservation actions.
- Must consider existing legal frameworks in place before conservation actions are prioritised (e.g., the global status, inclusion in CITES and CMS lists, proportion of the global population occurring within the region, etc must be taken into account).