sDiv working group meeting summary

" sRedList - Accelerating IUCN Red List assessments for rapid and effective biodiversity monitoring"

The first sRedList workshop was held in March 2021 between Monday 22nd and Thursday 25th. Because of the impossibility to travel and national lockdowns due to the COVID-19 situation, the workshop was held remotely all days between 14:00 and 18:00 CET using the platform ZOOM. Despite this remote context, the workshop was very productive, with many interesting and ordered discussions, and characterized by a friendly atmosphere. The participation was higher than originally expected, the number of active participants ranged between 23 and 25 all days. Most participants were very much engaged in the discussions and the organization of the workshop was praised by participants. sDiv support (before and during the workshop) was greatly appreciated and allowed the workshop to run smoothly.

The first day was devoted to the introduction to the project, participants, workshop agenda, and ongoing projects. First, Marten Winter presented the iDiv centre and sDiv program to all participants. Then, we did a round-table introduction. Next, Moreno Di Marco presented the background of the project, Luca Santini presented the agenda of the workshop, and Victor Cazalis the state of the art. We concluded the day with short presentations by five participants who had ongoing projects relevant for the objective of the sRedList project. The objective was to update all participants about ongoing work before starting the actual discussion on Tuesday.

The second day started with a short presentation by Luca about the goals of the sRedList project. We had a first discussion on the general objectives of the working group, and then breakout in three different rooms. One room was moderated by Victor and concerned the literature review work that will be the first output of the working group (first draft by Summer), one by Luca and concerned products and approaches to estimate the Area of Habitat, and the last room was moderated by Moreno and concerned the comparison of existing correlative approaches aimed at predicting species RL status. The three moderators reported back to the whole group and we had time for feedback and discussion.

The third day we held four short breakout rooms, first two, and then sequentially other two. One room was moderated by Luca and concerned the challenges of applying the methods to different taxonomic groups, the second was moderated by Moreno and concerned the application of the project to Data Deficient species. The

third room was again moderated by Moreno and related to the development of innovative approaches for automatic literature search to support the work of RL assessors, and the last room was moderated by Victor and focused on available biodiversity databases that could support the analyses of the working group. After reporting back and discussing, Luca, Moreno and Victor had one final discussion group on the research implementation gap with the RL committee members.

The fourth day was dedicated to wrapping up the conclusions of the main discussion points and plan of the work to be done for the following year. Victor also took the opportunity to clarify the co-authorship rules and receive feedbacks from all participants. The day ended with an informal (online) drink.

Overall, the workshop allowed to clarify the global objective of the working group. While the original focus was restricted to reassessment prioritisation (i.e., to deal with the growing number of out-dated species), the group agreed that most of the effort could jointly help with resolving Data Deficient species and helping first assessments. It is thus likely that the final product of the working group will not be specific to reassessments.

The workshop also helped identify future research areas for the next year and later. Specifically, the tasks of the two postdocs related to the project (Victor Cazalis at iDiv and Pablo Lucas at Sapienza University) have been clarified and gathered in an internal report. As this meeting marked the kick-off of the project, no research papers have been clearly delineated yet, but many ideas have been listed and ordered by priority which will lead to further specific discussions.

Many discussions during the workshop were related to the implementation of the final product of the working group. Specifically, participants listed the blocking mechanisms explaining the current research/implementation gap regarding computing methods in the Red List and agreed that most of these mechanisms related to the lack of early interactions between academics, RL coordination bodies and assessors. The group then listed actions needed at different stage of the project to engage in discussion with relevant interlocutors.

The working group decided to gather again in one year (March 2022) for a week workshop. In the between, a 1-day online workshop will be organised around November 2021 for a quick update on the advances.