



EUROPEAN RED LIST OF TAXONOMISTS

Virtual Workshop The European Red List of insect taxonomists - Assessment of taxonomic expertise in Europe

Hosted by CETAF, Pensoft and IUCN

Date/Time: Friday 21st January 2022, 9:30 - 16:00 (CET)

Background

The European Red List of insect taxonomists is a European Commission project implemented by Pensoft, CETAF and IUCN. The overall aim is to assess the extent of taxonomic expertise on insects at the Pan-European and EU level, including national level assessments for some taxa of particular importance as pollinators. The project is a response to the Commission's recognition of the risk of disappearance of taxonomic expertise, which would hinder the effective implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, including actions to reverse the decline of (pollinating) insects. Without taxonomists, it will not be possible to document the populations and trends of species, and thus to assess their conservation status.

More specifically, under this project partners have developed, tested and affirmed a novel methodology based on similar principles as used under the IUCN Red Listing process. The methodology will be used to highlight gaps in expertise, and those that are at risk of going "extinct". A comprehensive dataset on taxonomic expertise was compiled and curated, during the first 10 months of the project, via different channels including querying the CETAF community, taxonomic organisations, research infrastructures, literature and via a purpose built taxonomic experts [self declaration portal](#).

You can [read more](#) about the initiative on the EU Pollinator Information Hive website.

Aims of workshop

The aims of this workshop are as follows:

- 1) To present the results from the first Pan-European and EU assessment on the extent of taxonomic expertise on insects.
- 2) To comprehensively tackle major topics related to understanding the implications of the results for the relevant EU and national public authorities and the taxonomic community and propose recommendations for future actions to avoid risks of further erosion of insect taxonomic expertise.
- 3) To identify potential channels and processes for long term sustainability and expansion of the European Red List of Taxonomists assessments, including data acquisition and accuracy, securing funding and attracting other stakeholders and end-user communities.

The outcomes from the workshop will form the foundation for development of a set of consolidated future recommendations (embedded in the tender deliverable), on how to improve and sustain taxonomic expertise in the EU.

Agenda

Time	Activity	Title/Topic	Speakers/Facilitators
Session 1: Project scope and results			
9:30 - 9:40	Welcome and aims of workshop		Ana Casino (<i>CETAF Executive Director</i>), Michael Creek (Stickydot)
9:40 - 9:50	Presentation	Project purpose: in broader EU policy context	Vujadin Kovacevic (<i>EU Commission</i>)
9:50 - 10:00	Presentation	Overview of work & progress	Lyubomir Penev & Boris Barov (Pensoft)
10:00 - 10:15	Presentation	Assessment methodology & provisional results	Axel Hochkirch & David Allen (IUCN)
10:15- 10:35	Q & A		
10:35 - 10:50	Break		

Session 2: Closing knowledge gaps & increasing capacity to prevent the loss of expertise			
10:50 - 12:00	Discussion 1 <i>3 x breakout sessions</i>	Taxonomic community wants and needs from the societal, scientific and political interfaces.	
12:00 - 13:10	Discussion 2 <i>3 x breakout sessions</i>	Mechanisms/actions for fulfilling community wants and needs.	
13:10 - 14:00	Lunch		
Session 3: Utilising funding opportunities & building recognition			
14:00 - 14:10	Presentation	The role of taxonomic expertise in the overarching EU Strategy.	TBD
14:10 - 14:20	Presentation	Funding opportunities in the EU landscape.	TBD
14:20 - 14:30	Presentation	National funding opportunities	TBD
14:30 - 14:45	Discussion 3 <i>Open discussion</i>	Existing funding and its coverage of the taxonomic community needs	
14.45 - 15:45	Discussion 4 <i>3 x Breakout sessions</i>	Working together with end-user communities and national authorities	
15:45- 16:00	Concluding remarks/next steps		Ana Casino