sDiv working group meeting report
"sRedList"

The sRedList working group gathered for three days between the 15 and 17th of March 2023 for their fifth meeting (second one in presence). The main objectives were to collectively test the sRedList platform prototype, to discuss its release and future developments, and to progress on the Biodiversa proposal. The day before the workshop, a side-event was organised to discuss the connection between the GLOBIO-species model and the Red List.

General research updates:
Four research papers are getting closer to publication in the working group:
- Cazalis et al., focusing on modelling and prioritising reassessments of Data Deficient species is currently in Minor revision at Conservation Biology
- Lucas et al., focusing on prioritising reassessments in amphibians is currently under review at Biological Conservation
- Mancini et al., focusing on modelling future species trends to inform Red List criterion A3 will be submitted in the next months
- Henry et al., focusing on modelling extinction risk of birds considering each criterion independently will be submitted in the next months

Platform prototype progresses:
Progress in the development of the sRedList platform was presented to the whole group. This includes for instance a module to extract and visualise species' countries of occurrence, to map fragmentation, to calculate deforestation within the range, or to use alpha hull or kernels to map species' distribution. For the first time, the whole group was able to test the platform during a breakout session that enabled collecting a lot of feedback on the platform analyses, layout, and documentation. This feedback will help to finetune the platform before formal testing.
We also established the development priorities for the next year by listing all development wishes and assigning a 1 to 5 priority score to each task. Development for the upcoming year will include for instance improving some analyses (e.g. enabling specific timeframes for deforestation calculation), improving the interactivity of some steps (e.g. enabling removing manually some occurrence points), and adding some new modules (e.g., to estimate future trends following Mancini et al. or to prioritise reassessments for Data Deficient species following Cazalis et al.).

Platform testing:
We will run a new test phase with assessors before the public release. This is needed to detect any major blockage in the use or uptake of the platform, to minimise the risk that the first public release is not well received (which would be very difficult to overcome in terms of communication with assessors). We identified a few test groups that could test it relatively soon and will contact them in the next weeks, expecting tests to happen in May.

We also drafted a survey to share with testers (and later to real users of the platform) in order to get feedback on their experience of the platform prototype. This will enable us to adapt the platform, documentation or training in order to improve users' experience in the future, as well as tracking the general utility of the platform. We also discussed different strategies to more directly track the use of the different modules of the platform by directly recording some stats on the use of the platform, and/or by following what is uploaded in the Red List system through SIS Connect.

We expect the first public release of the prototype to happen later this year (hopefully between July and September) and spent a few minutes discussing it. The Red List Unit and the Global Center for Species Survival will help us organise the release and disseminating information to assessors. We will organise a few webinars, send email to group coordinators and assessors directly, and advertise the platform on SIS and on the Red List website.

We will also publish a scientific paper to present the platform to the conservation community. We have discussed its objective and content during the workshop and already started drafting it. The objective of the paper will be to present the platform and how it can bridge the gap highlighted in our first paper (Cazalis et al. 2022, TREE) by fast-tracking and informing assessments, highlighting that it builds on a decade of science development that were lacking uptake. Strong emphasis will be put on why we think this tool is able to bridge the research implementation gap and we will include some information on how the platform is used based on a small survey and some information collected through the platform.

Future:
The working group is currently trying to secure funding to maintain and further develop the sRedList platform prototype to the next level. We used the workshop to draft proposals and discuss the strategy of the working group in case of acceptance and rejection of the different funding opportunities.
Overall, the workshop was a big success with major advancement and a great connection between the group members, which was facilitated by the great support of sDiv. We were very sad to realise this was our last workshop at iDiv!