The importance of National Red Lists for conservation: from assessments to action

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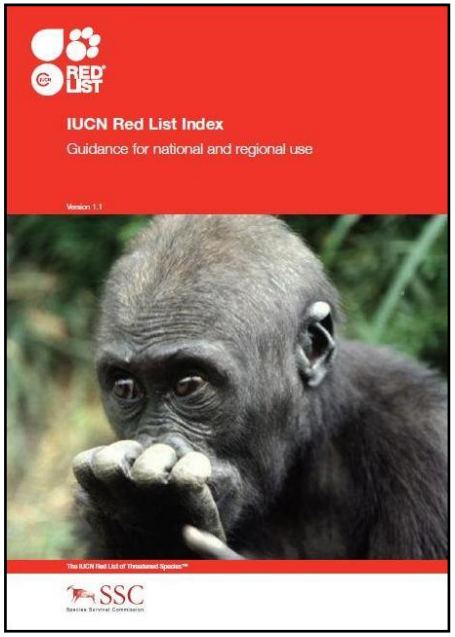
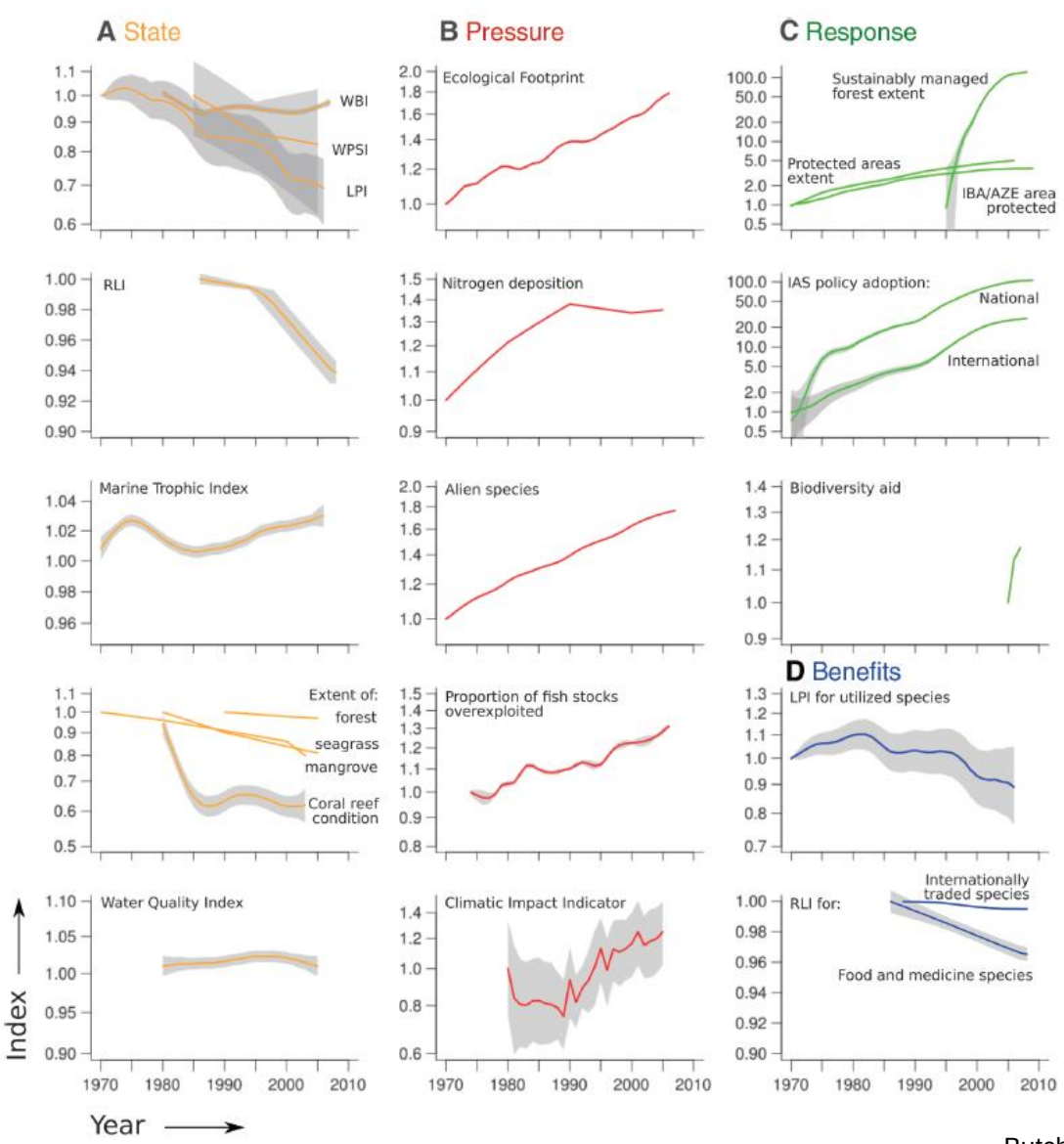
LIVING CONSERVATION

Why National Red Lists?

- Monitor status of biodiversity in the region
- Identify priority species & habitats
- Identify knowledge gaps
- Assist in site-based conservation planning
- Communication & awareness raising
- Provide species inputs for environmental impact assessment
- Help guide allocation of resources for biodiversity conservation
- Support policy development



The motivation: biodiversity in crisis



Butchart, Walpole, Collen, *et al*. 2010 *Science;* Walpole *et al.* 2009 *Science*

Global commitment to biodiversity

Convention on Biological Diversity

COP 10 MOP 5
Nagoya, Japan 2010

Life in Harmony, into the future

CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020:

The Red List is a very important tool for measuring progress in at least 13 of the 20 Targets

***Target 12**: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained*

CBD strategic goal	CBD 2020 target Summarised from Report of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on the Work of its Third Meeting, document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/4, June 2010
A. Address underlying causes	1. Everyone is aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably
	2. Biodiversity is integrated into national and local development and planning processes
	3. Harmful incentives are eliminated or reformed and positive incentives are developed and applied
	4. Governments and businesses have achieved or implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption
B. Reduce pressures and promote sustainable use	5. Loss, degradation and fragmentation of forest and other habitats is at least halved
	6. Overfishing and destructive fishing practices are eliminated
	7. Agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably
	8. Pollution is reduced to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity
	9. Invasive alien species are identified, prioritised and controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to control pathways of introduction
	10. Pressures on corals and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimised
C. Safeguard ecosystems, species and genes	11. Terrestrial, inland-water, coastal and marine areas, especially those of particular importance for biodiversity, are conserved through comprehensive, representative and well-connected systems of effectively managed protected areas
	12. Extinction and decline of threatened species is prevented and their status improved
	13. Loss of genetic diversity in crop, livestock and wild relatives is halted
D. Enhance benefits from biodiversity and ecosystems	14. Ecosystems that provide essential services and livelihoods are safeguarded and/or restored, with equitable access
	15. Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks is enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including 15% of degraded ecosystems
	16. Access to genetic resources is enhanced and benefits shared
E. Enhance implementation through planning, knowledge management and capacity building	17. All parties have implemented effective national biodiversity strategies and action plans
	18. Traditional knowledge and practices are protected and their contribution to biodiversity conservation is enhanced
	19. Knowledge and technologies relating to status, trends and value of biodiversity are improved and shared
	20. Human resources and financing for implementing CBD has increased.

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Life in Harmony, into the future

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Targets 2011-2020:

Again, Red Lists are a very important tool for measuring progress towards targets

***Target 2**: An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action*

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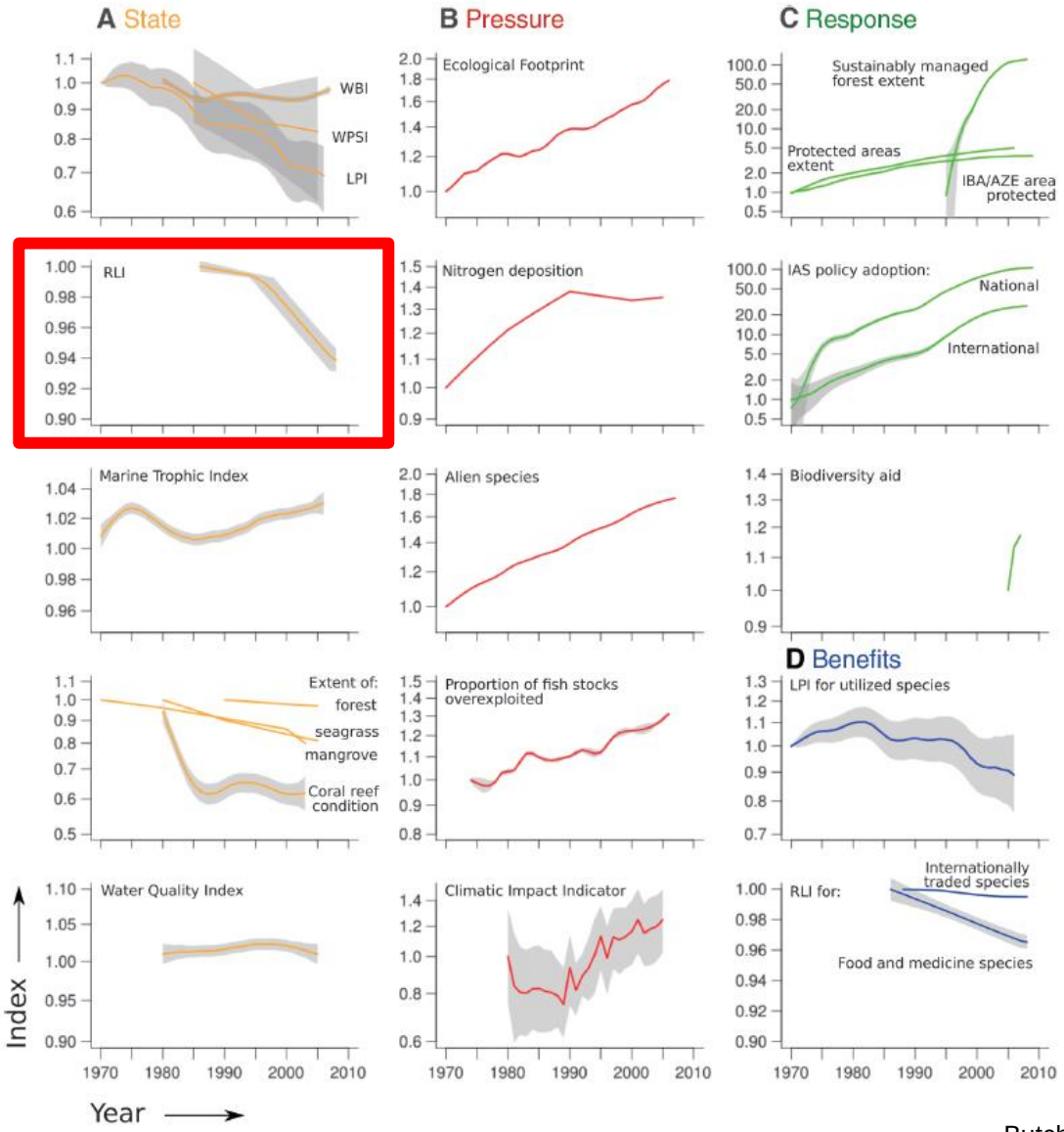
Keeping track of biodiversity



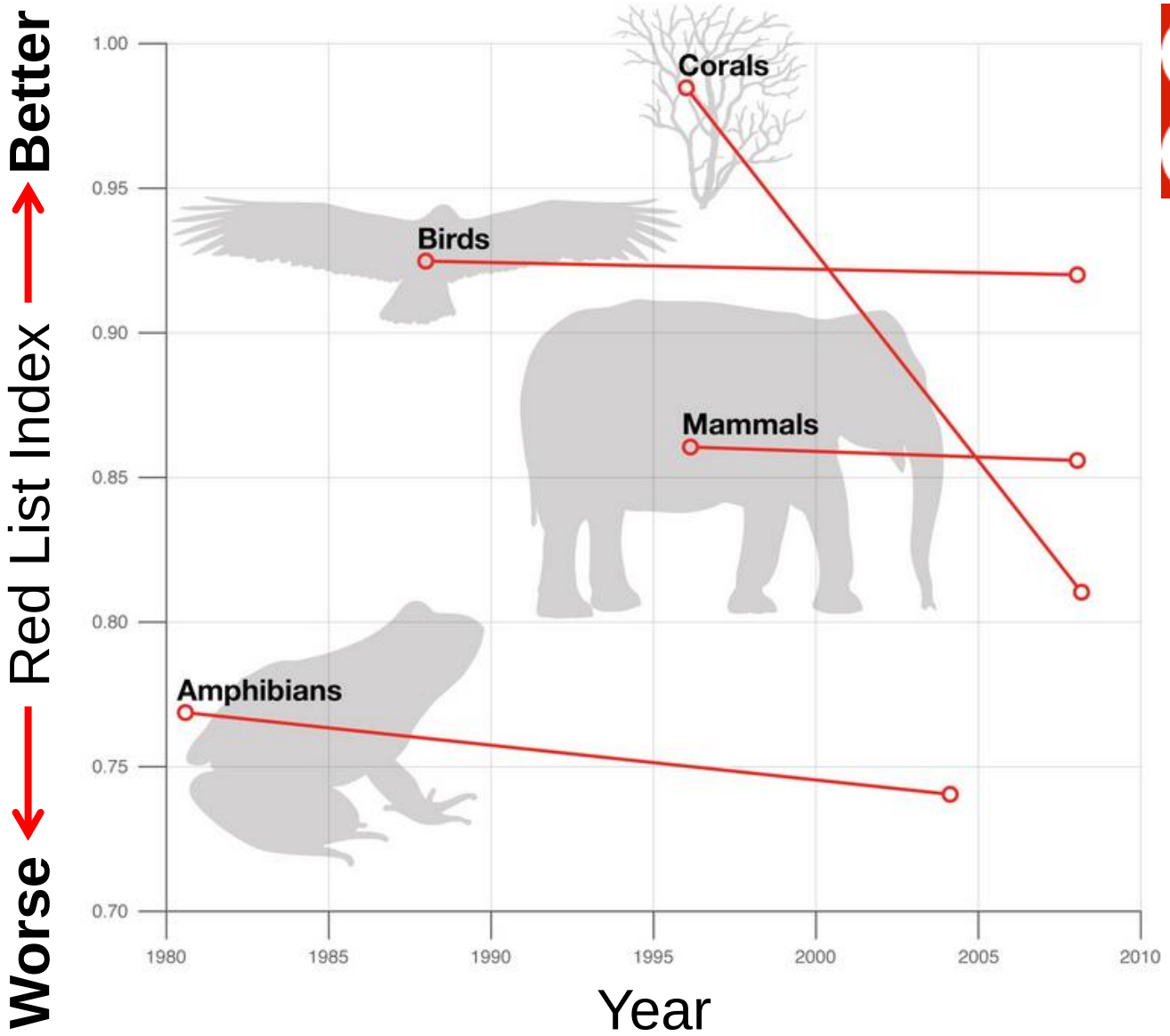
e.g.

Extinction risk of species

Population trends

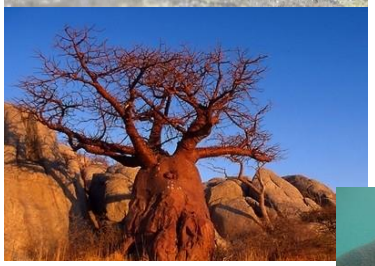
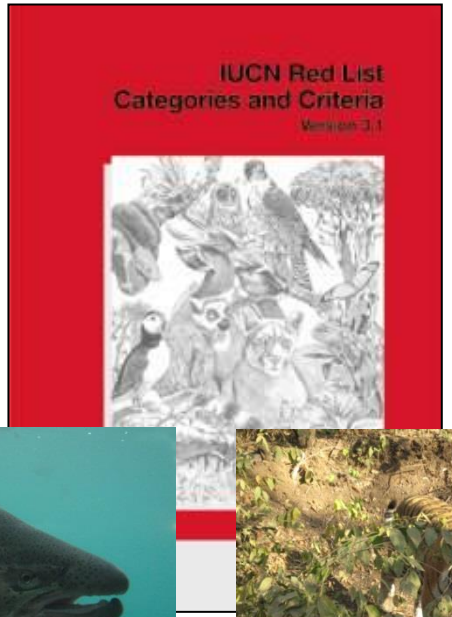
Butchart, Walpole, Collen, *et al*. 2010 *Science;* Walpole *et al.* 2009 *Science*

The IUCN Red List Index

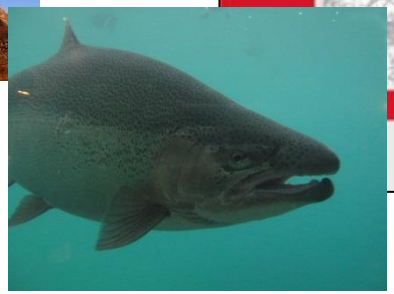


The IUCN Red List

- most comprehensive information source for extinction risk of species
- provides an explicit, objective framework for the classification of the broadest range of species according to their extinction risk

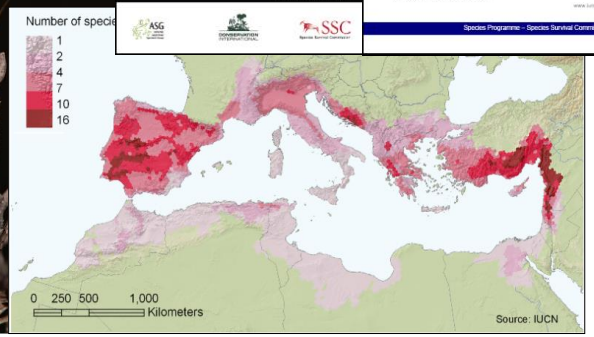




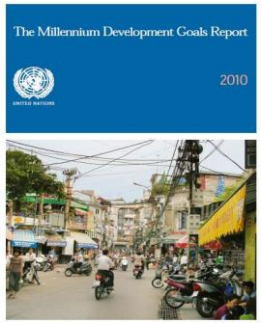





IUCN Red List system – why?

- **Analysis and information**
- **Conservation planning and priority-setting**
- **International conservation policy**
- **Influencing funding allocations**
- **Private sector decision-making**
- **Education and public awareness**





Advantages of using IUCN standards

- Most widely used system for assessments of species status
- Assessments are comparable across regions/countries
  - Reliance on the same data types, e.g. occurrence records
  - Helps with assessing status of populations outside the national range
  - Introduces consistency & helps build global picture of species status
- Facilitates inclusion of assessments onto IUCN Red List
- Achieving harmonization of Red Lists across space



Advantages of using IUCN standards

- Reputable system & international standard
- Resonates with funders, private sector etc during funding allocations/environmental decision making
- Large community using the system, many people to learn from & exchange experiences
- Many tools available to help development of Red Lists using IUCN Categories and Criteria



National Red List coverage

- 122 countries have national lists (77 use the IUCN system)
  (Zamin et al. 2010 Cons. Biol.)

- **Criteria systems used by current data:**
  IUCN Categories and Criteria: 70%
  Modified-IUCN: 7%
  Non-IUCN: 23%

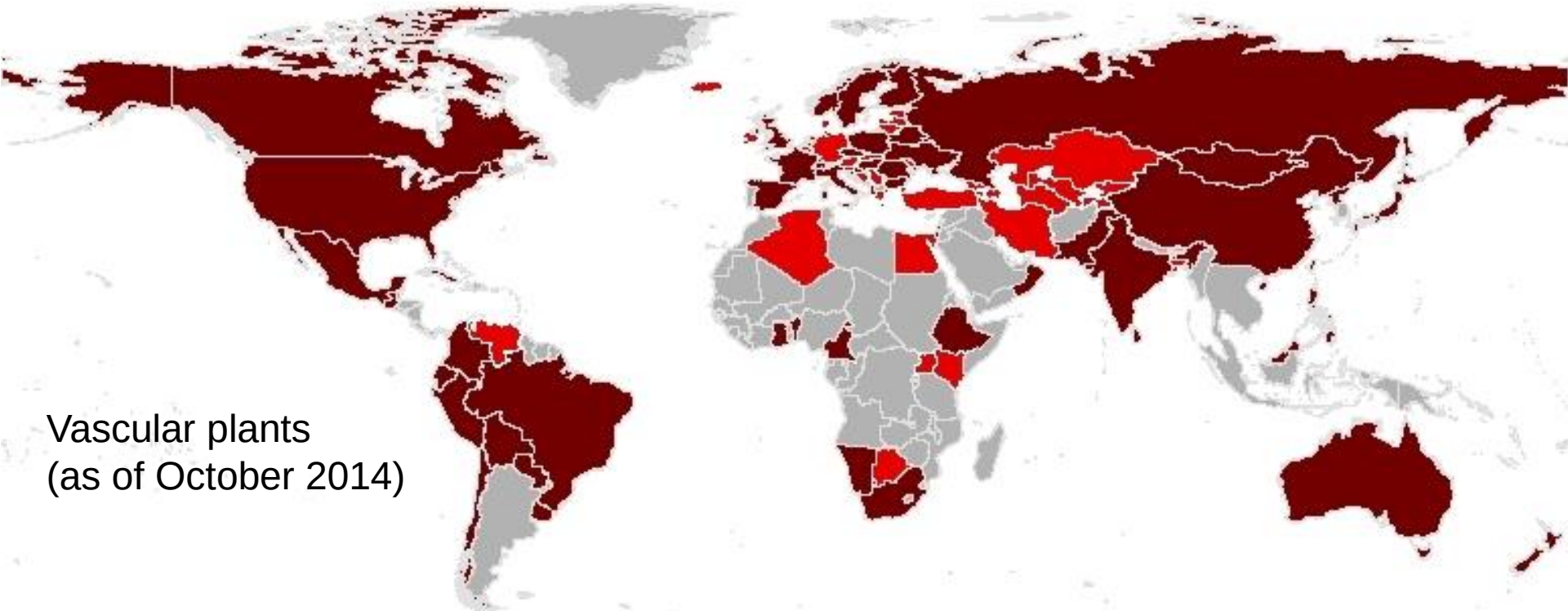
  (National Red List database, 12/08/14)

These statistics are currently being updated

National Red List workshop,
Dushanbe (TJK), November 2010

National Red List coverage

- 98 countries have national lists which include plants
- Of these, 87.7% use IUCN Categories and Criteria
  (CBD 2014. National Red Lists: Global coverage and applications. UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/43. https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-43-en.pdf)



Vascular plants
(as of October 2014)

National Red List Alliance & website

- National Red List Alliance:
  - established in 2013 to promote National Red listing
  - help countries monitor their progress towards achieving Millennium Development Goal 7 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (particularly target 12)

- National Red List website & database:
  - Assessment resources and help
  - Case studies
  - Repository for national and regional assessments
  - In future, better integration with the IUCN Red List
  - www.nationalredlist.org

Acknowledgements