

The Amphibian Red List Authority

2017-2020 Guidance Document



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Annex 1: 2017-2020 ARLA work plan—coming soon

Annex 2: ARLA Manual—coming soon

Executive Summary

The IUCN Red List of Threatened species is maintained and developed through the efforts of a global community. Of the different groups conducting assessments, maintaining the website and database, and safeguarding the standards of the IUCN Red List, Red List Authorities (RLAs) are appointed by the Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to ensure that all species within their jurisdiction are correctly assessed against the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and published on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species at least once every ten years.

The Amphibian Red List Authority (ARLA) is the group tasked by the Chair of the IUCN SSC with overseeing the process of maintaining amphibian assessments in the IUCN Red List. The majority of IUCN SSC Specialist Groups serve as the RLAs for their particular species, and indeed the ARLA is based within the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG).

The ARLA is constituted of professionals dedicated to the study and conservation of amphibians and are members of the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) and by default also members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Together, we form a subgroup of the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) and build on the work of the 2004 Global Amphibian Assessment.

In response to changing circumstances and an ongoing learning process, the membership, structure, strategy and resources of the ARLA have all changed considerably since its establishing in 2009. This document aims to capture this evolution and serve as a reference to ARLA members past, present and future. One such change to highlight is described in the History chapter: the resurrection of the name Global Amphibian Assessment, echoing the 2001-2004 initiative and reflecting the momentous size and time-bound nature of the task we are undertaking.

The work of the ARLA during this 2017-2020 IUCN Quadrennium will consist of completing and publishing the results of the Second Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA2) by end 2018 and laying the groundwork for the Third (GAA3). We will carry on updating many regions simultaneously (see Annex 1), utilising the “mini-workshop” model, described under the Amphibian IUCN Red List Procedure, as much as possible. New to this Quadrennium is our role as facilitators and members of the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan “Global Amphibian Assessment” chapter Working Group. Additional activities will include a consultation on the citation format of assessments on the IUCN Red List and others as they arise.

Thanks to the ongoing commitment of our Regional Coordinators, we are making solid progress on GAA2. Thanks to the leadership of the current ASG Co-Chairs, Drs Phil Bishop and Ariadne Angulo, the work of the ARLA is more embedded in the overall strategy and structure of the specialist group during this period enabling us to better engage the wider ASG membership. In addition, the increased collaboration with the leadership and partners of the Amphibian Survival Alliance over the last few years, we are also enjoying greater support, connectedness and visibility in the global conservation community.

History of the Amphibian Red List Authority

The Global Amphibian Assessment

In 2001, the Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA) began as an initiative spearheaded by IUCN, in partnership with Conservation International and NatureServe. The goal of this initiative was to comprehensively assess the conservation status of all known amphibian species.

When completed in 2004 the results of the GAA were first housed in an independent website (www.globalamphibians.org; no longer active) kindly provided by NatureServe, while details of its migration into the IUCN Red List were being finalized. The data published as the GAA and on the IUCN Red List are one and the same; subsequent updates (2006-2008) to amphibians on the IUCN Red List—but not the GAA—sometimes led readers to believe that they were two different databases. Following the discontinuation of the GAA website, the term “Global Amphibian Assessment” was also retired and the ongoing assessment of amphibians was referred to as “[Amphibians on the IUCN Red List](#)”. Again, this was to avoid any confusion that the GAA was a separate process to the red listing of amphibians.

Structure, Strategy and Sustainability of the ARLA

Since 2004, the central coordination team of the GAA based at Conservation International (Dr Simon Stuart, Janice Chanson, Mike Hoffmann, and Neil Cox) has disbanded and the ARLA was established in 2009 to carry on the assessment work. Dr Ariadne Angulo served as the first ARLA Coordinator (2009-2014) on a part-time basis, leading assessments across the globe. The resources allocated to the GAA also did not continue, which meant that amphibian red listing no longer benefitted from a team of paid, full-time staff, nor funds for extensive workshops.

This is one of the major challenges faced by the IUCN Red List: sustainability. Once a global assessment is completed for a taxonomic group, priorities and resources often shift to other groups that still require a first-time comprehensive assessment, or other topics that are seen as holding greater promise of bringing in funds. This is partly necessary to reach the goal of making the IUCN Red List a *Barometer of Life* and partly due to the general (and increasing) lack of funds for conservation efforts in general, and assessment work in particular. However, because one of the primary aims of the IUCN Red List is to indicate trends in conservation status over time for a core group of species, which includes amphibians, it must be updated as new information comes to light. This is critical to the role it plays in informing global conservation priorities, action and policy.

When established in 2009, the ARLA was comprised of a Focal Point (now Global Coordinator), “full-time” and “part-time” RLA members, where “full-time” members were RLA members appointed for the duration of the SSC Chair’s Quadrennium and “part-time” members had the capacity to act as RLA members within a given time period, but well under the standard four-year IUCN Quadrennium time-frame. Assessment work was

conducted for many years without financial resources, relying solely on the continued generosity of the global amphibian community that participated in the GAA and the many newcomers to amphibian red listing through the ARLA. Unfortunately due to the high number of species descriptions and the increasing threats to amphibians in the wild, first-time assessments and reassessments were not keeping up and a backlog began to form.

To address these changes in capacity, changing priorities, budgetary restraints, and the growing backlog of assessments, a different strategy was devised during the 2013-2016 Quadrennium: the assessment process was de-centralized, transferring leadership to regional groups as much as possible through the appointment of Tier I members (now called Regional Coordinators) and Tier II members (now Regional Working Group members) organised into Regional or National Working Groups. This new ARLA structure aimed to increase the community's sense of ownership and stewardship over amphibian assessments, increase regional capacity in red listing, and achieve higher rates of assessment and re-assessment each year to keep up with taxonomic changes, the ten-year life cycle of assessments, and the ongoing real-world changes faced by species.

In 2017, the ARLA is now a hybrid of the GAA central coordination team and the new ARLA de-centralised structure. It is now comprised of a Global Coordinator, Regional Coordinators, Regional Working Groups, Global and Regional Programme Officers, all of whom are ASG members and beholden to the *Terms of Reference for Members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission 2017-2020*, and volunteers and interns who may apply to become ASG members. These roles are explained in more detail below.

To attract much-needed investment in amphibian red listing, the name Global Amphibian Assessment was resurrected in 2017. This enables the ARLA to improve communication with stakeholders by using a well-known brand, report progress against goals in the *2017-2020 IUCN Species Strategic Plan* and *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Strategic Plan 2013-2020* more clearly, and package the work into global (i.e. GAA2, GAA3) and regional projects that are more attractive to partners and donors.

ARLA Roles and Governance

The **Global Coordinator** is appointed by the IUCN SSC Steering Committee for the duration of an IUCN Quadrennium and reports to the IUCN SSC Chair. This position is responsible for the overall governance of the ARLA, directing the work of the ARLA in view of producing assessments for all known amphibian species according to the *2017-2020 IUCN Species Strategic Plan* and *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Strategic Plan 2013-2020*, and maintaining quality and consistency across all assessments according to the *Rules of Procedure for IUCN Red List assessments 2017-2020*. In addition, this role ensures that ARLA members receive necessary training in the IUCN Categories and Criteria and the tools necessary to conduct Red List assessments, appoints ARLA Regional Coordinators and other members, serves as the link between the ARLA and IUCN's Global Species Programme and its Red List Unit, and supports the process by establishing partnerships and securing funding to accomplish this work.

Regional Coordinators are appointed by the Global Coordinator to lead amphibian assessment activities in their region or country, forming a Regional Working Group to assist with this work, if appropriate. Regional Coordinators agree to serve for the IUCN Quadrennium and, in conversation with the Global Coordinator and Working Group members, devise a strategy and work plan to achieve their quadrennial goals. Regional Coordinators can act as assessors and reviewers for amphibian assessments, and can also act as assessment contributors in those instances where they have taxonomic or regional expertise. All of this work is done in compliance with the *Rules of Procedure for IUCN Red List assessments 2017-2020* and with the aim of meeting the goals set out in the *2017-2020 IUCN Species Strategic Plan*.

A rough outline of the Regional Coordinator's Terms of Reference during a Quadrennium:

1. Accepting appointment as Regional Coordinator and undergoing training in *IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria*, the *Guidelines for using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria*, and other tools as needed;
2. Devising a suitable strategy and work plan for their region in conversation with the Global Coordinator or assigned Global Programme Officer, including estimating anticipated necessary resources and agreeing on a species list for the region (using *Amphibian Species of the World* as a foundation);
3. Appointing members of the Regional Working Group, if appropriate to the agreed strategy, including recruiting volunteers and interns;
4. Training and delegating work to members, volunteers and interns, as needed;
5. Implementing work plan in collaboration with Working Group members, volunteers and interns, soliciting the expertise and input of colleagues to ensure the most accurate and up-to-date information forms the basis for all new and updated IUCN Red List assessments; drawing on the guidance and support of the Global Coordinator and Global Programme Officers, as needed;
6. Submitting finalised assessments on a regular basis to the Global Coordinator or assigned Global Programme Officer for review and submission to the Red List Unit for publication on the IUCN Red List.

NB Some regions will not have sufficient capacity to form Working Groups. In this situation, the Global Coordinator and Programme Officers will work alongside the Regional Coordinator to achieve the region's goals. When it is not possible to identify a Regional Coordinator, the Global Coordinator or Programme Officers will coordinate the regional community in view of achieving the region's goals.

Regional Working Groups have either a regional or national focus (i.e. assessing the global assessments for the geographical area in question), which are comprised of at least one Regional Coordinator and often one or more members. The membership in each group will vary depending on 1) the strategy devised for maintaining updated assessments, 2) the expertise available in the country or region, and 3) the number of species contained within each region. There is no minimum number of members (it could be just one member) and no maximum either, although it is suggested that the numbers are kept to a level that still

enables efficient coordination and communication. Not all individuals contributing to assessments need to be Working Group members.

Regional Coordinators are requested to identify potential members for their Regional Working Groups, and discuss the membership of their group with the Global Coordinator. Members should be members of the Amphibian Specialist Group, or their participation in the assessment process can count towards the conditions of joining the ASG. The Global Coordinator may suggest members to the Regional Coordinator based on the recommendation of colleagues, ASG membership applications, etc.

The rationale for establishing these groups is to build capacity in the Red List methodology, ensure a collaborative approach to the updating of assessments, and spread the assessment workload to avoid burdening Regional Coordinators who serve in a voluntary capacity.

Regional Working Group members are appointed by the Regional Coordinator for the duration of an IUCN Quadrennium and are typically individuals who agree to be involved in a national or regional reassessment initiative based on their particular expertise. Working Group members can act as assessors, contributors and reviewers, as appropriate and in compliance with the *Rules of Procedure for IUCN Red List assessments 2017-2020*.

The table below summarizes the current ARLA Working Groups in place; these are a combination of regions defined by the 2004 GAA and the current [ASG geographic groups](#):

North and Central America and the Caribbean

Canada
Caribbean
Mesoamerica (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama)
Mexico
United States

Europe, North Africa and West Asia

Europe
North Africa
West Asia

Mainland Asia

China
Japan
Korea
Mainland Southeast Asia
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Mongolia
Mainland South Asia
Sri Lanka

Sub-Saharan Africa

East Africa

Madagascar
Southern Africa
West and Central Africa

South America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guiana Shield
Paraguay
Peru
Uruguay
Venezuela

Maritime Southeast Asia and Oceania

Australia
Fiji
Indonesia (excluding Maluku and PNG)
Malaysia
Melanesia
New Zealand
Philippines

Programme Officers report to either Global or Regional Coordinators providing general support to the Coordinator, inclusive of training in the IUCN Categories and Criteria, providing strategic and technical guidance to Regional Coordinators and Working Groups, assessment development and review, and the supervision of volunteers and interns.

Volunteers and interns typically join the ARLA for a short period of time of a minimum of 3 months full-time or six-months part time, reporting to the Global or Regional Coordinator or Programme Officers. Some individuals volunteer for many years, some come back after a hiatus, some help generally across tasks, while others develop discreet projects. Overall, volunteers and interns are critical to updating assessments, developing novel tools (e.g. the Amphibian Assessment Forum), conducting analyses, and contributing much energy and innovation to the red listing process. Interns are often early-career biologists who commit to a project that qualifies them as new ASG members.

Special Considerations for Amphibian Assessments

Amphibian IUCN Red List Procedure

The amphibian assessment process follows the standard IUCN Red List Process, which is described in the *Rules of Procedure for IUCN Red List assessments 2017-2020*.

There are, however, a few additional elements that are specific to the amphibian assessment process because this taxonomic group has already been comprehensively assessed once, and it is also possible to have some variations to the depicted approach. The steps involved are briefly explained below:

1. Taxonomic Mapping: Amphibian taxonomy has undergone significant changes since the 2004 GAA, and although the number of changes at the higher hierarchical level has reduced since the publication of Frost *et al.*'s (2006) Amphibian Tree of Life, there are still changes at the generic and species level. Furthermore, the extraordinary ascent and development of molecular techniques have meant that what were once considered to be widespread nominal species are in fact now recognized to be species complexes harbouring distinct species. This has implications for assessments, because the taxonomic concept of a species that has undergone a taxonomic split has changed. In other words, the entity that was assessed in 2004 under a particular species name is no longer the same as the entity that is being assessed now after the split. Although as yet unquantified, it is becoming clear that there are many instances of taxonomic splits in amphibians that will require greater attention. It is therefore important to “map” or chart taxonomies prior to making a reassessment, as these have an important bearing on the identity of the taxon being reassessed (this is particularly important as Red List data are linked to other databases, e.g. GBIF, iNaturalist, AmphibiaWeb, etc.).

2. Pre-Assessment: This step is common to all Red List processes and it involves the compilation of data for any one given assessment (i.e. the creation and population of draft assessments in IUCN's Species Information Service [SIS]). It can be carried out by RLA members, IUCN Species Programme staff, and other collaborators, such as interns or Specialist Group members. Typically this step also involves the development of a draft map and a compilation of relevant questions for experts involved in the assessment in question. In instances where a species is being reassessed (as will likely be the case for most of the amphibians already on the Red List), reassessments would build on existing published assessments and maps, and would be modified according to new data and expert feedback.

3. Preliminary Assessment or Reassessment: This step involves consulting on the draft assessments and maps with experts and determining an appropriate threat category based on the criteria that are met in the course of the assessment. This can be done using a combination of the following: 1) an assessment workshop, 2) email, phone or Skype exchanges.

Consultation: If a new species is being assessed, then one of the authors of the species description (either the first author or an author that has first-hand experience with the species) is contacted for help in the assessment. If it is a reassessment, then we typically work first with the author or person who has the most recent information and contact previous assessors later.

The “mini-workshop” model: This has emerged as a cost-effective and efficient adaptation of the traditional, large in-country workshops used during the 2004 GAA. While these big workshops are ideal and still possible to arrange, with so many regions to assess by the end of 2018, they are not always practical and require considerable fundraising efforts. The mini-workshop was conceived during the 2013-2016 Quadrennium as small pots of funding (US\$200-5,000) were opportunistically identified and allowed the Global Coordinator and/or a Global Programme Officer to travel and meet with a Regional Coordinator or ASG Regional Chair for an intensive day- or week-long meeting to (re)assess large numbers of species. The key elements that have contributed to the success of this model so far are:

1. The availability of funds to employ two full-time Global Programme Officers who can conduct the Pre-assessment phase and necessary consultations with other ASG members and regional experts, reducing the time required per species in a workshop and reducing the workload of the Regional Coordinator, and
2. Small facilitator to participant ratio: we have found that this model works best when one member of the Global team works one-to-one with a member of the Regional Working Group or other expert; on occasion we have had two experts per Global member or vice versa.

The time savings have been notable, reducing the duration of an update of an entire region from several years to a matter of months. It has also reduced the e-mail load of all involved, which is always welcome! This model has received positive feedback from all involved and has also proven more popular with donors than the larger workshops. In light of the ongoing nature of reassessments, we are working to hone this model, taking all feedback into account, to keep it as one of the tools in our tool box.

Amphibian Assessment Forum: The use of this tool for posting draft assessments for comment has largely been abandoned due to a lack of participation. We are considering how to best format and use this tool in future.

4. External Review: At least one independent Reviewer (either a member of the Amphibian RLA, Global Species Programme staff or a qualified member of the Species Survival Commission) is contacted and asked if they may be willing to review the assessment. A determined period of time is agreed on for providing the review. If there are any important differences of opinion with the assessment, the Reviewers then discuss these differences with the person who has been facilitating the assessment, and if needed, the assessment Facilitator addresses outstanding questions or issues with experts. Once any such questions are addressed the assessment is then passed and tagged as ready for submission.

5. Submission and Consistency Check: All passed assessments are placed in a specific submission working set within the SIS database. The ARLA Global Coordinator runs a data validation tool on the working set before submitting along with the associated shapefiles and point data to the Red List Unit (RLU). An RLU staff member spot checks submitted assessments to determine that all relevant fields have been completed and that the assessment is consistent with the documentation provided. If there are any observations on any assessment(s), the staff member will notify the ARLA Global Coordinator who will in turn contact the assessment Facilitator(s) for any required follow-up. If there are no observations, then nothing more is required on the part of the ARLA, and the assessment will be published on the Red List.

6. Publication: Accepted assessments appear online on predetermined dates for specific Red List update releases. So, even if an assessment is completed and passed in, for example, January, it will not be go live until a pre-scheduled amphibian update is published, which may be several months later. An assessment is not considered final and official until such

time as it is published on the IUCN Red List. See the [Planned Red List Update webpage](#) for upcoming publication dates.

Assessment citation format

The IUCN Red List data are housed within IUCN's Species Information Service (SIS) system. This is a standardized system used for all assessments and all taxonomic groups within the Red List. Given the wide range of citation formats used by the different IUCN Specialist Groups, SIS allows for a variety of approaches to be used within its platform. This gives the different user groups flexibility on how to cite assessments, e.g. the citation does not just have to list Assessor names recorded during assessment. However, the default setting in SIS is that if the citation field is not completed, then it uses the names in the Assessor(s) field.

In the specific case of amphibians, in June 2009 a proposal to change the Global Amphibian Assessment citation system was sent out to ASG Regional Chairs for their feedback. Development of this proposal was prompted by feedback relating to the system implemented in the 2004 GAA and the experience of the ARLA in conducting updates to the database.

The key proposed change was to change how individual amphibian species assessments are cited on the IUCN Red List. Previously, the citation format would list all of the experts who have ever been involved in determining a species' conservation assessment i.e. all of the "Assessors", as the authors. Over the course of database updates subsequent to the 2004 comprehensive assessment, several issues around the use of this format became obvious, i.e. if a species is reassessed, should all previous Assessors be removed (and include only the new Assessors) or retained? How should the Assessors be ordered for the purpose of citation, especially if additional people assist with assessment updates? Etc.

In addition to Assessor and Reviewer fields, a field for Contributors was added to SIS after the completion of the 2004 GAA. More recently, an additional field was added for Facilitators/Compilers, allowing for disaggregation of Facilitators from the Contributors' field. The additional fields provide an opportunity to change the way an individual assessment is cited. Our proposal was to use these additional fields to standardize the citation format for all individual species as follows:

Assessors: IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG)

Reviewers: Reviewer names, typically members of the Amphibian RLA and/or members of the IUCN Global Species Programme or the IUCN SSC, listed in alphabetical order by first name, cannot also be a Contributor

Contributors: A list of all the people who have contributed to the assessment, past and present, listed in alphabetical order by first name

Facilitators/Compilers: Facilitator names, listed in alphabetical order by first name (note that a Facilitator could also be listed as a Contributor or Reviewer)

Implementing this proposal changed how amphibian assessments on the Red List are cited. An example of how this new arrangement reads is as follows:

IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group. 2016. *Sclerophrys brauni*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T54592A107344093. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T54592A107344093.en>. Downloaded on **14 September 2017**

In certain circumstances, partner groups or organizations may be included as Assessors, and reviewers external to the RLA may be included as Reviewers. This approach is similar to the system used by BirdLife International, the stand-alone Red List Authority for birds.

The citation proposal received generally limited feedback, but from what was received most comments were positive. The citation change is in effect for all assessments written or updated during the GAA2 (species with a 2004 published assessment retain the old citation format until they are reassessed).

In 2016 a proposal was submitted to the Global Coordinator to change back to the 2004 format such that Assessors' names once again appear in the citation, serving as an incentive for participation in the assessment process. The timing of this proposal is particularly interesting since the 2013-2016 IUCN Quadrennium brought the new development of assigning all assessments a DOI (digital object identifier), which are now downloadable as PDFs.

Taxonomy

Amphibian taxonomy on the IUCN Red List follows the American Museum of Natural History's [Amphibian Species of the World](#) (ASW) as a taxonomic standard. Current discrepancies between the IUCN Red List and ASW are mostly explained by the lag in updating amphibian assessments. In a few instances the IUCN Red List SIS database may depart from the ASW standard to include very newly described species or to record a new split/merge which is not yet listed in the published version of ASW. Please consult with the ARLA Global Coordinator concerning issues with any given taxonomic arrangement or proposal.

All taxonomic changes (either merges or splits) or additions (e.g. new species) in SIS are made by the RLA Coordinator; if RLA members are aware of any new species or taxonomic changes that are not in the Red List, please contact the ARLA Global Coordinator.

It is important to note that when taxonomic changes are implemented in SIS and they affect the species name, the published assessment needs to be amended to reflect the name change. In addition, if it changes the distribution, ecology or conservation or threats sections, then the species needs to be reassessed.

Newly described species that do not have any synonymy associated to them (i.e. have not been called by another name in the past) are straightforward additions to SIS. However, any new species that have been associated to another name in the past (i.e. are the result of a split, resurrection or elevation) require additional attention. The new species requires a full, first-time assessment and the assessment of the concept with which they used to be

associated also needs reassessing. In other words, assessments are made of a taxonomic concept that is associated to a specific biological population. If one of its subpopulations is considered to be a new species, then its taxonomic concept changes, and an assessment of its new concept (i.e. subpopulations remaining in the concept) has to be made.

Role of the ARLA in Regional Assessments

The primary remit of the ARLA is to maintain updated amphibian assessments on the IUCN Red List. These are termed “global assessments”.

However, ARLA members can also be available to assist with national or regional red listing. When these are about to begin or are already underway, the IUCN Red List Unit or RLAs are contacted to explore how collaboration might be established between the global and individual regional assessment initiatives. Usually, it is encouraged that the national or regional process adopt the use of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, which can be adapted to this non-global level using the [Guidelines for Application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria at the Regional or National Levels](#).

The value in this, of course, is that assessments in common between global and regional assessments (i.e. endemic species) can be harmonized accordingly. This is also valuable because a single assessment process can be made to inform both global and regional or national assessments, avoiding duplication of efforts.

Potential collaborations will vary in scope and detail depending on the regional/national assessments’ and our own funding and human resources, as well as the expectations on what we can effectively offer (i.e. the extent of the Amphibian RLA involvement). Unfortunately, one of the ARLA’s greatest limitations is a lack of resources to fully implement harmonization of regional and global assessments. Therefore, if representatives of any region or country approach a member of the ARLA to explore the possibility of harmonizing assessments, it would be important that the RLA member contact the Amphibian RLA Coordinator and discuss this possibility together with other RLA members from the same country or region.

If collaboration is established between the global and a particular regional assessment initiative, the Regional Coordinator(s) from that country or region then become the liaison member(s) between the global and the regional assessment processes.

Amphibian RLA members should feel free to direct any interested parties to the National and Regional Red Lists [website](#) while further discussions regarding potential collaborations are carried out. This website contains a suite of valuable information, including a link to the Regional Guidelines, explanations of regional processes, who to go to for assistance, and tutorials and case studies.

Resources for Regional Working Groups

Regional Coordinators and Working Groups have a series of tools available for conducting and reviewing amphibian assessments. The Global Coordinator and Programme Officer(s) are available to provide training in the Category and Criteria, SIS, mapping protocols, etc. Please see Annex 2 for more information.

Web-based Resources

The primary tool used in writing assessments is IUCN's [Species Information Service \(SIS\)](#) database, where all of the amphibian (and all other) assessments are housed and which feed directly into the IUCN Red List website. Because of this, SIS is not a public database system and access to it is controlled. SIS is constantly being revised and improved, so that assessment work is facilitated through these improvements. Once ARLA members receive training in SIS they will be given an account in the database system and access to the assessments related to their region or project. Not all members require access to SIS and logins are generally limited to assessment facilitators such as Regional Coordinators, Programme Officers, and volunteers and interns.

IUCN Red List online training course: All ARLA members are requested to take and pass the [free online training course](#) prior to serving as Regional Coordinator, Programme Officer, volunteer or intern. Regional Working Group members would also benefit from taking the course to ensure their contributions to assessments are as well-informed as possible. The course is also available in French and Spanish.

The [IUCN SSC Amphibian Red List Authority Wiki Site](#) was created as a repository of resources for the Amphibian RLA membership. This has been discontinued and replaced with the [ARLA pages](#) on the amphibians.org site (scheduled for updating by end 2017).

The [Amphibian Assessment Forum](#) was launched in October 2011 and was designed to facilitate the reassessment process. As resources to conduct traditional workshop-based assessments are becoming more difficult to secure, the Amphibian Assessment Forum was hoped to serve as an alternative to assessment workshops. Due to a lack of participation in these fora, this is in the process of being reconsidered to make it a more efficient and effective tool.

Mapping Resources

IUCN has an agreement with leading geographical systems developer [ESRI](#) to access Global Information Systems (GIS) software ArcGIS to enable updating Red List species range maps. Licenses are issued to ARLA members who are actively updating assessments, and this resource can also be used in conservation research, provided that they are not used in any commercial shape or form.

[Spatial data resources](#) are issued by the Red List Unit and ARLA members are encouraged to use them. For further support, please see Annex 2, the ARLA Manual.

Technical Documents

The [technical documents](#) below are required reading for Regional Coordinators and are available on the IUCN Red List website (a number of them [in languages other than English](#)):

- **Rules of Procedure for IUCN Red List assessments Version 3.0**
- **The IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria Version 3.1**
- **Guidelines for Using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria Version 13**
- **Documentation Standards and Consistency Checks for IUCN Red List Assessments and Species Accounts Version 2.0**

In addition, there are other useful resources pertaining to IUCN's [Classification Schemes](#), some of which have changed since the GAA (please see Salafsky *et al.* 2008. A Standard Lexicon for Biodiversity Conservation: Unified Classifications of Threats and Actions. *Conservation Biology*, DOI: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2008.00937.x for further details; this paper is available for download at the link above).