

ORCHID SPECIALIST GROUP

IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

GENERAL MEETING

QUITO, ECUADOR

7 FEBRUARY 2009

The meeting was called during the Third Andean Orchid Congress and all members present at the Congress were invited. Other delegates at the Congress were invited to attend as observers. The meeting opened at 13.20.

1. Reconstitution of OSG for the Quadrennium 2009-2013

Mike Fay (Chair of OSG) reported to the membership present that 2009 is the year in which the Group is to be reconstituted for the next Quadrennium. He is waiting for notification from SSG that the OSG is to be reconstituted. At that point, he will contact the Chairs of the Regional and Thematic Groups and discuss with each of them who they consider should be invited/reinvited to serve for the next four years as members of the groups and/or the OSG. Membership of a group does not necessarily entail membership of the umbrella group. He noted that the current membership list has many members who have not been active in recent years and that there was a need to update the list to reflect accurately the members who are prepared to take an active role in the Group.

2. Visit of Simon Stuart

Simon Stuart, the newly appointed Chair of SSC, will visit Kew in early March 2009, and Mike will meet with him to discuss ideas for the next Quadrennium (see also under **Redlisting** below).

3. Regional and Thematic Groups

The current groups were discussed, and it was agreed that the South America Group should be split into two to reflect the huge number of species that occur in this region and the difficulties in maintaining an active network over such a large geographical area. The new groups will be Andean and an eastern South American. Cássio van den Berg (Brazil) agreed to progress discussion with appropriate members of OSG on the name, geographical coverage and membership of the latter.

Action: Cássio to prepare a proposal for the new group

Gerardo Salazar (Mexico) has agreed to take over the vacant position as Chair of the Mesoamerica Group. The constitution of this subgroup and its geographical coverage were discussed, and it was agreed that it should remain as it is, despite the suggestion that it could be split into two to reflect the diversity involved (continental versus Caribbean, because it was noted that the number of people

involved was too low to make two subgroups workable. Gerardo and Marilyn Light (Canada) will discuss possible areas of interaction between the North America and Mesoamerica Groups.

4. Redlisting

At the last International Orchid Conservation Congress in 2007 in San José, Costa Rica, the Redlist Co-ordinator for the OSG, David Roberts (UK), made a plea for people to add orchid species to the IUCN Redlist, but since that date only three species have been added. It was noted that for species endemic to one country, it was relatively straightforward to “translate” a national redlist entry to one for the IUCN Redlist, and that this was a good way of getting politicians to take notice of orchids. Mike urged members to consider redlisting orchids from their country/region. He will discuss the possibility of streamlining the conversion of national redlist entries to entries for the IUCN redlist with Simon Stuart.

Action: Members to consider species for redlisting and submit these to IUCN

Action: Mike to discuss streamlining the process with S. Stuart

5. Webpages

Mike reported that the OSG webpages (and the related Orchid Conservation International webpages) are now being updated after a hiatus in activity. This has been made possible due to the appointment of Hassan Rankou as Editorial Assistant for the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* (of which Mike is now Chief Editor). Hassan has extensive webpage experience and is now working on the webpages in liaison with Graham Smith who set up the pages and maintained them. Members who have any announcements that they would like to be added to the pages should send the material to Mike (m.fay@kew.org). Marilyn suggested that each regional group should consider having one or more flagship species posted on the pages along the lines of those already on the webpages for the North America Group. Examples of items added recently include the Action Plan for the recently redlisted *Platanthera praeclara* and a pdf of the Checklist of Sri Lankan Orchids by Suranjan Fernando and Paul Ormerod (posted with kind permission of the Editors of *Rheedea*).

Action: Members to submit material to Mike Fay

6. Orchid Conservation Newsletter

A call was made for items for inclusion in the next issue of the Newsletter (now electronic only). We are now in the position of being able to compile a new issue and hope that this can be compiled by mid 2009 at the latest.

Action: Members to submit copy to Mike Fay

7. The Fourth International Orchid Conservation Congress

Mike reported that despite an initial expression of interest from the Chinese, this had subsequently fallen through. The next meeting will probably be held at Kew in May 2011, with the possibility of associated fieldtrips to see European orchids in England and on the Continent. An update on this will be issued in the near future.

8. Any other business

Marilyn suggested that it would be useful for the various regional and thematic groups to look for possibility of interacting with each other, sharing expertise, experience etc.

Marilyn reported that Matt Richards (USA) was compiling a database of orchid reintroductions (successful and unsuccessful). She suggested that this could be expanded to include information of projects from other parts of the world. This met with general agreement, and Marilyn will discuss with Matt how this might be taken forward.

Action: Marilyn to discuss the way forward with Matt.

There being no other valid business, the meeting closed at 14.00.