

Bumblebee Specialist Group



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We are based in the UK and the USA and we are working internationally. We are affiliated with the Natural History Museum in London, and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and Saint Louis Zoo in the USA.

2011 Update

- The IUCN Bumblebee Specialist Group (BBSG) was formed during in early 2011. The group is in the process of inviting members and coordinating a worldwide status assessment of bumble bees.
- 11 individuals from 9 Geographic Regions have agreed to serve as Regional Coordinators for the BBSG
- Membership lists from 5 regions have been identified and members are currently being invited
- Focal points for red listing, wildlife health, and trade have been appointed
- A Scientific Advisor was appointed
- A Conservation Genetics subcommittee was formed
- A website for this group has been developed

Success Stories

- The BBSG is still in the early stages of development. We hope to report on successes in the near future.

Challenges

- Historic abundance and distribution data is lacking for many species
- For many species, the taxonomy has not been resolved
- Members and Regional Coordinators are busy, and they are being asked to contribute without compensation

Future Goals

- The primary initial goal of this group is to accomplish a status assessment of the c.250 species of bumblebees worldwide using the Red List Categories and Criteria
- Once accomplished, species that are considered imperiled (EW, CR, EN, VU, NT) can be added to nations' and states' respective threatened and endangered species lists and prioritized for conservation action



Photo: *Bombus kashmirensis* © Paul Williams