

Biogeographic Seminars: The rules of the game

©Alberto Arroyo Schnell, September 06

***Adapted by Alberto Arroyo Schnell, WWF International; May 2007
From a ETC BD presentation for the Biogeographical Seminar for CY & MT (Brussels, 6-12-06)***

Basic Criteria

- Directive 92/43/EEC
- NATURA 2000 Standard Data Form & Explanatory Notes
- Criteria for assessing national lists of pSCI at biogeographical level
(Hab. 97/2 rev. 4 18/11/1997)
- General principles for biogeographical seminars (e.g. as compiled by ETC for SWG)

Purpose of Seminar

- Assess if suite of proposed SCIs are sufficient for each Annex I habitat type and for each Annex II species
- Using criteria set in Annex III stage 1 of the Directive
- Detailed in document
Criteria for assessing national lists of pSCI at biogeographical level
- Assessment habitat by habitat / species by species
- In principle, no discussion on individual sites & site boundaries

Main criteria

- Assessment on a case-by-case analysis
- Evaluate conservation needs related to distribution patterns
 - Endemicity, degree isolation/fragmentation, trends
 - Pressures, threats, vulnerability,...
 - Priority status
- Take into account ecological / genetic variation within biogeographical region

Main criteria

- Preliminary 'pre-selection' phase using...
- ...the so-called 20/60 guideline
- Less than 20% = probably insufficient
- More than 60% = probably sufficient
- 20-60% = discussion
- This is a guideline NOT a golden rule!!!

Proposed working method

- For each habitat type and for each species:
 1. Compare **geographical distribution** of proposed sites with known distribution
 2. Check if **known variations** (ecological/genetic) are covered by the pSCI series
 3. Compare **proportion** included in the pSCI series with the total known amount in the biogeographical region:
 1. % of habitat type in the pSCIs
 2. % population, no. of localities, no. populations, ... in the pSCIs
- Taking into account conservation needs

Meaning of conclusions

- **SUF** = Sufficient
No more sites required
- **IN MIN** = Insufficient minor
No more sites required providing habitat/species is noted in existing sites (already proposed for other features)
- **IN MOD** = Insufficient moderate
Current number and/or distribution of sites is insufficient: additional sites need to be proposed
- **IN MAJOR** = Insufficient major
No sites proposed: sites need to be proposed
- **G** = Geographical insufficiency
Used to qualify an IN MOD. Indicates that the insufficiency is mainly linked to the bad geographical coverage of proposed sites - e.g. more sites needed in north-east

Meaning of conclusions

- **Scientific Reserve**

A definite conclusion is not possible: need to investigate/clarify a scientific issue - interpretation of habitat, controversial presence of species, etc.

This does not mean that we need a 3-year research project to sort out the reserve!

- **Marine Reserve**

General scientific reserve due to scientific uncertainty about habitat and species distribution in marine waters.

- **CD = Correction of data**

Not linked to sufficiency. Normally used together with other conclusions to indicate data problems - e.g. evaluations incomplete, sites wrongly proposed

- **Reserve**

A definite conclusion is not possible: the habitat or species are present in the Northern part of Cyprus (no proposed sites).

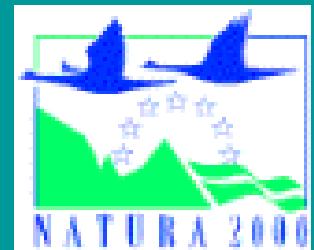
- **? = scientific reserve on the reference list**

Scientific reserve on the reference list: presence of habitat/species to be checked and confirmed

New issues from the last
Biogeographical Seminar (CY &
MT, Dec-06)

Main differences I

- **Patrick Murphy!!** (instead of Nick Hanley): probably the main reason for the rest of changes
- **More than 2 NGO participants!**
- Pat Murphy acts **more as a “moderator in case of difficulties”** rather than a “final judge”
- **Categories criteria** is not totally fixed (not really new):
 - INS Major: used just in case of NO sites proposed
 - ?: Scientific reserve on the reference list
 - Reserve: new category used for Cyprus
 - Even the SUF category can include a reference (in the final conclusions) to a concrete missing site with possible presence (research needed)

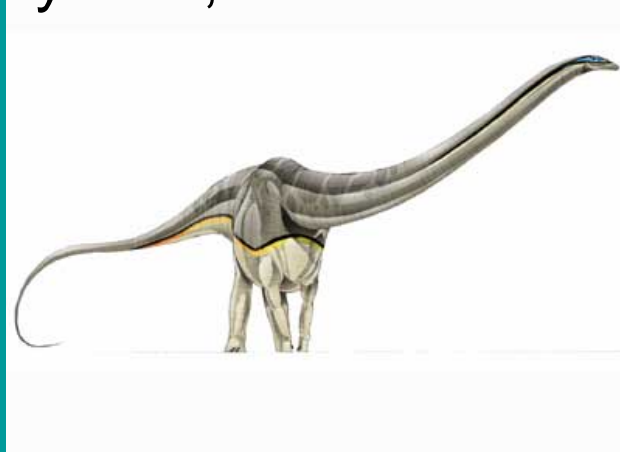


Main differences II

- The **ETC proposes conclusions** (not “neutral” anymore!)
- Some **discussions postponed for coffee break** (between NGOs and Gov), and discussed back after (before next steps)
- **Discussion on the site level** in some cases (and notes to the sites included in final conclusions)
- **INS accepted if 1 concrete site is missing** (despite the more or less coverage)
- **“Agreed” could be a way of deciding** (long discussions, checking other parties –Gov, NGOs- expressions, etc)
- **Next steps agreed** during the seminar (although no reflected in the minutes of the meeting: not really new)

In the conclusions:

- **Comments include concrete sites not proposed** (therefore sites that in principle should be proposed)
- **Comments include references to borders of sites** (extension)
- **Conclusions could include more than 1 category** (e.g. IN MOD + IN MIN; IN MIN G + Sci Res; IN MIN + Sci Res + CD). Not really new, but to take into account



Maybe these changes are not so relevant...

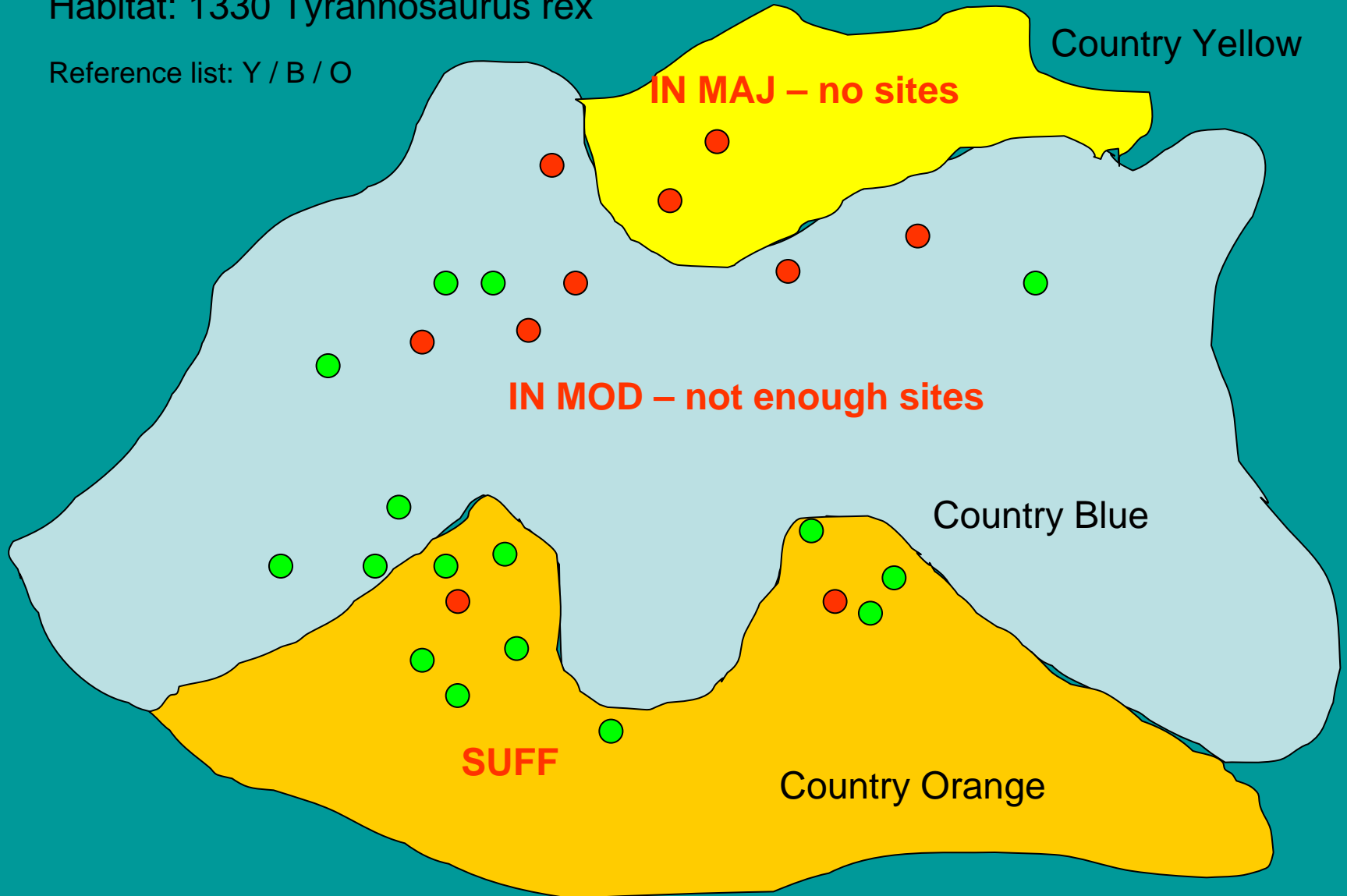
CY & MT are small countries (“easier” discussion, including the possibility to go more to the details)

As it was the first time for Pat Murphy, maybe he was also “experimenting”, trying different things

VIRTUAL BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGION

Habitat: 1330 *Tyrannosaurus rex*

Reference list: Y / B / O



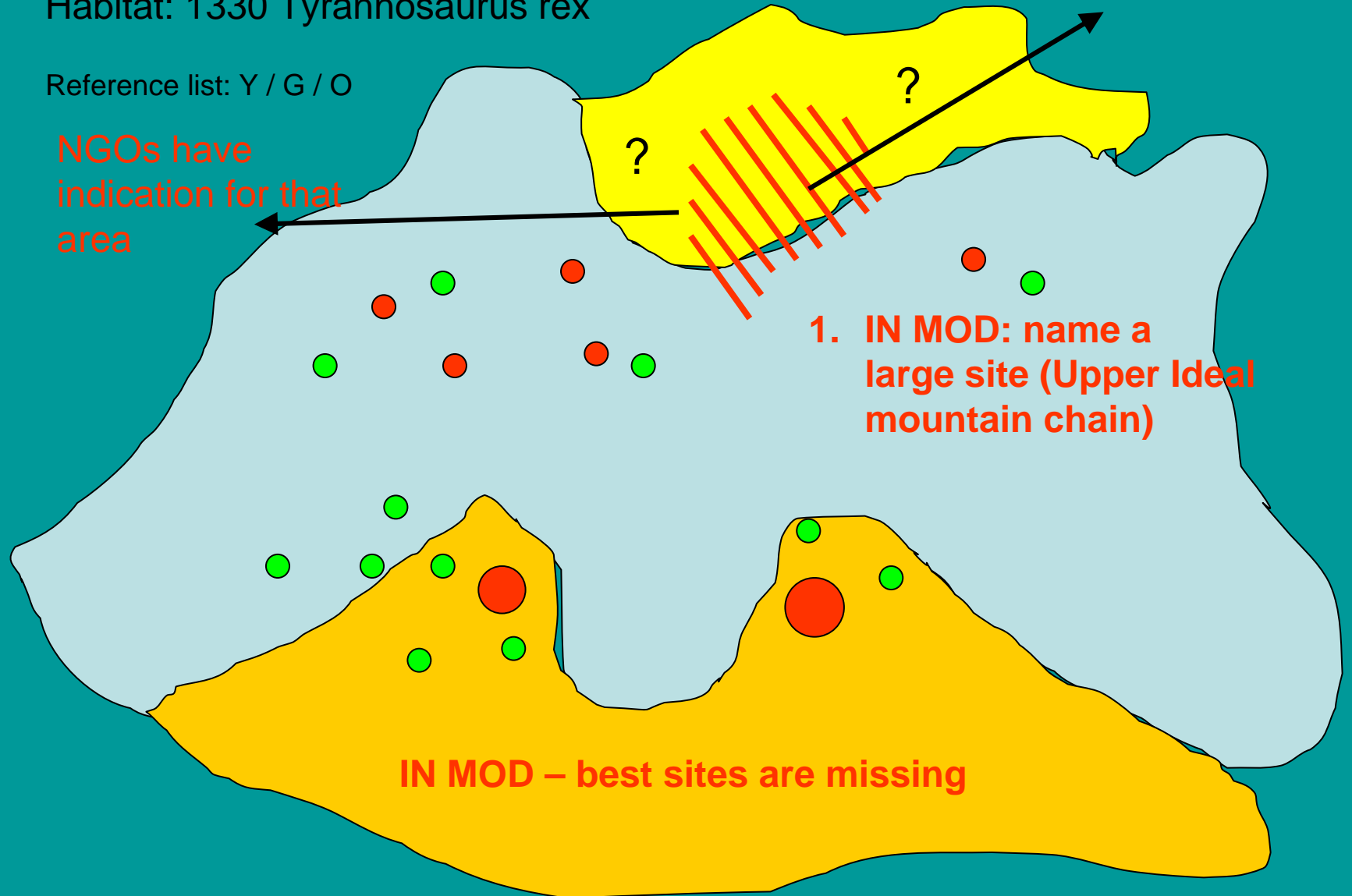
VIRTUAL BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGION

Habitat: 1330 Tyrannosaurus rex

Reference list: Y / G / O

NGOs have
indication for that
area

2. Scientific research



1. IN MOD: name a large site (Upper Ideal mountain chain)

IN MOD – best sites are missing

VIRTUAL BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGION

Habitat: 1330 Tyrannosaurus rex

