



Meeting Report

Leaders' Meeting. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
06 – 09 October 2019

Group photo: IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting 2019



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Introduction

In February 2008, the leadership of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) met in Abu Dhabi for the first of a series of transformative meetings which heavily influenced the functioning, growth and integration of species conservation work across both IUCN and the SSC. A second meeting in February 2012 and a third in September 2015, served to consolidate the SSC Leaders' Meeting as a central feature of planning, thinking and cooperating within SSC and with the other components of the Union and beyond.

The Fourth IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from October 6th to 9th, 2019. Hosted, one more time, by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, the meeting gathered over 350 experts from around the world, leaders in species conservation from IUCN SSC, IUCN Secretariat, other IUCN Commissions, UAE-based conservationists, SSC partners, and members of academia, along with other experts from the field.

The meeting was four productive and intense days of networking, articulation, learning from past experiences, improving skills, and exploring how best to measure the effectiveness of SSC actions on biodiversity conservation, to improve and guide our future work in the context of the IUCN Programme, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), particularly Secretary General HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, whose vision and commitment to the SSC were determinants in designing the meeting and delivering its results.

Each of these meetings was a great success, and that was also the overwhelming perception of the participants in the 4th meeting.

Objectives

The Fourth IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to our network to strengthen collaborations and teamwork for improving the status of species worldwide. The meeting objectives were:

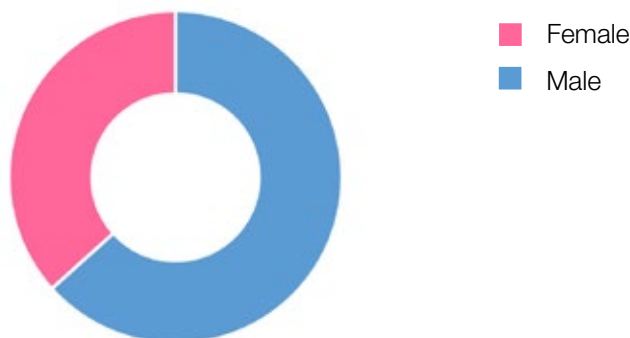
- Allow SSC leaders to build connections and strengthen relationships with each other, as well as develop new collaborations with other IUCN Commissions, Programmes, Regional Offices, and Members.
- Explore how best to measure the effectiveness of SSC's actions on biodiversity conservation and apply the outcomes of that process to improve and guide our future work, in the context of the IUCN Programme, the UN Global Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Identify major new initiatives needed to address critical conservation issues, particularly where SSC can mobilize its huge breadth of expertise to catalyze conservation action for species on the brink of extinction.
- Develop or improve skills of particular importance to leaders of volunteer networks.
- Have an opportunity to consult on developing policies, guidelines and standards.
- Plan how SSC can be most effective on the policy front, including, e.g., how SSC can provide inputs, data and indicators to inform the global strategic planning on biodiversity.
- Celebrate the volunteerism of the Chairs, to acknowledge their invaluable contribution to global species conservation and to inspire and encourage them to continue their vital work.
- Recognize the importance of successional planning, by being proactive in the cultivation of the next generation of SSC leaders, with an emphasis on diversification of backgrounds, particularly the representation of the developing world where most species diversity exists.
- Address any equity issues with a view to ensuring every SSC leader feels fully supported regardless of their background.
- Bolster work as and beyond IUCN One Programme, promoting interaction and integration among SSC leaders, IUCN Members, IUCN regional offices, governments, academic institutions and other key stakeholders in the region.
- Increase visibility and public awareness of the work of SSC, its network and key partners, and our joint leadership in species conservation.

Participant information

The 4th Leaders Meeting gathered 330 SSC group leaders, programme officers, and partners, alongside IUCN, EAD and SSC Chair's Office staff, of 54 nationalities. It was the first time that red list authority coordinators joined this meeting. A forum on challenges for biodiversity conservation was also held, with 50 participants from local governmental, academic and civil society institutions.

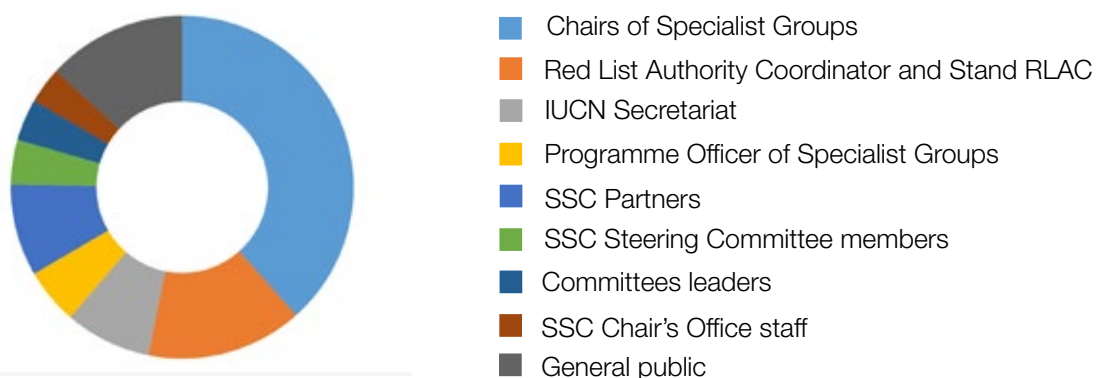
The meeting was also open to the public, adding 50 more participants, and bringing the total up to 380. Gender distribution was 63% men and 37% women combining the leadership of the Survival Species Commission and the United Arab Emirates' audience. The SSC Leaders' meeting was an opportunity to improve equality between men and women and promote balanced participation as speakers, moderators and facilitators during all sessions and activities.

Gender of participants



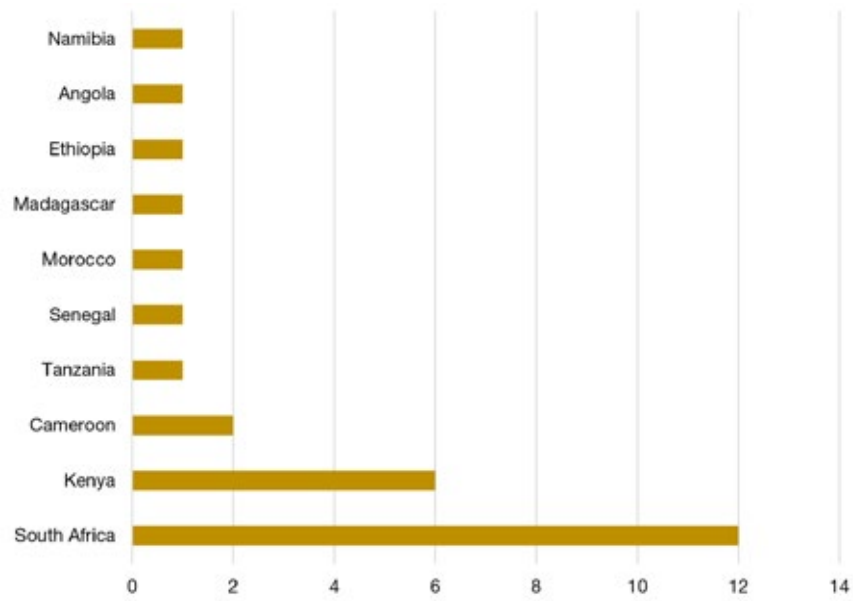
Participants include representatives from the different taxonomic groups (Animalia, plantae and fungi), secretariat and SSC partners.

Role of participants

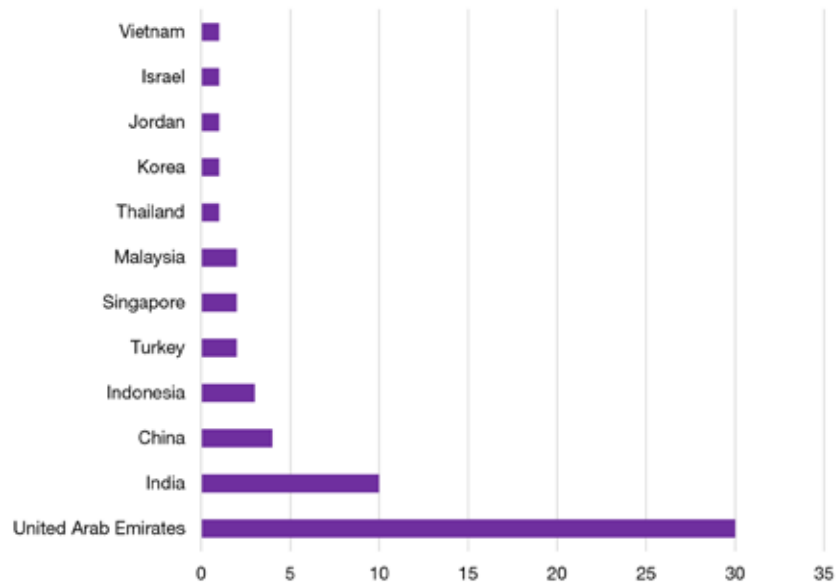


We received SSC Leaders from 54 different countries and 5 regions around the world, in the charts below you can see attendees' distribution:

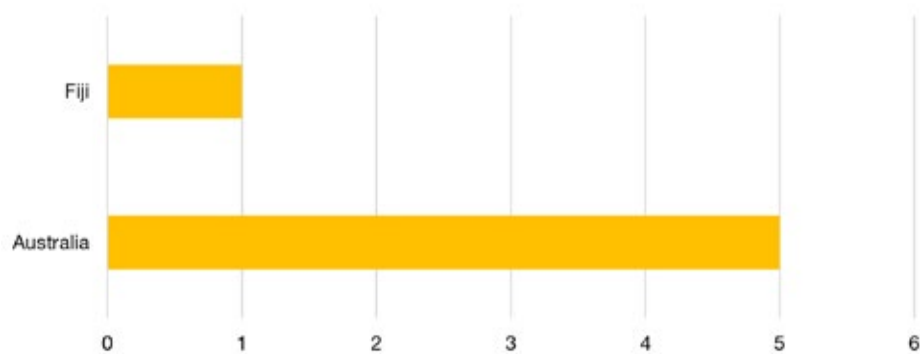
Africa



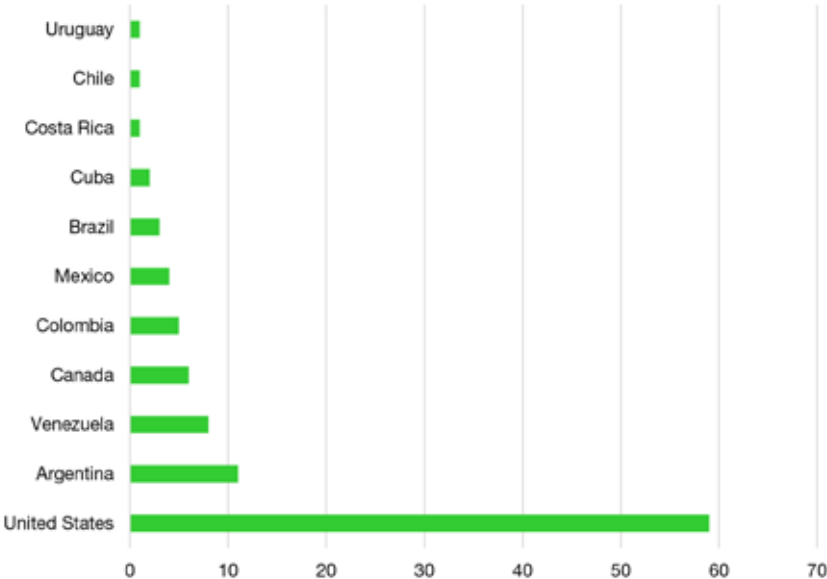
Asia



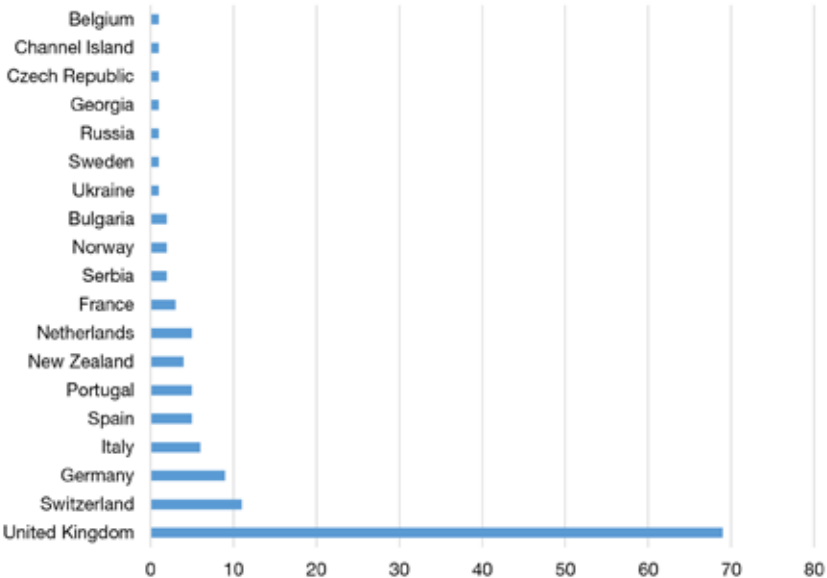
Oceania



America



Europe





Plenary and Parallel Sessions reports

Sunday, 06 October

Plenary 1.1. Welcome and opening remarks

Jon Paul Rodríguez, IUCN SSC Chair

- Opened the meeting and thanked the Network.
- Acknowledged the Chairs Office team - in particular thanked Mayerlin Ramos, SSC Administrative Officer.
- Acknowledged and thanked EAD and introduced Her Excellency Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak.

Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Managing Director of EAD

- Reflected on the history of the Leaders Meeting.
- The seeds of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan were sown at the first meeting - thanked key contributors to the guidance of the fund.
- Our work in EAD on conservation was not born from a strategic plan or a prioritization process - it was born from an understanding that there is no future where there is no biodiversity.
- I have learned that I must balance protection and sustainable use, qualified people, data management to guide effective action.
- EAD's investment in nature has played off- protecting marine environments. By the end of 2020, 20% of land will be protected and 17% of seas.
- Scimitar-horned Oryx reintroduction from Extinct in the Wild (EW) is a particular point of pride.
- Red List is the most visible and valuable work of IUCN providing robust data to guide policy and action.
- Its role is critical in supplying unbiased evidence that provides the basis for the empowerment of decision making and a framework for all species conservation.
- There is no better framework for conservation decision making than the IUCN. We believe in this organisation and we know that if we had to recreate IUCN in today's political climate we would most likely fail.
- We must recognise IUCN's value and acknowledge its shortcomings.
- Finally, let us not forget the more than 9,000 volunteers taking part in SSC activities across 160 countries.

Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director

- Acknowledged the SSC Network.
- SSC is a formidable force fighting for known and lesser known species.
- The SSC plays a fundamental role in IUCN including being the driving force behind the Red List - which informs planning, policy and action.
- Talked about post 2020 and Aichi targets. This meeting is so important to meet them.
- Please raise your voices for the millions of species that are not considered by policy meetings.
- We need your energy and passion at the World Conservation Congress 2020 (WCC): your active participation in the congress will ensure IUCN's input into a strong post 2020 biodiversity framework.
- Conservation works: told the story of the conservation success of the Arabian Oryx.
- The common factor binding of species conservation success is the SCC - you assess their extinction threat, you engage in policy and planning and you drive conservation action.
- We need to find new strategies to scale up this work and maximise impact.
- Only by aligning all our efforts, stepping up what we do on knowledge and policy and action will we drive success into the next decade.
- Acknowledged Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.
- Thanked EAD, Jon Paul Rodriguez and the SSC Leaders, IUCN members and partners.
- IUCN cannot do species conservation without its members and partners.
- Lastly thank the IUCN Secretariat.
- Made a call to participate in COP2020, you are the global experts who can shape the post 2020 framework.
- Please raise your voices and help us plan our efforts for WCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Without SSC Leaders we would not achieve big targets - raise your voices - ask IUCN what IUCN needs to do and help us develop big plans for the planet.

Plenary 1.2. Overview of the species work of IUCN

Jon Paul Rodríguez, SSC Chair

- Overview of IUCN and the Network.
- Vision.
- Objectives.

Jane Smart, Global Director Biodiversity Conservation Group | Director, Global Species Programme

- Working on knowledge and The Red List. Developing tools and infrastructure, supporting species planning, climate change, policy, and were taking action for species on the ground. We do Assess - Plan - Act.
- Financial management, communication and fundraising.
- What we want to thank all of you (SSC Leaders) for what you do.
- We are at a key moment in time for the post 2020 framework - its a policy super year - with WCC and CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity).
- CBD Target 12 has not been a success story despite the fact that conservation works.
- We used to think that if we put the information out there to the world, the world would

change its ways. But it's not the case.

- We need to further align our efforts and step up our game.
- Through focused and coordinated action we can help the work take strategic coordinated action. Many countries need your help, and they don't know what to do to save species.
- We need your help for a global plan for action.
- It can not be done without you, but with you maybe we can change the world.

Plenary 1.3. SSC Species Strategic Plan and SSC DATA

Jafet Nassar, SSC Annual Report Coordinator

- Introduced the Assess-Plan-Act cycle (as a spaceship).
- SSC DATA: monitoring tool to assess achievement; how the tool has been used and how it has evolved.
- Seven products from SSC DATA include: database, individual reports, annual species reports.
- Areas for improvement: move out from excel format, time taken with process, too many fields (relating to descriptors), too many Key Species Results (KSR), unclear indicators.
- Areas for improvement from report coordinators: lack of submission, missing deadlines, chairs must accept and submit reports, incomplete files, lack of results. More and better images.
- Summary of response and main outcomes of process across groups.
- See [presentation](#)

Discussion:

Onnie Byers: Noticed that did not know that we could access specialised reports. This is very useful.

Glenn Plumb - IUCN SSC Bison Specialist Group: Is it possible to expand the database to include what are the barriers/obstacles to achieving the targets exist?

Jafet Nassar - Yes, it is possible; we have to try to be careful about how many fields that we add but we will take this into consideration.

Orlando Salamanca, SSC Strategy and Operations Manager

Looking ahead into the next quadrennium, moving the Species Strategic Plan forward.

- Summary of the current process
- Challenges in timing; impossible to review prior to the end of the year.
- We will evolve the process to address such problems. This will include real-time data, a mobile app to add data and synchronise with members of your groups. The database itself will evolve
- Moves into the "theory of change".
- Go through the KSRs under the species conservation cycle.
- Introduces the new KSR (Key Species Results) framework.
- Key questions: Is SSC DATA an optimal tool? Does the proposed KSR framework meet the needs? What metrics are most important to SSC members?

Discussion:

Dilys Roe - IUCN SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group: thanks for the sustainable use among KSR. Can we make some changes to the wording to add the human dimension to the extra result we have put in?

Bibiana Sucre: Yes, absolutely

Patricia Moehlman - IUCN SSC Equid Specialist Group: Responsibility of SSC and all groups to provide post-graduate training.

Cyriaque Sendashonga: Is this an opportunity for SSC to make a contribution to post-2020 in the way we compile and build our key strategic results? This can inform what is required for the post 2020 targets.

Bibiana Sucre: further sessions on the IUCN program and how the SSC can contribute to it coming up.

Sarah Oldfield, IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group



Global Tree Assessment:

- Timely initiative jointly taken on by Global Tree Specialist Group (GTSG) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).
- Produced a baseline list of tree species and identified key global threats, developed a method for assessing least concern species. Identified key priority groups. Went through a capacity building process.
- Global Tree Search published in 2017. This is updated regularly.
- Developed a rapid assessment approach for least concerned species, those that are globally widespread or with EOO exceeding 30,000km². The Species Information Services (SIS) used to import data.
- 60,000 tree species with 51% having an assessment so far (not all on the Red List). One in 5 tree species at risk of extinction. Rate of publication on the Red List increased dramatically over the last couple of years.
- In 2018: 15,000 assessments prepared, 5,600 submitted and 2000 published.
- Training and review workshops held all around the world.
- In 2019: 5,000 assessments published with 18,000 expected to be submitted by 2020.

Phil Bishop, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group



- Significant threats to this group among vertebrates.
- Strategic plan based on three pillars. Amphibian Red List Authority, regional groups and thematic groups.
- 31 targets for the group. 3 key targets include: species-specific conservation plans, assess to plan with Conservation Planning Spe-

cialist Group (CPSG), amphibian conservation action plan.

- The Amphibian Conservation action plan was not taken up and a survey was conducted to try and find out why. Good response to this (153). Key finding was that entities had not ever heard of Amphibians Conservation Action Plan (ACAP). Those that did use it found it very useful in defining relevant global priorities. New version of ACAP on the way in 2020.
- Key alliance with Amphibian Specialist Group, Amphibian Ark and Amphibian Survival Alliance.

Andrew Smith, IUCN SSC Lagomorph Specialist Group



- Examples of value of single individuals contributions having significant knock on effects for conservation.
- Examples of comprehensive program efforts.

Urs Breitenmoser, IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group



- Where do we start from, where do we want to go, how do we get there? These are the 3 questions of strategic conservation.
- Preparation is key. Implementation is obviously critical to on the ground action but we have to be prepared to stay involved if we are going to get there.
- We need to be realistic and frank about the costs of species conservation.
- CSG produced a document that includes all information in one place. Ecology, status review, topical chapters and a rangewide strategy. Tells the whole story.
- A major challenge is sensible cooperation between different institutions at all levels (national agencies, private agencies and scientific groups).

Discussion:

Ben Okita - IUCN SSC African Elephant Specialist Group: How are you going to connect with groups that already have action programmes in place in different regions?

Phil Bishop - IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group: That's why we are here, we certainly wish to connect!

Action	Leader
Consider adding a field about "Obstacles / Barriers" to SSC data	Jafet Nassar
Ensure the Impact Statement of the Strategic Plan adequately addresses the Vision of IUCN and includes the consideration of the human justice elements of "a just world"	Orlando Salamanca
Ensure that the Strategic plan links effectively to "what will it take to get us to 2030" based on the post 2020 targets	Orlando Salamanca



Plenary 1.4. Reverse the Red

Jon Paul Rodriguez, SSC Chair

- Assess Plan Act - and while many of our tools like the Red List, as well as the network, are organized at the global level, however most conservation action occurs at the national level. We really want to develop strategies to simultaneously strengthen our work globally and nationally. We need to:
 - Strengthen national representation within the specialist groups
 - Increase capacity for assessments at the national level
 - Increase conservation planning at national levels
 - Increase communication, stakeholder engagement and mobilizing action
- Together these will form the Reverse the Red initiative.
- We are working with partners already - Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, Smithsonian Conservation Commons.

Domitilla Raimondo, SSC Deputy chair

- Real imperative to work at National Level in our conservation activities and in particular our Red Listing. Conservation action is delivered at the national level.
- Network of national experts is really important. Habitat loss is a major threat for many species and a major threat that most of us grapple with. Spatial assessment and planning is translated clearly, informing multiple sectors in planning and decision making. We can use this species data to identify where to expand protected areas. National data also reports into the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- SSC experts are key for building national expertise.

Jane Smart, Global Director Biodiversity Conservation Group | Director, Global Species Programme

- Talking on Reverse the Red from the perspective of the global species program (GSP).
- The Red List is our tool with the greatest impact globally in terms of communication. Great deal of media interest in the Red List and though we try to present positive stories it's often the negative ones that grab the news. Reverse the Red could be a means to project more positive stories. We will need to be careful about the branding of this.

Session 1.6a, 1.7a, 2.6a. Red List Authority Coordinators

Facilitator(s): Caroline Pollock, Craig Hilton-Taylor, Malin Rivers and Resit Akçakaya.

This was a training session for RLA Coordinators. The session was in three parts:

- Presentations on 4 topics:
 - The role of the RLA Coordinator.
 - Five important items to remember from the Rules of Procedure.
 - The Red List assessment process: avoiding common mistakes.
 - The IUCN Red List Criteria: common misunderstandings, difficulties and mistakes.
- A panel discussion session, involving managers of large projects assessing Trees (Malin Rivers), Invertebrates (Axel Hochkirch), freshwater species (William Darwall), marine species (Kent Carpenter), and reptiles and amphibians (Neil Cox). This was a question and answer session where participants asked questions about managing Red List assessment projects.
- A “World Café” session, where four groups discussed different aspects of the Red List process:
 - Using the Red List Criteria: dealing with difficult situations.
 - SIS and SIS Connect.
 - Reviewing assessments.
 - Mapping standards.

The session ended with a general discussion with questions and answers.

Action	Leader
Investigate an easy way for RLA Coordinators to communicate with each other (e.g., to discuss common challenges they face when red listing) and for IUCN secretariat to communicate important news to RLA Coordinators (e.g., new tools in development, new policies to be released soon, etc.)	Caroline Pollock (IUCN Red List Unit) and the SSC Chair’s Office (focal person not yet identified)

Session 1.6c. Wildlife Health and Wildlife Poisoning

Facilitator(s): Andre Botha and Catherine Machalaba.

- **History:** the session followed from a session at the last SSC Leaders meeting and recent developments (e.g. WCC-2016-Res-014-EN on “Combating the illegal poisoning of wildlife; letters from SSC Chair to regulatory bodies on licensing and use of diclofenac and impact on species). The need for continued/renewed raising of the issue by IUCN was noted.
- **Task Force:** A Wildlife Poisoning forum managed by Ngaio Richards has been exchanging information and compiling resources over the past 5 years (please contact ngaio@wd4c.org if you are interested in joining). The focus is illegal use of poisons and includes a forensics dimension. A task force has been proposed to formally integrate this focus into the IUCN.
- **Vultures:** Poisoning is a leading threat to vultures on several continents. Vulture Specialist Group (VSG) and its partners are providing on-the-ground training and awareness to prevent and reduce impact of poisoning. Diclofenac is still readily available (e.g. for human use) and remains a major threat. VSG is following research on safer NSAID alternatives.
- **Database:** African Wildlife Poisoning Database (<https://www.africanwildlifepoisoning.org/>) VSG manages it, but housed and maintained by the EWT (majority of reports are

from vultures), but open to other taxonomic groups. Some geographic data gaps (e.g. northern Africa). Potential need for global database.

- **Capacity challenges:** Analytical capacity is a major limitation for tracking poisonings and other health threats. Poisoning events also require specialized response skills to safely and effectively contain and decontaminate situation.
- **Non-target impacts:** broad feral and invasive animal eradication using poisons threatens other species.
- **Wildlife Health:** Workshop held 5 October with several SGs, identifying four key priorities for the Wildlife Health Specialist Group (WHSG): 1) One Health/integrated opportunities to engage other sectors, shape policy, and message health-relevant ecosystem services (e.g. regarding wildlife-domestic animal interfaces, poisoning threat); 2) Info. dissemination and feedback to track and address major disease events and share lessons learned; 3) Timely cost-efficient diagnostics for disease emergencies in wildlife (including CITES regulations); and 4) Procedures for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis, including for translocations/ rehabilitations, and evaluating risk-benefit trade-offs.
- **Disease Risk Analysis:** free course to be offered online to assist in implementation.
- **Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM):** The CEM has 5 priority areas: 1) Assessment of ecosystem risks (e.g. Red List of Ecosystems), 2) Nature-based solutions, 3) Ecosystem governance, 4) Culture and ecosystem management, and 5) Ecosystem resilience. Ensure the Terms of Reference for potential Task Force on poisoning aligns and promotes synergies with the CEM.
- **New threats:** Require ecosystem/One Health approach. Frequency and magnitude of climate events is rising and triggering chain reactions (e.g. Saiga antelope mass mortality) and spread of disease (e.g. African Swine Fever). Issues of emerging pollutants as well.
- **Examples of wildlife health issues pertinent to IUCN:** manatee die-offs; livestock antiparasitic ivermectin impact on dung beetles; risks from toxic fungi and molds (as well as fungicides). WHSG is keen to hear from Specialist Groups so we can help raise these threats.
- **Action:** High-level political support needed to put pressure on governments to respond and remove barriers to diagnosis, reporting, and action for poisoning.
- **Collaboration:** Multi-disciplinary approach is needed, including to convey human health risks and benefits and assess possible trade-offs of actions.

Action	Leader
Review Terms of Reference for proposed wildlife poisoning Task Force for alignment with other relevant IUCN groups (e.g. systemic poisons, ecosystems and human health, WHSG)	Ngaio Richards, Andre Botha, Angela Andrade and SSC
Promote uptake of African Wildlife Poisoning Database by other taxonomic groups and wider continental reach (e.g. Northern Africa)	Andre Botha
Consider future expansion of African Wildlife Poisoning Database to other continents and IUCN-wide hosting	Andre Botha and SSC
Call to action for IUCN to raise issue of wildlife poison availability and impact on species survival	Andre Botha, Chris Bowden and Catherine Machalaba
Promote coordination with WHSG and taxonomic groups on wildlife disease events to reinforce efforts and put in context of wider health issues and capacity needs	Richard Kock, Billy Karesh and Catherine Machalaba

Session 1.6d. IUCN engagement on CITES and CMS

Facilitator(s): Richard Jenkins.

- The role of IUCN in supporting CITES and CMS was described (e.g. as Scientific Coun- cillors for CMS, provision of species databases, the IUCN Red List, supporting non-detri- ment findings in CITES)
- Representatives from the CMS and CITES Secretariats confirmed that IUCN is a key part- ner and SSC expertise and the IUCN Red List are vital resources for the implementation of the two conventions
- CITES CoP 18 concluded with over 300 decisions, at least 10 of which are directed to IUCN. Likely to be an opportunity for funding support from the CITES Secretariat to IUCN for implementing key decisions (e.g. pangolin, leopard, hump-head wrasse, conservation assessment of Appendix I species).
- The lack of IUCN SSC plant expertise was raised in relation to supporting CITES. The IUCN SSC Plant Conservation Committee is taking action to address this issue.
- Four breakout groups
 - **How to maximise IUCN's input to CITES:**
 - IUCN needs to have a more prominent voice at CITES meetings, to promote the role of science and sustainable use in particular (in line with IUCN's policy on the latter) – raising our voice needn't necessarily compromise our objectivity, e.g. with regard to our analysis of listing proposals this needn't go beyond our conclusion on whether or not the criteria are met, but many felt that IUCN should be more vocal in highlighting these conclusions in Committee I (for more of the propos- als, where there was a clear case that the criteria were or were not met) and the CITES Secretariat indicated that the Chair would have been prepared to give time for IUCN to do this.
 - Providing input in advance of CITES meetings is also important, to ensure Parties and other stakeholders have access to relevant information and analyses in good time to develop their positions on agenda items, but also to shape the agenda itself and ensure new information and emerging issues are on the radar as early as possible – SSC connections with national governments are extremely valuable in this regard.
 - Better communicate Red List assessments that are relevant to CITES (listed spe- cies, and non-listed species that may meet the CITES criteria) – raising awareness of new and updated assessments as they are published, for example through an Information Document posted in advance of Animals & Plants Committee meet- ings, but also ensuring that information in Red List assessments is accurately communicated, to ensure that assessments are not misinterpreted or misused (for example, where a species is threatened at the global level but doing well in specif- ic countries within its range).
 - Better prioritise Red List assessments for species that are potentially threatened by trade, bearing in mind that some group members seem to be keen to prioritise assessments for non-threatened species.
 - **Looking to the future of CMS, CITES and IUCN**
 - Discussion identified challenges to the success of CITES and CMS in future, possible solutions and the role that IUCN might play in supporting them. Areas of focus included:
 - Growing divisions between governments on wildlife trade and wider conserva-

tion policy issues may undermine the effectiveness of CITES. Increased dialogue and mediation processes outside the formal Convention meetings could help and IUCN is ideally placed to support such processes. Closer cooperation between CITES and CBD agenda could also help for migratory species as CMS has a focus on collaborative conservation action.

- Inertia in MEA processes hampers innovation and adaptation to ensure maximum effectiveness and impact. More effort is needed to establish longer-term vision and pathways for change, which is very difficult within the iterative negotiation processes in MEAs. IUCN could play a role in exploring and illustrating future options and influencing progress towards a longer term vision for MEA development.
- MEAs may have overlapping or connected areas of action that are complicated to resolve so that their combined impact is maximised. For example, Saiga Antelope conservation challenges are being addressed by governments through both CMS and CITES processes. IUCN could play a role in helping to establish longer-term vision for MEA connectivity through the post-2020 biodiversity agenda.
- Important differences of opinion on wildlife use issues prevail and there is a clear need for more constructive engagement between those advocating conservation, development, business and ethical objectives. IUCN could play a role in helping to convene stakeholders and support the development of new frameworks for reconciling different perspectives.
- Lack of coherence between policy sectors within individual governments can undermine MEA effectiveness (eg environment and fisheries ministries pursuing contradictory objectives in different inter-governmental fora). At a national level, IUCN could play a more active role in encouraging cross-sectoral engagement within governments.
- Funding mechanisms for MEAs are inadequate to support the expanding expectations for action being set by member governments. IUCN could play a role in helping to establish longer-term vision for conservation financing and exploring options for financing of the MEA action agenda.

- Ideas for the Pavilion session at the World Conservation Congress 2020

- Global Swimways: identify (i) gaps/overlap with PAs, (ii) most threatened swimways, (iii) candidates for obstacle removal (iv) link to livelihoods. Partners (i) WCPA, (ii) CEM, (iii) development banks, (iv) CMS (v) Rewilding Europe.
- Framing sustainability as a societal issue for well-being, as opposed to livelihoods, in terms of inter-generational legacy
- Climate change impact on global flyways and swimways, consider: species responses, habitat responses and human responses.

- Connectivity /Synergies

- Flagship species/groups of species: if species are listed on both, how to work together (CMS/CITES/IUCN) to have increased effectiveness/bigger outcomes.
- Synergizing big datasets to better support CMS/CITES in the broader framework of the post 2020 GBF? How do we leverage the larger public/citizens to get where we need?
- Need connectivity at the country level (break the top-down to move to two ways approaches to improve implementation at country level (N.B. role of focal points)
- Availability of country databases to keep track of what is happening with species listed in CITES/CMS.

Action	Leader
Review the IUCN CITES MoU	Richard Jenkins and CITES Sec.
Be alert for opportunities to include follow-up ideas in the Pavillions at Congress 2020	Richard Jenkins and Dao Nguyen
Session leaders to reflect on the outcome of the meeting and feedback to Chair SSC and Director GSP	All lead facilitators
GSP to prepare an Information Document to summarise new and updated Red List assessments relevant to CITES, and results of analyses to identify Red Listed species potentially threatened by international trade that may be candidates for future CITES listing, for the next meetings of the Animals and Plants Committees.	Patricia Cremona and Richard Jenkins
GSP to meet with the CITES Secretariat to further consider how IUCN can assist in implementing decisions from CoP 18	Patricia Cremona and Richard Jenkins

Session 1.6g, 2.6g. IUCN Commission System, SSC membership management, Union Portal

Facilitator(s): Claire Santer.

- IUCN Commission Support Unit – who we are and what we aim to do for you.
- IUCN Commission System for SSC - How to invite and validate members, functions in the pipeline.
- IUCN systems: IUCN CiviCRM, Union Portal – relationship to Commission System.
- IUCN Union Portal – what you can do in the Union Portal.
- Reconstitution of the membership after Congress: outline plan for 2021- 2024 renewal.
- Dealing with personal data – GDPR and the IUCN Data Protection Policy – questions around do's and don'ts.

See presentation [here](#).

Session 1.6h. Impact of the Species Recovery RFP and SSC Internal Grants on SSC groups

Facilitator(s): Nahomy De Andrade and Kira Mileham.

National Geographic Partnership – Species Recovery Grant:

- Goal: to halt further biodiversity decline by implementing conservation plans for species and groups of species.
- Requirements: All applications must include endorsement letter, in country program lead.
- Deadlines: October 9 2019; April 2020.
- Total amount awarded across 5 RFPs: \$2,572032; across 73 funded proposals including 36 SSC members.
- Although mammal projects have been awarded the highest number of grants, as a percentage of submitted applications it's relatively even across taxa.
- 47% of funded applications were from American region.
- See the FAQ or webinar video for more info.

QUESTIONS:

- Can specialist group chairs / thematic leads sign more than one letter: Yes
- Are specialist group chairs responsible for reviewing the projects: No, just the level of priority of the project for the taxa and whether it addresses a priority of an existing action plan. It is up to the reviewers to examine the quality of the project.
- How concrete are the media / communication agreements recipients must sign: these are somewhat flexible, you can speak with the Nat Geo team about tailoring the agreements to your project needs but they are looking to have first right to communicate the project- which given the audience reach of Nat Geo this should be seen as a positive thing.
- Is it possible to apply for Assess or Plan projects under this RFP: No, this RFP is aimed at Action projects only.

Internal Grants:

- Goal:
 - Support SSC Groups in achieving their targets as established in Species Strategic Plan.
 - Encourage SGs to carry out an annual planning process using their SSC Data process.
 - Motivate SGs to become more familiar with the Assess – Plan – Act species conservation cycle.
- Requirements:
 - Completed and sent SSC Data file.
 - Clearly specify the activity requiring financial support and how it contributes to the target set in SSC data.
- 27 projects funded to a value of \$86,365
- Two cycles per year Jan and June.

QUESTIONS

- Is there any chance that the grants could be offered in just one cycle with all the APANC components included because it is hard to time the targets set with the right grant cycle – especially if the components aren’t communicated ahead of time
- If a SG has received a grant how many cycles should they wait before reapplying to have a chance of getting a second grant
- Lots of expressions of gratitude for the grant

Action	Leader
Consider advertising the components of the internal grant cycles ahead of time or including each component in each grant	Nahomy De Andrade

Session 1.7d. Invasive Species

Facilitator(s): Piero Genovesi and Kevin Smith.

- Highlighted work of the ISSG since the last SSC Leaders meeting
 - Development of the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species; IUCN MoC with GBIF; valuable support of the CBD and GBIF in the development of GRIIS
 - Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa (EICAT) consultation and integration of rankings into the GISD

- Support to countries in their commitment to achieve Target 9
- Development of Biodiversity indicators with the framework of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) and 15.8.1 indicator within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- Discussed ISSG work plan for 2020 and beyond including contribution preliminary draft text for the proposed update of Target 9
- Highlighted work of the GSP Invasive Species Team (with ISSG) including the scientific support provided to the EC for the implementation of the EU regulation related to invasive alien species
- Reported on the recent publication of the ‘Guidelines for invasive species planning and management on islands’, in English, French and Spanish. This resource was developed within the framework of the InvaZiles project implemented in the Western Indian Ocean region
- Information and updates of the LIFE INVASQUA project whose goal is to raise awareness of invasive species in the Iberian aquatic systems.
- Information and updates on the work of ‘Freshwater Life’ whose goal is to save the world’s most endangered freshwater species through eradicating invasive alien species..
- Also, discussed during question time was 1) the issue of awarding incentives in the sustainable biological resource use of known invasive species; 2) issue involved in the regulation of invasive species to prevent introductions

Action	Leader
Provide the Guidelines to participants who did not have a copy	Kevin Smith
Gather more case studies on the awarding of incentives as a management option related to the sustainable use of invasive species	Shyama Pagad

Session 1.7e. Contributing to the IUCN Programme 2021-2024

Facilitator(s): Grethel Aguilar, Cyrie Sendashonga and Orlando Salamanca.

Session I (10/06/2019)

Grethel Aguilar, Acting Director General: noted the importance of the IUCN programme, and explained the process that has followed in each region around the world. Finally, Grethel Aguilar asked everyone to please comment on this draft.

Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director for Policy and Programme: presented a summary of what the IUCN programme is, and also the principles of Programme Development. Cyrie noted the importance of linking our programme with the post-2020 targets. Subsequently, Cyrie showed the timeline for developing the IUCN programme. Gave as examples IPBES, and IPCC as sources that show us the challenges that we are facing. Explained the main ideas within each area programme. Noted that the conception of nature-based solutions has been very well accepted in the international community, and this came from our union. In relation to the equitable governance of natural resources, Cyrie noted that within the new SDGs we are expecting to connect the different areas.

- **Population Health and Environment (PHE):**
 - Claire Mirande asked if Population Health and Environment (PHE) is within the programme.
 - Cyrie answered that we do not have that directly, but we support it. Cyrie asked her to send additional information on the main ideas that she would like to highlight in the programme.
- **Lack of species representation:**
 - PJ Stephenson noted that species are a little bit lost here. Noted his concern about focusing on habitat or ecosystem because we could end not conserving some species that are not going to benefit from those broad scopes. Asked how SSC is going to contribute directly to this? As it is really broad.
 - Grethel Aguilar asked back to PJ how would he add this area of species to the programme.
- **Global equitable use:**
 - One of the participants noted that area 4 is still not completed because you are not addressing issues related to equitable in terms of global use.
 - The exploitation of environmental resources, he considers is not only government but also about ownership and beneficiaries that are not captured.

Session II (10/08/2019)

- **Freshwater area:**
 - Topiltzin Contreras mentioned that they would like to see a better representation of freshwater area.
 - Ian Harrison noted that there is a lack of species within the IUCN programme.
 - One of the participants from the freshwater Specialist Groups mentioned that when you integrate land with water, the species under the water area receive less attention.
- **Species exportation and sustainable consumption:**
 - Steven Broad highlighted that the exportation of species as a threat, and sustainable consumption are not well represented in the current draft.
- Lack of ambition:
 - Elizabeth Bennett noted that the current draft is not ambitious and that it does not have any measure or specific outcomes, she would like to see a draft that is stronger on this.
- Wording (healthy, global heating, habitation with nature):
 - Some of the participants mentioned that they would like to better use words like global heating instead of global warming, and start using more the word of habitation with nature within the programme. Moreover, one of the participants noted that he has doubts about using the term “healthy”, and asked what was the meaning of the word “healthy” before the land and water areas, and the oceans areas.
- Engaging with CMS / COPs:

One of the participants asked how IUCN would like to engage with CMS and the COP? And stated that it may be a good idea to take those frameworks into consideration for our new IUCN programme.

Action	Leader
A new paragraph about Population Health and Environment.	Kerryn Morrison/Claire Mirande
Additional feedback on how to add the area of species to the program.	PJ Stephenson
A new paragraph about habitation with nature.	John Woinarski
In relation to the freshwater area, develop the types of key results, targets, indicators to be added to the programme.	Ian, Topis, Will and the joint Chairs of FWCC (Klaas-Douwe Dijkstra)



Monday, 07 October

Plenary 2.1. Panel of Committees

Amanda Vincent – IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee

- Fisheries the greatest threat to the marine realm. Focus of the talk.
- Example of bottom trawling. No selectivity, hugely wasteful.
- We have to decide what to do about this and the bottom line is we need to end this kind of fishing. To get to the bottom of this challenge we need to: create government agencies for ocean health, ensure proper law enforcement, designate no trawl zones, address the socio-economic needs etc.
- China has now banned bottom trawling and its environment agency open to input on best practice implementation. Our window.
- To support this from an SSC point of view we need to provide SSC Specialist Groups (SG) support and expand marine SGs, connect across the IUCN with the ocean and people, deploy our knowledge and reframe the species conservation cycle (Assess-Plan-Act).

Ian Harrison – IUCN SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee

- Major challenges include capacity to do projects, data gaps for species and ecosystems and ability to communicate the work accurately. Freshwater conservation is overlooked in policy.
- Freshwater biodiversity conservation needs to be made more relevant to policy makers.
- We must recognise IUCN's value and acknowledge its shortcomings.
- Finally, let us not forget the more than 9,000 volunteers taking part in SSC activities across 160 countries.

Axel Hochkirch – IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee

- The biggest challenge is the unknown diversity of invertebrates as there are currently 1.5 million species of invertebrate, which are also experiencing massive declines. Data availability for assessments is also a concern. Almost 50% of species in a sample for "Sampled Red List Index" are only known from type material.
- In the invertebrate committee apart from using the species conservation cycle (Assess-Plan-Act) we have added a component of study to cater for field work in an effort to build capacity.
- Major threat to invertebrates is agriculture, through conversion and fragmentation of habitat as well as other factors including pesticides (which we still know very little about).
- There are 16 SGs to support the work of the invertebrate committee
- Multi-taxon approach to Assess Plan Act is something that could be extremely impactful if we coordinate well. Suggested as a parking lot topic.

Domitilla Raimondo – IUCN SSC Plant Conservation Committee

- Habitat lost and transformation is by far the most significant threat to plant conservation
- How the PCC is dealing with this issue includes: focusing their work in plant diversity hotspots, prioritising in situ work in Key Biodiversity Areas.
- In terms of Indianapolis Zoo partnership the PCC will support by identifying key experts to support plant conservation in plant diversity hotspot regions
- Second most important challenge for plants are pest/pathogens and invasive species.
- Illegal trade is also identified as a major threat and links with CITES, TRAFFIC programme

and SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods SG are being made to support plant conservation

- Climate change is starting to have a major impact on species and even at ecosystem level and as the SSC network we need to coordinate effort and support ex situ efforts. The PCC has a Seed Conservation SG to support such an initiative.
- Major successes include a good representation of plants on the Res List of threatened species almost meeting the target set for this quadrennium and also the development of a tool for streamlining the assessment of Least Concern (LC) species.

Plenary 2.2. Announcement of Indianapolis Zoo partnership



Grethel Aguilar, Acting Director General: Announced the partnership with Indianapolis Zoo (IZ) and SSC to catalyse the coordination of conservation action across the SSC network.

Jon Paul Rodriguez, SSC Chair: What is the one thing key for our Specialist Groups. What distinguishes groups that are active and functioning from those that are not. A common trend is capacity for network support.



Proposed Global Centre for Species Survival: partnership with Indianapolis Zoological Society. Goal to enhance the scope and capacity for global species conservation. Practically this translates to a team of employed staff at IZ (9 staff), 1 Centre Manager, 1 Behaviour Change Manager and 7 Network Coordinators that will be taxonomically focused across freshwater, marine, plants, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. IZ is very excited to further support the network by offering training and meeting space and enhancements in communication to different audiences.



Rob Shumaker, President, Indianapolis Zoo: Establishing a global centre for species survival. Mission of the zoo to engage, enlighten and empower their visitors.

There is a strong interest in supporting ex situ conservation to support elephants, primates, identify species for climate change adaptation amongst others. IZ also supports the Indy Prize award to persons or institutions that have made extraordinary contributions to conservation. The centre will also support a meeting/conferencing facility to the SSC network, with a media facility to produce conservation

success stories. There also exists a botanical garden in the Zoo. There is hope to partner with the community of Zoos and Aquaria to provide more support to species conservation.

This session ended with the official signing of this partnership between the IUCN SSC and Indianapolis Zoo.

Plenary 2.3. Sustainable Use

Facilitator(s): Dilys Roe and Grahame Webb.

- Worldwide, a large variety of wildlife is used for many reasons pet, medicine, recreation, food etc. Sustainable use is built into multilateral environmental agreements like the CBD, CITES, and even within the IUCN's programme. Sustainable use can be consumptive (either lethal or non-lethal) or non-consumptive.
- It can also be for subsistence or commercial or recreational purposes. It can be managed by governments or the private sector or indigenous communities.
- The challenge with sustainable use of wildlife is often seen as undesirable due to values or cultures.
- Conservation and values between different groups have to be reconciled. Communities interacting with dangerous predators have differing values to those often trying to drive conservation, without always understanding the community factor. Compromise between science and values is critical. One example is for crocodiles in the northern territories of Northern Australia. Underwent massive declines due to targeted hunting. Recovery began and went quite well until negative interactions with adult crocs drove a change in perception of the recovery program and resulted in a cull. Finding a solution is proving to be a tricky balance. Egg ranching programs have been developed, interacting with and employing indigenous people. These programs have resulted in complete recovery of the population in the region. In this case the species, habitats, the livelihoods, the cultures and the SDGs have all been considered.
- In summary Sustainable Use (SU) is both a conservation objectives and a conservation tool to save species; different approaches will work for different context; a mainstream element for international convention and policy
- We will like to get a feel of the network about SU.
 - Is SU use relevant to the conservation efforts of your SG? Majority experts responded with a yes (74%)
 - What type of SU is most relevant and/or acceptable to your SG?
 - What word best describes SU and its outcome?

Plenary 2.4. Panel of Disciplinary Groups

Philip McGowan. IUCN SSC Post 2020 CBD Task Force:

- CBD 3 main objectives. Conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits.
- A midterm review of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets in 2014, showed that despite increased efforts to conserve biodiversity, the status of biodiversity is not likely to be improved by 2020.
- Aichi Target 12 focuses on prevention of extinction and improvement of conservation status of threatened species.
- Post 2020 biodiversity task force was approved by SSC in 2018 (now 21 members, work closely with Secretariat).
- The task force has contributed to: the CBD technical and implementation body SBSTA (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice), open ended working group, IUCN position statement, proposed a target for post 2020 framework on biodiversity, among others.
- Seeking to work with policy officials and their science advisers.

Alexandra Zimmerman. IUCN SSC Human Wildlife Conflict Task Force:

- Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC): interactions between wildlife and people and conflicts between people about wildlife.
- Small multi-disciplinary group.
- The aim of the task force is to support the wider conservation community but particularly the IUCN SSC network.
- Build an online library of topics.
- Working on IUCN guidelines for HWC.
- Developing training on HWC in partnership with the IUCN Asian office.

Axel Moehrenschrager. IUCN SSC Conservation Translocations Task Force:

- Over 2000 species subject to translocations.
- Different types of CT; (i) Reintroduction (ii) Assisted colonisation (iii) mitigation translocation...
- New vision and mission developed.
- Developed global conservation translocation guidelines. Working on taxon specific guidelines.
- Developed a global training manual on conservation translocation.
- Communication has been through participation in international conferences.

Richard Kock. IUCN SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group:

- All work underpinned by ecosystemic stability.
- Domestic animals and industrialised agriculture have crushed nature.
- Conservation conventions block conservation work in some cases.
- Information dissemination challenges include linking across taxonomic groups and regions, disease reporting and vertical and horizontal links.
- Disease risk assessment online training was developed.

Mike Bruford. IUCN SSC Conservation Genetics Specialist Group:

- Upscaling membership (117 members)
- Conservation genetic is much established as a research field but less in the practical
- What has been achieved includes: capacity building, action plan developed, motion for the WCC 2020, post 2020 CBD framework, guideline document on biobanking, offering specific advice to SGs across the network, and others.
- Plans for the next quadrennium, finalising Conservation Genetics guidelines, expanding global reach, support the SSC network.

Onnie Byers. IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group:

- 289 members around the world. Almost half are members of other groups.
- The work of CPSG is supported by the Global conservation Network
- Strategic goals: prioritise and expand efforts, develop, apply and share best practices, build capacity, assist governments, evaluate and improve.
- Scaling up for 2020 and beyond. Access to data, shared responsibility, inclusive voices.

Piero Genovesi. IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group:

- 218 global members.
- Invasive species are the major drivers of biodiversity loss, extinctions and affects many taxonomic groups within the IUCN SSC.

- Contributes to the CBD, European Union, Convention on Migratory Species, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Manages Global Invasive species database and supports many invasive species projects across the world.
- Developed a framework for quantifying the impact of invasive species (EICAT)
- Contributed to WCC motion submissions
- Contributed to the new targets to the CBD to replace target 9 of the CBD target on invasive species.

P.J. Stephenson. IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group:

- Mission: Enhance conservation by improving the availability of data on species populations, their habitats and threats.
- To start we identified gaps in data both taxonomic and geographic to establish our work plan.
- Build capacity at site, locally. This ensures long term sustainability.
- A key stakeholder is the business community and we want to establish how to make biodiversity data available for business in order to mitigate their effects on biodiversity.
- Contributions have been made to the Green List.

Wendy Foden. IUCN SSC Climate Change Specialist Group:

- Climate emissions have increased since our last leaders meeting and increasing temperatures are affecting our species with huge implications for the corals.
- Aim: support and strengthen interventions on climate change.
- Themes: understanding vulnerability, measuring impacts, adaptation, working on policy and working with SSC to promote outreach and communication of the work.
- Highlights include; impact studies which show 82% of species are affected by climate change, guidelines for assessing species vulnerability to climate change.
- Work on integrating climate change and Red Listing are on-going

Nisha Owen. IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force:

- Halt loss of distinct lineages. PD is a key indicator of biodiversity value to people.



Human Wildlife Conflict TF



Conservation Translocations TF



Wildlife Health SG



Conservation Genetic SG



Conservation Planning SG



Invasive Species SG



Species Monitoring SG



Climate Change SG

Plenary 2.5. Expanding conservation planning

Facilitator(s): Onnie Byers.

How do we take the Assess Plan Act conservation cycle forward and how do we help SGs through their work to assess with an intention to act.

- A new approach to speed up and make more effective current planning processes.
- Assess to Plan (A2P) helps get species from assessment into planning more quickly.
- Works with bundles of species that are expended to respond similarly to the same kinds of conservation actions.
- Want to ensure that this adds value to the IUCN Red List (RL), not compete with it for funding but to use RL workshops as springboard into planning.
- A2P process: what is the most effective target for action planning. What are the next steps and who can take them. For data deficient (DD) species: why are they DD and how can we overcome these limits?
- Tool for this is the A2P matrix.
- Potential synergies include IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, the Ex Situ community, TRAFFIC, Sustainable Use and Livelihood SG, Invasive Species SG, Greenlist, Key Biodiversity Areas program and IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.
- Plan to Act: Principle steps outlined in handbooks currently in draft.
- In order to achieve action we need to include a variety of stakeholders in the planning process, to validate the plan, sharing the plan.
- Planning Steps - Conservation planning steps include the following; (i) Prepare to plan, (ii) Defining success, (iii) Understanding the system, (iv) Agree on goals and evaluate alternatives, (v) Specify actions, (vi) Prepare to implement, (vii) Monitor, learn and adapt.

Discussion:

Graham Webb: What are you doing with all these tools?

Onnie Byers: We aren't; that's the point, this is an available suite of tools for others to use.

Plenary 2.7. Future of SSC: where do we see the network in 20 years?

Facilitator(s): Jon Paul Rodriguez and Grethel Aguilar.

Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director:

- Commented this session's purpose is to think about the future. As SSC Leaders you know very well what the conservation challenges are. So let's think in that changing context: what will be the future of SSC ?
- Among many things I imagine, SSC can become more the place where everyone goes to, when talking about species. Make SSC the place to go for governments and societies. I would also like to see SSC engaging more with youth, a Commission open to change by future generations, and also preparing future generations to face future conservation challenges. Would like to see IUCN more visible and present in these discussions, be the source of knowledge. And to see the IUCN brand more visible in public fora, including Zoo, Aquariums and Botanic Gardens.

Discussion:

...: As the Species Survival Commission, with a vision to reduce loss of diversity of life on earth, we need to engage in more conservation action.

Steve Broad: Influence is really important. Action is often not something we can do ourselves as SSC but something we need other people to do. Influence is how we access action.

Brooke Sullivan: Evidence based work is really important. Caution in moving into action, that we remain evidence-based and don't lose that. Improving planning and action so that the actions we take are impactful

Russell Mittermeier: Primate SG believe that at least 50% of what they do is Action because if they don't do it who will? We should be moving forward so that our actions alone are influential. Also moving forward for species to be a critical component of the Union so that they are more integrated into the IUCN program and we don't see the absence that we are now seeing in the program.

Uromi Manage Goodale: to make change we need to have a plan, make it an engaging plan, make sure it is realistic to implement. I feel our plan is single minded. Do we consider alternate or different plans?

Amanda Vincent: Need to keep the idea that there is imperfect advice or none. We need to recognize this and advance in an adaptive way. Things keep changing and if we don't get involved it will be too late. There is this wrong perspective that if we ask we are at risk of losing objectivity, but this is not the case and we need to overcome that. Address the other issue: that scientists are not the only keepers of knowledge. We could change our statement of being a science-based network to a knowledge based network. Non-biologists should feel welcomed into our community.

... : Knowledge products we produce are very valuable, but we need to think about working more with partners for advocacy. If it is not our expertise then there are many potential partners that are doing it and are good on it.

...: Work with a lot of activists that have a lot of energy and we need to bring them to the table so that they are informed activists. There are people who know action in some cases better than we do so we should be interacting with them.

Uromi Manage Goodale: diversity not just in terms of disciplines, but in terms of regions, cultures and perspectives.

...: We struggle to find regions with representation. IUCN needs to be more active with training programs in areas where we lack expertise.

...: Not simply the lack of expertise in certain areas. IUCN membership is disproportionately European and even disproportionately English.

Russell Mittermeier: We need to improve diversity, but we've also improved a lot on this. I'd put

forward a scale, at least an order of magnitude in resources, impact.

Wendy Foden: Supports the call for more action especially in this time of rapid global change. Contribute !

Hermenegildo Metimele (South Africa Plant SG): There are examples of diversity within SSC from Africa that would be good to replicate. There are examples of SSC members active at national and regional levels influencing the establishment of conservation. Engage governments.

Quentin Luke: Agrees with previous speaker from Mozambique. In reference to us getting bigger, I hope this means the WCC doesn't go from 4000 to 10000.

Session 2.6b. IUCN engagement in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - SSC Leaders' Declaration (II)

Action	Leader
Introduction of the Post 2020 task force work with an explanation of the current engagement and status and upcoming timeline of events. General discussion on how to increase IUCN incidence on the discussions.	Jane Smart
Jane Smart, Phil McGowan, Angela Andrade, Cyrie Sendshong will continue with their work on the Post 2020. They will produce a timetable of key events. A call was made to the SSC to make a contribution to the draft.	

Session 2.6c. Partnership options across SSC. Indianapolis model

Facilitator(s): Kira Mileham.

Introduced grant strategy including Species Recovery Grant
Reviewed the grant - when it launched.

Rob Bullock, IUCN SSC Red List Partnership Coordinator:

- Rob explained his role, and the partnership established with the Deep in terms of Red Listing.
- Three people recruited from Albuquerque BioPark, and six people in total recruited under this model as Red List Officers
- Explained the role of the new red list partners
- Showed the results achieved for the red list team: assessments, workshops, etc.

Kira Mileham, Director of Strategic Partnerships:

- How to move forward conservation to plan as a way of evolution of partnerships:
- One example of effective partnership was shown --

Open the floor for providing feedback in what the role of network coordinators should be:
Participant: Provide information on habitats change or biodiversity lost, during the last 10 years.

Kira Mileham: they could develop tools or identify strategically.

Also, KM suggested that we need to be careful to make sure this model doesn't interfere with the role of the red list authorities coordinators.

- Indianapolis Center as a second point of action of IUCN SSC:
 - Boosting the volunteer capacity, detect what the priorities are, building the capacity or interacting with governments, communicate the priorities,
 - Fungi coordinator: increase the representation of this taxa. One fungi coordinator was proposed. Bill said yes.
 - To establish communication between all the Commission of IUCN.
 - Is possible to circulate the coordinator and the manager positions for improvements.

Session 2.6d. Grant writing and fundraising

Facilitator(s): Jean Cristoph Vie and Nicolas Heard.

- Presentation of the facilitators
- Description of Funds in general and the Bin Zayed Fund
- Explanation of the mechanism of the session

The main objective of this workshop is to increase your funding success rate and to give tips on how to spend less effort on grant writing. The facilitators asked for concerns about funding and grant writing and then discussed those concerns as a group with the audience. In the lines below, in black letters, are the concerns expressed by the audience followed by the main ideas discussed in the session, presented with bullet points.

CONCERNS

Having money to do research.

Success/failure of grant writing 25%:75% but it varies hugely, it is generally 11%:89%

Many donors provide less funding than needed, and this becomes an incentive to inflate budgets.

There is a lack of feedback from funders.

HOW TO INCREASE SUCCESS RATE:

- Know the donor, its taxonomical, geographical, etc. priorities,
- Know how to operate on the process of application: guidelines, rules, deadlines, budget limits, justifications, amount of writing (many applicants write too much), write less but be very clear and avoid jargon as much as possible, know successful projects that were funded.
- It is good to let the donor where your project stands contextually in your field and in your research plans.
- From the reviewer point of view: it is incredible the amount of proposals that don't follow rules, guidelines, etc. and it is a waste of everyone's time (the donor, the reviewer, the applicant). They know that the budget is not completely accurate, do not over inflate too much, but never under budget. Funding is a matter of trust, so do not break this trust with dishonesty. Write carefully and avoid simple mistakes, it doesn't need to be perfect, but it is important to be clear what the results will be. However, there are donors that are stricter with this.
- Some donors like logical frameworks, or summaries that concentrate very briefly the

important things of the proposal (name, objective, results, country, species, etc.) and then they look at budgets, specific results, etc.

- Do not apply to multiple funds with the same application, or ask for money for something you already got money from other sources (double dipping). Donors will find out eventually.
- The best donor is your actual donor, treat it well: send reports, even if it is not requested, send them news, etc.
- Be careful with the allocation of received funds: some donors are very strict with this, others are really flexible. The best approach is to communicate with the donor about potential changes, the worst if to fight with the donor.
- It is important to be clear if there are other people working in the area or with the species. Donors don't want to create problems, and will favor applicants that are transparent about those potential conflicts.
- Be mindful of the times, although many donors won't mind that the project carries for a little longer than programmed, others will do. On the other hand, notify the donors of new results even if the grant is finished, they will appreciate that and will increase future funding opportunities.
- Donors like partnerships, especially if they are local.
- If you don't get the money, don't insult your donor.
- It is difficult to give feedback when the proposals are bad.
- Private funders don't have any obligation to be transparent, and governmental funding should be more transparent, but it varies from country to country. It is very important to know your donor so you can tailor your request. We have to acknowledge that knowing evaluators can have an impact on the funding decision.
- You also have the option to turn down the funding if there is not enough for the basic things.

CONCERNS

There seems to be no fund available to produce conservation action plans.

How to balance the allocation of funds for poorly know species: basic biology vs. action.

It was suggested that sometimes it has to be done simultaneously.

Taxonomy is underfunded.

No funding for re-assessments and the lack of appreciation of baseline data.

It is easy to get funding for a new species, but more difficult to continue working with that species for a longer period of time (longer monitoring or long lived species).

Difficult when you want to get money for several species.

WHAT IS FUNDABLE

- Different donors fund different things. Not good to tell the donors that they are funding the wrong things, it is better to find donors that have your same interest
- You need to be smart at packaging your information, sometimes bending the rules a little, but don't over package, e.g. hiding the funding of action planning in a proposal of a different nature for a donor that doesn't fund action planning. It is better to make it a part of the project and it is very important the way you present it. Do not mention "KBAs"
- Be aware that many donors feel that they are funding many vacations, so it is better to avoid asking for money for too many meetings. It is also good to avoid words like "travel" or "meetings".
- Use the word "impact". Donors always look for the greatest impact
- Many donors don't fund taxonomy because they prefer to fund more action oriented projects. However, it is something that can be targeted as a side result.

CONCERNS

Decide what to fund within a specialist group (SG) a well-known species with people that is working with or poorly known species with no-one that is working with.

- This varies a lot from SG to SG. Some are democratic, in others the Chairs submit proposals, others try to decide together which project gets submitted, others take the position of first come-first served.

CONCERNS

Funds that have two-tier grants: a first one small, and a second one larger or differential phases of funding with incremental budgets

One pager proposal instead of long full proposals

- This is also very variable, but depends on the nature of the funder, the amount of the grants
- Be reasonable with the budgets
- Donors like funded organizations that deliver fully what was promised

CONCERNS

Crowdfunding

- Crowdfunding success is highly variable, but it depends on the impact of the project and is more successful when tied with a good support of social media, news, networking, etc.

CONCERNS

Corporate funding

- The success is variable, but you have to be careful because you can be used and your results can be manipulated. This will depend on the ethics of the corporation, do your research on the corporation as well.

Session 2.6f. Measuring SSC outcomes and impact (I)

Facilitator(s): P.J. Stephenson, Orlando Salamanca and Jafet Nassar

NETWORK COMPONENT

- KSR 1
 - IND1: Difference between members and active or working members. We should count No. of working members instead of just members. Also the ratio active members: working members. Numbers relevant to what you want to achieve. Emphasize how the new recruited members fill in the gaps the group identifies.
 - IND2: It varies in time. Training must be more specific. It does not make much sense to train already scientific members.
- KSR 2
 - IND1: No opinions.
 - IND2: No opinions.
 - IND3: What type of funds? (for group activities or to invest in conservation actions?) It does not make sense to report the overall amount of funds raised by all members of the group. It should be focused on funds raised by the group for its targets. We need to be more specific. This indicator should be removed. If reported should be funds allocated to SSC existence.

ASSESS COMPONENT

- KSR 3
(Probably this KSR should be split into two: the taxonomic knowledge and the conservation documentation).
 - IND1: We need a tool to collect information from the members of the group. Be careful describing the different types of knowledge.
 - IND2: Projects related to the activities of the groups or at least endorsed by the group. At least the paper should include IUCN SSC SG affiliation.
- KSR4
 - IND1: No opinions.
 - IND2: No opinions.
- KSR5
 - IND1: Is more a matter of proportion with respect to the total of species that need to be assessed. Is there something about quality assessment and conservation recommendations?
 - We need more data available to determine the status of the species.
 - 09/10/2019 (Second Section) N= 7 participants
- KSR 6
 - IND1: Green List of species. It is not formally adopted yet, it has to be approved.

PLAN COMPONENT

- KSR 7
 - IND1: Number of species with plans.
 - IND2 (new from splitting the former): Number of plans developed for species groups.
 - IND3: Doubts about getting feedback. Make sure this indicator refers to conservation planning, not conservation actions.
- KSR 8
 - IND1: How to implement it? Does it include recommendations? Policy influencing efforts. E.g. We engaged in the CITES process. Number of processes in which a group engages.

ACT COMPONENT

- KSR 9
(Should we use the word identifying? It refers to planning)
 - IND1: To wait for the status will take forever. Be more short-term focused. Also keep account of the scale of the influence on conservation status (national, regional, global). Number of species that have improved to some level their status.
 - IND2: Check the wording. Number of other species or non-target species that received positive influence.
- KSR 10
(Is the use of the word FOSTER correct? The term is vague.) This is more related to policy no actions. Use the term catalyze instead. We need to get consistency with the terms used across all the strategy and SSC framework.
 - IND1: Why only countries? The level could be at a more local scale.
- KSR 11
 - IND1: Example: Letter-writing campaigns.
 - IND2: Preparation for crisis cases.

- KSR 12
Change amelioration by mitigation. Also change the word interactions. It is a very narrow focus compared to other KSRs. Take issues that are common across many species. We need to elevate it to a higher level. Should be more globally formulated.
IND1: No opinion.
IND2: Use word mitigated.

COMMUNICATE COMPONENT

- KSR 13
 - IND1: Number of publications with SSC affiliations. Different types of communications. This is about using information. How many SSC publications are being cited. Number of times SSC members are invited to be part of consultation boards or conservation initiatives. Amount of technical consultations. Professional audiences (including governments)
 - IND2: One should refer to the media and filming exclusively. Number of hits on websites. Twitter followers. This is about general audiences.
- KSR 14
This refers to IND2 of the previous one. Lest separate the previous one into two, one technical and one to general audiences.
 - IND1: No opinion.
 - IND2: No opinion.

Session 2.6h. Conservation genetics

Facilitator(s): Michael Bruford (MB) and Gernot Segelbacher (GS).

- **Coordination between CGSG and Red Listing committee.** Currently CGSG is essentially independent but we hope to see conservation genetics incorporated more explicitly into red list information in the future following approaches such as those established by the Cat Specialist Group, who have carried out a recent taxonomic revision of their species to identify units for conservation. It was suggested that decision-making could include specific categories relevant to conservation genetics without altering the criteria used in the process of assessment. Of relevance would be the ability of genetics to inform decision making e.g., by back-calculation of population estimates for trend assessment.
- **The role of CGSG when species are down to a few individuals.** Cases of island species were cited. A similar situation has arisen in the case of the Northern White Rhino, separated from the SW Rhino ca. 20 kya. What should we aim to conserve and how to do it was essentially a political decision, but the evidence provided by CGSG could be crucial. Species that go through such population bottlenecks may not exhibit lethal effects, but bottleneck effects can hamper future survival when new selection pressures arise. Conservation Genetics can be used to understand how many species do survive bottlenecks and genomics may help management in future to identify specific areas of the genome affected by bottlenecks. There is ongoing activity within CGSG (led by Prof Cock van Oosterhout, [CVO] University of East Anglia, UK).
- **Can CGSG provide a service to facilitate the inclusion of conservation genetics in species assessments?** This question was posed in relation to bison conservation. CGSG has experience in species management decision-making and has, for example, helped with rhinoceros conservation, providing input on black rhino population management for the African Rhino SG. CGSG is also requesting feedback from other specialist groups re-

lating to the provision of genetic data and advice in order to expand the range of contacts and develop networks.

- **Can CGSG provide expert advice in IUCN context in relation to hybrids, especially their position in the legal framework.** This question was raised in context of African Elephants – forest v savanna and their hybrids. CGSG has assisted the African Elephant SG in this regard and has been requested to provide more generic guidance by IUCN HQ. In the case of elephant taxa, countries tend to have one or the other or their hybrids – so the problem is bio-geographically distinct and different countries need to evolve their own management strategies. However, how these taxa fit within a legal context is still unclear and needs to be resolved.
- **Can CGSG help in relation to the problem of international transfer of biological samples?** This is a growing problem, especially with implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and national Access and Benefits Sharing legislation. CGSG can help by providing contacts with regional labs that avoid the need to export samples. The CGSG can also help by providing advice on how to navigate the rules relating to compliance and permitting etc.
- **How can CGSG contribute when certain taxonomic designations are primarily used to raise regional awareness, increase conservation interest and raise funds.** This question was raised in the context of the Black Rhino. CGSG can provide advice on what constitutes distinct taxonomic units and provide evidence to those managing these units. Management policy is essentially a separate political question. CGSG does not advocate but provides the relevant evidence on which management decisions can be taken. The point was raised that “what we try to conserve” is essentially a political question, whereas genetics tells us “what we have to conserve”. This can be framed as a forward-looking process rather than preservation of past patterns – “conserving evolutionary potential not past genetic diversity”.
- **Can CGSG inform us on where we should concentrate efforts in order to determine what we need to conserve?** Question asked in context of South American marsupials where data is deficient, and advice is required on what information we need to collect as priority. CGSG can provide information on what data already exists and the best experimental design to fill gaps. CGSG can also connect researchers with groups that will enable this work to happen.
- **Can metabarcoding be used in IUCN assessment?** The question was asked in the context of UK invertebrate work (National Museums Scotland) in order to help conserve species that we do not yet know exist. Currently IUCN cannot Red List operational taxonomic units unless they are ready to be described and linked to specimens. In this case it can be done if there is a good conservation basis for listing. Currently metabarcoding is suitable for presence/absence questions but may ultimately have the potential to be used to determine relative abundance.
- **How can other specialist groups link with CGSG?** The first step CGSG has identified is to contact coordinators, GS & MWB, who will then forward the queries to relevant contacts within CGSG. We have tried to do this proactively and will do so again.

Action	Leader
Red list activities – to link with Red List committee and discuss ways to better include genetic descriptions with red list records and ultimately play into decision making.	CVO
IUCN red list status and hybrids. This has been ongoing but it was recognised that we need to re-engage and accelerate the quest to provide guidance.	MWB and GS
Nagoya Protocol. CGSG is working towards providing a Nagoya Norm guidance document, but this activity is being carried out by others (eg the UK CryoArks biobanking initiative). We should link with these initiatives while recognising that Nagoya policy is country specific.	MWB and GS
DNA metabarcoding and species assessment. This is clearly a new development and requires specific attention from CGSG. This will be incorporated into action for the coming year and new quadrennium.	MWB and GS

Session 2.6i. Best practices in maximizing representation of diverse views and approaches in SSC activity: Geographic, gender, age, taxonomic, disciplines

Facilitator(s): Rachel Hoffmann.

4 presentations were made by Graham Webb (Crocodile SG), Vivek Menon (Asian Elephant SG), AriadneAngulo (Amphibian SG) and Amanda Vincent (Seahorse SG).

- Encourage not to automatically renew membership
- Identify a vision for the future and look for people to accomplish it
- Identify responsibilities within the group and name them: to give them some power.
- Specialization is a must requirement, but diversity of disciplines is also very important.
- Chairs are who select members to accomplish SSC mission
- A mentorship program to go after young qualified professionals in developing countries
- A close interaction between IUCN management system and chair
- Emphasis on regional leaders within each SG.
- Real diversity is in disciplinary diversity and diversity of visions.
- Key two questions for membership are: 1) are you a specialist ? 2) are you doing conservation ?
- It is needed for diversity of perspectives, ethnicity and not just nationality, disciplines, age and experience.
- Recruit people from other SG related to your, i.e. cave specialists to add to spiders and scorpions groups.

Action	Leader
To discuss in depth how to link membership databases between IUCN System and Chairs own databases	Claire Sontaine and Edgard Yerena

Session 2.6j. Species monitoring

Facilitator(s): P.J. Stephenson.

- Progress with projects set up by the Species Monitoring SG (e.g. an audit of global species monitoring schemes; developing monitoring frameworks for business; improving capacity for protected area management in Ghana; testing the IUCN Green List of Species; see more at <https://www.speciesmonitoring.org/programmes--projects.html>).
- Results from the survey of SSC monitoring needs and how the Species Monitoring SG can best help and support taxonomic specialist groups: some participants agreed that training would be useful; others felt that developing and sharing monitoring guidelines and tools, and thereby helping ensure data quality, was the most important contribution the SG could make.
- Other topics discussed included the challenge of harvesting camera trap bycatch data, the lack of standardization in citizen science monitoring programmes, how to focus on species that trigger KBAs, and the need to find ways to support institutions in using biodiversity data.

Action	Leader
Species Monitoring SG to review the SSC survey findings and develop an updated list of the top 5 actions the group can undertake to help taxonomic groups (then build those actions into the strategic plan for the next quadrennium)	PJ Stephenson

Photo credits (in order of appearance): Giant Guitarfish *Glaucostegus typus* by Colin Simpfendorfer, *Fraxinus potosina* seeds by Michael Moore, *Eristalis tenax* by T.Tot, Tapir by Daniel Zupanc, Philippine Pangolin *Manis culionensis* by Roger Dolorosa, Jaguar Pantanal by P. Meier, Hippocampus *japapigu* by Richard Smith, *Baldellia repens* *Bellebouche* by Richard Lansdown.

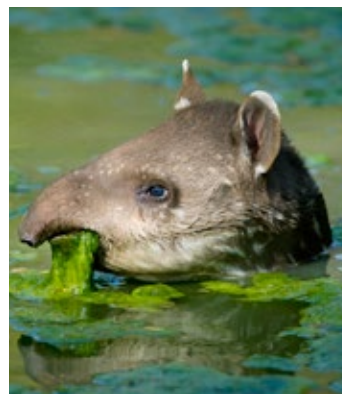




Photo credits (in order of appearance): *Lamproderma arcyrroides* by Alain Michaud, *Merodon aberrans* by Saric Bojan, *Epinephelus polyphekadion* by Yvonne Sadovy, *Orchis militaris* by Maarten Christenhusz, *Chae Rugu* by SM, American bison by Day's Edge, *Leptonia carnea* by Kresge UCSC, *Lepus californicus* by David Brown, Greater White-fronted goose by Petr Glazov, Sea otter by Nicole Duplaix.

Tuesday, 08 October

Plenary 3.1. SSC success stories in conservation

Richard Young, IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group

- The mission of the Small Mammal SG is to be the world's leading authority on all 3000 small mammals. Primary research work has mainly been to lead research work that will lead to species conservation success. Our work focuses on all categories of species. Showing specific conservation success with the Malagasy giant rat where population studies have monitored and maintained its threat status as Endangered (EN). This status would have been Critically Endangered (CR) according to population trajectory analysis if no conservation actions were implemented. We have shown that species conservation works but you need sufficient, sustained funding.

Dilys Roe, IUCN SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group

- Saltwater crocodile harvest and trade in Australia. Sustainable Use and Livelihoods SG (SULi) working with the CITES Secretariat to provide more conservation success stories. Working together we pulled 10 conservation success stories in Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Georgia, Canada, and others. Most success in SULi interventions have been the acquisition of land areas, with formal legal protections and trade regulation for many species. Additionally, building evidence from illegal wildlife trade across the globe and having local people contribute to conservation has been prioritised through participation in meetings and conferences.

Amanda Vincent, IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee

- Focus on seahorses and pipefish. More than 350 seahorse species are distributed globally and habitat degradation is one of the most concerning threats. Exploitation through accidental capture and target fisheries are the biggest threat to their survival. Medicinal use has also been identified as a major threat in Chinese medicine. Using work conducted on seahorse species from a Red Listing point of view has led to the listing of these species in CITES Appendix II. These results have also been used to guide routes of trade for seahorses and policies on trade suspension in this species. However, increased monitoring efforts are needed to ensure proper implementation in the era of illegal trade.

Justin Chuven, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD)

- Reintroduction Programme of Oryx, which was Extinct in the Wild (EW) 30 years ago. The species was reintroduced into its native range in Chad. Using the United Arab Emirates breeding centre, many individuals were transported to other facilities worldwide for further rehabilitation before reintroduction. Test individuals have been fitted with collars to monitor their behaviour before full reintroduction. Currently 202 individuals have been reintroduced in the wild and are adapting well to their environment. The availability of suitable habitats, strong partnership, involvement of local communities has been instrumental to the success of this species reintroduction.

Yves Hingrat, Bustard Conservation Programme

- This species has a complex ecology and behaviour and is listed by the IUCN as Vulnerable (VU). This programme included a consortium of stakeholders for a successful implementation. The work is funded by the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (IFHC). Setting up important protection agreements amongst 8 countries within the species range was critical. Breeding programmes in the Emirates and Morocco have led to the release of more than 35000 individuals and training and capacity building initiatives are underway to ensure monitoring and protection of species. Observations of breeding success in the wild have been recorded in Morocco. Thanks to the commitment of EAD, effective conservation of this species has been achieved through a proactive intervention.

Plenary 3.2. Questions and answers session with the Chair Jon Paul Rodríguez

Jon Paul Rodríguez presented a report of the SSC Chair's Office, starting with reviewing the team. Followed by the Species Conservation Cycle.

Discussion:

...: Can we strategize to learn from our failings, where do we have examples of our failings?

JPR: Success is a tricky thing to measure, if you look at the many analyses of the Red List and the work of Mike Hoffman a few years ago. But if you want to look at this, that's great and we will support that.

DR: Now we are going into thematic breakouts, now is the time to bring up those really key lessons for us to understand and talk about.

Susana González: Want to thank JPR and his team for their work, especially given the difficulties in Venezuela. We need to focus on Reverse the Red, as the focus for our work trying to reverse the trend in critically endangered species and to show to people that this is possible. I want to congratulate people for the positive progress shown in this meeting

Ariadne Angulo: Question relates to earlier comment. The donor culture is such that you can get funding for two to five years if you are lucky. Can we consider and strategize how we might be able to look at longer term donor relationships to help support action efforts.

JPR: Unfortunate reality is that we spend a lot of time chasing funding. Although it is frustrating and challenging we have a lot of evidence proving that it works and we have to keep pushing and learn from one another.

DR: We are continuing to look for those strategic partnerships, the human capacity support for our network. We are doing as much as we can.

Birdlife Red List Authority: There is a Birdlife resource that can be used, that focuses on learning from failures. How can we address taxonomic biases in our network?

JPR: There are taxonomic areas with less representation in SGs. As we build Indianapolis Zoo partnership and as we see more coordinated building of SGs, do you feel it's worthwhile to look at our structures, for example conservation committees, and build them to best suit you, your needs and our ability to do more from assessments to action and elevate key issues (for example do we establish a mammal committee or a vertebrate committee, etc.) ?

...: Linking to IUCN engaging with practitioners more. Practitioners often don't engage with a single species, but an array of species. Would be good to have a group focused on engaging with practitioners, more regionally-area based, working to engage stakeholders.

Russell Mittermeier: Recognition/popularity of species has gone through cycles over the last decades. Really need to start thinking in terms of changing to scale. See good things happening due to involvement with Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) for example as well as through the exciting announcement with Indianapolis Zoo partnership yesterday with the wider Zoo and Aquaria (Z&A) and Botanical Gardens community. We need to be using social media better to maximise our impacts. And this should be short term, next year or two. We should use this vast Z&A community to help us build an online profile and with that enhance fundraising.

JPR: Imagine if our community of allies help us to communicate the message of the IUCN and the Red List. The visibility and impact of our work can be hugely increased. The SSC is one of the best kept secrets of the IUCN and we have partners willing to help us change this.

DR: Responding to comment on upscaling our comms, messaging. Please take this point to your break out thematic sessions now to strongly consider the roles of conservation committees and structures to ensure they are listening and responding to the needs of SGs, to Coordinate across SGs and to elevate issues. For any particular issue please continue to think about whether it would work best to be addressed by your particular group or across groups

Axel Möhrenschrager: Is there a strategic process for the chairs to look at how we best cross-

over and be aware for working across commissions?

JPR: There are a few examples: Biodiversity and Protected Areas Task Force, Sustainable Use and Livelihoods SG. There is still too much tendency for silos. We get along well at the level of Council, but do a lot less collaborative work at the programmatic level. Certainly looking for opportunities, and there is no barrier, no resistance: just requires someone to help foster these relationships. Lots of ideas that haven't crystallised. We do work together at council and any message you would like me to carry, then please do let me know.

Wendy Foden: Sharing failures? We desperately need to be innovative with the challenges we face, and for that we need a safe space to fail. We should be able to be honest about failure, share and learn quickly.

...: As your profile increases in the broader public outside of SSC/IUCN can get quite a response, for example on how we can justify coming to a meeting such as this, as conservationists. We will need to think carefully about what we do, why we do it, because we will be under a much greater scrutiny.

JPR: We have to be much better at communicating the value of these face to face meetings and we should indeed reflect on this question.

DR: Really important question. What would be really valuable for us is to get direct feedback on what value you got from this meeting, to quantify this impact/value. We have to try to understand and talk about the value of bringing us all together, whilst also considering better when we need to NOT be bringing people together.

JPR: Zoom tool is fantastic!

Amanda Vincent: We use zoom, it's great. Amanda doesn't go to big conferences anywhere now. Not worth it to her. Harder time justifying report back sessions to passive audiences, much easier to validate the sessions where we are talking, arguing, interacting, learning. Using tools like Zoom for reporting and feedback will give us a greater window to use these kinds of in person meetings to be more interactive and engaged with one another on key topics and issues.

JPR: Totally agree.

Alejandro Ortega-Argueta: Important to take a comprehensive approach to threatened species crisis. Have a special task force for working on crisis, e.g. "Vaquita": there was proper understanding of the situation, a lot of resources around the issue, but something happened where this comprehensiveness didn't lead to the expected result. We could have perhaps a disciplinary group with other skills that complement the scientific approach, with e.g. negotiation skills, among others.

JPR: Managing failure as a possible outcome, not because messed up but just because it didn't work out. We need to incorporate failure into our planning.

...: I haven't heard the phrase 6th mass extinction much here; does SSC have policies on the phrases used. I'm trying to get across natural recovery processes and I'm wondering if SSC has

policies on this. Should the language and concept of the 6th mass extinction be more visible and something we talk about more across the SSC?

JP: We don't have a policy about the 6th mass extinction.

DR: It is something that we can potentially take up more comms for, but we have to make sure that it's not something that people close up. Behavioral research shows that doom and gloom messages can be very disengaging.

Benjamin Morales-Vela: Reintroductions can be used to be proactive to address calculated risk. Sea otter is an example and "Vaquita" is a strong and complicated case. How do we move beyond reaction to proactive action.

Session 3.3a. Pathway towards achieving the Barometer of Life target

Facilitator(s): Craig Hilton-Taylor and Jane Smart.

- Explained the concept of the Barometer of Life.
- Reported on progress so far.
- Reported on potential to achieve the target and use of SIS Connect.
- Discussed how to achieve the shortfall - potential taxonomic groups, national Red Lists, tools to do this and sources of funding.

Action	Leader
<p>What do we mean by Bol? A brief historical background of how BoL was developed.</p> <p>The adoption of the 2017-2020 targets that were adopted into the IUCN Strategic Plan and where they are today in terms of achieving this target.</p> <p>SIS Connect, the online tool and its success so far - 12,000 assessments imported since its launch.</p>	<p>Craig Hilton - Taylor</p>
<p>ACTION: Bringing in assessments from national Red Lists - concerns were raised about the quality - national assessments tend to be more evidentiary than precautionary.</p>	<p>National Red List Working Group and potentially the new National SSC networks.</p>
<p>ACTION: We are looking to the SSC Specialist Groups for any taxonomic groups that could be easily assessed and also any new sources of funding.</p>	<p>SSC SGs</p>
<p>ACTION: We should get more universities involved and student researchers encouraged to make species assessments especially where there is data deficiency.</p>	<p>SSC members linked to universities</p>
<p>ACTION: Adding national assessments and easily assessed species to the Red List could skew the results to certain geographic regions or towards LC listings (might be less skewed). Need to think about how best to communicate these results.</p>	<p>Red List Unit and GSP Comms</p>

Action	Leader
ACTION: Indianapolis to be approached for the possibility to make funding of the BoL part of their overall commitment. Agreed that funding pitches need to include the ‘Assess to Plan to Act’ pitch as it would be easier to sell.	GSP and SSC Chairs Office
ACTION: To set new assessments targets as part of the post- 2020 targets in the next few months.	IUCN SSC Post 2020 Task Force (Phil McGowan, Stu Butchart)
ACTION: Sharing data between groups, especially threat information, to help with the assessment process. Explained process. to develop standardised threat layers for use by the network. Also indicated how using the spatial search interface of the Red List website can assist this process.	Red List Unit

Session 3.3b. Volunteerism in SSC: how to increase engagement and empowerment of members

Facilitator(s): Edgard Yerena, Bibiana Sucre and Uromi Manage Goodale.

Bibiana introduced the session and mentioned that it is more for discussion and expression of concerns in order to come up with ideas, tips and suggestions to improve volunteerism in the groups.

- What is volunteerism?
 - Passion, not paid, motivation
- Why do people volunteer?
 - Our subject organisms are beautiful
 - Alignment with some of our other goals/jobs
 - The work is not working
 - Impact
 - Inspiration and common interest
- What is the global context of volunteerism
 - Large. Mostly by females
- Volunteerism within SSC
 - 9,500+ SSC members equivalent to 45 million dollars
- Some challenges were mentioned
 - Motivation factors
 - Recognition
 - Help the cause
 - Esteem and recognition from peers
 - Demotivation factors
 - Lack of resources
 - Professional cost
 - Need of help of fundraising and finding grants

BEST PRACTICES from the literature

- Valuing the role of volunteers
- Defining rules and expectations policies
- Developing volunteer managing skills

- Reducing risk
- Creating clear assignments
- Reaching beyond the circle
- Orienting and training volunteers
- Providing supervision
- Making volunteers feel they belong
- Recognizing volunteer contributions

BEST PRACTICES from SSC

- The importance of thanking
- Measure the positive impact of volunteers
- Encourage positive feedback
- Listening to volunteers
- Clear roles
- Build relationships with volunteers
- Develop career paths (finding partnerships or funding, workshops and training; and increase group capacity).

Discussion:

...: There is a need for different kinds of volunteers depending on the plan, assess or action phases, which makes for different approaches needed for each.

...: Also, there are different priorities in different groups. Some groups are focusing more on communication, while there are others that are more focused on assessments. Following that, there is a diversity of interests in the volunteers themselves, and some will be more interested in policy, others on planning, etc.

...: The groups evolves in membership: from getting data to CITES to mentoring.

...: It is difficult to motivate professional members because their time is limited, while for others, they will be happy without getting anything. Recognition and ownership are two strategies that work for professional members.

...: Mixing people of different ages and expertise sometimes work. The young ones will have more passion.

...: It is important to manage the volunteers expectations since the beginning.

...: In developing countries is more difficult to find time for volunteering

...: There is a lot of diversity in the groups formation and recruitment. There is no universal rule that works for all. However, it always helps to have respect, tolerance, and diversity.

...: About the chairs. Within the invertebrates groups it is hard to find chairs, and there is a need to find more chairs.

...: If you are getting volunteers, you need to know what you are doing with them.

...: Some members request membership certificates: get them contribution certificates, not members certificates. Or ask them to write what their contributions have been.

...: There is a problem with the availability of the material in very few languages.

...: Many of us are trained as scientists, but in the IUCN you are asked to be human resource management.

...: Keep and open communication with members, ask members about what they do and expect from the SG, show them that you care about them.

...: How to deal with inactive members? A periodical survey was suggested and used by other groups (every four years) to review membership and clean up memberships

...: How do you recruit new members? Use networks, meetings, etc.

List of things that the audience would like to get from the IUCN to support their roles as group leaders (transcribed from the notes of Jesús Sigala-Rodríguez, IUCN SSC Viper Specialist Group):

- Access to corporate management software (Monday) for tracking involvements and tasks
- How to promote the long term compromise of volunteers?
- Online tools to improve volunteer engagement
- Orientation for new groups and members
- Guidance when necessary
- A communication platform
- Provide help with training
- Recognition
- Dissemination of volunteers work
- Provide top tips for volunteer management within the specialist groups (concise)
- Share case examples on how different groups manage volunteers, TOR templates, governance structure, etc.
- Short course about volunteerism
- Central contact list for SG chairs to facilitate sharing knowledge across groups (and sharing best practices)
- A better, more interactive communication system. If it is in the Union Portal, it needs to have more capability to foster discussion and interaction among SG.
- Training sessions on: Time management. Organization operation. Best practices on human resource management. Diversity policy. Code of conduct. Harassment policy. (the last tres statements should be available and easily accessible for the leadership of the specialist groups).
- Help to bring in contact the actual specialist groups with people in underrepresented regions as focal points to extend our network.
- Help to connect with other SG to work together
- Help us identify things we can do to better motivate our volunteers
- Help us collect better data from our volunteers: additional species of expertise, additional areas of expertise, regions of expertise, needs and motivations.
- Help us connect more with our volunteers: Translate materials to more languages, travel for people in developing countries, international meetings.

- Include activities to encourage volunteerism in the SSC small grants
- Promote online resources (training, BDBB, species assessments) for volunteers
- Participation certificate signed by co-chairs of SSG and chair of the SSC
- Websites- chairs need access to add information
- Training capacity on red list assessments and conservation planning
- Training in human resource management
- Different methods to communicate effectively with our members
- Centralized yearly messages to all volunteers from SSC (not just through chairs)
- More appealing possibilities for chairs
- Motivate chairs to take input from out of the SSC, potentially be able to approach new members.
- Translation help of SSC documents and outcomes
- Email address to communicate with all countries.
- Guidelines specifically for chairs with examples of the organization of successful SG.

Session 3.3c. The convener role of SSC for emergency species conservation: Sumatran Rhino Rescue as a case model

Facilitator(s): Barney Long, Jon Paul Rodríguez and Kira Mileham.

- The status of Sumatran Rhino and why SSC decided to engage
- The role of SSC in leveraging global support for individual species
- Do we need SSC guidelines for species conservation support; focus on unifying approaches and convening and NOT implementing
- Helping others to implement and not fighting others over space
- SSC bringing neutral scientific advice
- Is there a role for IUCN regional offices?
- Use the Sumatran rhino example as a learning experiment

Session 3.3e. Optimizing novel conservation translocation strategies for all species

Facilitator(s): Axel Moehrenschrager.

- Conservation Translocation SG has existing guidelines (“reintroductions and other conservation translocations” and “management of confiscated, live organisms”; plus species or taxon-specific docs), but these may not cover all issues in terms of risks or benefits.
- Potential need for guidance for situations where there’s not an ideal scenario (e.g. best course of action if the only option) – what to do in these exceptional circumstances.
- Task force is strongly encouraged by the session attendees to develop guidelines for responsible conservation releases of displaced, threatened fauna and flora. Draft problem and opportunity statements were reviewed and consulted with session attendees.
- Key recommendations from discussion (full notes captured and will be considered by Task Force): Issue of scale of translocation, taxonomic scope (e.g. plant and fungi), infrastructure (e.g. availability of sanctuary/rehabilitation), situations (e.g. public pressure, especially for welfare), threatened species or wider scope, potential to link to e.g. CITES.
- Encourage an IUCN stance about appropriateness of translocations and irresponsible situ-

- ations and the need to plan carefully to minimize risks.
- Develop guidelines with eye for filling potential legislation (e.g. on enforcement) gaps in countries – could provide a potential policy foundation.
- Emphasize importance of monitoring for conservation releases and alternatives to release.
- Proposed motion for WCC 2020 “improving process and action to identify and recover ‘extinct in the wild’ species”.

Action	Leader
Proceed with new Task Force of the Conservation Translocation Specialist Group to produce “IUCN guidelines on responsible conservation releases of displaced, threatened fauna and flora” (Draft recommended title)	Axel Moehrenschlager, Vivek Manon
If submitted IUCN WCC motion on Extinct-In-The_Wild Species, passes the first review, further develop this motion with SSC Leaders and Red List leadership	Axel Moehrenschlager

Session 3.3f. National Red Lists

Facilitator(s): Domitilla Raimondo and Simeon Bezeng.

Domitilla: The IUCN has key knowledge products including the RLS, RLE and KBAs and alot of RL training has been happening across the globe including 38 RL training workshops in 31 countries from 2016-2019. But it’s challenging to know what happens after these RL trainings. There is also an online RL training course.

Objectives:

- Explain what species RL and policy work is taking place in your country
- Is it worthwhile Setting a National Species Authority for RL Structure at country level; made up of multi taxa experts and will be responsible for identifying species of conservation concern, mobilising accurate spatial data, Conduct RL assessment, Use the RL assessments to calculate a country level index on trends in species recovery and use the data to influence policy and decision making such as PAs expansion, mining, infrastructural development, KBAs identification etc. at country level.

Contributions:

- Explain what species RL and policy work is taking place in your country

Jennifer Leudtke: This is highly welcomed and for the amphibians we are currently working on reassessments.

Argentina: Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment in Argentina and they are the ones finding priority for the country.

- Discuss if having an IUCN recognised structure at the national level is useful
It is important to understand the local context in each country to be able to carry this forward as we won’t have a single model for all countries.

- Discuss any particular consideration you will like us to take into account in developing such a structure

Jennifer: We need better coordination with global RL initiatives. Please reach out to these

groups for better coordination. The amphibian group can support with the training

Kenya: Quentin Luke: How will this national structures overlap with geographic RLAs. Domitilla: we will use the IUCN SSC network to make sure we get representatives on this national structure.

Viola: Huge emphasis should be placed on training local experts

Quentin Luke: What resources will be available at national level to support this process.

Serbia: The national RL initiative comes from the government

France: Both France and French overseas territories are doing NRL. There are many endemics in this region and the aim is to have a national RL that will also contribute to the global RL but making sure data is used for decision making. Started some work on animal groups and will soon move into the freshwater realm.

Colombia: megadiverse country doing NRL. The challenge will be how to coordinate people from different taxa group doing RL to inform decision making. I think having this initiative embedded with the government is key. This will be really useful in the era of KBAs.

Indonesia: The government didn't really support the RL authority in this country but we have collaborated with global initiatives like the Global Tree assessment programme.

Turkey: There is a national committee which is not very active but there is progress with different taxa groups. It is critical to have a government endorsement because if they are not approved at a national level they wont make any meaningful impact. KBA have been identified in 2016 and there are 235 current KBAs in Turkey.

Mozambique: For many years focus was on plants and huge emphasis has been on training young conservationists. But recently more and more taxa have been added through the KBA and the KBA NCG. All the data is centralised under the ministry of environment who mainstream this data into national development priorities.

Madagascar: For plants we have and SSC SG but for other groups it is coordinated by international priorities. Having this national structure will raise the profile of national assessment.

Cuba: In Cuba this is coordinated by an NGO with support from the government. Having this kind of structure in Cuba will be challenging.

Summary:

- Strong support for such as structure as it will raise the profile of biodiversity
- There should be strong government support for endorsement of the product
- Look into the overlapping authority issue
- There is also the SIS Connect tool which is really great for offline assessments.
- There is need to develop ToR for such a group to ensure effective participation.

Session 3.3g. Coral Red List Assessment

Facilitator(s): David Obura and Beth Polidoro.

Presentation of the Red List of coral species project and approach for discussion with attendees. In general, those present endorsed the approach.

Some items that were discussed include:

- Funding and start date of postdoc under Beth Polidor/ASU
- Issue of Pelagic Larval Duration for corals vs. fish – brought up by Ken Lindeman; specify which is longer/shorter
- Project management – undetermined yet if both Slack and Trello needed; Kent Carpenter of opinion that Slack may be enough on its own.

Action	Leader
Update the project methods document with the outcome of the session.	David Obura
Follow-up conversations with the following prior to end of SSC Leaders meeting, to align the project and outputs with IUCN programme schedules in 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red List Unit, Caroline Pollock • Policy relevance and alignment for 2020 COPS, Jane Smart • Communications, Harriet (did not manage this meeting, will follow up by email). 	David Obura
Update Membership Unit and Marine Conservation Committee with new group membership and composition -December 2019/January 2020	David Obura /Emma Pettersson

Session 3.3h. KBA Standards (topics from the parking lot)

Facilitator(s): John Simaika and Charlotte Boyd.

- Members should join the KBA Community
- Members encouraged to establish KBA National Coordination Groups
- IUCN to consider regulating service potential (e.g. carbon storage) as a criterion for triggering KBAs
- IUCN to consider specific criteria based on genetics rather than proxies
- IUCN (or members) to consider analysis of proxies used for taxa

Action	Leader
KBA knowledge network community sharing	Thomas Brooks
Information session product dissemination	Charlotte Boyd
Meeting minutes and participant list	John Simaika, Catherine Sayer

Sera Rhino. Photo by CTSG.



Session 3.4a. Plants

Facilitator(s): Domitilla Raimondo and Barbara Goettsch.

Domitilla: We need to understand your challenges and seek ways to provide support from the SSC Chair's office. PCC group has a global representation especially in megadiverse countries. Also plants that are useful for people have been a priority for this group including medicinal plants Crop Wild Relative etc. Language issues have been considered and RL assessments can be done in French, English, Spanish etc. Plant utilisation has been a key area of focus and involvement with CITES is growing, the LC tool for automating assessments has been on-going, development of the next global strategy for plant conservation is on-going.

- Include Seagrass and Brazil Red List Authority on the list
- A minute was given to all SGs Chairs and RLAC to provide updates and challenges.

Key Challenges:

- How to move forward with planning work
- Funding
- Growing membership of the group
- Taxonomic issues, SIS functionality aligning with cycad RL and taxonomy
- Succession planning
- Challenge with huge species diversity within the Orchids
- Broadening membership to include young scientists
- Getting experts to share information on species and contributing towards RL
- RLU and getting the category LC (protected area) accepted

Red List lessons and useful stuff

- **Steven Bachman - Progress, challenges and opportunities for RL**
 - Showed the progress on Red Listing
 - Points allowed for mapping
 - SIS automatic criteria calculator - data first
 - SIS validity checker - check before you submit
 - SIS connect - batch upload, you can transfer massive data from one system to another.
- Tools
 - GeoCAT - see also rCAT, ConR, red, Google Earth Engine, BloModelos
 - Red List technical group will review
- Rapid least concern website - spbacman.shinyapps.io/redlc
- **Malin Riveers - Global Tree Assessment key points for success**
 - talked about the partners and projects as a key stuff for progressing in assessments
 - Offered training and coaching support
 - Novel approaches
 - Work on multiple scales
 - Funding - assess the species we know, with the information we have, being transparent.
 - Clear target
 - Institutional support
- **Barbara Goettsch - Cactus and Succulent Plant Specialist Group**
 - showed the number of plant assessments from 2009 to 2019, and talked about the effort of all the members in Red List and also the help from partners.

- Encourage the plant members to request support from the network.

Questions and answers

There are 3 institutions working on Red List, which may support the process and also help training people.

Plant Specialist Group

- Showed the map of botanic gardens around the world
- They made a survey (22 responses) to identify relationships between Botanic Gardens (BG) and SG
 - 19 SG are supporting by BG - reviewing red list assessment, red listing,
 - SG are also supporting BG - providing information
- Encourage more plant SG to be hosted at BGs
 - Cactus SG - showed her experience working in a Botanical Garden
 - Patrick PO from Cycad SG - Montgomery Botanical Center they consider to link the funders with
 - Medicinal Plants SG - Baird Flaming Albuquerque BioPark - showed their experience working together.
- Ideas for partnerships
 - Sky calls b/ BGCI and SGs
 - SG & botanic garden matchmaking
 - Webinars
- **Anastasiya - Plant Conservation Committee**
 - What use and trade?
 - Sustainable or unsustainable - legal or illegal
 - Showed the list of targets to 2020
 - * Use and trade plants is reflected in the work of SGs as appropriate
 - * SULi on the use of the
 - * Wild harvested plant-based product sources.
 - * Engage and contribute to materials for public consumer campaign on wild plant products.
 - * Wild at home report released 2018
- Engagement Plants SG on CITES
 - Orchid, Medicinal Plant, Tree SGs, contributions to the CITES implementation guidance, others are invited

Showed studies cases

- What can you do?
 - Champion the uptake of the FairWild Standards, and apply it
 - Engage the public outreach campaign
 - Identify SG members involved with trade discussions
 - Respond to the priority issues prior to particular CITES events
 - Engage on implementing CITES CoP18 decisions
 - Contribute plant case-studies on the CITES
 - Establish an IUCN SULi sub-group looking at plant (and fungi) use group
- Comments, suggestions:
 - Inclusion of species for RL assessments in CITES

- Recommended to put together the Information documents for CITES - the not official documents

- **Caroline Conservation Planning**

- Mentioned the Assess- Plan process.
- Expert workshops - they selected the people depending on the taxon
- Red List - Discussions on threats are not sufficient for planning, the red list data is useful but not sufficient.
- Cristina - Explained how important is to try to develop a conservation plan for plant species of group of species

- **JC Vie - Few issues for discussion**

- Coordination of Red Listing for trees enhanced globally.
- Long term vision and conservation planning missing.
- Often simplistic approaches.
- Minimum linkages with SG.
- Minimum coordination.
- Monitoring and evaluation missing.
- Hard to assess strengths of organizations.
- Tree planting and tree conservation are often undifferentiated.
- Genetic diversity rarely taken into account.
- How to tackle the biggest threats: timber trade?
- Big picture versus project approach.
- Some species get more attention.

1. Challenges of Plants SGs

2. Ex situ Group

3. Conservation Planning

4. Red Listing

5. Cites

Guibourtia copallifera Benn, *Leguminosae*. Photo by Martin Cheek.



Session 3.4b. Fungi and Lichens

Facilitator(s): Greg Mueller.

- Introductions: Greg Mueller, Cvetomir Denchev, Teodor Denchev, Mayra Camino-Villaro, David Minter, Janet Scott, Edgard Yerena (edgard.yerena@iucn.ssc.org), Tetyana Kryvymoz
- James Westrip (james.westrip@iucn.org) will be taking over for Janet as the fungal point person at the IUCN unit office
- Introduction of the agenda from Greg, Mayra added setting up new SGs in fungi

Reports from each SG

- **Rusts and Smuts**

- 11,000 species described
- Assessment is the major challenge
- First SG focused on parasitic organisms
- Members have interest in both groups
- 9 member: 3 Europe, 1 Japan, 1 China, 2 China, 1 New Zealand, 1 USA
- Chose most threatened species, 25 assessments completed and ready to submit
- Deciding on future steps
- Speed of publication of assessments is slower than expected
- Funding will lead to greater effort and impacts
- Meetings in Sweden and Edinburgh (3 meetings for training)
- Training meetings were essential and very helpful
- Working on increasing members, at least a couple more people will join in the next few months

- **Lichens**

- 25 members, plans to grow
- Organize members into regional working groups and thematic working groups, with potential of becoming SGs
- Develop website and social media
- Focussing on assessments
- Training workshop at the American Bryological and Lichenological Society meeting in Anchorage, July 2020
- Need more training
- Plans to increase communication between chairs and members/communities of researchers

- **Chytrid, Zygomycete, Downy Mildew and Slime Mould**

- Specimen collection and identification
- Assess and reassess species
- Reassess at 10 year intervals
- Difficult to obtain accurate distribution data
- 11 species assessed in tropical areas
- Public awareness is essential - Rapid field guide for tropical myxomycetes, exhibit at Cuba botanical gardens
- Members have good geographic covering of myxos
- Review on climate change impact on myxos, issues in applying red-list criteria to myxos-does not work as all species end up as data deficient
- Skepticism from society and scientific community about why we need to protect species of myxos

- **Cup fungus, truffles and allies**
 - Website: have a domain name, and email address: www.ascoconservation.org
 - Membership: 14, geographic, gender, and language balance attempted, setting them up to start new SGs
 - Red-listing: producing maps is greatest challenge/slowing point, Entering in to SIS ready to go except maps, evaluate ~30 species of ascos/year that could be moved to SIS with a bit of extra work
 - Red-list authority
 - Working on a guide to data acquisition - list of required data sources to check for information on species
 - Social media: in the works
 - Potential new groups/succession planning: set up eye-catching groups - Cyttaria (golf-ball fungi), desert truffles (~Terfeziaceae, secret trade, not covered by CITES, require native Arabic speaker), Morels (Morchella), Earth tongues (Geoglossum)
- **Mushrooms, Bracket and puffballs**
 - 45 members
 - Actively pursuing red-listing as main goal, multiple funding sources supporting the red-listing workshops
 - 200+ species should be published total, once December update is published
 - Anders Dahlberg assessed 70 edible fungi using GBIF data to make maps
 - Looking to add social media presence
 - Looking for ways to assess large numbers of least concern species
 - Potential subgroups being considered
 - Working on planning succession, identifying future leaders
- **Conservation Planning Specialist Group | Onnie Byers and Caroline Lees**
 - Step-by-step principles for conservation planning in the works
 - Plan in order to act
 - Plan to include - bring together all stakeholders from the beginning
 - Use the best available information - including unpublished information and those from local communities/people
 - Share your plan
 - Evaluate plan and impact, and adapt as needed
 - Assessing to plan
 - Takes existing red list and group species by threats, region, ex situ rescue, intensive management, etc to be addressed as a single planning project
 - Once grouped, think about who can help with the actions
 - Define achievable outcomes
 - The output is a series of projects to then implement over time
 - Basic requirements: Threats, distributions, habitats/habitat types
 - Working on methods for inter-taxa implementation
 - Species conservation toolkit initiative to potentially automate the process, very time intensive right now
 - Associations among organisms - good for grouping species (e.g., plant species + associated obligate taxa), and important for the conservation of many species

Actions: Could invite members from the CPSG to join workshops, choose a high profile example to start with (e.g., desert truffles from David Minter)

MBZ

Species Conservation Fund

Nicolas Heard

Funded the beginnings of this group, hugely important and appreciated

Open for applications and will to support fungus conservation projects - both applied actions and assessments/gathering of basic information

Support in situ conservation actions

Action: Send in good applications

Jon Paul Rodríguez

Specialist groups - 4-5 established/year for past 10 years

Website and other online resources/communication - able to elaborate a little bit on the main webpage of the SG

Welcome to send contributions for publications, including photos

Equity of fungal representation throughout IUCN documents and organization

Network coordinator positions at Indianapolis Zoo - coordinate among SGs to advance them all

We are focusing on groups with clear taxonomy

Timing of fungal conservation committee - whenever we are ready

Actions: Video testimonials, Contribute write-ups/photos for publications

Frame stories: Without this species...(what would happen?)

Sanjay Molur

Journal of threatened taxa - Collecte flora, fungi, and fauna

Zoospring (?) magazine promoting world biodiversity

Janet Scott

Red-listing

Mapping - creating kml files/shapefiles, point data

Fungi Conservation Committee

Name: Fungi Conservation Committee

- Key activities and outputs and how will they contribute to the SSC strategic plan:
 - Network - interface with other IUCN groups
 - Communicate - raise profile, SSC publications, coordinate stories across specialist groups
- Composition of the committee: 10-13 people, one person from each SG = 5
 - Proposed additional members:
Name, what they work on, where they work, contact information, demographics when appropriate, strength for the team.
 - Suzanna Gonzalez, Juliana Furche, Marieka Visenhaut, Tanya Fetishiva, someone from amateur committee, an Egyptian mycologist, Anders Dahlberg, southeast Asia, China or Japan, Daniella Tomez, Ida Vasco, Kathy Sharp, Nuru Yuru (Benin), Yoshihito Ohmura, many additional people discussed
- Committee responsibilities:
 - Biannual meetings
 - Quarterly electronic meetings
 - Action items to be determined
 - Communicate with SGs

- General discussion of FCC:
 - Umbrella over SGs
 - Currently four conservation committees: Plants, Invertebrates, Freshwater, Marine
 - Enhance coordination among SGs
 - Focus on issues beyond red-listing/assessment, engage with other IUCN initiatives (e.g., sustainable use of fungi)
 - Point of contact for IPBES, etc.
 - Committee of 10-12 people, Chairs of each specialist group +5-7 others people based on regional connection/or other aspects, e.g., policy, social scientist, with the goal of expanding aspects/expertise
 - Some financial support for meetings
 - Interface with opportunity at Indianapolis Zoo
 - Thank you Greg for organizing this
 - General sense of agreement
 - Need to discuss the official name
- Intersectional fungal groups
- Freshwater
- Marine
- Ex Situ Conservation
- Soil
- Sustainable harvesting

Action	Leader
Establish Fungi Conservation Committee - Circulate proposed documents	Greg Mueller
Establish new fungal specialist groups	David, Mayra

Splendid Waxcap, *Hygrocybe splendidissima*. Photo by John Bjarne Jordal



Session 3.4c. Marine

Facilitator(s): Amanda Vincent.

- Thanks to marine leaders
- Threats to our taxa, with lots of sharing of information
- Solutions for our taxa, with lots of sharing of information
- CITES and marine taxa
- IUCN Congress and the SGs role in reviewing its Motions
- Connections to SSC disciplinary SGs and IUCN Secretariat units
- Planning new SGs and renewing established SGs

NB: Focus was on building community, relationships and networking among SSC marine leaders. See agenda for more details

Action	Leader
Hold Zoom meetings on issues of common concern with a view to exploring future options for action. These might (or might not) include white papers, requests for letters from SSC Chair, learned papers, workshops etc etc. bycatch climate change coastal development freshwater/marine interface conservation planning (ongoing) socioeconomic aspects of fisheries spatial planning w WCPA Translocation (tourism - already agreed before Leaders' Meeting)	One marine leader per topic allocated.
Explore opportunities for collaborative work in geographical areas that might help demonstrate benefits to multiple marine species	MCC to lead
Consult Bill Sutherland re special issue of Conservation Evidence or compendium on key marine species conservation issues	Amanda

Cheilinus undulatus. Photo by Yvonne Sadovy



Session 3.4d. Amphibians and reptiles

Facilitator(s): Ariadne Angulo.

Participants introduced themselves and the top priorities/challenges for their group. Included members from the following groups:

- Amphibian SG
- Crocodile SG
- Boa & Python SG
- Monitor Lizard SG
- Chameleon SG
- Iguana SG
- Viper SG

Not present:

- Marine Turtle SG
- Anoline Lizard SG
- Sea Snake SG
- Skink SG

Also present were Neil Cox (Biodiversity Assessment Unit), Phil Bowles (Snake & Lizard Red List Authority) and Pritpal Soorae (Conservation Translocations SG).

- Groups have different models in terms of action - some work directly on projects, others prefer to leave members to work independently on their own projects
- Common themes mentioned by several members include
 - Red List assessments & reassessments - challenge of inefficient system for assessment; lack of RL expertise; keeping up with changing taxonomy; need to update assessments which are getting old; Global Reptile Assessment has been hard to fundraise for and has been a long process
 - Trade and sustainable use of these taxa
 - Benefits of increasing diversity of SGs in terms of both location (increasing membership in range states), gender, but also experience/expertise and industry
 - Increasing and improving membership activity
 - Challenge of sustaining in-country programme leadership
 - Lack of SGs for many reptile groups, including some which are highly threatened (e.g. geckos)
 - Taxonomy
- Herp Committee
 - Can provide/amplify the voice of the SGs in the SSC Steering Committee
 - Can help on common issues, e.g. trade
 - People can be brought into SSC to be on the Committee e.g. possibly relevant industry representative
- Participants were asked to write their two main issues for the SG on Post-it notes, which were then grouped into broader themes for deeper discussion. Themes were:
 - Threats
 - Group Capacity and Membership
 - Funding
 - Planning

- Policy
- Other
- The first three most popular groups were chosen for breakout discussion
- **Network** (capacity, members feel more valued, succession planning)
 - Capacity Building
 - important to get scientists on board who can be conservation champions because that is who really drives the action and are dependable in the long-term
 - to promote a mentorship programme for people with no one local who can advise them, but they want to work on the species
 - use 'micro credentials' to recognize anyone who gives help to the SG (achieving a specific target)
 - address situations where there are no specialists by trying to get experts from other regions to extend their work but provide guidelines that they should involve a local person
 - How to make members feel more valued
 - personal contact is important between the Chairs and members (email, bulletins)
 - membership engagement or shared experiences
 - define what makes you a member - be clear what is expected of members (including deadlines), use the quadrennium renewal to review membership
 - Succession Planning
 - some groups assign defined limit for how long any individual can be a chair
 - engage younger members on the steering committee.
 - Neil Cox noted that individuals who have contributed a lot to Red Listing can be pulled from the SIS database, so can find more active individuals.
 - After feedback it also came up that the process of proposing and establishing new SGs can seem to meet a bottleneck. Can we either improve the system, or use the system better for reptiles. Rachel Hoffmann clarified the process, but that the hardest thing is to find suitable leaders. Need to be upfront about the time that being a leader involves to make sure that new groups function well.
 - Perren noted in the conversation that there is a difference between leadership capacity and the people who are top scientists in their field. And that any leader should only be accepted if they have some sort of support base so they have some resources that won't cripple them in that position. Rachel noted that this needs to be demonstrated in the proposal. The conversation extended to the idea that if we are serious about diversifying SGs can central funding be provided to provide this necessary support in
 - Grahame Webb asked if there is some sort of designation that genuine leaders within IUCN can be given to recognise/reward for their contribution
- **Funding** identified three different types of funding needs - core operations, projects
 - Core operations seem to be the least attractive to donors, but there are opportunities with institutional support, partnerships
 - Species & Actions - traditional framework of proposals to potential donors but that is a limited source with relatively high competition. Partners could also be useful here, non-traditional forms 'round up your grocery bill', court the millionaires, industry outreach (Croc SG). Think more broadly than the narrow academic approach

- Utilise existing IUCN resources e.g. Kira
 - Develop a system for sharing information on available funds
 - Get training/workshops on fundraising (use modern technologies)
 - Ethics of corporate funding can be looked at by the IUCN Business and Biodiversity Unit
 - Seek partners and build relationships over time - and once you develop a relationship with a funder keep it going to try for long-term support
 - Unconventional approaches such as Crocfest/Iguanafest
 - Multi-taxa approach - let's work together when it makes sense e.g. protecting sites, or using the more charismatic herps as 'fundraising flagships' to support wider taxa
- Threats
 - Disease not just amphibians - vipers, iguanas. Should there be a task force to focus on chytrid and expand that element of ASG work? Reptile disease is understudied, need better data on the effects of some emerging diseases
 - Trade - pet trade but also commercial use, traditional medicine, domestic use
 - Ex-situ conservation - any links?
 - Questions of whether species are being used sustainably - for most species we have no idea. Lack of data on several levels on specifics of impact on populations
 - Human-related predators e.g. cats, dogs etc Issue for a number of turtle species in particular
 - Invasive species - plants haven't been widely regarded as a threat but these have been included in several Red List assessments as threatening species.
 - Habitat - very crude understanding: loss of habitat = loss of species. But nuances are just not well understood
 - There is an overarching issue of apathy e.g. global reptile assessment taken so long
 - GW noted that we need to look at all of this in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Other themes that came up but we didn't have time to discuss were
 - **Planning** - catalysing action, action planning, important herp sites, showing population recovery (success stories), connecting to conservation planning activities for other taxa
 - **Policy** - guidance on SG reach with CITES, excessive IUCN reporting requirements (croc PR)
 - **Other** - quickly resolve/clarify taxonomy, within Red List CR category assess real extinction priorities (amphibians very real crocs nowhere near as critical), taxonomy, characterising impacts of climate change, reintroduction/translocation - taxon/species specific guidelines
- Jon Paul Rodríguez & Rachel Hoffmann joined the group to talk about the **potential Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee**
 - The following points were discussed:
 - Committees have been very valuable for the groups that they exist for, and have vitalised work in these areas, where previously there was little work (although they have evolved to find their place). But could there be another role for a committee beyond this, for example network support to help connect groups with practical similarities?
 - Starting small would be recommended if we do form a committee, so that the group

doesn't get bogged down. Effective communication both up and down the chain would then be critical in the committee being useful and effective

- If a certain issue is going to be discussed then the committee can bring in relevant people to join that meeting
- There is a commitment to fund the Chair of a Committee to attend SSC Steering Committee meetings, so a route to pass things up the chain, and currently is funding for the committee to meet every other year, but if we create more committees then this might become less frequent
- It was noted that there are large taxonomic and ecological gaps in the current herp SGs, as well as knowledge gaps on the effects of specific threats - is this something the committee could help?
- Creation of new SGs is possible without the need for a committee - a short term task force could easily and quickly identify the gaps
- Several common threats were identified which would be a potential benefit of a committee
- Discussion centered around whether a committee was needed vs what a regular meeting of all SG Chairs could achieve, in terms of common issues/areas of common need
- With the proposal for this committee do we have a solution looking for a problem?
- Representatives from the herp world seem to be under represented e.g. in the high up levels in the SSC, no representation on the Steering Committee. Our voice isn't being heard because it's not present
- If a committee were to be created it would depend on having a strong leader who is willing, and has the time and skills to manage the group well, otherwise it will not likely achieve its goals
- One benefit could be making progress on issues that are getting stuck at the SG level
- There was some discussion on evidence for success of committees and outputs beyond filling gaps by creating new SGs, but in many cases they are still finding their feet
- If we don't form this committee are we losing an opportunity
- A potential issue was raised of representatives on the committee not agreeing with activities of other SGs (specifically around trade) but several people noted that where trade is sustainable there isn't any objection
- Potential benefits were summarised as:
 - A strong voice on the Steering Committee
 - A way to convene communication between chairs
 - Building critical mass on areas without momentum
 - Formulating a coherent idea of Climate Change (in conjunction with SG) so that we understand the implications
 - Trade issues - common threat we could understand and discuss better
 - Coordination for fundraising
- Final decision was to have a small scoping group from around the table go forward and find out more about how the herp conservation committee might operate, perceived benefits from members of the existing committees, thoughts from others being asked if they would like to create a similar committee for their taxa, potential TOR and primary function, and report back to Chairs of all herp SGs so that the discussion can move forward.

Action	Leader
Investigate using micro credentials	Carla Eisenberg
To propose establishment of a gecko SG	Phil Bowles
Form scoping group, talk to other committees/potential committees, look at potential TOR, create short summary of pros and cons to report back to ALL herp specialist group chairs	Perran Ross

Perret's Montane Chameleon, *Troceros perreti*. Photo by Christopher V. Anderson



Olive Dasia, *Dasia olivacea*. Photo by SR Chandramouli



Session 3.4e. Mammals

Facilitator(s): Vivek Menon.

1. Prioritising the Red List Assessments for Mammals Groups
2. Facilitating Conservation Action for Mammals through the SGs including having in Place Conservation Action Plans (a focus of the Chair)
3. Discuss the benefits of having a Mammal Committee under the Steering Committee like the Invertebrate, Freshwater and Marine groups have done
4. Explore challenges of mammal SGs where fundraising is concerned and explore novel or creative alternatives for diff sources of funding

Call for additions to the agenda

Peccary SG Chair: Would like to work on a 2 stage process 1. Impact statement of the impact of the amazonian wildfires 2. Try to scientifically quantify the impact on the diversity or biomass for large mammals

Urs Breitenmoser: Would like to discuss ways to share and collate data from camera traps and utilise this information for red list processes etc.

Red Listing: Craig Hilton Taylor & Luigi

Prioritizing Red List Assessments:

Craig: Coordinate with the team in Rome, under Luigi's oversight: essentially Rome is your interface with the Red List Unit

Russ M: We need to fast track assessments to ensure that we have completed comprehensive mammal assessments ready for the WCC 2020.

Luigi: In 2015 Leaders meeting we agreed to complete all mammal assessments. This has not happened and some groups have not delivered. This is being resolved and all groups will have submitted their assessments by early 2020 in order to have the Global Mammal Assessment completed by WCC. The Red List index is a flagship product of IUCN but this requires repeat assessments at given point in time. If we do not align our assessments in a timely way we cannot produce a Red List Index (we can't compare data that is 5 years old with data that is 10 years old for example). The Red List Index is used by CBD and others - it is important.

There is often a delay sometimes even 18 months in publishing assessments once submitted, what are the guidelines for referring to these unpublished assessments, eg in press

Craig: This is included in the Red List Assessment guidelines. You cannot go out publicly and say the species has x status but you can refer to it in your

?: Can anything be done about the 18 month lag time

Luigi: No there is nothing that can be done. Because of the time lag in receiving assessments it has been difficult to plan. In some cases staff are sitting around waiting for assessments and at other times it is hard to get through them. After WCC we have to rethink the approach to the whole process.

Craig: A number of groups do the assessments in word documents rather than directly into the SIS yourselves to avoid this waste of time.

Vivek: Going into the next quaddrenium are chairs comfortable with predicting their plan for assessment submission to help with planning. Is this feasible

Rich Young: We would love to do that. But with 3000 species it has taken us 5 years but even with resources of internships staff at Durrell and Texas AM, its been a huge effort. We

are going to have to rethink resources moving forward.

Vivek: I'm not asking for the whole taxon group just can you schedule plans for numbers of assessments

Russ: Assuming we have everything done before WCC, our approach will be to update as new information becomes available.

Luigi: When I say we cannot continue to do this assessments the same way, it is unlikely that we will have 6,000 species of mammal reassessed every 5 years so we will have to design a sampling scheme moving forward - eg. by habitat, species diversity, etc following models such as birdlife

Does Tom agree with reassessing every species versus sampling

Tom: I think birdlife do reassess every species but giving priority to species within which there has been a change

Craig: They do, but they have an online forum to capture whether there has been a change

Tom Lacher: Leads into approaches for fast tracking red listing. We need more taxonomic input. We have a backlog of species which were taxonomically split and then fast tracked.

Claudio Sillero: We have to prioritize species with changes in status. We need to change language because assessments that are 10 years old are still valid if they have not changed

Vivek: If its been done 10 years ago but not been reassessed because it hasn't changed then difficulty communicating

Craig: IF it's older than 10 years it gets a flag saying it needs updating, does not say its out of date or not valid

Patricia: What can be done to reduce the gap between submission and publication of the assessments

Luigi: I do not know but will check. If you don't have an answer after a few weeks, write again.

Maps

Urs: It is important to display regional maps

Sarah Equids - trouble with maps seeming to not be published along with assessments or updates being processed for maps. It would be really useful to have maps for subspecies

Craig: I would like to see subspecies mapped with assessment updates. It is a software issue, when the maps get pulled in they get merged into a species map. The new website is creating this problem, but we need investment in the infrastructure to improve this but we want to. We also want to display the regional maps

Stephanie Hyenas: Lots of data points but huge areas with no info, hard to accurately reflect what we do know and what we don't. Lots of members against creating large general maps without enough data

Craig: intention of the maps to show general range not fine detail. Recommend not to go down to fine detail even though this is useful for conservation planning it is not critical to the Red List Process. There are mapping guidelines available. Possibly a Mammal Committee can review the question of "what is it you want to map for mammals"

Sarah equids: Lots of governments only look at maps and this is a challenge when govt mobilise conservation action

Urs: One way is to upload maps as pdf as supporting materials, because it is impossible to convey all the information you want in one map. Could it be generally recommended to upload different maps as supporting materials?

Craig: Yes there are many groups who do this.

Urs: Good to standardize these maps across cat species. Especially areas where species have gone extinct.

Craig: Mapping historic range is something that needs problem solving for the Green List also

Mike Hoffman: You can display points on top of the range maps. Provide best map you can to inform conservation. One of the most important things is you're supposed to be counting both known, inferred and projecting areas. And if you don't do that you are likely to be underestimating the extinction risk. Please refer to the mapping guidelines. If you have problems with these guidelines please contact the RLU or Red List Technical Working Group.

Conservation Planning

Nicole Duplaix - The conservation planning process was painful, but we've finished our strategy. If you'd like a copy or help please come and see us.

Rach - Funding is an issue, it's hard to get to a point to get the experts to the workshop in addition to producing the plan. So funding is a real challenge. It needs administrative and logistic support to really pursue planning. If we're talking about scaling up planning we need you to think collectively about how to resource this.

Vivek: How many have done plans? 12

How many have produced these plans in the last 10 years? 8

How many have used CPSG in making these plans: 6

Will Duckworth: To make the plans more useful - if the plan is going to be used the most important thing to do is to include the people who will be implementing the plan. They must be in the driving seat. Before the plan is undertaken the action coalition needs to be formed and drive the plan.

Rich: Interested in cost: wonderful ambition about every species that needs a plan has one. SMSG has done a global analysis to identify 13 regions with high abundance of threatened species. The first one cost \$30,000 to roll this will cost \$300,000 rolling up across all specialist groups shows the real (and possible reality) of this cost

Vivek: What groups have rough cost ideas for action planning

? Our plan was \$40,000 for a few days of workshop. But me having support for my time has been critical in ensuring delivery

James: Once we put down some money we had support from zoos and governments, especially for staff to attend. We covered approximately 50%. The point that Will raised is important. Relationship building with government agencies and NGOs is critical. The Zoo network has been really useful to raise the funds

Vivek: How many have access to SSC Chairs Funds: 3

Russ: No simple response We just ran one at the cost of \$100,000 but there are lots of ways to do it. We need to give a lot of attention to who is the intended audience. Whether its government, private donors, implementing partners, etc

Vivek: We encourage the countries to do their own plan. We tried to figure out what the governments want and need and then built the plan around that

Dave Bears: Just finished the first action plan on sunbears. The biggest expense was flying people in. But it turns out the people who came from range countries were shy and didn't contribute much. I tried not to be dominant but had to be. Most of the plan was written after the workshop and none of the people flew in and participated and provided comment and feedback. So the main expense of flying people in did not pay off.

Will - By having the room full of vietnamese people it really increased participation because they felt a great sense of ownership. Doing it country by country can be really useful.

Vivek: Who is so caught up with Red List assessments that they can't do planning? What is stopping you from planning

Glen Bison Group: We've been deliberately delaying planning to get the alignment of the government. It's taken years of laying foundation for a letter of intent that conservation is a shared priority for the 3 countries. Right now there is a plan for European Bison when there is no real intent to implement this by the relevant countries. Playing the long game and getting the buy in first is important

Urs Cat: Planning has to be done in a credible, pragmatic way. If it helps implement action it should be done. If institutions need to work across boundaries it's extremely important. We will follow the model of the Otter SG for the cats. These strategies are very often cited. In our experience if you are not willing or not able to stay involved then they are not valuable, these plans do not implement themselves.

Christine Cat: Prepare the ground is critical - find the right partners, the right specialists. Sometimes it took 7 years to find the right partnerships ahead of the planning. It also helps to include people with planning skills in the red list assessment.

Onnie: Agree with Christine and Glen, that the first step in planning is preparing to plan and preparing the ground. You should only plan if there is a reason it's needed. It's not always the specialist group who will stay, but implementation partners who will stay...but the question of how this will be implemented is critical. A survey of SG chairs in 2016 on why haven't you done planning, number one reason was "because we haven't finished your red listing" so we were developing the Assess to Plan.

Luigi: As a donor (Foundation Segre) the existence of a plan is increasingly a condition of funding.

Benefits of a Mammal Conservation Committee

Vivek: Many SGs have a mechanism to unite issues across SGs -

David Malon: We discussed at the first or second Leaders Meeting, feeling then that wasn't much needed for it. So what would the purpose and the function be? Is it just one more layer of bureaucracy? The rationale for those committees is that there are lots of species without SGs

Glen - As a new SSC member, I really don't have a close network and there's a cohort engaging with SSC who doesn't know what it does. If there was a Mammal Committee to help along new and younger cohort as a mentorship rather than a bureaucracy model

Luigi: This is a committee of mammals. In the Steering Committee I see the presentations of the challenges of these taxa presented by their committees - it is a way to show that the mammal community has cohesion which now it has not. At our congress some groups will receive more attention because some are more charismatic than others

Vivek: Cohesion, Bureaucracy, representation

Patricia: Communication is really poor. New Chairs show up at this meeting and don't have a clue

Mike: No, I support David Mallons view. Trying to understand what's going on I don't believe a mammal committee solves this. The Network Coordinators both at GSP/Chairs Office/ Indy are to build relationships with you. These mechanisms are only worth setting up if they're going to be effective. What is the purpose?

Russ: I hate bureaucracy as much as anyone, but I disagree. We need to address common issues. We are underrepresented in the Steering Committee. The existing Commit-

tees have very valuable reports and play a role in highlighting common issues at the steering committee level? It must have a clear purpose. Sharing of experience and bringing in new chairs does need more support. The engagement with policy makers or practitioners, people are struggling to engage with governments. If someone is already engaging with government from one SG we can avoid government fatigue

Tom Lacher: Communication problems - Indianapolis needs to actively engage. How many people remember the global mammal forum. It must be active participation not passive administrative management

Nicole Duplaix: Talking about creating a specialist group for dummies, welcome pack for new members and new chairs.

Rachel: in 2015 the idea of mentoring was raised, but they just don't have the time. I've done as much as I can to help with the new groups. Our desire to avoid a top down approach we perhaps don't provide enough structure to SG Chairs. The committees now play a really key role. One of the challenges is who will be on your Committee? It's not a level of Bureaucracy but it is a big level of work

Christine: Mentoring chairs is not the role of a committee, but very important to identify and raise common issues. Also important to have representation at the steering committee

Patricia - A mammal committee especially with a focal point at Indianapolis Zoo, could be really valuable, but without a point person it might not be effective

Dan Challender: It depends on the ToRs of such a committee. I was a new chair 2 years ago and I benefited from speaking to Rachel in the Chairs office and to standing chairs

John Australian Marsupials: Birdlife provides global perspective on birds and across countries and provides synergy. There is no comparable body for the organisation of mammals; this committee could provide a point of reference to establish priorities and common issues.

Vivek: Broad support but it must be framed within what its role specifically is, and who should participate. We should have something as long as we know what it is supposed to do. How many of you would be interested in being involved in such a group: 8 people raised hands

What are the issues you have in raising funds

Patricia - donors should not be given credit for everything that is done.

Kit - I work with a charismatic species and every assumes that it's easy to get money for marine mammals so nobody gives support

Hyena - Taking over the chair of a specialist I don't have a charismatic group and I don't know where to start

Vivek: Which groups need training in fundraising : 3 people raised hands

Susana Gonzalez Deer: We used to have institutional support from Smithsonian for chair and program officer. Need support for basic activities like managing websites etc. Now have the possibility for small grants from SSC. Not enough for all the groups and small amounts of money.

Rich Young: Charismatic versus non charismatic is not the issue it's the function you are trying to fundraise. Its capacity. Our full time program officer is so critical.

Vivek: Core costs are very difficult

Russ: Historically we used to develop action plans and then the IUCN would fund it. That is no longer the case. When you take on this chair role it is a part of your responsibility

Ian Wilcox - We have a responsibility to not compete with our members when fundraising

Christine - Charismatic species can be a burden because you face a large NGO commu-

nity raising for your species and our work is not the sexy work for the species but people sitting in an office doing assessments and planning

Luigi - Increasingly conservation funding is focused on action. And often action means boots on the ground. We should work more horizontally to make

Glen - I feel like I'm in competition with members in this room In many ways when I go to WCS or WWF for money they're already working on lots of mammals and they want to know how I fit. I think a mammal committee could help us coordinate fundraising and not box each other out or compete. I need a narrative about how our work fits together

Dave - I always look for partners and ask who is the best to apply - sometimes our NGO partners.

African Elephant - We can share program officers between groups

The vast majority of people working on these species are not part of the SSC, so most of the people were competing with are not part of this network

Patricia - Training nationals is important to the future for conservation but also a good way to get funds. Should specialist groups be aligned with taxon focused NGOs.

Vivek - kira what is your advice for fundraising

Kira - If you want to fundraise, don't fundraise, build relationships. Find ways to ask for support rather than money and it will often turn into money.

Russ - We should take potential donors out into the field, spend a week in the field and show them the work - often they will offer money without even asking. Connect with National Geographic for example who need tour guides you can join for free and connect with donors.

Suggested to have an email group of all mammal SG to connect on diverse issues

Not included in agenda

- **Harald Berck:** Attempt to quantify the impact of the Amazonian and Pantanal fires on the mammal communities i.e displacement rate, biomass lost, density changes, habitat degradation etc. For most large, medium and some small mammal spp. Range maps, densities, reproductive rates are known thus estimates of the effects of fires should be possible and should be publicized to science, politicians and the public. **Harald** will reach out to members to collect data on Amazon mammals group (Marsupial, Tapir, bats, deer, anteaters, sloth, peccaries etc.)
- Would like to collect data on climate change on mammals species and if they could share
- Modis has data on climate change
- VM- there is a task force on climate change
- **Sharing camera trap image for mapping species distribution**
- Rob- can SSC or mammal group can develop a mechanism to share camera trap data
- Hyena distribution mapping: data has been collected on hyena distribution since 1996 and using data from various sources/projects/individuals to map the distribution of hyena.
- Johannes- feels that there should be a central depository of data/ camera trap so that people working on other species could benefit from the data. When we collect data/pics, apart from the focal species, we get data on various other aspects that could benefit others
- There are millions of data available and if this could be collected centrally- could help in better extraction and use by other members/SG.
- Good to have a platform where data could be put in (data, photo, genetic diversity) and that will help others working on diverse issues. There are such platforms of certain species where data could be uploaded and could be used with mutual agreement. Something on a

similar line could be built by SSC.

- Soggy: also concerned at copyright and may not like to share (some NGOs) and could conflict with donor interest. Hence, a strong data sharing agreement has to be built for use of the platform.
- Many organisations have been sharing data for use by other organisations/people but this is done with proper data sharing protocol.
- **Most members felt that there is a need for a platform for data sharing with strong protocol use and copyright issues.**
- VM: will share the minutes with members and Chair office

Concluding remarks

Till the platform is built, are there any other means to reach out to group members. VM (Vivek Menon) suggested using the current email group. VM will share the list of members

Mariella: thanked VM for sharing and giving opportunity to all to share their views

Action	Leader
Develop ToR for a Mammal Committee to then be recirculated for feedback then a call for interest in participation.	Vivek, Rachel.

Silky anteater, *Cyclopes didactylus*. Photo by Karina Theodoro Molina, Instituto Tamandua



Session 3.4f. Birds

Facilitator(s): Andre Botha.

1. Welcome & Introductions

The following groups were represented in the meeting:

- Goose Specialist Group
- Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group
- Flamingo Specialist Group
- Penguin Specialist Group
- Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group
- Mohammed Bib Zayed Species Conservation Fund
- Red list team from BirdLife International
- Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group
- Hornbill Specialist Group
- IUCN SSC Secretariat
- Galliformes Specialist Group
- Vulture Specialist Group
- Crane Specialist Group
- Cormorant Specialist Group
- Swan Specialist Group
- CMS Office– Abu Dhabi
- Duck Specialist Group
- White-bellied Heron Working Group
- IUCN Global Species Programme
- EAD
- Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets

- Presentations – SG and other organisations (5 mins max per Group).

- Presentations and / or updates were provided by the Specialist Groups (SG) in attendance.

2. SG Challenges - Establishment and functioning

- How do you move from a regionally active group to an active global group / how do you include people in species groups, who are not yet a member of the SG / and how do you grow your membership?

The Vulture SG started corresponding with people who were working on each species and have slowly brought them all on board. Taking a proactive approach to identify and nominate regional chairs from each region has helped.

The Crane SG has made sure that they connect to all crane groups and networks around the world, attending regional crane conferences and workshops to make sure that the right people were included in the SG.

Caution around taking everyone on board was highlighted as this often means that there are many members in a group that are not active. The membership of a group will fluctuate as members come and go. However, people on the periphery too are important, and there is a need to draw from them around the research / conservation work that they are

doing at the time. Consideration should also be given to including government partners in the membership.

It was highlighted that succession-planning should not be taken for granted – everyone should actively plan for succession.

- How should funding be managed
In most cases, funding goes through a hosting organisation or a SG member's employer organisation. Considerations should include the ability of the host organisation to move money to a third party (both within and between countries) and the level of the administration fees of the host organisation.
- Do any SG have an interactive workspace that members can use to keep strategies up dated and for discussions?
The SAP Tracking Tool is a specific species action plan tracking tool that is available online to consider. www.trackingactionplans.org

3. How will the Indianapolis Zoo announcement impact Bird-focused SG's?

The IUCN SSC Chair, Jon Paul, clarified the implications of the Indianapolis Agreement, highlighting that there will likely be a person employed within this new structure to support the Bird SGs. Although staffed through the Indianapolis Zoo, the team will report to and be directed by the IUCN SSC. The person supporting the Bird SGs (the largest of the taxon groups) will provide general support, be in regular contact with the SG, detect and assist less active groups so that they are able to scale up their efforts, and will assist with establishing links with other groups both within and between Commissions. It is hoped that the SG will hold meetings at the Indianapolis Zoo, and it will be possible for meetings on common themes that cut across SG.

A Manager for this new center will be employed shortly, and they will be responsible for developing the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the other staff in the center and for employing them. The Bird SGs asked for the opportunity to provide input, through 2 – 3 current SG, into the TORs that are developed.

Although there was consensus that there were advantages to this, concerns were also raised around the added layers being developed and the potential for an increased administration, commitments and reporting burden on the SG. It was stressed that consideration must be given to the fact that most people in the network are volunteers, so added work and tight deadlines are not always beneficial or realistic. Further thought needs to be given to optimising the opportunity.

It was also noted that this center was another IUCN focus in the USA / Europe spatial framework, and that there was a need for more support in the more biodiversity rich areas of the world. Acknowledgement though was given to the Indianapolis Zoo who were providing the support and home to this new initiative.

4. Review of the Bird Red Lists (and broader BirdLife International discussion)

Red Listing Process

Rob Martin (BirdLife International Red List Officer) and Ian Burfield (Global Science Coordinator at Birdlife International), both involved in the Red Listing process for birds with Birdlife Inter-

national, presented on their roles and the upcoming red listing process. BirdLife International is recognised as the bird Red List authority and is the Assessor for all global bird Red Listing assessments. They apologised up front for some of the concerns that had been raised around the Red Listing process and noted that these should be addressed with the bigger team now in place.

2020 will be the next comprehensive assessment of the Red List status of birds. SG include over 900 bird species – nearly 40% of which are threatened or Near Threatened. It was noted that input from SG are hugely important to the accuracy and credibility of the bird assessments. Proposed category changes are written up as topics on the BirdLife Globally Threatened Bird Forums to allow discussion and to engage as many interested parties as possible.

Concern was raised that BirdLife International was not transparent in how they considered comments provided in the GTB Forums, how they weighted input into the Red Listing process and the decisions made, that they did not recognise sufficiently the input into the process by others (the Red Listing process is marketed purely as an IUCN and BirdLife International product) and that decisions did not adequately recognise and consider input from the SGs. There was a general feeling that SGs were not institutionally respected by BirdLife International. The Threatened Waterbird SG and Crane SG, both noted that the Red Listing process had worked well for them in the past. A suggestion to have a more participatory approach with the SG in the Red Listing process and to also to support high level assessments within the SGs was proposed.

Timeline:

- November 2019: current fact sheets will be distributed.
- End January 2020: deadline for returning comments on fact sheets to BirdLife
- April 2020: discussion topics will be posted on the BirdLife GTB Forums, where all interested parties can comment.
- Until June 2020: discussion topics are live on GTB Forums
- June 2020: preliminary decisions posted online
- July 2020: final decisions posted
- September 2020: submission of decisions to IUCN
- December 2020: publication of decisions

Other BirdLife International Concerns:

The establishment of bird SG are often hindered and significantly delayed due to BirdLife International's influence in the process and their lack of support, often exacerbated by the fact that no BirdLife partners are included in the membership of a particular SG (despite having no involvement in a particular species), for example the Hornbill and Penguin SGs. It was noted that for many species, the bulk of conservation work and research was conducted outside of the BirdLife partners.

The common and scientific names set by BirdLife International are used by many multilateral agreements and processes that use international standards. Some of the SG have not been consulted on changes made, and do not address concerns raised, for example the changing of both scientific and common names of cranes and penguins.

5. Establishment of an SSC Bird Conservation Committee.

The IUCN SSC Chair noted that taxon Conservation Committees were still under discussion and

development, and that there was still a lot of room around how they would be structured. There are currently four Conservation Committees: Marine, Plants, Freshwater and Invertebrates. Committee Chairs can have a place on the IUCN SSC Steering Committee.

The Conservation Committees will differ from the bird position under the Indianapolis Agreement in that the Chair will be a volunteer from a SG. The current thinking is that this Committee will provide a more coordinated approach across the Bird SG and will provide the opportunity to conduct a gap analysis to identify what is missing.

BirdLife International raised their concerns around the suddenness of the proposal for the establishment of a Bird Conservation Committee and asked for the chance to both understand and consider it more fully. They expressed concern around the potential overlap with what BirdLife International does and noted their desire to speak further with the IUCN SSC Chair around this.

However, there was majority support for a “Bird Conservation Committee” as it could provide the opportunity for improved communications and bring Bird SGs together to collaborate more, share ideas and discuss challenges. This Committee would not duplicate the Red Listing role of BirdLife International. It was suggested that the careful consideration and input by Bird SG be given to the position within the Indianapolis Agreement and this proposed Committee to assist bird conservation internationally. It was also acknowledged that politics should not creep into these decisions and also that whatever structure is decided on, that it is labeled directly under the IUCN / SSC and not include a third party organisation in the naming (as was the situation with Wetlands International).

6. Waterfowl SG oversight by IUCN/Wetlands International

The IUCN SSC Chair reiterated, following the email sent to all affected SGs, that the MoU between the IUCN SSC and Wetlands International expired in 2016 and was not renewed. This was as a result of the number of concerns that were raised by several SGs. The IUCN SSC had not had a response from Wetlands International in this regard but noted that they would follow up to get a response. It was noted that any SG was welcome to continue in partnership or engage with Wetlands International if the relationship was of value. Using the dual logo, IUCN SSC and Wetlands International, is also permitted, and the IUCN SSC Chair offered assistance with the development of a MoU if relevant.

7. Fundraising – assessing joint opportunities across SGs.

Several options for fundraising were discussed during the conference, but there was unfortunately no time in this session to discuss this further. The SGs though noted that they would appreciate assistance from the Bird Conservation Committee and / or the Indianapolis Agreement bird position to assist.

8. AOB

A point was made that poisoning was a common threat across a number of SGs and that there were efforts underway to mobilise additional efforts to address the threat. Vultures, hornbills, swans and cranes are all affected by poisoning and the SGs present all expressed an interest to collaborate.

Action	Leader
The Bird SG to choose 2 – 3 SG who will provide input into the TOR being developed for the Bird Person through the Indianapolis Agreement and for the structure and terms of reference for the Bird Conservation Committee	SSC, Bird SG's
BirdLife International to connect more strongly to the SG in the Red Listing process	Rob Martin and Ian Burfield
Jon Paul will be meeting BirdLife International in Cambridge on 28 October. He will take with him a short outline of the concerns raised and potential resolutions to the current concerns. Andre Botha and Gopi Sundar agreed to lead on the development of this outline and proposed constructive solutions.	Andre Botha and Gopi Sundar
SSC Bird Conservation Committee – facilitator to communicate support for this structure to secretariat and to enquire about next steps to establish such a committee.	SSC, Andre Botha

Pacific Loon, *Gavia pacifica*. Photo by Jeff Dyck.



Flock of Greater White-fronted geese. Photo by Petr Glazov.



Session 3.4g. Freshwater

Facilitator(s): Topiltzin Contreras, Ian Harrison and Will Darwall.

General section

Introductions from people in the session. Besides members of the Freshwater Conservation Committee, the session included Chairs from the:

- Mayfly, Stonefly and Caddisfly Specialist group
- Conservation Genetics Specialist Group
- Mollusc Specialist Group
- Anguillid Eel Specialist Group
- Wildlife Reserves Singapore
- Freshwater Fish Specialist Group
- Sturgeon Specialist Group
- Freshwater Plant Specialist Group
- IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit
- IUCN Invasive Species Programme

We reviewed the current taxonomic and geographic status of Red Listing of freshwater species, specifically with the intention on giving guidance to the Mayfly, Stonefly and Caddisfly Specialist Group. This group is relatively new and has the development of Red listing as its priority.

Europe is an area of interest for red Listing for the Mayfly, Stonefly and Caddisfly Specialist Group. All freshwater species in Europe that had been assessed are being re-assessed. There is a request for European scale assessments (but no funding).

Africa is also a good area for developing assessments for mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies – due to other data already prepared.

Recommendation made for the Mayfly, Stonefly and Caddisfly Specialist Group to develop a regional structure in its membership. This can help with running regional assessments.

Conservation Genetics group are very keen to identify members of Specialist groups that they can partner with for freshwater work. They are interested in who has genetic expertise in other Specialist Groups.

- How is genetic data being used in the Red Listing process at the specific or subspecific level. It seems extremely variable.
- Populations of conservation concern are usually defined based on geographic distributions; but it may be better to describe these populations based on genetic characteristics (What areas are priorities based on genetics of the populations.
- Application of genetic characters to definition of Key Biodiversity Areas. KBAs tend to be single species areas, but it would be better to define KBAs based on genetics, working across complex multi-taxon criteria; but this will be a challenge.
- Delimitation of the units of conservation for KBAs are ongoing. Fleshed out KBA guidelines from genetics are expected to be done in the next 6 months.
- Discussion of the use of eDNA. Extremely challenging. There is a large gap in the application of eDNA for aquatic plants. Meta-barcoding approach could be useful. Application of eDNA work is in very few sites indeed

Alliance for Freshwater Life [AFL] <https://allianceforfreshwaterlife.org/>

Will Darwall provided an overview of the AFL, whose mission is *to halt and reverse the global decline of freshwater biodiversity through research, data synthesis, conservation, education, outreach, and policy-making.*

The main thematic areas of work are:

- Research – to coordinate and support efforts that examine the status, trends, and drivers of change in freshwater biodiversity
- Data & Synthesis – to compile, manage, synthesize and provide access to freshwater biodiversity data
- Conservation – to inform, support, connect and implement conservation efforts throughout the world
- Education & Outreach – to raise the profile of freshwater biodiversity worldwide through education and public engagement
- Policy – to engage with policy-makers and provide scientific evidence needed to make informed decisions related to the conservation of freshwater biodiversity

A fundraising document has been developed for the Alliance.

IUCN Water are interested in developing a communications strategy on IUCN's programme for freshwater biodiversity, in the lead-up to the World Conservation Congress. This would be an opportunity for promoting the AFL.

Marketing/promotion of AFL has to be done very carefully, to avoid confusion between it and the other new initiatives Shoal or Freshwater Life.

When kicking off AFL we should not be looking for individual projects to promote it (since these might not present a cohesive/focused image of the purpose of AFL): we should look for flagship programs under which multiple similarly themed, projects could sit .

AFL is not associated with I{BES, but this is worth considering.

Potential sources of support:

- UN Biodiversity Finance Initiative – provides private funding to support biodiversity
- Singapore Zoo/Wildlife reserves Singapore

Apex Target for Freshwater Biodiversity for Post 2020

The group worked on draft text for the apex target. A small sub-team will continue to refine this to have ready before the end of the SSC Leaders meeting.

Communications opportunities

BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol is developing the third in the Planet Earth trilogies, looking at all the different ecosystems of the world - from coasts and open ocean to forests and deserts. They wish to capture new animal behavior as well as tell familiar stories in a brand new light, and show the beauty and magnitude of all of these environments. They are also addressing conservation issues which affect each of these ecosystems by illustrating such problems through the eyes of the animals themselves. They have requested advice for new, fresh stories, illustrated by new, never seen-before behavior that is visual and amazing.

We compiled suggestions of animals, plants, and behaviors that could help highlight and promote the importance of freshwater ecosystems.

Multi-taxon, regionally focused approach for assess to plan

Earlier in the SSC meetings, Axel Hochkirch proposed a new approach to developing and implementing Red listing, where Red List assessments are conducted for multiple different taxa within a prescribed geographic region, and the outputs are used to develop specific regional conservation plans that address ecosystem needs rather than individual species needs.

It is agreed that this would be a very good method, and it would be good to include freshwater taxa. It aligns with an approach proposed by the New Mexico BioPark to have an integrated process of assess-to-plan, to develop and implement spatial conservation action plans for priority ecosystems in Mexico/Central America.

This is an ideal opportunity to promote the integrated work of SSC. It can also integrate sustainable use and livelihoods in to the action planning process.

Possible areas for application of this work:

- Axel had suggested Borneo
- Singapore/SE Asia elsewhere? – working in collaboration with Singapore Zoo/Wildlife Reserves Singapore
- West Africa
- Lake Tanganyika
- Madagascar (area of interest for the Mayfly, Stonefly and Caddisfly Specialist group)
- China; upper tributaries of Mekong/Yangtze, where the Chinese government is proposing protected areas in small side tributaries, and where WCPA Freshwater Specialist Group member Jamie Pittock will be conducting surveys in early 2020.

Funding

Nicolas Heard provided several tips on applying for grants, based on his experience with the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

Freshwater Committee should be a focal point to share information across Specialist Groups; and be a focal point for Specialist Groups to share information about ideas for proposals, for possible collaborative or cross-referenced proposals.

Action	Leader
Build more comprehensive network between Freshwater Conservation Committee and Specialist Groups with freshwater interests	Topis Contreras MacBeath /Ian Harrison
Explore shared interests between Conservation Genetics Specialist Group and other freshwater Specialist Groups	Conservation Genetics Specialist Group
Explore opportunities for partnerships between SSC groups and the Alliance for Freshwater Life	Will Darwall
Seek advice for opportunities to fundraise for the Alliance for Freshwater Life	Will Darwall

Action	Leader
Promote Alliance for Freshwater Life via the communications program of freshwater biodiversity being developed by IUCN Water	Will Darwall / Ian Harrison / Topis Contreras MacBeath
Ensure freshwater biodiversity is adequately included in the “nexus assessment” of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health https://www.ipbes.net/call-nominations-scoping-nexus-transformative-change-assessments	Ian Harrison?
Draft text for apex target for freshwater biodiversity	Ian Harrison (with Will Darwall, Harmony Patricio, Topis Contreras MacBeath, Craig Macadam, Phil Bowles, KD Dijkstra, John Simaika)
Compile compelling examples of freshwater biodiversity and animal/plant behavior to highlight the importance of freshwater ecosystems, and send information to BBC for heir Planet Earth III series	Ian Harrison / Topis Contreras MacBeath / Will Darwall
Contribute freshwater recommendations for ‘Multi-taxon, regionally focused approach for assess to plan’ as proposed by Axel Hochkirch	Topis Contreras MacBeath / Ian Harrison ?

Lagunas de Zempoala Photo by Topis Contreras MacBeath



Release of juvenile sterlets, *Acipenser ruthenus*. Photo by Thomas Friedrich



Afrithelphusa monodosa, freshwater crab from Guinea. Photo by Neil Cumberlidge.



Session 3.4h. Invertebrates

Facilitator(s): Axel Hochkirch.

- **Assessment to Action:** report from Paulo Borges about conservation of insects on the Azores
- **Red Listing:** general questions, process, AOO and EOO, threats (using habitat decline e.g. from Forest Watch), RL Index, problems (lack of experts, lack of data, lack of funding)
- **Key Biodiversity Areas:** report from Charlotte Boyd, discussion on process and involvement of groups/taxa
- **Green List:** report from Molly Grace, discussion on process, testing and potential outcome for conservation
- **Specialist Group management:** communication within groups, formation of new groups, engaging young people
- **Conservation Planning:** report from Onnie Byers, support from Conservation Planning SG to other SGs
- **Funding:** Toyota Funding, MbZ (report from Nicholas Heard), Rufford Small Grants

Action	Leader
Talk to Head of KBA Secretariat to devise a system for SSC specialist groups to learn about, and participate in planned/ongoing KBA projects	Charlotte Boyd, Simon Stuart
Involve more invertebrates in the green list testing	Monika Bohm, Paulo Borges, Victoria Wilkins, Sergio Henriques, Molly Grace, Dinarte Teixeira
Convene a meeting on invertebrate conservation	Axel Hochkirch
Multi-taxa regional assessment (RL, KBA) approach in a biodiversity hotspot of conservation concern (Borneo, area of the new capital)	preliminary lead: Axel Hochkirch, Onnie Byers
use the Toyota money for invertebrates for a region (Canary Islands)	Axel Hochkirch

Male Slate Sprite, *Pseudagrion salisburyense*. Photo by Jens Kipping



Wednesday, 09 October

Plenary 4.1. Questions and answers session with the Chair Jon Paul Rodríguez

Facilitator(s): Domitilla Raimondo.

JPR: presented on the new proposed policy for leadership changes, the considerations and process for reappointments.

Baudewijn Odé: Commented on the challenges and diversity across the network on membership management and engagement.

JPR: Membership is a key challenge. Specialist groups have all evolved different approaches. For example, some have a fixed number. Others have much more open membership but then might not have as much interaction. Hearing from others about approaches is useful

PJ Stephenson: Thank you for organising this meeting, it's absolutely essential to keep this commission moving forward. I know we still have colleagues who do not like to travel. Could we look at some carbon offsetting for this meeting in the future. Given that most people in the commission are volunteering their time we need to reduce transaction cost. I think SSC Data is a great initiative and making it more efficient and refined is great. But we need to give more feedback about this because we need to balance showing off goals but keep it light and meaningful to reduce transaction costs. Please contribute to refining these tools so that it benefits the network. We need to look at the internal grants and making sure they are evenly distributed across groups

JPR: We are conscious of the value of the grants and are determined to expand.

Claudio Sillero: Thanked for having this session of governance. Raised concern about reelection of membership, not just Chairs. Is the new Membership System accommodating for addressing thank you and goodbyes.

Claire Santer: Next year we have to renew the whole membership. Have a new commission system for this. Renewal will take place in this system. We are working on the principles under which renewal will take place. Renewal process will therefore be consistent. Will do an initial review of members including who you want to retire. At this point we will send a note to thank them for their service/contribution.

If you try to pressure volunteers you risk losing them. If you try to enforce things you get a negative response. For thematic groups we don't get any income for our SSC work. Need to be a little careful with how you deal with these groups. Don't want to get into a cycle of getting into a fight.

JPR: You are right. Our first interaction and our objective is always how can we make this helpful, what do you need. Our purpose is to empower the network to succeed.

Simon Stuart: I am really excited to hear about the Indianapolis Zoo Partnership. It is a game changer for the SSC. In terms of the level of support for the network and the groups will be supported to a level they have never received before. We wish to send an acclamation from the

meeting participants to the Indianapolis Zoo to thank them for this amazing partnership.

There is an increasing trend of contracts with intellectual property rights concerns.

JPR: I can raise this with the IUCN legal department.

Plenary 4.2. Reporting back from taxonomic breakout sessions

Andre Botha, SSC Vulture Specialist Group Chair

- Many bird SGs participated and provided feedback to our discussion. Some of the issues raised were;
 - Asking for greater involvement from Specialist Groups in the recruitment of the Indianapolis Partnership role and the Terms of Reference (ToRs) be shared beforehand.
 - Look at recruiting other people elsewhere in the range. To engage with people elsewhere in the range.
 - Discussed with JPR the idea of a Bird Committee
 - Issues with the current relationship with BirdLife international
 - Involvement from 15 groups,
 - Can work more closely on strategy especially regarding the degree of overlap between SGs and the possibilities of working together and connecting with new groups and opportunities to learn. Building capacity within groups and supporting governance issues.
 - Potential to expand the scope of existing groups
- Presentation from Birdlife International discussed the review process, applying the Red List category and criteria, etc.
- The need for greater acknowledgement of groups and individuals within specialist groups for their contribution to assessments. Birdlife indicated that this will be reviewed and improved moving forward.
- Engagement with Indianapolis partnership discussed and several point people appointed to interact with this moving forward.
- Thanks to all participants in the room for the session, it was really useful.

Domitilla Raimondo, SSC Plant Conservation Committee Chair

- Thanks to the Plant Conservation Committee that really helped to run the session. Had input from various thematic areas then had a long working session with smaller breakout groups. Lots of Red Listing for the plant groups. Some groups talked about taxonomic problems and we reiterated that the groups have the role of working with the Red List Unit to update taxonomy. Talked about streamlining of Least Concern assessments using a tool. Lots of country and regional assessments, so still some issues of translating up to the global assessment process. Group of RLA coordinators in the Plant network to help move these things forward would be great. General call for more communication via video conference sessions. Conservation planning discussed and identified a need to upscale this for most groups. Discussions around KBAs and these were identified as a priority tool, requiring upscaling. Identified Ex Situ partnerships as key moving forward. Talked about plant use and trade. Suggestion to establish an IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) focused expert committee, consolidating case-studies of plant sustainable use that results in positive consideration and livelihood outcomes and engaging with CITES. General priorities to work on membership

engagement, funding, stronger comms, engagement on different aspects of conservation work. Indy Zoo coordinator has lots to work on.

Greg Mueller, SSC Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group Chair

- Commented that this is the 2nd time fungi groups meet. First time, during the previous Leaders' Meeting, all groups were very new.
- Talked about the membership and challenges finding appropriate members especially in particular geographic areas so being doing a lot of our reach within and outside of our community to engage members. Need for additional specialist groups identified (including breaking up existing groups).
- Main activity of groups so far has been producing Red List assessments. Should be able to ramp up assessment contributions moving forward. Looking to move beyond assessment into planning and action. Pleased to hear of Domitillas plan for a SULi expert team for plants and fungi. Excited in general about the multi-taxon approach to conservation planning.
- Major topics of discussion included the formation of a fungal conservation committee.
- Thanks to funding support from Mohammed Bin Zayed fund and Toyota partnership, which have both been critical to the work accomplished.

Topis Contreras, SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee Chair

- Tried historically to keep committee small but are now in a position to broaden membership. Talked about global freshwater biodiversity assessments, about to finish first assessment of 18000 species. Discussions around integrating conservation genetics and Axel's proposal for mutli-taxon assess-to-plan process.
- Discussed Alliance for Freshwater Life. Should be able to talk more on this soon. Could be a game changer for the Freshwater community. Had some discussions about contributing to BBC documentaries. The Freshwater Conservation Committee has no funding mechanism but has collaborated with Mohammad Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. Before the breakout session, I went to the 2012-2024 programme meeting, global freshwater crisis not reflected in this meeting and this is a real problem. Feel that there is a lack of political will to put the freshwater issues up front where they should be.

Mariella Superina, SSC Anteater, Sloth & Armadillo Specialist Group Chair

- Prioritising Red List assessments of Mammal groups is a major priority. Issues with time lag between assessment and publication, delaying in completion of the global mammal assessment. Reassessments will prioritise species with changes in status. Plan to forecast assessments by SGs. Need alignment of assessments or design a sampling scheme for calculating the red list index.
- Mapping, regional maps not currently correctly displayed, technical issues that will be resolved. Maybe a mammal committee to review the question of what we really want to map.
- In terms of action we surveyed how many mammal groups have produced action plans. 12 have produced one, 8 of which have been in the last ten years. Others delay planning until implementation is realistic (find right partners and right specialists to inform GOOD action plans). Funding is always a challenge for all species, and we need to collectively think how to resource this.
- Discussed the possibility of a Mammal Conservation Committee, need to be clear on the function of the committee and the ToRs but all agree that such an entity would be really valuable. Mentoring discussed to better integrate newer and younger chairs. If you want to fundraise, don't fundraise - build relationships.

- Additional topics include impacts statement and quantification of the impact of the Amazon wildfires on mammals. Sharing camera trap images for mapping species distributions: could SSC build this?

Viola Clausnitzer, SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee Member

- Most invert SGs are struggling with Red Listing at the moment.
- Topics discussed include: A2P, red listing, KBAs, Green List, Specialist Group management, Conservation Planning, Funding.
- Some action points: involve more invertebrates in the green list testing, get involved in KBA projects, convene a meeting on invert conservation, multi-taxa assessment approach for a defined region.
- Challenges: get more SG, engage more young people, get more funding for assessments.

Ariadne Angulo, SSC Amphibian Specialist Group Chair

- First time getting all groups together. Carried out an exercise to identify common priorities among groups, discussed the need for an Amphibian and Reptile conservation committee. Groups have very different models and very different priorities. But various themes are common across groups including taxonomic issues and struggles with Red Listing.
- Funding, threats, networking were focused on as key topics. Succession planning discussed. Some groups assign limits for chairs, others do not. Administration requirements for membership growth are an issue. Need to start thinking more broadly about fundraising. Discussion about threats across different major species groups within the group. Spent quite a bit of time discussing whether to implement an Amphibians and Reptiles conservation committee, and not clear that this is the way to go. Decided to have continued discussion on this, identifying potential advantages and disadvantages of such a committee.

Amanda Vincent, SSC Marine Conservation Committee Chair

- Focus on building relationships between marine group communities:
- Action Points: Meetings on Aichi target 6, discussion groups (via Zoom meetings) on socio-economic aspects of fisheries, climate change, bycatch, tourism, conservation planning, spatial planning, translocations. Also agreed that conversations on themes are key. Will continue to link across the union in a One-Union approach, will work to make best use of Ocean pavilion at WCC. Will inject the word marine into as many IUCN outputs as possible. Will prepare for the motions discussions during the congress motions period. Coral SG will look into translocation guidelines. Discussed potential development of new specialist groups. Point person in the committee moving each suggested group forward by looking at capacity/feasibility of the formation of these groups.



Session 4.4a. - 4.5a. IUCN Knowledge Products: What does the world need to catalyze conservation on species?

Facilitator(s): Tom Brooks (4.4a) and Mike Hoffmann (4.5a).

Summary

4.4a: Presentations given on Red List of Ecosystems; IAS knowledge products; Green List of Species; KBAs (including report on global reptile assessment workshop that combined Red Listing, KBA assessment and conservation planning; and report from Amphibian RLA who are reviewing AZE sites in their workshops and through email, providing recommendations to the alliance).

4.5a: Presentations given on Green List of Species methodology; Global Wildlife Conservation survey of a sample of Red List Authorities; followed by a discussion on opportunities for collaboration between RLACs, Red List Partners, Red List Unit, etc. Final discussion on opportunities and synergies between all Knowledge Products.

Main ideas discussed

Morning presentations (4.4a):

Red List of Ecosystems (Angela Andrade)

- How will seagrass be addressed in the new ecosystem typology? (Fred Short)
- Is there a link between the ecosystem typology and the Red List Habitats Classification Scheme? – yes, at level 4 (Kevin Smith)

Invasive species (Piero Genovesi)

- Potential to link from invasives knowledge products to Red List of Ecosystems D criterion? (Tom Brooks)
- Policy linkage of invasives knowledge products? (Cyrie Sendashonga)
- Plans for the Threatened Island Biodiversity Database? (Ian Burfield)

Green List (Liz Bennett)

- Potential for application of Green List at national levels? (Nerissa Chao, WRS/ASAP)
- Opportunity to link to and strengthen the scientific basis for the EU Habitats Directive re “favourable conservation status” (Piero Genovesi)

KBAs & RL (Charlotte Boyd, Neil Cox, Jennifer Luedtke)

- Pacific CEPF work documents presence of invasives in KBAs (& WDPA) – this will be able to be linked from the Threats (invasives) and Conservation actions (Shyama Pagad)
- AZE to date has only encompassed comprehensively assessed taxa? – yes, but KBA criterion A1e is applicable to any taxa (Steve)
- Has delineation in Sri Lanka and AZE examples involved national stakeholder engagement? – these KBA data are still early in the delineation process, and yes, should go through national KBA coordination groups (Catherine Sayer)
- Freshwater process built from RL workshops to also include KBA identification, supporting establishment of national coordination groups (Catherine Sayer)
- Role of global (eg AZE) cf national processes (Ian Burfield)
- Does the KBA Partnership have a communication strategy for explaining the differences

- between IBAs, KBAs, etc (Carolina)
- How should KBA identification proceed in the Pacific Islands, where some islands are wholly covered by eg IBAs, AZE, PAs (Shyama Pagad)
- Can freshwater (and marine) KBAs be delineated separately from terrestrial sites? – no (Kevin Smith)
- Cases of misalignment between newly identified freshwater KBAs (in Madagascar) and those KBAs already existing (eg IBAs) (Catherine Sayer)
- ODU student has drawn from marine Red List data to identify provisional KBAs for the Caribbean (Kent Carpenter)
- Progress with identification of 150 Important Marine Mammal Areas to date, incl US Navy banning low-frequency sonar within them (Erich)
- Importance of identifying KBAs for different species life stages, eg in mangroves (Joe Shing)

Afternoon presentations (4.5a):

- Global typology (Level 4) for RLE ecosystems links to RLTS' habitats - it is imperative that all knowledge products have common typologies where relevant so data can be lined
- During KBA identification process and data gathering, will data on IAS be gathered on each KBA (through threat assessment process)?
- Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Unit explained their model which includes practitioners, government & policy makers, and other stakeholders
- National Coordination Groups act as clearing house for biodiversity data in KBA identification process. Lots of support for national-level KBA/site identification and nomination so that it is directly linked to national policy and practice processes
- Does KBA secretariat have a working group with other assessment initiatives (e.g. Red List Species) to communicate clearly with other interested parties (e.g. national governments)
- Need better process for integrating new and overlapping or adjacent KBAs with different boundaries?
- Important Marine Mammals Areas - now have 150 sites identified, now on an e-Atlas, and gaining traction for protection. E.g. US NAVY have pledged to avoid using low-frequency sonar in these areas. The IMMAs folk want to align with KBA process and vice versa. But site management principle means KBAs don't always match up as some IMMAs are relatively massive.

Afternoon discussion on integration of products and processes:

- GL - needs to be integrated within the Red List; assessors will be the same between GL and RL (from Marine Turtle SG)
- Consultation process - the EICAT consultation was really useful with great comments
- Questions on project range - confirmed that this is part of the methodology;
- South America Camelid SG - reported challenges on deciding spatial units but this was overcome, counterfactuals & scenarios were challenging and somewhat speculative; but reports effort was very useful given the results achieved.
- ISSG - can location-specific information be captured within the GL assessment process to be able to understand management effectiveness
- Discussion on 'smarter' RL assessment - use Global Forest Watch for forest dependent species; online forums didn't work for mammals and so far for plants;
- Red List Technical WG are going to do some testing (...) .
- Idea - create a RLACs network and online comms channel to share practice and experience

- Given forest cover decline (e.g. through Global Forest Watch), can this be applied into the assessments of multiple forest-dependent taxa?
- Need one conservation assessment system for multiple purposes (extinction risk, recovery, KBAs etc). And within this system, have different layers of resolution to the assessment
- Gabriel Martin - doing a Green List of Species assessment should be done as part of a single assessment process. Important thing is to get the commitment from the expert.
- How do we take these ideas re assessment and data integration forward as a group?
- A good amount of support for integrating RL and A2P approach into single workshops

Action	Leader
RLACs should have clear channel of comms with Red List Tech Group to find technological solutions	Jennifer Luedtke, Amphibian RLA
Create a RLAC network and online comms channel to share practice and experience; look into option of using IUCN Portal with Claire Santer in Global Species Programme	Peter Kyne, Sharks RLA
IUCN find a corporate partner to help with the systems, processes and technological assessments to help streamline the multiple assessments and related databases/knowledge products	Jon-Paul?

Session 4.4b. How to boost SSC engagement on conservation actions

Facilitator(s): Nicolas Heard, Jean-Christophe Vié, Axel Hochkirch and Christine Breitenmoser.

- Although we first started not to be focussing on funding, we ended up talking about funding as a means to engage more people in conservation actions
- Challenges are big: before finding funding to find inspiring projects and get the right partners in the triangle of conservation (specialists, NGO's, cooperations). Also, bridge the gap between science and practise as some SGs only consist of scientists. SG membership from local practitioners is in need. However, sometimes (e.g. SE-Asia) members don't comprise researchers (but only organisations). Also, there may be resistance to hear advice from external (outside the country) experts.
- We need to be able to speed up the process of acting after assessing (funding, intervention). How to do: Watch list or 25 top list (like Primates did)?
- How to get attention for less attractive species groups: Link less charismatic species to present action sites with charismatic species. Also, KBA may help to identify multispecies areas and get habitat loss or other threats stopped. Interaction with other Commissions is needed. Another generic way may be to produce action manuals or guidelines for managers.
- To what degree a SG should be involved in conservation action? Don't be too hard on yourself as SG if you don't reach the ultimate targets or are not yourself part in conservation action.
- After the red list update, could we promote an analysis of the red list (best 25 examples per species group) into the protected areas people, (national parks).
- Practitioners are usually not good in fundraising
- Zoo and botanical gardens may be susceptible to provided top priority species (for birds it already works). But their priorities may be different.

- SSC (SOS) is potentially a great partnership to get funding, it is a matter of trust between people. How may we enhance this trust? We may need a more common identity as SGs. Does the donor approach of gathering guidance/advice from relevant SG chairs work?
- There should not be too large a conservation action burden on the SSC (One Programme)
- How to push IUCN members to meet and collectively encourage species conservation interests to national governments/on a national level? This seems not easy in every country.
- Building capacity for many SGs to be able to do funding (and co-funding) and have local action people. Funding would preferably be organised to make administration for action funding more easy, including the possibility to have less money over a longer period of time.
- There is no link between RLdata and Protected areas, but it should be there!

We suggest several recommendations, no action points:

1. Recommend to SSC that species conservation (in collaboration with other commissions – e.g. joint session with WCPA) have a significantly raised profile and funding commitment at the WCC. Worldwide and cross-disciplinary call for species conservation action. Builds on the declaration from this SSC Leaders meeting. Feature species need in the post2020 pavilion.
2. Define the role of SGs in supporting conservation action. Groups should facilitate conservation actions, especially through members. Empower the members to be able to better deliver.
3. Need for networking and collaboration amongst grant-making mechanisms - on varying levels. This can lead to greater grant giving efficiency and potentially reduced burden on SG chairs and/or members.
4. Create a mechanism to make the SGs more accessible and visible to members of other IUCN commissions, NGOs, and practitioners.
5. Greater effort to convene different members of the SSC and other IUCN Commissions on a national level in order to facilitate collaboration and communication to promote conservation action.
6. Improved cross-taxonomic and cross-disciplinary approaches to funders and conservation actions.

Session 4.4c. Sustainable Use

Facilitator(s): Dilys Roe and Grahame Webb.

Dilys provided an overview of SULI's objectives (theory of change), structure (geographic and thematic sub-groups) and activities – such as initiatives to promote community-based approaches in combating illegal wildlife trade and support community engagement in international policy fora. Participants were asked for their views on how SULI's objectives could be enhanced:

- Communication is a key priority. The majority of wildlife use is either invisible or unsustainable so the benefits are not well recognised or understood. European zoo community is generally very anti-use/trade and doesn't necessarily recognise the relevance to conservation – despite the fact that zoos are a form of sustainable use. Similarly politicians and the general public. IUCN needs a much louder voice in communicating the importance of sustainable use for conservation, and we can capitalise on our partnerships with zoos e.g. Indianapolis to do this.

- For many species there is a lack of knowledge on how to ensure use is sustainable – e.g. plants, marine species, fungi. Need to engage with the commercial/private sector to benefit from their expertise – forestry, fisheries etc. Sub-groups in SULi focused on these taxa would encourage increased attention.
- Engaging with industry and certification bodies is also important to improve industry practice, as well as raising awareness among consumers.
- More research is needed - into the extent and impact of unsustainable use (including broader ecosystem impacts beyond the target species), the limits to sustainability in different contexts, the environmental footprints of different consumption choices to compare wild versus non-wild alternatives, and the impact of trade bans.
- Sustainable use needs to be a prominent component of the post-2020 biodiversity framework under the CBD, and the SSC Declaration coming from this meeting.

Action	Leader
Ensure sustainable use is prominently reflected in the SSC Declaration and IUCN's position on the post-2020 biodiversity framework	Dilys and Patricia, all
Establish sub-groups within SULi on plants & fungi, marine species, South-East Asia	Dilys, Nastya, other relevant SULi members
Work with CITES to compile more case studies on livelihoods and draw out lessons learned	Dilys, other relevant SULi members
Work with other Specialist Groups to ensure sustainable use is appropriately reflected in their strategies and action plans	Dilys, other relevant SULi members
Follow up with zoos – Indianapolis, ZSL – re communicating sustainable use stories	Dilys
Scope out/explore potential for work on in situ/conservation – in terms of conservation and livelihood benefits (NB existing concept on this by Jacob Phelps)	Dilys – in collab with Rosie and Jacob
Scope out work on sustainability research – wild sourced v cultivated products; vegan leather v wild etc	Dilys
Share summary of this session, and the “menti” word cloud, with SULi members	Dilys

Session 4.4d. Approaches for conservation planning

Facilitator(s): Onnie Byers, Caroline Lees, Domitilla Raimondo, Barney Long and David Mallon.

Over 50 people participated in the session on approaches to species conservation planning. The SSC is encouraging Specialist Groups to move from assessing to planning and throughout the Leaders' meeting, there appeared to be a great deal of interest in planning. The participants in this session reinforced that perception. The session began with brief presentations on Systematic Biodiversity Planning, the Green List of Species, CPSG's best practice principles and steps for participatory, stakeholder-inclusive species planning, and issues around engaging indigenous people and local communities in planning. There was a lively question and answer period after each presentation and then participants self-selected into 4 working groups to discuss each of these aspects of species planning in more depth. Specific questions were answered and case studies discussed.

Action	Leader
IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group was tasked with pulling together a resource of spatial biodiversity planners based in different parts of the world who could be called on to both conduct and develop capacity for spatial planning.	Caroline Lees and Onnie Byers
Follow up with those interested in becoming members of CPSG	Onnie Byers
Share feedback from this session to Green List of Species committee to inform further tool development	Barney Long

Session 4.4d. Approaches for conservation planning

Facilitator(s): Kira Mileham, Rob Bullock and Nahomy De Andrade.

KM - Started explaining her own experience as Partnership Director of SSC.

Find a partner/organization who you can share a vision instead of looking for money

Grow the vision together

Treat your partners like people, as interesting, passionate fellow humans.

If you need advice, ask for money -- if you need money, ask for advice.

It is a balance between

1. What are your partnership needs?
2. What does this look like as a broader vision?
3. Who might share this vision with you? Who are your potential partners?
4. What do you offer in return
5. What are the risk?
6. What support do you need to establish this partnership?

Action	Leader
To upload in SSC portal a template for MoU	Nahomy

Session 4.4e. Succession planning on SSC groups and mentoring of new leaders

Facilitator(s): Jon Paul Rodríguez and Rachel Hoffmann.

- Identification of potential co-chairs is important
- Co chair is important in how to designate it.
- Important to have skills to manage people. Scientists are not always good at managing people. Conflict resolution skills are important to have for scientists..
- Choose members so as to give them active roles, like focal points or other ways.
- A way to determine who the successor might be is to first appoint him/her as red list authority.
- Definitely having a co-chair is fundamental to share the burden and have a mutual feedback process.
- It is a good idea to have an expertise directory, not necessarily registered in the iucn system.
- It is important to keep in mind and frequently read the IUCN guidelines for leadership.
- It is good to be inclusive for membership, even though they are not so engaged, as long as they respond to the letter of invitation that now the system allows to send individually.

- The more diverse the group is the better it performs.
- It happens that when a chair leaves it does not provide information about the group to the new one. It would be a good idea to have a repository of information although SSC data is a way
- When a new chair comes to place there must be a good conversation on what are the expectations
- It is a good thing for a new chair to talk to other experienced chairs to give advice.
- For a new SG chair it is needed to have some mentorship from the SSC Chair Office.
- It would help to have a small advisory group within the SG
- For the next leaders meeting, it is important to have more time for thematic groups together interacting.
- In general there was a consensus that the rules or criteria for chair succession announced by the SSC Chair in the morning session are adequate.

Session 4.4g. How can SSC engage more on climate change assessment, mitigation and adaptation?

Facilitator(s): Wendy Foden, Resit Akçakaya, Tom Lacher.

How is your specialist group dealing with climate change?

- Medicinal plants SG has assessed several species in Lebanon. Were able to get good climate change models for the region, used the Climate Change Vulnerability Index developed by NatureServe (led by CCSG co-chair). Threats calculator produced by _____ partnership has really useful diagnostic criteria useful for separating threats and impact.
- Anna - spatial modeling global vulnerability index (shifts in distribution) based for freshwater species. Very concerned about effects of extreme events (droughts & floods) but don't have any data. Anna wants to design questionnaire for members - would like help to formulate and design survey and study.
- Jacques Friar - freshwater specialist group (1,200 species). 2009-2013 modeling project for European freshwater fish. Can't go into detail - too many species, not enough detail available (narrow range), except for a few widespread species. Is single species modelling approach preparing us to deal with climate change. What is coming (physical and political) is beyond our usual "daily business" - are we really prepared to deal with this, can we deal with this?
 - Scenario planning can be helpful
 - Colombian project is helpful - coffee farms tie biodiversity to livelihoods, helps elevate the importance of climate change. Need to emphasize human,
- Luis co-chair stork swan (?) specialist group. Species on all continents. Not engaging yet, but species are changing (migration patterns, etc.) have some data but need models and tools to evaluate impacts.
- Tom Lacher - co-chair small mammal specialist group. Bat study published last weekend looking at range overlap between bat species and agave - ensemble GCMs at 4.5 and 8.5 scenarios. Under all scenarios - significant reduction in overlap suggesting extreme vulnerability to agave. Another student is an amphibian specialist looking at individual species in tropical Andes mountains in Colombia.
- Seed Conservation Specialist Group - hawaiian plant specialist group - have tried to integrate cc into red list assessment for hawaiian plants. Group put together a hawaiian plant vulnerability assessment. On seed conservation side, need to think about conservation

- planning.
- Seagrass specialist group - mixed messages about seagrass - could improve so focus has been on eutrophication and other threats, but extreme events have been really damaging. Two possible extinctions so far - need to figure out how to identify hotspots of impact.
 - Florida landscape is so development oriented, dominated by engineers still approving 60 story buildings on Miami beach. Science is very disconnected from the real world. Resilience has now been occupied by engineering world - resilience is now sold to mean sea walls, bigger pumps, etc. Groups are now monetizing climate change impacts and putting money into business as usual engineering. We're beginning to do this on the science side of things.
 - Interested in climate impacts by life history stage
 - If you've done a paper that helped with a lawsuit or applied situation
 - Seagrass rep housed in department of landscape architecture. U Washington is prioritizing nature based solutions and has a manual.
 - If SSC could formalize a bold statement with clear recommendations how we as a biodiversity community can (e.g. no more peat mining) to explain what should be done with clear steps - what role does biodiversity play in climate mitigation
 - There are many motions in play for the WCC meeting that try to address this
 - Pikas have moved upslope - dogs are eating pikas - could be false attribution. Need help disentangling contributing factors.
 - Lots of species are affected by climate change through interacting factors - disease, agriculture, etc.
 - Important to know the mechanisms, but it depends on why you are studying the question (Lagomorph specialist group)
 - If you're doing a red list assessment, vulnerability criteria will tell you about threat to extinction - don't necessarily need to disentangle climate change from other drivers
 - Need to decide why you're doing the assessment and how important it is to know the exact mechanism
 - We have to overcome that threshold of climate deniers - need to mobilize enough concern in order to start combating economic issues. We need to get it right - arguments must be iron clad and clear.
 - Please send examples for our impacts database
 - Where is the role of ecosystem assessment then? We need to put together a broader understanding of understanding climate impacts on ecosystem
 - WCPA also has a climate change group - ecosystem level vulnerability assessments are really difficult, maybe less advanced field
 - Also collaborating with Commission on Ecosystem Management
 - Lots of opportunity - many species being modeled are now multi-species models
 - Value every single species - where do we put our resources? We're so disconnected, habitat level might be more effective
 - Reforesting for the climate of tomorrow is a great example of a species level assessment to inform habitat resilience moving forward
 - Guidelines for traveling - lists for planning meetings. offsetting travel
 - Not exactly within the role of the SSC, but we can certainly be part of the bigger picture and try to provide some guidance
 - Advice for climate neutral meetings
 - Maybe more helpful to try to make recommendations for how meetings can help sup-

port species projects

- Fastest way to lose credibility is to speak outside your expertise - there are carbon offset projects that are detrimental to species survival
- Polar bear group does this for every meeting look at venues and calculate what's the least amount of mileage
 - Group doesn't have guidelines but chair tries as best he can to limit carbon
 - Maybe there's an existing set of guidelines we can point people to to at least help raise awareness
- What existing guidelines there are for using climate change in assessments?
 - Link to [Guidelines](#)

Presentation

- Introduction to the CCSG
- Step 1: Define your goals and objectives
 - Sounds simple but often people arguing over CCVAs are arguing about different things because they haven't specified what specifically they are looking at
- Step 2: Identify all likely impacts make a list
 - Pressures - all pressures to which species will be exposed, human response pressures are really important, don't forget about them
 - Mechanisms - explaining how they will have them, they happen at individual levels, some positive, some negative - all interacting with each other (5 types: abiotic, habitat, interspecies, phenology, exacerbation of non-climate threats)
 - Impacts - impacts at individual level, subpopulation level and species level are mediated by a species' sensitivity and adaptive capacity
- Step 3: Quantify the impacts
 - Trait based, correlative or mechanistic approach
 - Identify and evaluate existing CCVAs
- Trait-based
 - Expert knowledge, works really well with a red list assessment because draws on information you probably gathered anyway
 - Vulnerability is the interaction between exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity
 - IUCN Workshop developed more than 90 traits that make species more sensitive - chose birds, corals and amphibians - took each species and coded them according to all of the sensitivity traits and adaptability traits
 - Used a very simplistic approach, didn't model ranges, just looked at exposure based on species location - was it in a hotspot of change?
 - Ranked species only listed highly vulnerable if they scored high in all three categories - exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity
 - Can weight traits differently - don't have to consider them all equal
 - E.g. *Herniscus gutturalis* - rainfall cue, occurs on polar tip of land mass, high change in precipitation
 - Doesn't give you exact rating, but tells you relative vulnerability - gives a starting point
 - You can use trait based assessment for "suspected decline" if you give a percentage"
 - Great way to identify which populations
 - A2 (past decline) and A3 completely different
- Freshwater species have bad experience with A3 - projecting decline. Predicted decline didn't happen. Ask experts to say very clearly which data does this rely on, where, which

- population. Be very specific
- Difference between inferred and suspected (standards & guidelines committee needs to develop more guidelines on) inferred usually habitat based, suspected decline slightly more qualitative. Used to be more lenient but need to move away from this.
 - How should projected range loss be considered within this criteria
 - Need to document uncertainty. If you say in justification, species can be in any of these three categories, we choose the middle one, that's completely fine, just be clear.
 - There are people who completely reject climate models. There was a paper on lionfish that said could never invade Mediterranean because it's outside its climate envelope. Tough to say - everything is junk until now.
 - No matter what test you use, some studies will be junk because you used the wrong data, can't reject whole test. Otherwise you would reject entire Red List - it all came before.
 - People who come to this conference aren't experts in climate modeling - field experts.
 - Please come to CCSG, we have whole activity on modelling support and can help determine whether or not a source should be trusted
 - Encouraging you to think about mechanism - not a single location, populations may be expanding in the north and shrinking in the south
 - How we've integrated climate traits into criteria A
 - If you have % decline in habitat that you know and you have multiple species in that habitat and you want to differentiate them by vulnerability you can use traits
 - Or you might have a range of declines - we're going to err on the higher side for ones that are really vulnerable, and lower side for species that are less vulnerable
 - Criterion B
 - Galapagos species affected by el nino events (SST spikes), papers show that warming events covers all islands at same time - threat occurs over very large area - didn't really use traits, was more about the location
 - Fish in the Galapagos - first fish to go extinct due to climate change - hasn't been seen since 1982 - Galapagos damselfish. Locally extinct due to climate change
 - Criterion C - inferred continuing decline and extreme fluctuations
 - Criterion D - AOO & plausible future threats

Correlative models don't take into account dispersal - if you have actual dispersal information you can use dispersal difference, but you have to use it at at least generation time scale. Can you trait based approach alongside to try and clarify distribution.

- Validation very important. If you can't believe model for current distribution you definitely don't want to trust it for future distributions
- Adds to trait based approach by supporting inferred population
- AOO itself if the current area of occupancy, not the future one
- Criterion C: Estimated continuing decline

Mechanistic approach 2 types (mechanistic niche and demographic)

- Iberian lynx (Resit & Damien Fordham)
- Includes species interaction
- Adapted conservation measures are required to save the Iberian lynx in a changing climate
- Need to get our head around adaptation measures. For lynx - it will allow species to exist, but won't recover unless you account for climate change

Lagomorph SG - climate literature on pikas very misleading

CCVA for ecosystems guidelines would be really helpful

- When an ecosystem collapses is not always as easily identifiable

Bev has been working with Red List of Ecosystems, really good criteria for ecosystem collapse and what triggers they're looking at

Action	Leader
Collect published papers from workshop participants and circulate to all attendees	Caitlin

Session 4.4i. Measuring SSC outcomes and impact (II)

Facilitator(s): P.J. Stephenson, Orlando Salamanca and Jafet Nassar.

PLAN

KSR7

- IND1: Number of species with plans
- IND2 (new from splitting the former): Number of plans developed for species groups
- IND3: Doubts about getting feedback. Make sure this indicator refers to conservation planning, not conservation actions.

KSR8

- IND1: How to implement it? Does it include recommendations? Policy influencing efforts. E.g. We engaged in the CITES process. Number of processes in which a group engages.

ACT

KSR9 (Should we use the word identifying? It refers to planning.

- IND1: To wait for the status will take forever. Be more short-term focused. Also keep account of the scale of the influence on conservation status (national, regional, global). Number of species that have improved to some level their status.
- IND2: Check the wording. Number of other species or non-target species that received positive influence.

KSR10 (Use of the word FOSTER is correct? The term is vague.) This is more related to policy no actions. Use the term catalyze instead. We need to get consistency with the terms used across all the strategy and SSC framework.

- IND1: Why only countries? The level could be at a more local scale.

KSR11

- IND1: Example: Letter-writing campaigns.
- IND2: Preparation for crisis cases.

KSR12 Change amelioration by mitigation. Also change the word interactions. It is a very narrow focus compared to other KSRs. Take issues that are common across many species. We need to elevate it to a higher level. Should be more globally formulated.

- IND1: No comments on this indicator.
- IND2: Use word mitigated.

KSR13

- IND1: Number of publications with SSC affiliations. Different types of communications. This is about using information. How many SSC publications are being cited. Number of times SSC members are invited to be part of consultation boards or conservation initiatives. Amount of technical consultations. Professional audiences (including governments)
- IND2: One should refer to the media and filming exclusively. Number of hits in websites. Twitter followers. This is about general audiences.

KSR14 This refers to IND2 of the previous one. Lest separate the previous one into two, one technical and one to general audiences.

- IND1: No comments on this indicator.
- IND2: No comments on this indicator.

Session 4.5b. Reverse The Red

Facilitator(s): Kira Mileham, Jon Paul Rodríguez and Domitilla Raimondo.

Organization of the structure

- Have a strong focal point supporting the National Red List Authority especially for capacity building and lesson sharing
- Make use of the IUCN Regional Vice Chairs, IUCN national committees and the IUCN regional offices to provide support to such a structure
- Be mindful of conflict of interest between already existing national committees and the National Red List Authority.
- There was a concern around the semantic of the RtR being seen as conflicting with the Red List of Threatened Species.

Building capacity and partnership

- It will help to spell out what WAZA is bringing to the table and the roles the different partners will play. JPR: The zoos will provide a facility for staff support, vehicle for communication, zoos have many links with the government and it will be a conduit to mainstream Red Lists products into policy.

Ensuring global tools supported and utilized at national level

- Richard Jenkins: What are the timelines in relation to the WCC 2020? JPR: No timelines yet but we are working with the partners, Steering Committee and GSP to make sure there is good communication around RtR and we are hoping to ensure a good feedback mechanism.

Session 4.5c. Contributing to policy making: Creating information documents for policy meetings, preparing policy briefings, speaking to decision makers about conservation needs

Facilitator(s): Piero Genovesi, Richard Jenkins, Amanda Vincent, Dilys Roe and Phil McGowan.

Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director for Policy and Programme: presented a summary of what constitutes policy in the IUCN system, who does what in this regard, and how IUCN provides inputs to inform and influence policy in different multilateral environmental processes and organizations and the dynamic that IUCN follows to gather these inputs from our union members.

Amanda Vincent, Chair IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee and Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Specialist Group: highlighted her experience with the CITES process, emphasizing the need to know your audience and to frame messages that are understandable to the decision-makers that you are trying to influence.

Patricia Cremona, GSP Programme Officer Sustainable Use and Trade: Patricia presented an overview on how to provide inputs to inform policy decisions at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Patricia noted that we provide inputs through Red List assessment results, inputs to particular CITES meetings, and capacity building activities such as workshops or publication of guidelines.

Piero Genovesi, Chair IUCN SSC Invasive Specialist Group: Piero expressed that our main strength is to serve as a bridge between the technical and policy level. Piero highlighted that we are not always going to be able to act on the ground, we better use policy to achieve our goals.

Philip McGowan, Chair IUCN SSC Biodiversity Targets Task Force: presented an overview of the type of questions that we are looking to answer under target 12 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Some of the questions mentioned to tackle the goal of conserving our species were: which strategic research can be used? Which specific targets? What is the problem? And how can governments achieve their targets?

Dilys Roe, IUCN SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group: Dilys noted the importance of understanding the policymaking process to have a greater impact when getting involved in any policy process. Dilys expressed that we need to understand how these organizations make decisions, so we can identify which meetings are worthy. Finally, Dilys highlighted the importance of building relations.

Session 4.5d. Communications for conservation

Facilitator(s): Aritzaith Rodríguez and Harriet Brooker.

The **presentation** covered external communications, including the roles of media, web stories, newsletters, and with a focus on social media.

Key areas of discussion included:

- How SSC and GSP work together
 - Both SSC and GSP are part of IUCN, the world's largest environmental organisation. GSP is part of the Secretariat, while SSC is an independent Commission of over 9,000

individual experts in species around the world. SSC is a rich treasure trove of knowledge, while GSP represents the core of the organisation. Both are necessary for IUCN to represent the measures needed to safeguard the natural world.

- Aims of communications, messaging (conveying the urgency of the biodiversity crisis), IUCN positioning (science-based, head-centred), the key role of SSC in IUCN comms (including strengthening the credibility of IUCN's outputs).
- Social media: why do it, messaging and positioning, elements of a good post, available tools and resources.
- Web: why it is valuable, different kinds of articles (time-sensitive and evergreen).
- Media: clarification of how media enquiries are handled at IUCN, objectives of media coverage, brief overview of dos and don'ts when working with the media.
- Newsletters: overview of Species [E-bulletin](#) and [SSC Quarterly Report](#), highlighted the kinds of entries that are suitable for each.
- Highlighted IUCN media and communications guidance documents.
- Encouraged Specialist Groups to get in touch with SSC and GSP comms if they have news they wish to communicate, and we will help ascertain the most appropriate methods and provide support.
 - Important: From SSC and GSP comms they will receive support to share news every month through the Species E-bulletin and social media.
- Highlighted IUCN communications do not seek to influence mass public behaviour directly; in this sense we encourage to develop their content promoting an exchange of knowledge with their audiences but reminding they are part of the IUCN.

Session 4.5f. How to increase collaboration among SSC groups, commissions and all IUCN

Facilitator(s): Bibiana Sucre and Dao Nguyen.

Presentation [here](#)

- Questions on engagements with IUCN members and National Committees, IUCN Secretariat
- Interactions with other NGOs and members
- Collaboration with IUCN national committees
- Not seeing SSC no commission representation as much
- How to
- Problem is lack of funding and time
- ESARO never heard of the SSC Africa Regional Vice chair
- Connect the dots between regional office and SSC Specialist Groups
- Find a mechanisms to enable the collaboration
- There are opportunities to engage more closely with different IUCN constituencies
- If IUCN National Committees are not active then
- The IUCN Regional Office can work and access the Ministerial level
- SSC Regional Vice Chairs are not known to the SGs
- Collaboration is normally based on leadership of the regional office.
- It's difficult to access data as some Governments ask for payment for data.

Action	Leader
SSC Vice Chairs should reach out to all SGs in their regions to connect to all the chairs	Bibiana Sucre
SSC Vice Chairs should reach out to all SGs in their regions to connect to all the chairs	Bibiana Sucre
Find a list of IUCN national committees, regional committees from the IUCN Membership Unit in Gland	Dao Nguyen
To explore having more than one regional vice chair for Africa due to the size of the continent	Bibiana Sucre
Publish a list of IUCN Secretariat Regional Species Focal Points	Dao and Bibiana

Session 4.5g. How on earth to find funding for urgent action plans and then the immediate urgent actions thereafter

Facilitator(s): Dr Lucy Kemp.

Action	Leader
Pinniped SG needs multi-species action planning done	Onnie/ Kira to advise Chair
Mid-Atlantic Invertebrates: Ascension, Sao Tome, Principe	Lucy to contact BIAZA
Looking at alternate sources for in-kind funding eg. airlines for flights	

Session 4.5h. A multi-taxon approach to Assess Plan Act

Facilitator(s): Axel Hochkirch.

Objective:

to pilot this approach to demonstrate what IUCN can do when working together.

Initial discussion:

Where to focus the assessment: possibly Borneo. Important due to level of deforestation. Actual site was debated. Capital of Indonesia is moving to a location in this region - either a political hot potato or benefits from being high profile. Peat swamps identified as a possible focus BUT it is extremely difficult to work there.

Risk is outside interference in such a large project so it needs to be led by an Indonesian team
Suggested a region suffering high levels of threat.

Small mammal workshop is already funded for Indonesia next year (USD 18,000).

Possible alternatives discussed were E Malaysia or Brazil.

Need to first assess SSC contacts in the region.

Conclusions:

Western Ghats was ultimately identified as the best possibility. All in the room have good contacts in the W Ghats. W Ghats is very strong in terms of data availability and recent assessments.

Suggested pitching the idea do a structured survey on the location to work.

Identify a site for this pilot which is more feasible.

Identify an area where the government is requesting assistance to survey, plan, act for a region. Combine assessment with planning, integrating all taxonomic groups. Sanjay was contacted and joined the group part way through the meeting as a potential coordinator. Very keen to discuss the W Ghats option further and to potentially coordinate the project.

Action	Leader
Sanjay Molur to be contacted as potential coordinator for Western Ghats. Achieved during the meeting and in full support of focusing on the W Ghats.	Topis Contreras
Identify who would like to participate. Contact SSC and CEM, CEEC.	Axel
Plan a workshop to take this forward and identify the actual region and objectives.	Axel
Plan to launch at the WCC	?
Raise funds	?
All present contact Axel to express interest along with details on level of interest and local contacts.	All

Session 4.5j. How do we tackle the largest threats immediately and collectively?

Facilitator(s): JC VÍe.

- Not enough of a sense of crisis - act now, extinction crisis is not in people's mind
- "Moving chairs on the sinking Titanic"
- Ecosystem RL to think on a larger scale. Species versus ecosystem approach
- Producing sample of species assessments SRLI - accelerates research but not action
- Engage young leaders, similar to Greta Thunberg, support them
- Fridays for Future, Scientists for Future - connects to young people by providing information on topics with action
- Approach Extinction Rebellion - they have raised more awareness in 6 months than SSC in 70 years
- How can SSC tap into that movement?
- Communicate actions on how to tackle biodiv crisis
- Threat-based conservation planning - benefit of IUCN is knowledge of wide-range of species/threats
- IUCN is a link in a chain leading on knowledge - provide guidance to other parts of chain
- It is not our role to do activism but we could point at numbers and are too shy
- Message that IUCN RL informed IPBES numbers is not mentioned enough
- Number of people on the ground (actions) is not growing as much as people dealing with policy
- How to get more people in the field? More money is not the solution.
- Did energy put into processes translate into positive outcomes? Reviêw of this may be needed.
- Lack of power/skills by IUCN communication, action needs to come from SSC.
- There are very good people in our community - confidence in our own community and let's no count on outsiders
- Problem of halting biodiv loss is so complex that we need to tackle it locally

- Highlight projects that worked
- Where is our niche and how we boost others
- Population is never mentioned while people in the street identifies this immediately as a problem
- Identifies good spokespersons.
- ACT dimension of ASSESS PLAN ACT needs being implemented right now to tackle big threats in parallel to ASSESS and PLAN

Action	Leader
Empower activist groups and give them the ammunition (aka information)	To be discussed by the proponent of the session with the SSC Chair
Highlighting human population growth as an issue	All

Session 4.5m. Freshwater

Facilitator(s): William Darwall and Anna Loy.

- Share concerns on pressures on freshwaters also with SG working on both aquatic and semiaquatic species relying on freshwaters for a part of their lifecycle.
- Collect and share information on impact of climate change on freshwater biodiversity, still poorly analysed
- Importance of considering the riparian belts as an important component of freshwater ecosystems, in accordance with the novel approach driven by the European Water Framework Directive (EC/60/2000).
- The role otters as ambassadors of freshwater conservation, both for their role of flagship, umbrella, and key species.
- Discussed reviving and reporting on the findings of a survey conducted at the previous SSC Leaders meeting by Richard Lansdown focused on interviews of SG members to identify the main threats to any freshwater dependent species covered by their respective SGs. The option was discussed for then comparing the threats identified through the Red List assessments with those highlighted by other SG members, to potentially identify unrecognised threats in the Red List assessments.

Action	Leader
Agreed in publishing a review paper on pressures and threats across freshwater taxa, also including categories that have not yet been included in the Red List SIS system.	Richard Lansdown, Chair of Freshwater Plant SG

Plenary 4.6. 2019 Species Survival Commission Awards

The Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership

This award, established in 2004, recognizes exemplary service to the SSC, especially from individuals who have made a specific contribution to species conservation on the ground or through their leadership, as part of the work of an SSC Specialist Group or Task Force. The recipients of this award in 2019 were:

Pritpal Soorae, IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group (formerly Reintroduction SG);

Andre Botha, IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group;

Ariadne Angulo, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group;

Malin Rivers, IUCN SSC Red List Technical Working Group; and

Laurent Tatin, IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group.

The George Rabb Award for Conservation Innovation

This is an award in honour of Dr George Rabb, Chair of SSC from 1989 to 1996, for outstanding innovation and creativity in species conservation in the context of the SSC. It is given to individuals in recognition of delivering transformational advances in conservation theory and practice. The 2019 recipients were:

Wendy Foden, IUCN SSC Climate Change Specialist Group; and

Lisa Dabek, IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group.

The Sir Peter Scott Award for Conservation Merit

This is the “senior” SSC award, dating back to 1984. It is presented to individuals in recognition of significant and long-term service to conservation through their work with the SSC or associated institutions. The recipients of these awards were:

Nicole Duplaix, IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group;

David Mallon, IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group;

Frédéric Launay, IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group;

Randy Reeves, IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group;

George Archibald, IUCN SSC Crane Specialist Group;

Anslem Lawrence de Silva, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group; and

Vololoniaina Jeannoda, IUCN SSC Madagascar Plants Specialist Group.



Ariadne Angulo



Wendy Foden



David Mallon

The SSC Chair's Citation of Excellence

This award recognizes SSC groups for their outstanding contributions to any of our Key Species Results (KSR) established in the [Species Strategic Plan](#), allocated throughout the five components of the Species Conservation Cycle: **Network – Assess – Plan – Act – Communicate**. Their contributions were based on the information provided by each group through SSC DATA. The 2019 recipients were 37 Specialist Groups:

Group name:	For their contributions to:
IUCN SSC Snake & Lizard Red List Authority	Assess
IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group	Assess
IUCN SSC Bird Red List Authority	Assess
IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group	Assess
IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group	Plan
IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group	Plan
IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group	Act
IUCN SSC Macaronesian Island Plant Specialist Group	Act
IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group	Communicate
IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group	Assess and Plan
IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group	Assess and Act
IUCN SSC Lagomorph Specialist Group	Assess and Act
IUCN SSC Brazil Plant Red List Authority Group	Assess and Act
IUCN SSC Oil Palm Task Force	Assess and Network
IUCN Red List Committee	Assess and Network
IUCN SSC Mid-Atlantic Island Invertebrate Specialist Group	Assess and Communicate
IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group	Assess, Plan and Communicate
IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group	Assess, Plan, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group	Assess, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC/WCPA Biodiversity and Protected Areas Task Force	Assess, Plan and Act
IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group	Assess, Plan, Act, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group	Plan and Act
IUCN SSC Anguillid Eel Specialist Group	Plan and Act
IUCN SSC Mascarene Islands Plant Specialist Group	Plan and Act
IUCN SSC Crane Specialist Group	Plan and Act
IUCN SSC/CEESP Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group	Plan and Communicate
IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group	Plan and Network
IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group	Plan and Network
IUCN SSC Equid Specialist Group	Plan and Network
IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group	Plan, Act and Communicate
IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group	Plan, Act and Network

Group name:	For their contributions to:
IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group	Plan, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC Task Force on Human-Wildlife Conflict	Plan, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group	Plan, Act, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee	Plan, Act, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC Climate Change Specialist Group	Act, Network and Communicate
IUCN SSC Peccary Specialist Group	Act and Communicate



Craig Hilton-Taylor and Caroline Pollock.



Ian Burfield, IUCN SSC Bird Red List Authority.



Amanda Vincent, IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish & Seadragon Specialist Group.



Mariella Superina, IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group.



James Burton, IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group.



Nick Dulvy, IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.



Ariadne Angulo and Phil Bishop, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group.



Mariana Altrichter, IUCN SSC Peccary Specialist Group.



Philippe Chardonnet and David Mallon, IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group.



Grahame Webb, IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group.



Dan Challender, IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group.



Patricia Moehlman and Sarah King, IUCN SSC Equid Specialist Group.

Survey results

Shortly after the Leader’s Meeting, the SSC Chair’s Office shared with meeting participants a survey to gather their impressions and feedback about the meeting in terms of both contents and logistics. The survey received 126 responses.

In terms of achieving the meeting objectives, in average the respondents rated achievement of objectives above 3.60 in all objectives, with an overall average of 3.91 ± 0.96 in a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 meant poorly addressed and 5 meant fully addressed (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1. How would you rate the meeting in addressing each of its objectives? (1 poorly - 5 fully)

Regarding meeting duration and time allocation, 86% of participants considered that four days of meeting was an adequate duration for the Leaders’ Meeting (**Figure 2**), while 82% saw an adequate balance between plenary and parallel sessions (**Figure 3**).

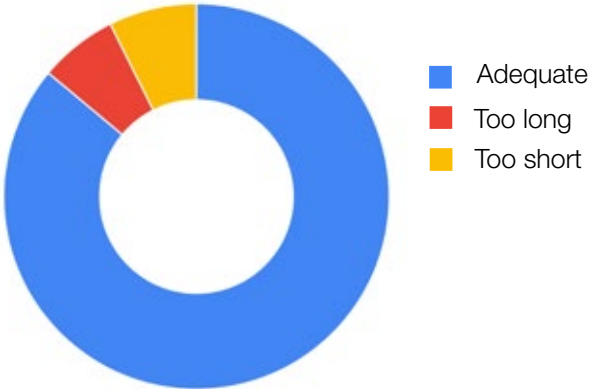


Figure 2. What do you think of the duration of the meeting?

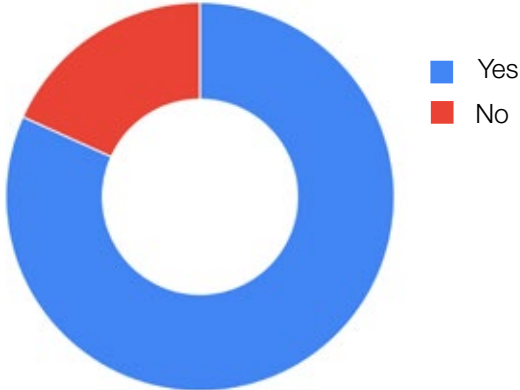


Figure 3. Do you think there was an adequate balance between plenary sessions and parallel sessions?

In terms of the meeting agenda, thematic breakouts were the session most frequently reported as more valuable among the respondents, followed by parallel sessions (in general), Red List training and plenary sessions (**Table I**).

Session or activity	Frequency of response
Thematic breakouts	30
Parallel sessions	19
Red List training	18
Plenaries (strategy, latest initiatives, success stories, delivering assess-plan-act, greatest challenges, disciplinary groups)	14
Networking	11
Interactive sessions	10
SSC group management (succession, volunteerism)	6
All or most sessions brought value	5
Trainings	5
Conservation planning, spatial planning	5
Sustainable use	5
SGs activities, experiences	4
Fundraising	4
Technical discussions	4
Green List	4
Policy - CITES, CMS, post-2020	4
Knowledge products (KBAs)	4
Human Wildlife Conflict	3
Disciplinary groups sessions	3
Climate change and vulnerability	3
Species Strategic Plan	2
Panel of Committees	2
Conservation translocation	2
Wildlife health, poisoning	2
Q&A with SSC Chair	2
IUCN Programme 2021-2024	1
Measuring SSC outcomes and impact	1
Parking lot sessions	1
National Red List meeting	1
Conservation genetics	1
New initiatives	1
IUCN standards	1
SSC Leaders Declaration	1
Commission system for membership management	1
Species monitoring	1
Regional multi-species assess-plan-act	1
Communications training	1
Did not respond	4

Table I. Frequency of responses to the question ‘which sessions or activities brought more value to you?’

When asked about the sessions or activities that brought less value to meeting participants, the most frequent response was a no-response (field left blank), followed by some plenary sessions (in general), and by specifically responding none (**Table II**).

Session or activity	Frequency of response
Did not respond	33
Some plenaries (too long, too broad, issues with acoustics)	29
None	17
Not sure	6
Activity reports	5
Those different to own topic of interest	5
Red List Training	5
Theoretical, lack of interaction	3
Q&A Sessions	2
Mammal thematic breakout	2
Policy - CITES	2
Not applicable	2
Indianapolis partnership	1
Parking lots	1
SSC Awards	1
Communications training (too theory)	1
Sessions that were meant to be about plan/act (e.g. policy) but defaulted back to assessment.	1
Reverse the Red	1
Contributing to policy making	1
Training	1
Measuring SSC impact	1
Posters	1
Planning and strategy	1
Hosted dinner didn't facilitate networking	1
SSC Data	1
Volunteerism in SSC	1
Commission system for membership management	1

Table II. Frequency of responses to the question 'which sessions or activities brought less value to you?'

A no-response (field left blank) was also the most frequent response to the question about the themes or activities that may have not been sufficiently covered during the meeting. This was followed by specific 'none' responses, conservation actions, and more specific discussions during thematic breakouts (**Table III**).

Session or activity	Frequency of response
Did not respond	29
None	9
Conservation actions	8
More specific discussions on thematic breakouts	7
Coordination with other components of IUCN (particularly commissions)	6
Fundraising	6
Red List (data quality, growing data, AOO, EOO, more specific training)	5
Orientation session for new participants	5
Managing SSC groups	5
Time for separate meetings/networking	4
Not sure	4
National or regional work	3
Policy, advocacy - Post-2020, CITES-TRAFFIC	3
Working together for larger impact	3
Synergies among SSC groups	3
Increasing diversity	3
Species action planning	2
Interactive sharing experiences	2
IUCN Programme	1
Technical issues	1
Reintroduction guidelines	1
Communications	1
New major initiatives (Reverse the Red)	1
Conservation on islands	1
Failing conservation efforts	1
Problem solving	1
Successes of less known groups	1
Human wildlife conflict	1
Climate change	1
Gaps in the reach of SSC and how to address them	1
Making meeting greener	1
Corporate partnerships	1
Genetics	1
SSC plans and needs	1
Preparing for WCC	1
Leadership competencies	1
Updates on key topics for species conservation	1

Table III. Frequency of responses to the question 'which themes or activities do you think were not sufficiently covered in the meeting?'

Two questions were included in the survey aiming to capture how the meeting may ignite new or different efforts from participants in their SSC activities.

The first of these questions focused on potential improvements to implement the internal management of their group. The most frequent responses to this question were membership engagement, internal communications and transferring more responsibilities to members (**Table IV**).

Opportunity for improvement	Frequency of response
Membership engagement	17
Internal communications	16
Transfer more responsibilities to members	16
Did not respond	13
Succession planning	10
External communications	7
Group structure	7
Red List assessments and SIS	7
Collaborate with other SSC groups	6
Fundraising and partnering	6
None	6
Updating goals and strategies	5
Increase number of members	4
Meet more frequently	4
More regional or national work	4
Not applicable	4
Encourage conservation action projects	2
Increase membership diversity	2
More coordination with SSC and IUCN Secretariat	2
Not sure	2
Seek hosting agreement	2
Acknowledging members	1
Be clearer with members about expectations	1
Better use of Commissions membership system	1
Broadening thematic focus	1
Collaborate with other IUCN structures	1
Conservation planning	1
Gather feedback from the group	1
Improve equity	1
Push harder to get things on track	1
Restructuring the Red List Authority	1
Training	1
Work towards policy and decision-making	1

Table IV. Frequency of responses to the question ‘based on experiences during the meeting, what improvements can you implement on the internal management of your group?’

The second question focused on potential new collaborations that could be established based on experiences during the meeting. The most frequent responses were taxonomic SGs (in general), other SSC groups in general, disciplinary groups and Committees (**Table V**).

Opportunity for collaboration	Frequency of response
Taxonomic SGs	37
Other SSC Groups in general	27
Disciplinary groups	24
Committees	14
Did not respond	14
Secretariat	8
None	4
Regional chairs and members	4
Red List assessments	4
Commission on Ecosystem Management	3
Conservation planning	3
Funding sources	3
KBAs	3
CITES Secretariat	2
Green List	2
Joint assess-plan-act projects	2
Assess effect of wildfires	1
Assess to plan process	1
BirdLife	1
Campaign to elect Razan as IUCN President	1
Commission on Education and Communication	1
Conservation actions	1
Country leads in other groups	1
Geneticists of other groups	1
Human-wildlife Conflict TF	1
Inter-knowledge product collaboration	1
IPBES assessment	1
Not applicable	1
Not sure	1
Red List of Ecosystems	1
Wildlife poisoning	1

Table V. Frequency of responses to the question ‘based on experiences during the meeting, what new collaborations will you develop for your group? (e.g. other SSC groups, Committees, Secretariat)’

In terms of meeting logistics, in average the respondents rated the different aspects of meeting logistics above 3.20 in all aspects, with an overall average of 4.18 ± 1.05 in a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 meant poor and 5 meant really good (**Figure 4**).

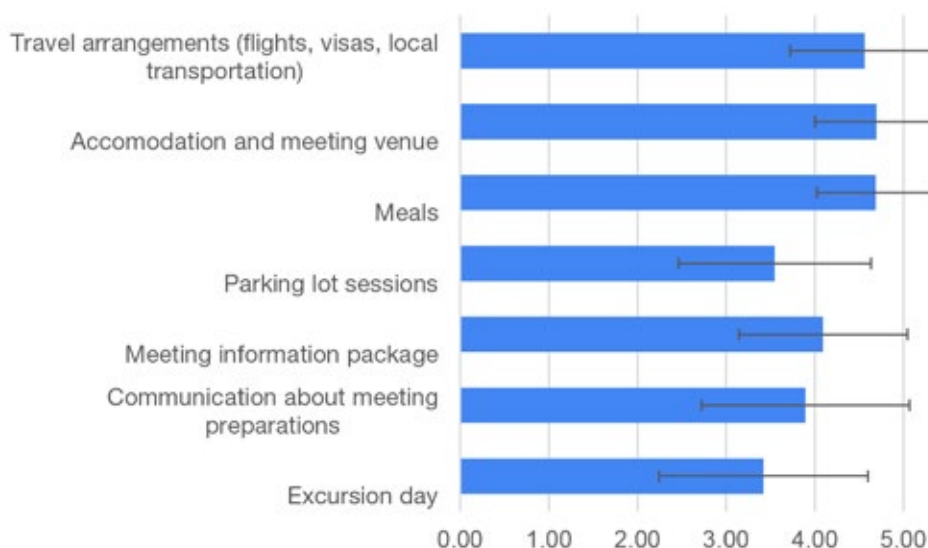


Figure 4. How would you rate the different aspects of meeting logistics? (1 poor - 5 really good)

When asked about what could be improved for meeting logistics, the most frequent response was a no-response (item left blank), followed by nothing, excursion day and providing earlier information (**Table VI**)

Opportunity to improve logistics	Frequency of response
Did not respond	26
Nothing	20
Excursion day (nature, more options, better preparation, have it at the middle, more duration)	17
Earlier information	14
Faster communication	8
Acoustics in conference rooms	6
Travel arrangements	6
Information about session locations	5
Time keeping	5
Air conditioning less cold	4
Avoid last minute changes	4
Better guidance about the programme	4
Reduce meeting footprint	4
Earlier clarity for session leaders	3
Reduce food quantities, food waste	3
Chairs photo guide	2
More people working on the meeting	2
Not applicable	2
Overlapping parallel sessions are a challenge	2
Poster sessions (earlier information)	2
Reduce luxury	2

Opportunity to improve logistics	Frequency of response
Agenda information about sessions	1
Clarity on clothes to bring for different activities	1
Earlier organisation of meals with the Chair	1
Have information on the Declaration release in advance to prepare own institutions	1
Improve vegetarian/vegan options	1
Introduction for new participants	1
Learn more about Abu Dhabi	1
More clarity on when each person should be there	1
More natural light	1
Parking lot sessions	1
Shorten time to divide rooms	1
Space for leaders to propose sessions in advance	1
Use pdf instead of xls	1

Table VI. Frequency of responses to the question ‘*what would you improve for the meeting logistics?*’

In terms of meeting communications, participants were asked about the communication tools they engaged with about the meeting. The most frequent response was ‘none’, followed by Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Communication tool	Frequency of response
None	46
Facebook	42
Twitter	41
Instagram	12
Email	7
Website	4
LinkedIn	2
Institutional communications	1
Local newspaper	1
Newsletter	1
WeChat	1
WhatsApp	1

Table VII. Frequency of responses to the question ‘*did you engage in social media to communicate about the meeting?*’

When asked about suggestions on how to improve external communications about the meeting, the most frequent response was a no-response (item left blank), followed by not applicable, no comments, invite journalists of major media, have more social media coverage.

Opportunity to improve communications	Frequency of response
Did not respond	62
Not applicable	9
No comments	9
Invite journalists of major media (BBC, NY Times, NatGeo)	7
It was good	4
Have more live social media coverage (shocking quotes, lively photos)	3
Promote that more groups are active in social media	3
Don't see external communications as relevant	3
Have prepared media releases during the meeting	3
Have more information sooner (releases, hashtags)	3
More social media presence	3
Sharing more the Abu Dhabi Declaration	2
Have a clear communications strategy	2
Improve coverage by IUCN	2
Invite environmental or scientific magazines (Nature, Science)	2
Engaging leaders' organizations in the communications	2
Add QQ and WeChat to the communication tools	1
Give guidelines to SSC groups on the use of social media	1
Engage celebrities to comment and participate on the meeting	1
Have more corporate partners	1
Use LinkedIn	1
Engage local media, local authorities, communities	1
Daily press conferences with several leaders	1
Release a series of recommendations from the meeting	1
Small flyer to distribute among attendees	1
More effective/impactful declaration	1

Table VIII. Frequency of responses to the question 'how would you improve external communications about the meeting?'

The last question on the survey was open to receive any other feedback that participants wished to provide. The most frequent response was a no-response (item left blank), followed by thanks or congratulations to the organizers, and highlights of a highly valuable meeting (**Table IX**).

Feedback provided	Frequency of response
Did not respond	61
Thanks/congratulations to the organizers	28
Very useful meeting (interesting, stimulating, inspiring, motivating, wonderful, informative, gained skills)	17
Had a great opportunity to build connections	5
Concern about environmental footprint	4
None	3
Not over-emphasize Red-listing activities and tools	3

Feedback provided	Frequency of response
Improve time-keeping	3
Concern about meeting costs	3
Conflict over participating in simultaneous sessions	2
Do more to push ACT forward	2
Need to diversify the leadership	2
More flexible time for side meetings	2
Organize regional sessions	2
Send more information in advance	2
More time for themed workshops (like breakouts)	1
Not applicable	1
Plenary sessions should be on topics that interest everyone	1
Promote more articulation among members of a region with the Regional Vice-Chair	1
Seek to have more governmental delegates	1
Promote more articulation among RLACs	1
Highly valuable to have had CITES participating	1
Need to consider the diverse time scales at which conservation problems and solutions occur	1
Create more opportunities to discuss particular articulation needs	1
Thematic breakouts were a great improvement	1
Appreciated seeing more diverse leadership	1
Recommend to ask RLACs what they need for the session	1
Promote more articulation across IUCN especially at national level	1
Seek more preparation for parallel sessions	1
Hold the meeting in a time of year with cooler weather	1
Involve leaders more in preparation of the agenda	1
Have more structured meetings with observers (CITES, CBD, CMS, WWF)	1
Have a welcome for new leaders	1
Concern about IUCN and SSC efficacy	1
Concern about IUCN controlling and limiting SSC	1
Challenge for leaders that have no support from their employers	1
Need to improve reimbursements	1

Table IX. Frequency of responses to the question 'we welcome any other feedback you'd like to share'

The SSC Chair's Office wishes to thank all of you who participated on this survey. All of your comments are highly important as they allow improvements in future editions of IUCN SSC Leaders' Meetings.

Global Species Programme participation

Cambridge

- The Abu Dhabi Call for Global Species Conservation Action was an important output from the meeting. Whilst the main objective of the meeting was to advance IUCN's species work through internal discussions, the Abu Dhabi Call for Global Species Conservation Action highlighted the need for species action, that the need for the action is now, and the way to achieve it is through a global programme of work to be agreed in 2020.
- There was a very interesting session on CITES and CMS that benefitted greatly from the participation of representatives from the Secretariat of both conventions. The lively session was used to generate ideas and momentum for future IUCN engagement in CITES and CMS and to identify opportunities at the World Conservation Congress in 2020
- It provided an opportunity for the freshwater Conservation Committee to meet, leading to highly fruitful discussions and future planning.
- The IUCN Red List Unit, in collaboration with the Red List Technical Working Group and the Standards & Petitions Committee, provided a 5.5 hour training session for
- Red List Authority Coordinators. This session used a variety of formats to provide training on a range of topics, including the RLA Coordinator's role and some important points from the RLA Rules of Procedure to keep in mind, the Red List assessment process, the most common mistakes and misunderstandings about the Red List Categories and Criteria, using SIS and SIS Connect to manage and submit Red List assessments, mapping standards and tools, and reviewing Red List assessments. A panel discussion session also allowed participants to learn about the different approaches used by some of the major global assessment teams for managing large numbers of species being assessed for the Red List. This popular training session was very interactive and gave the RLA Coordinators the opportunity to ask questions throughout the session. Positive feedback received by the facilitators after this session indicates that the RLA Coordinators very much appreciated this training opportunity. The Red List Unit also appreciated this opportunity to clarify a few misunderstandings within the network and to let the network know that the Red List Unit team within the Global Species Programme is there to help them through the assessment process.
- The Red List Unit is in regular contact with members of the SSC network on a daily basis, providing support for Red List activities. However, the SSC Leaders' meeting provides the valuable opportunity to meet with Specialist Group Chairs and RLA Coordinators face-to-face, allowing issues to be discussed directly and efficiently in a way that cannot be achieved so easily through emails. Every break between sessions and every morning and evening around the meeting involved a side meeting between Red List Unit staff present and at least one of the SSC members to discuss progress, concerns and other Red List related issues. These side discussions and meetings allowed progress to be made on some very long-standing issues, including mapping positive ways forward to complete assessments that have suffered long delays.

- The IUCN Red List is maintained through a complex partnership (including IUCN Members and the IUCN SSC) with many moving parts (from all over the world!). The Leaders' meeting provided the ideal environment to advance many of the strategic and technical issues.
- The thematic session on reptile and amphibian conservation was helpful in stimulating discussion on the how IUCN SSC responds to the conservation needs of the world's herpetofauna. It was noted that the 'super-sized' IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group is probably simultaneously facing more imminent extinctions (and new species descriptions) than any other specialist group.
- Whilst there is frequent dialogue between the IUCN Global Species Programme and individual IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, and between the specialist groups and the IUCN SSC Chair's office, there is rarely the opportunity for the specialist groups to connect with (and learn from) each other. The IUCN SSC Leaders' meeting uniquely provided such connectivity across the network.
- It was a unique opportunity for those working on cross cutting issues, like invasive alien species, to reach out to a broad range of taxonomic specialist groups whose species are impacted by these issues.
- We managed to increase the awareness across the IUCN SCC of the invasive species knowledge products of IUCN, including the new Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa scheme (EICAT), Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species, Guidelines for invasive species planning and management on islands.
- The meeting provided an important opportunity to meet in person with the UAE Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to discuss current progress and future work on the development of a UAE National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan.
- It was good to see that the issue of sustainable use was given prominence in both the plenary and parallel sessions. This is an issue of vital importance to IUCN and one that the IUCN SSC specialist groups are well placed to contribute to.
- There were many opportunities to interact with the network to talk about future collaborations on Red Listing and fundraising. It would have taken months to have had the same level and intensity of dialogue through email or Skype.
- Very promising to see the growing links (both operationally and in understanding) between national red lists and the IUCN Red List. There is huge potential to develop this further and the meeting was very helpful in that regards.
- The SSC Chair's office staff are not so well known to the IUCN SSC network or the IUCN Secretariat, so it was an amazing opportunity to meet Jon Paul's team.
- The value of partnerships to the species work of IUCN was communicated and some exciting new initiatives discussed. Fantastic to learn about the potential of the new partnership with Indianapolis Zoo and to see how well the existing partnerships are working.
- Discussions with the Conservation Planning Specialist group and other IUCN staff were incredibly valuable to start streamlining the Assess-to-Act framework into Red List and KBA workshops which will greatly expedite and make this work more efficient in Europe, contributing to enhancing the impact of IUCN knowledge products in the region.

Dao Nguyen

- SSC Leaders' Meeting Declaration Session and final adopted Declaration: Supported the lead facilitators of this session (Jane Smart and Onnie Byers) to run the session on the first and the second days of the Leaders' Meeting to discuss how to formulate the Declaration to meet the SSC Leaders' Meeting's objective and gather inputs, as well as the online

drafting consultation and finalising the Declaration. The session in both days gained high interests and active discussions from participants. We then developed the Declaration with the lead from David Mallon Jane Smart, Phil MacGowan, Onnie Byers with contributions from many SSC Leaders such as Russ Mittermeier, Simon Stuart, Dilys Roe, Amanda Vincent and Marine Conservation Committee, Freshwater Conservation Committee, Invertebrate Conservation Committee etc., as well as from EAD and SSC Chair's office. The Declaration is now receiving huge support from many other conservation organisations around the world through their signing-up with their logos.

- I connected with many SSC Leaders engaging with the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) through the CITES and CMS session and during the whole meeting. CMS Secretariat Representative in Abu Dhabi was also present during the meeting and was able to joined the CITES and CMS session to contribute to the discussion. This is really useful for IUCN's preparation to the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13).
- In general, it was really beneficial for me to meet face to face with all the staff of the SSC Chairs' office, many SSC Leaders and partners during the meeting. It will help me immensely as an SSC Network Coordinator to meet them in person. I look forward to working with them all in the future to support the SSC Network deliver best species conservation outcomes.

Sugoto Roy

- Human wildlife conflict: This session was particularly useful in formulating a forthcoming workshop for IUCN's Tiger programme to be held in Bangkok in mid November.
- Grantmaking (a session held by Nicholas Heard and JC): an idea was formulated with attendees to sketch out and the different niches and roles filled by different grantmaking initiatives. This will form part of the basis for sessions planned at WCC in Marseille
- Mammals Session: attending the session enabled me to engage the Chair of the Bear Specialist Group for input into a document being developed for the guidelines on conflicts (as part of the SSC Human Wildlife Conflict Task Force). In addition, the discussions on how best to use the vast quantities of data from camera trapping on the main initiatives ongoing globally for conjoined and collaborative data analysis.
- In addition, although not part of a formal session specifically, key discussions were held with other attendees. These included discussion with Dilys Roe who is a member of our programme advisory committee on the tiger programme, and PJ Stevenson on progress to develop and refine monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Remco van Merm

- Showcased the value of SOS during the launch of the 25 most threatened primates, where I demonstrated how SOS has made a significant contribution to the conservation of lemurs. This example showed the value of the APA cycle, as SOS Lemurs is designed to support the implementation of the Lemur Conservation Strategy.
- Met with current SOS African Wildlife grantees, and was able to discuss in detail the progress of their projects.
- Made new connections with SG Chairs and exchanged valuable ideas for developing new SOS initiatives in line with conservation priorities.

- Met with past SOS grantees for whom the SOS grant has made a real difference, which goes to show that there is value in communicating about our projects even years after they have finished.

Ana Nieto

- Opportunity to receive latest update on key species issues.
- Opportunity to meet with colleagues and SSC members to discuss project.
- Development ideas and ongoing projects.
- Opportunity to discuss ways to further align the work of the GSP with SSC.

Maud Legagneur

- Engage with all members of the Red List team, the SSC chair office and Steering committee chairs: learned what are the roles and responsibilities of each, and how to maintain productive relationships in the future. I learned more in 2 days on the functioning of the IUCN + SSC + SGs than I would have learned in a year time!
- Learned very insightful insights from SGs which I am now using to spark interest from the private sector and fund raise
- Made new connections with SG Chairs and exchanged valuable ideas for developing new SOS initiatives in line with conservation priorities.

Partners participation

This Meeting represented an incredible opportunity to meet some of our major SSC Chair's Office partners and for sharing with them the progress on our Species Strategic Plan 2017-2020, as well as our vision for the coming years. Below are described the organizations, along with the individuals that are all playing instrumental roles in enabling the work of the SSC Chair's Office, and who were able to join us during the four productive days of meetings in Abu Dhabi.

Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi

The Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) is the major SSC Chairs Office core funds supporter. They provide more than \$700,000 per year to support the work of the SSC, and hosted the SSC Leaders Meeting, covering the majority of costs and organization for ~350 SSC Leaders.

H.E Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak. Managing Director, EAD
Salim Javed Acting Director. Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity, EAD

Along with them we had the rest of the EAD team who were instrumental in organizing this meeting with the support of the SSC Chairs Office Team. They were:

Nagwa Abdal Hakeim, Administrative Assistant
Manisha Balakrishna Pillai, Senior Specialist - Communications
Khaled Ali Al Ali, Director of Finance
Husain Abdul Rahman Mohamed, Finance Specialist
Ahmed Al Hashemi, Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi

Indianapolis Zoo - USA

They are a long-term supporter of the SSC Chair's Office core funding with regular annual amounts. Indianapolis Zoo (IZ) and IUCN SSC recently signed a 10 year partnership for the establishment of the Global Center for Species Survival, in which IZ will employ nine (9) full-time staff (to be hired in 2020), based at the zoo but dedicated to supporting the network coordination, communication and strategic partnerships of the SSC Network. This represents one of the largest partnerships in the history of the SSC, is worth in excess of US\$10 Million in-kind contribution to support of our work and will revolutionize our ability to support the SSC Network.

Dr Rob Shumaker. President, Indianapolis Zoo. He is also a member of the SSC Primate Specialist Group.

Bill Street. Senior Vice President of conservation, education and Life Science, Indianapolis Zoo. Bill also will oversee the SSC team based at the Zoo. He is also a leading expert in conservation education.

Albuquerque Biopark - USA

This organization is a supporter of the SSC Chairs Office core funding since 2016, and major supporter of the Species Conservation Center model – hiring three (3) full-time staff to provide technical support to SSC Specialist Groups across Red List assessments and conservation planning. They are currently supporting significant efforts for assessments of freshwater fish, medicinal plants and a growing initiative around invertebrates. They are in the process of applying to become Red List Partners. This partnership brings more than US\$300,000 per year of in-kind and financial support to SSC.

Dr Baird Fleming. Director, Albuquerque Biopark. He is also a member of SSC Otter Specialist Group. Formerly from Honolulu Zoo and led SSC partnership efforts there too.

Global Wildlife Conservation – USA

Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) is a major supporter of the SSC Chairs Office core funds since 2016, providing \$50,000 per year of core support. They are also the financial host of the Chairs Office – providing critical financial management, human resource and administrative support. GWC are also founding Alliance Partners in the Sumatran Rhino Survival Alliance and are supporters and financial hosts of many SSC Specialist Groups, task forces and assessment efforts. They are also currently applying to become Red List partners.

Dr Russ Mittermeier. Chief Conservation Officer. He is also part of the SSC Steering Committee and Chair of SSC Primate Specialist Group.

Barney Long. Director Species Conservation. He is also part of the Green List working group, and leading advisor for the Sumatran Rhino Survival Alliance.

Jennifer Luedtke. Manager of IUCN Red List Assessments. She is also SSC Amphibian RLA Coordinator

The Deep Aquarium – UK

The Deep have been supporters of the SSC Chairs Office since 2016. They also worked with SSC to develop the partnership model of full time staff based in Zoos and Aquariums working in support of the assessment and conservation planning efforts of the SSC Network. In 2015 The Deep hired a dedicated Marine Red List Officer, who has evolved to become the SSC Red List Partnership Coordinator.

Dr Rob Bullock. SSC Red List Partnership Coordinator.

Wildlife Reserves Singapore – Singapore

Long-term supporter of the SSC Chair's Office core funding, host of the SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP), Conservation Planning Specialist Group South-East Asian Hub and active supporter of numerous Specialist Groups including (but not limited to): Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle SG, Otter SG, Pangolin SG, Hornbill SG.

Dr Sonja Luz. Conservation Director, Research and Veterinary Services. She is also a member of numerous SSC Specialist Groups including Reintroduction SG, Asian Elephant SG, Boa and Python SG, Conservation Planning SG, Crocodile SG, Pangolin SG, and Primate SG.

Al Ain Zoo – UAE

Long-term major supporter of the SSC Chairs Office core funding, providing \$50,000 per year to support the staff salaries and operations cost of the team. Al Ain Zoo is also long-term supporters of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group.

Mark Craig. Acting Chief Operating Officer, Al Ain Zoo. He is also a member of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group.

SeaWorld and Busch Gardens – USA

Financial supporter to the SSC Chairs Office since 2016 and interested in growing further connections with SSC Specialist Groups on priority species conservation for both marine and terrestrial species.

Rob Yordi. Zoological Director.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute – USA

Brand new partner of the SSC after connecting in June 2019. Howard Hughes Medical Institute's (HHMI) Tangled Bank Studios is a mission driven production company dedicated to telling compelling, accurate and immersive films about science and scientists. HHMI is a philanthropy historically supporting biomedical scientists and educators with the potential to make transformative impact. They are currently growing their work in biodiversity science.

HHMI Tangled Bank Studios recently partnered with Reverse the Red and committed to becoming a major partner of the pavilion at the World Conservation Congress 2020. They also brought a production team partner (Part2Pictures) to the Leaders Meeting to film testimonials of SSC Leaders' stories of saving species.

Jared Lipworth. Director of Impact and Outreach. Multiple Emmy award-winning producer and writer who has overseen the development and production of hundreds of factual science, history and natural history programs. Formerly Vice President of Specials for National Geographic Studios.

Part 2 Pictures team:

Elissa Johnson

Abigail Gordon

Andrew Baker

David Arnold

Sarra-Jane Piat Kelly

Testimonials

Along with the HHMI proposal of filming testimonials of SSC Leaders during the Leaders Meeting, the SSC Chair's Office took advantage of the presence of some partners in order to get testimonials regarding what partnering with SSC Chair's Office has meant for them so far.

Despite having multiple meetings and a busy schedule, some of our main allies had the opportunity to share with us the experience of working with the Species Survival Commission, as well as, how our joining efforts are helping to reverse the red in species declines and what are the challenges that, from their perspective, we are facing for the coming years, among other interesting comments they were open to share with us during the filming process.

We obtained five wonderful interviews: two from representatives of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, and one from Indianapolis Zoo, Albuquerque BioPark and Wildlife Reserve Singapore. The SSC Chair's Office is currently processing the testimonial videos in order to get material to be shared on our website and social networks during 2020.

Launch of the Global Center for Species Survival in the Indianapolis Zoo, USA

One of the most important and exciting announcements carried out during the Leaders Meeting was the signing of an agreement with Indianapolis Zoo for the creation of the [Global Center for Species Survival](#) in Indiana, USA, one of the largest partnerships to ever be formed by the SSC Chair's Office in support of the network.

This partnership between Indianapolis Zoo and SSC is looking for catalyze the coordination of conservation action across the SSC network. Its main goal will be to enhance the scope and capacity for species conservation globally. This will largely be achieved through the creation of a team of employed staff at Indianapolis Zoo —nine (9) full time staff—: one (1) Centre Manager, one (1) Behavior Change Manager and seven (7) Network Coordinators that will be taxonomically focused across freshwater, marine, plants, invertebrates, mammals, amphibians and reptiles and birds. The recruiting process of this staff will start early January 2020.

In words of Rob Shumaker —President of Indianapolis Zoo— the Zoo is very excited to further support the SSC network by offering not just full time staff, but also training and meeting spaces, as well as enhancements in communication at different levels, with a media facility to produce conservation success stories.

This wonderful session ended with the official signing of the partnership between the IUCN — Acting Director, Grethel Aguilar— SSC —Chair, Jon Paul Rodriguez— and Indianapolis Zoo — President, Rob Shumaker.

We are incredibly proud and grateful with Indianapolis Zoological Society for the unprecedented commitment to the work of the SSC through the creation of the Global Center for Species Survival.



Rob Shumaker, Indianapolis Zoo; Jon Paul Rodríguez, IUCN Species Survival Commission; Grethel Aguilar, IUCN.

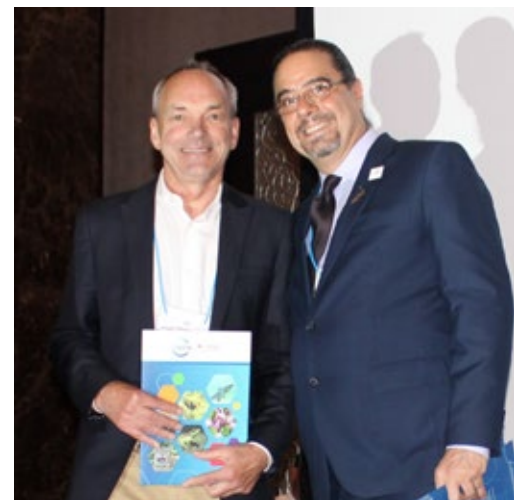
Recognitions and Acknowledges

With the aim to recognize the invaluable support of all the SSC *Chair's Office Partners*, and to thank them for their commitment and collaboration in working with us to effectively save species, the SSC Chair's Office recognized each of the partners during the SSC Awards ceremony by presenting them a certificate of appreciation.

It represents just a little recognition to express our deep gratitude for their effort and their continuous and mostly long-term support with the Species Survival Commission.

Along with the individual recognitions, during one of the last plenary sessions on the SSC Leaders Meeting, the SSC Leaders took advantage to general acknowledge the enormous contribution of the SSC Partners. In that sense, the 321 species conservation experts assembling from 58 countries for the 4th Leaders Meeting of the IUCN Species Survival Commission in Abu Dhabi, October 2019, expressed their deep gratitude to the invaluable and long-standing support of the *SSC Chair's Office Partners*.

Particularly, the SSC Chair's Office is deeply grateful for the financial contribution of our 32 amazing partners. Their generous support makes our work possible.





Declaration

The Abu Dhabi Call for Global Species Conservation Action appeals to the world's governments, international agencies and the private sector to halt species decline and prevent human-driven extinctions by 2030, and to improve the conservation status of threatened species with a view to bringing about widespread recovery by 2050. It points out that a strong target for species conservation in the Post-2020 Framework needs to be supported by a Species Global Plan of Action.

The timing of the Call is profoundly important. The decisions taken by policy makers in 2020 will be critical for the future of the planet. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the



UN Paris Agreement on Climate Change will be reviewed, and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be adopted. A new UN legal binding agreement on marine biodiversity in the High Seas is under negotiation. The IUCN World Conservation Congress and the United Nations Heads of State Summit on Biodiversity will meet. This is a unique opportunity to mobilise society and galvanise the necessary action to address the species emergency.

The next steps to implement the Abu Dhabi Call:

Conservation organisations and institutions around the world are rallying to support the Abu Dhabi Call and currently there are more than 160 organisations signed up.

The IUCN Global Species Programme, IUCN SSC Chair's Office and IUCN SSC Network are engaging with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process to bring the Abu Dhabi Call to the attention of the countries and organisations.

IUCN is also mobilising resources to develop a Global Plan of Action for Species Conservation to help implement the post-2020 species target of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Abu Dhabi Call for Global Species Conservation Action

We, the more than 300 species conservation experts at the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi, 6-9 October 2019, call for urgent and effective action to address the unprecedented, unsustainable and growing impacts on wild species from human activities.

Why Are Species Important?

The millions of species on land, in freshwater, and in the ocean have evolved over millennia and form the web of life that sustains the planet. Species and their populations are the building blocks of ecosystems, individually and collectively securing the conditions for life. They provide food, medicine and raw materials. They are the basis of soil formation, decomposition, water filtration and flow, pollination, pest control and climate regulation. They are the primary source of income and resources for hundreds of millions of people around the globe. Species are an essential part of the history, culture, tradition and folklore of every culture on Earth and their aesthetic values and spiritual roles provide comfort and inspiration as well as recreation.

The alarm has been raised repeatedly about the decline in biodiversity across the planet. By allowing this decline to continue, we erode the very foundations of our traditions, economies, livelihoods, food security, health, and even the existence of life worldwide.

The world's people must accept responsibility for this emergency and act now to ensure we pass on a rich natural heritage to future generations.

Who We Are

The IUCN Species Survival Commission is the world's largest network of species conservation experts with over 9,000 members globally. It is mandated by the Members of IUCN (governments, NGOs, and indigenous peoples' organisations) to conserve species. This unique body of biologists, ecologists, wildlife managers, health and social scientists, educators, community representatives, economists and government officials is passionate in its commitment to "A just world that values and conserves nature". We devote our lives, generally on an entirely voluntary basis, to saving species. We echo the voices of countless concerned people from every corner of the planet.

We support institutions, communities and the private and public sectors around the world to make a positive difference to the species with which we share our planet. We do this by generating and providing knowledge, tools, and guidance on how to best conserve them.

Conservation action works. Many species have been saved from extinction. Through sharing experience and expertise we can scale up success for species survival.

The Species Emergency

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ reveals that a quarter of all species face high risk of extinction. Human activity has severely altered more than 75% of the Earth's land and freshwater areas, and 66% of the oceans. Climate change and political instability are exacerbating this crisis at all levels. Species loss at current rates will eliminate the vital ecological, economic and cultural roles that they fulfil. The crisis goes beyond species loss; human pressures mean that a vast array of species are experiencing dramatic population declines (often irreversible) to a level that affects their future and our resource base. It is beyond question that the current way of life is unsustainable and transformational change is vital.

Why Now? The 2020 Moment

The decisions taken by policy makers in 2020 will be critical for the future of the planet. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Paris Agreement on Climate

Change will be reviewed, and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be adopted. A new UN legal binding agreement on marine biodiversity in the High Seas is under negotiation. The IUCN World Conservation Congress and the United Nations Heads of State Summit on Biodiversity will meet. This is a unique opportunity to mobilise society and galvanise the necessary action to address the species emergency.

The Call for Species Conservation Action

The global community must recognise the irreplaceable and vital role of species and their populations and massively scale up efforts to conserve all species; to ensure that their use is sustainable, and that their benefits are equitably shared.

We call for global action based on optimism, shared responsibility, commitment and collaboration to guarantee the survival of all species sharing this planet.

We call on the world's governments and international agencies to:

- Commit to clear and ambitious targets on species conservation in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, supported by an ambitious Programme of Work on Species Conservation.
- By 2030, halt species' population declines and prevent human-driven extinctions, and by 2050 improve and ensure the recovery of all threatened species.
- Fulfil species' conservation commitments through the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity, the other two 'Rio' and biodiversity-related conventions;
- Take urgent action to establish, protect, connect and effectively manage protected and conserved areas and other areas critical for the conservation of species, in particular Key Biodiversity Areas
- Recognise the scale of transformational change needed and mainstream species into national and regional development planning, including spatial plans for land, freshwater, and the ocean;
- Ensure that globalisation and trade agreements do not further threaten species or their populations, and instead support sustainable use and species recovery;
- Respect the linkages between many rural people and sustainable use of wild living resources and their contribution to conservation, livelihoods and the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- Remove harmful subsidies that lead to depletion, destruction and degradation of species and habitats on land, in freshwater and the ocean including through agriculture and fishing; and
- Establish and strengthen policy, legal and institutional frameworks for species conservation and sustainable use that are transparent and accountable.

We call on governments, donor institutions and civil society to:

- Take emergency measures to save those species at the highest risk of extinction
- Tackle key threats that are driving species' population declines and extinctions: lack of incentives for landowners and managers to retain wild species and natural habitats; poor or abusive practices in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry; wildlife crime; emerging infectious diseases; the disruption of water flow; inadequate management of waste and discharges; invasive alien species; and increasingly, climate change and ocean acidification.

We call on local, national and global donor and financial institutions to increase massively the resources invested in conservation and sustainable use of species and their habitats.

We call on the private sector to set, implement and monitor ambitious commitments to minimise their impact on species, populations and habitats throughout the supply chain.

We call on governments, investors and financial institutions to acknowledge the link between the nature risk and financial risk, and ensure that financial flows do not degrade species and their habitats. All development project financing must be based on safeguards that prevent such investments from harming threatened species.

We call on the philanthropic community to provide and increase substantially direct support for species conservation.

We call on the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions to establish a Programme of Work on Species Conservation to galvanise species conservation action through the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We call on zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums and museums to scale up their commitment to species conservation.

Finally, ***we call on all people, especially young people to*** make a stand and speak up for all species.

Our Pledge

We, the members of IUCN Species Survival Commission, reaffirm our commitment to saving species and their populations. We pledge to step up our efforts and engage with all stakeholders. We will strive for a sustainable future for people in a world in which species are highly valued for their intrinsic worth as well as the benefits they provide. We commit to providing knowledge and implementing action for species conservation. We pledge to bequeath the wonderful diversity of species to future generations.

Arabian oryx Photo by EAD.



Communications

Social Media

During the meeting we encouraged all participants to join us in communicating about the SSC, our activities and help us cover the Leaders' Meeting through social media, tagging IUCN Species Survival Commission and EAD accounts and using the hashtags: #SSCLeadersMeeting2019 #WeAreSSC and #SpeciesSurvival

Twitter

A total of 500 original tweets and retweets were shared with the hashtag #SSCLeadersMeeting2019 from October 6th to 9th, 2019, estimating a potential reach of 558,122 unique users that could have seen the hashtag.



Facebook


A closing remark of the Meeting in social media was the publication of the group photo on Facebook, highlighting the diversity of the assembly and calling all nations to join us in the path to halt species extinction. This publication has been shared more than 200 times and reached over 9,000 people.

IUCN Species Survival Commission is with Jon Paul Rodriguez and 4 others.

Published by Aritzaith Raymond (9) · 15 October

Species Conservation Leaders gathered in Abu Dhabi, from 6 to 9 October, to enhance global action for biodiversity.

With an attendance of over 300 people, the Fourth IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders Meeting united the leaders of SSC Specialist Groups, Task Forces, Stand Alone Red List Authorities and Committees, the SSC Steering Committee, delegates from the leadership of other IUCN Commissions, staff from IUCN Headquarters, Regional Offices, as well as Red List and K... [See more](#)



Performance for your post

9,336 People Reached

455 Reactions, comments & shares

347 Like	92 On post	255 On shares
41 Love	13 On post	28 On shares
2 Wow	1 On post	1 On shares
23 Comments	7 On Post	16 On Shares
42 Shares	42 On Post	0 On Shares

936 Post Clicks

318 Photo Views	18 Link clicks	600 Other Clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Media coverage of the Meeting and The Abu Dhabi Call

Channel	Publication	Date
IUCN	Link	September 25, 2019
Emirates News Agency	Link	October 06, 2019
Emirates News Agency (Youtube)	Link	October 06, 2019
The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund	Link	October 06, 2019
alittihad.ae	Link	October 06, 2019
albayan.ae	Link	October 06, 2019
alwahdanews.ae	Link	October 06, 2019
zawya.com	Link	October 06, 2019
urdupoint.com	Link	October 06, 2019
pakistanpoint.com	Link	October 06, 2019
abudhabienv.ae	Link	October 06, 2019
blog.abudhabicityguide.com	Link	October 06, 2019
pressreader.com – Gulf Today	Link	October 07, 2019
Sharjah24 News (Youtube)	Link	October 07, 2019
7adramout.net	Link	October 07, 2019
msn.com	Link	October 07, 2019
Al Ittihad	Link	October 07, 2019
Al Khaleej	Link	October 07, 2019
Al Watan	Link	October 07, 2019
Al Wahda	Link	October 07, 2019

The Gulf Today	Link	October 07, 2019
IUCN	Link	October 11, 2019
WCS Newsroom	Link	October 11, 2019
IHE Delft	Link	October 11, 2019
MAISG	Link	October 15, 2019
IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group	Link	October 18, 2019
Green Times	Link	October 18, 2019
IUCN – SSC Cetacean Specialist Group	Link	October 21, 2019
Conservation Optimism	Link	October 28, 2019
attractionsmanagement.com	Link	—
International Crane Foundation	Link	—
Born free	Link	—

Audiovisual records

Relives the Leaders' Meeting throughout the gallery and videos compiled in the following links:

- Photo Gallery: [IUCN SSC Leaders' Meeting 2019](#)
- Photo Gallery: [Parallel sessions](#)
- Video: [The Fourth IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting](#)
- Video: [About the Species Survival Commission](#)
- Video: [Thanks EAD - Testimonials](#)

IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting



Financial report

We counted with the generous support of Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi, UAE as financial host. With the collaboration of a great staff during 6 months and our office team, we made possible this relevant event for the IUCN SSC Network. A summary of the budget and expenditures is below:

Budget	
IUCN SSC Chair's office	\$ 81,475.15
Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi	\$ 823,403.81
Total budget	\$ 904,878.96
Expenditures	
IUCN SSC Chair's office	
Plane tickets	\$ 28,915.14
Miscellaneous travel expenses: medical insurance	\$ 2,657.35
Audio visual materials and publications	\$ 8,986.32
Hotel and meals	\$ 8,611.83
Participants local travel costs: refunds	\$ 23,692.68
Entertainment business	\$ 8,611.83
Sub-total	\$ 81,475.15
Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi	
Plane tickets	\$ 312,257.76
Audio visual materials and publications	\$ —
Hotel and meals	\$ 476,444.57
Visa	\$ 9,147.74
Transportation	\$ 25,553.74
Entertainment business	\$ —
Sub-total	\$ 823,403.81
Total expenditures	\$ 904,878.96



Final remarks

The Species Survival Commission Leader's Meeting has been the highlight event of the Commission each quadrennium, since the inaugural meeting in 2008. Our close allies at Environmental Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) help us bring together many of the most qualified and knowledgeable experts globally on biodiversity and the solutions needed to ensure species survival. These leaders are also actively engaged in decision-making globally, nationally and locally. There are very few opportunities for such a diverse group of specialists to meet, not only to share their knowledge, but also to articulate and mobilize a coherent conservation vision with a planetary impact. The extinction crisis is overwhelming, and efforts continue to be insufficient, but we are certain that the SSC network can significantly influence priorities and policies and move them towards action. SSC has the largest membership of IUCN's six commissions, and certainly, its contribution is not only in quantity but also in quality.

A face-to-face meeting of this type is undeniably a privilege. Virtual meetings play important roles, too, and in fact we hold e-meetings with different sections of the SSC leadership regularly, but, personal contact allows for deeper interactions that strengthen the ties and connections within the network, and make it more collaborative and effective. EAD's support is strategic and fundamental, and for that, we are infinitely grateful. We look forward to continue exploring ways to increase our joint influence on the conservation of fungi, plants and animals around the world.

The diversity of SSC membership is both a priority and a goal of the Commission. Not only in terms of taxonomic coverage, gender balance, geographical representation and nationalities, but also in terms of world views, institutional settings, approaches and personal experiences. We are always striving to keep current with present needs and the expectation of the emerging leaders that will carry on our work into the future. The Abu Dhabi Leader's Meetings offer a forum for all the threads within SSC to mix and fuse, so that the wisdom of the more experienced is shared, while the energy of newer leaders is nurtured. As we continue to grow and consolidate, the role of SSC as a major provider of scientific evidence to inform conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity grows stronger.

Most of the work of SSC Leaders is voluntary, carried out alongside successful and demanding professional careers. We find it impossible to properly express our collective gratitude for their time, their will, their enthusiasm and determination, in putting their skills and talent at the service of the planet. To assure that this effort generates highest returns, we spend a lot of time during Leader's Meetings, as well as in our everyday work, thinking strategically, seeking coherence and efficiency. Our partner-

ship model with zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens for advancing the Species Conservation Cycle, has helped strengthen the delivery of Red List assessments, and is aiming to expand conservation planning and action as well. The major growth of partnerships embodied by the establishment of the Global Species Survival Center at Indianapolis Zoo in 2020, will be both a challenge and a source of support and inspiration.

I look forward to seeing you at the next SSC Leaders Meeting where we will celebrate again the impact, reach and positive influence of the thousands of devoted species conservation experts that comprise our global network.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Paul Rodríguez".

Jon Paul Rodríguez

IUCN Species Survival Commission Chair



**INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE**

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