



# Terms of Reference 2021-2025

IUCN Species Survival Commission  
*Ex-situ* Conservation Focal Point

*As revised and adopted by the SSC Steering Committee, 9 February 2021*

## 1. Relevance of the role for the IUCN SSC

In moving through the Species Conservation Cycle, which is now at the core of the SSC's work, **it is essential that the SSC network encompasses the breadth of expertise needed to move effectively from assessment to planning and on to action for species conservation.**

Enhancing meaningful conservation action is a goal shared by the SSC specialist groups and the regional, national and world *ex situ* conservation communities: zoos, aquariums and botanic gardens, as well as biobanks, specialized breeding/propagation centers, rescue centres with wider remit than individual welfare, and many others. To reach this goal, we must engage multi-sector expertise, maximise limited resources, increase integration and collaboration, and develop new methods to Assess, Plan and Act. Using a [One Plan approach](#) (Byers, 2013)<sup>1</sup> for species conservation, both *in situ* and *ex situ* opportunities and all relevant stakeholders are considered from the start of any planning process.

This approach is growing increasingly relevant as the broad range of *ex situ* contributions is gaining recognition, more species are dependent on intensive management for their survival, and increased experience shows that *ex situ* interventions have a higher chance of success if not considered only as a 'last resort'.

The first steps to embracing the One Plan approach are to 1) raise awareness of the many roles *ex situ* management may take in a species conservation strategy (see [IUCN SSC Guidelines on the Use of Ex Situ Management for Species Conservation](#)) and 2) strengthen impact and enhance relationships by recognizing *ex situ* experts where they exist within the Commission, and actively integrating *ex situ* community representatives into SGs where this expertise is currently lacking. To do this, we request that Specialist Groups seek to identify a **Species *Ex situ* Conservation Focal Point (ExCFP)**.

## 2. Profile description

The *Ex Situ* Conservation Focal Point (ExCFP) is a member of the corresponding Specialist Group that must have adequate experience and relationships within the *ex situ* management community, be familiar with the IUCN SSC Guidelines on the Use of *Ex Situ* Management for Species Conservation, and

be an excellent communicator prepared to respond to requests and share information in a timely manner.

### 3. Responsibilities of the Ex-situ Conservation Focal Point

- a) Serve as a communication liaison between the SG and any appropriate member of the regional, national and world *ex situ* conservation communities to ensure effective two-way communication.
- b) **A CPSG member;** the nominated individual, if not already a member of CPSG, will be immediately invited to join and encouraged to take relevant training.
- c) Participate and plan actively with *ex situ* community representatives ensuring that all parties are familiar with major ongoing activities and opportunities to collaborate.
- d) Promote the consideration of the potential roles of *ex situ* management for species conservation, seeking to:
  - Develop capacity to apply the IUCN SSC [Guidelines on the Use of Ex Situ Management for Species Conservation](#), to identify, evaluate and, where appropriate, develop opportunities for integration and partnership between *in situ* and *ex situ* species conservation efforts,
  - Help mobilize engagement of the *ex situ* community across the wider membership, and beyond the group itself where there may be opportunities to further collaborative efforts for the species under the SG's remit.

It is strongly encouraged that the ExCFP is not the SG Chair / Co-Chair to avoid adding an additional burden to the leadership role. Also, giving members an active role within SGs can help to motivate participation and stimulate active engagement more broadly in the group's activities.

In addition, the Focal Point is encouraged to become familiar with IUCN Species Strategic Plan and SSC By-laws and other governing documents:

Governance Framework	
1	IUCN Programme 2021-2025
2	IUCN One Programme Charter
3	SSC Mandate
4	SSC By laws
5	Code of Conduct for IUCN Commissions
6	Guidance on the Code of Conduct and Practices for its Implementation
7	IUCN Species Strategic Plan, Species Conservation Cycle
8	Guidelines for SSC Members on Engaging in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Terms of Reference	
9	Terms of Reference of Chairs of Specialist Groups and Task Forces
10	Terms of Reference of the Red List Authority Coordinators
11	Terms of Reference for SSC Members
12	Terms of Reference of Focal Point <i>Ex-situ</i> Conservation

<sup>1</sup> Byers, O & Lees, Caroline & Wilcken, J & Schwitzer, Christoph. (2013). The One Plan approach: The philosophy and implementation of CBSG's approach to integrated species conservation planning. WAZA Magazine. 14. 2-5.