



Terms of Reference 2021-2025

IUCN Species Survival Commission
IUCN Red List Committee Chair

As revised and adopted by the SSC Steering Committee, 4 September 2020

1. Relevance of the role for the IUCN SSC

The Red List Committee is the governance body of the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#), comprising representatives of the IUCN Secretariat, the SSC and the Red List Partners. It is the senior decision-making mechanism of the Red List, and charged with providing oversight of the implementation of the IUCN Red List Strategic Plan, making strategic decisions and taking actions to enhance the implementation of the IUCN Red List.

The Chair of the IUCN Red List Committee ensures coordination and smooth working of the Red List process, and in particular close and effective co-operation among the SSC, IUCN Global Species Programme and the Red List Partners.

The Chair guides and supports the SSC Groups to achieve the IUCN Red List Strategic Plan, and build the Red List that has become the most authoritative and internationally accepted system for assessing species' extinction risk.

It is important that the delivery of the IUCN Red List achieves some very specific targets leading up to 2025 if it is to contribute maximally to the global community; this will only be achieved if the whole IUCN Red List process is subject to close strategic oversight. This oversight will be provided by the IUCN Red List Committee, which serves as the higher-level governance mechanism for the IUCN Red List.

2. Profile description

The following is a list defining the preferred skill-set for the Role of Red List Committee Chair:

- a) Is independent, not representing any of the Red List Partners and not an IUCN staff member.
- b) Is a neutral arbiter and facilitator and does not vote except in the case of tied votes.
- c) Is proficient in the use and application of the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.
- d) Has an understanding of how Red List information feeds into global biodiversity indicators as well as how it is used in conservation and land use decision making.
- e) Is a proven facilitator and chair.

- f) Is both highly organized and an excellent communicator.
- g) Has political and diplomatic skills to represent the Red List Committee at meetings, conventions, with the press, and in other international fora.
- h) Develops and maintains an excellent working relationship with the IUCN Red List Unit and Red List Partners.
- i) Is familiar with the structure and basic workings of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and its constituent Specialist Groups and Red List Authorities.
- j) Is able to devote the necessary time to the task (estimated at ~24 days per annum, including hosting the 3-day annual Red List Committee meeting).
- k) Has an ability to forge solutions working with the Red List Committee members and others particularly if any difficult and contentious issues arise.

3. Responsibilities of the Red List Committee Chair

- a) Lead the Red List Committee forward to achieve its strategic objectives as reflected on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Strategic Plan and the IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
- b) Acquaint themselves with the [SSC Mandate](#) and the [IUCN Species Strategic Plan \(2021-2025\)](#), which includes the Key Species Results and their indicators.
- c) Lead the preparation of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Strategic Plan and its quadrennial targets, which will be part of the IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2021-2025.
- d) Provide annual reports of progress on these targets through SSC Data, contributing particularly to the indicators established on the IUCN Species Strategic Plan Framework (2021-2025).
- e) Prepare the agenda and oversee the preparation of documents for the meetings of the Red List Committee.
- f) Convene and chair the meetings.
- g) Engage with committee members intersessionally to ensure progress is made on matters of committee business.
- h) Oversee the preparation of the minutes of the meetings and disseminate the minutes to the Red List Committee members and Red List Partners. Oversee the archiving of minutes and other documentation.
- i) Liaise with the Chairs of any subsidiary bodies established by the Red List Committee.
- j) Endeavour to seek consensus among the voting members of the Red List Committee.
- k) Maintain a record of Primary and Alternate representatives of Red List Partners.
- l) Oversee reporting against the IUCN Red List Strategic Plan and the IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
- m) Provide regular updates and an annual report to the SSC Chair and the SSC Steering Committee on progress against the Red List Committee's Terms of Reference. Contribute to the Species Annual Report.
- n) Consider and establish mechanisms for incentivizing and mobilizing support and resources for Red Listing work
- o) Appoint the Chairs of any RLC working groups in consultation with the SSC Chair.
- p) Familiarize 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	Red List Partnership
9	Guidelines for IUCN SSC Leaders
10	Guidelines for SSC Members on Engaging in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Terms of Reference	
11	Terms of Reference of the SSC Steering Committee members
12	Terms of Reference IUCN SSC Regional Vice-Chairs
13	Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC Conservation Committees
14	Terms of Reference of the Chair of the IUCN Red List Committee
15	Terms of Reference of Chairs of Specialist Groups and Task Forces
16	Terms of Reference of the Red List Authority Coordinators
17	Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC National Species Authority
18	Terms of Reference for SSC Members
19	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Ex-situ Conservation
20	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Conservation Planning
21	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Sustainable Use

3. Communication line in the IUCN SSC Governance structure

The Chair of the Red List Committee is appointed by the Chair of the SSC in consultation with the Red List Partners and the SSC Steering Committee. The Red List Committee Chair is a member of the SSC Steering Committee and reports to the SSC Chair.

A performance evaluation of the Chair of the Red List Committee should be carried out at the middle of the IUCN quadrennium, i.e. early 2023 at the latest. The scope and process of this evaluation should be led by the SSC Chair, in consultation with the Red List Committee and SSC Steering Committee.