

# IUCN SSC Pelican Specialist Group (Old & New World)

2018 Report



Giorgos Catsadorakis



Tommy King

## Co-Chairs

Giorgos Catsadorakis (Old World) <sup>(1)</sup>  
Tommy King (New World) <sup>(2)</sup>

## Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

## Location/Affiliation

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## Number of members

76

## Social Networks

Website:  
<https://www.wetlands.org/our-network/specialist-groups/pelican-specialist-group/>



## Mission statement

The mission of the Pelican Specialist Group (Old World and New World Sections) is to carry out, support and promote scientific research and conservation activities aimed at Old World and New World pelicans and enhance cooperation and diffusion of knowledge.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2021, we envision to increase our membership (both Old World and New World sections) and be able to collect and compile better data on the global status and populations of the two (out of five) Old World pelicans which are classified as Near Threatened: the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and the Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*). Particularly, we will strive to assist in obtaining more knowledge about the status (distribution, populations and threats) of the highly endangered Mongolian sub-population of the Dalmatian Pelican of the East Asian flyway. In parallel, this knowledge will allow us to plan and implement necessary conservation measures. We would also like to have a better understanding of what is happening with the breeding populations of the Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) in its Eurasian range, as important changes have been observed in recent years. Finally, we would like to contribute to the maintenance of the small and dwindling populations of Dalmatian Pelican in Southeastern Europe and Turkey.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: improve the assessment of the global population of the Dalmatian Pelican.  
Research activities: (1) collect and disseminate data on the status of pelicans in Kazakhstan; (2) review publication on the causes of morbidity and mortality for the Dalmatian Pelican in Southeastern Europe.

### Plan

Planning: contribute substantially to the preparation of the Dalmatian Pelican International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP).

### Network

Membership: (1) we will strive to recruit more members working on all the other species of pelicans besides; (2) recruit more members working in Central Asian countries and the Russian Federation.

Proposal development and funding: provide substantial support to individuals and organisations keen to set up new conservation projects for pelicans.

Synergy: enhance interaction with the WI-IUCN SSC Cormorant Research Group.

### Communicate

Communication: enhance the degree of contact and information exchange between our members.

Scientific meetings: organise and chair a 'Pelicans of the World Symposium', jointly with both Old World and New World Pelican Specialist Group sections, at the 2019 Waterbird Society Annual Conference and General Meeting.



Flying Dalmatian pelican with plastic rings, wing tags and transmitter on its back fitted with harness  
Photo: Sakis Tsilianidis

## Activities and results 2018

### Assess

#### Red List

i. During 2018, we continued working on a paper which compiled all available data for the Dalmatian Pelican for the countries of the former USSR. (KSR #1)

#### Research activities

i. During 2018, we continued working on the paper on morbidity and mortality causes of the Dalmatian Pelican. (KSR #32)

### Plan

#### Planning

i. During 2018, we finished the International Single Species Action Plan for the Dalmatian Pelican. (KSR #15)

### Network

#### Membership

i. We increased the members of the group from 62 to 76, adding people from Australasian countries.

### Communicate

#### Scientific meetings

i. During 2018, we continued with preparation contacts for the organisation of the International Pelican Symposium in the US, with participation of both Old World and New World sections of the Pelican Specialist Group. (KSR #28)

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## Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	2	
Plan	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 28, 32

KSR: Key Species Result