Mission statement
The mission of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group is to scale up effective species conservation planning in the SSC in order to support efforts to conserve and restore populations of species under threat and ultimately to halt species extinctions. CPSG helps save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. For over 30 years, we’ve accomplished this by using scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyze positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, other Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums and other wildlife organizations.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building
i. Produced a portfolio of species conservation planning-related training courses, including online and face-to-face courses, to be offered by CPSG and collaborators. (KSR #17)
ii. Launched an 18-month long development path for species conservation planners. (KSR #17)
iii. Developed a funding proposal for the training initiative. (KSR #17)

■ Conservation activities
i. Facilitated 27 Species Conservation Planning Workshops for 19 species, including the Iberian lynx and the helmeted hornbill, in 14 countries with participants from the in situ and ex situ community, government, academic institutions, NGOs, and other conservation organizations. (KSR #17, KSR #25)
ii. Conducted six Training Workshops in four countries. (KSR #15)

Synergy

i. Created the Species Conservation Planning Support Directory, a resource for Specialist Groups seeking technical assistance for species conservation planning by connecting them to others willing to share their expertise (http://www.cpsg.org/new-initiatives/species-conservation-planning-support-directory). This is a living document that can be added to by contacting the CPSG office (office@cpsg.org). (KSR #29)

Technical advice

i. Conducted a survey to gauge current planning expertise and needs among SSC Specialist Groups. (KSR #21)
ii. Created the SSC Species Conservation Planning Project Inventory, which is a compilation of planning projects conducted or enabled by SSC Specialist Groups between 2012 and 2017 (http://www.cpsg.org/new-initiatives/ssc-species-conservation-planning-project-inventory). This is a living document that can be added to by contacting the CPSG office (office@cpsg.org). (KSR #18)

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The IUCN SSC CPSG Strategic Plan is designed to provide a shape and direction to our actions, in collaboration with other SSC Specialist Groups, to increase substantially the effectiveness of the SSC’s leadership in planning to avoid species extinctions. The Plan consists of five high level goals, with associated objects (see Targets for the quadrennium), which map directly to SSC Strategic Plan KSRs 15-18, 21 and 25. All actions in the plan are intended to be steps toward the same end, scaling up effective species conservation planning in the SSC in order to support efforts to conserve and restore populations of species under threat and ultimately to halt species extinctions. The five goals are: (1) target species are prioritized, and conservation needs assessed, for conservation planning development and conservation planning efforts are expanded; (2) context-specific, best practice planning methods are applied based on a One Plan Approach; (3) species conservation planning capacity is increased across SSC Specialist Groups and governments; (4) the ability of governments to meet international biodiversity targets is improved and (5) species conservation planning methods are evaluated for impact and effectiveness, leading to continual improvement.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 1/7
Key Priority Areas addressed:
- Capacity building (11 activities)
Main KSRs addressed: 17, 18, 20, 21, 29
Resolutions 2016 WCC: 040, 045, 056, 057, 069

KSR: Key Species Result