

IUCN SSC Flamingo Specialist Group



2018 Report



Cathy King



Paul Rose

Co-chairs

Cathy King (1)
Paul Rose (2)

Red List Authority

BirdLife International

Location/Affiliation

(1) Weltvogelpark Walsrode, Germany
(2) WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre, UK

Number of members

196

Social networks

Facebook:
Flamingo Specialist Group
Twitter:
@FlamingoSpecGrp
Website:
www.flamingo-sg.org/about



Mission statement

The mission statement of the WI-IUCN SSC Flamingo Specialist Group (FSG) is to actively promote flamingo research and conservation worldwide by developing conservation action plans for the most threatened species, and by encouraging information exchange and cooperation amongst flamingo specialists, and with other relevant organisations, particularly the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), Wetlands International, Ramsar Convention, WWF International and BirdLife International.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we hope to have succeeded in our aims of re-launching the FSG website and newsletter (as an online publication). We hope to have strengthened and developed links within the membership to identify roles that individuals can play in the running of the FSG. We plan to recruit new members from specific areas of the world (i.e. the Middle East and Asia) and attempt to build our links with existing in-situ flamingo conservation / management / ecology organisations. We aim to build capacity across our membership by encouraging interaction with online forums and across group email discussion, as well as encourage members to submit papers to the new, re-launched newsletter. Finally, we hope to provide a new resource centre of flamingo-centred information (both *in* and *ex situ*) in the form of a website, for all (members and non-members) to engage with. Promoting the

work of conservation scientists and flamingo biologists will result in increased exposure for these species, and therefore, a better chance of secured populations for the future. We hope that by continuing to support the work of scientists and flamingo biologists in the field, the conservation status of all six species does not deteriorate, and that those species currently Vulnerable or Near Threatened can be more secured in their habitats, so that future assessments of populations show an upward trend in numbers, rather than a decline. The good work currently undertaken with the Andean and Puna Flamingos (*Phoenicoparrus andinus* and *P. jamesi*, showing a stable population trend) needs to be monitored, as current Red Lists assessments suggest potential declines due to past poor breeding success and human-caused impacts on populations. Continued observation of mining activities around breeding locations of Lesser Flamingos (*Phoeniconaias minor*) in East Africa is required, as this is potentially the biggest threat to the largest wild population of this Near Threatened species.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Green List: assess flamingos as part of the IUCN Green Listing test.

Network

Membership: renew and over-haul membership, including collecting details on individual member roles in FSG.

Proposal development and funding: develop funding opportunities and availability of grants for *in situ* flamingo conservation. Advertise and promote funding options for *in situ* flamingo



Lesser flamingos at Lake Manyara National Park, Tanzania
Photo: Paul Rose

conservation and work on the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) small grants fund.

Synergy: (1) identify and recruit a programme officer for the FSG; (2) maintain collaboration with field-based programmes (e.g. Grupo Conservación de Flamencos Altoandinos - Peru / Tour du Valat) and continue to help, support and promote *in situ* flamingo conservation strategies with those organisations working in the field.

Communicate

Communication: (1) re-launch the Flamingo newsletter in the form of an online scientific publication; (2) develop a new website for the FSG to link to current activities and social media campaigns; (3) build a social media presence across various platforms to promote wider education on flamingo conservation issues, and to use as a platform for fundraising or capacity building.

Scientific meetings: (1) organise a workshop for flamingo keepers to increase awareness of current science in flamingo management (provide information based on best practice to zoo professionals); (2) integrate the role of the FSG with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) (FSG aims at annual EAZA meetings to encourage links between different flamingo stakeholders).

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Green List

i. Completed Green List assessment. (KSR #11, 12)

Network

Membership

i. Continuing to review membership, but it is a large database to go through.

Proposal development and funding

i. Details on how the FSG will work, previously written by the former FSG chair in 2012, have been recirculated to the FSG's steering group for comment and update. (KSR #30)

Synergy

i. Still in discussion over the appointment of a programme officer and the role that this person may have in the FSG. Currently, FSG outcomes are being demonstrated by the steering group.

ii. Continue to work with *in situ* partners and promote their work, which is now more tangible based on the re-launch of the FSG's journal and the work towards getting the Small Grants Fund active. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

i. The Flamingo journal has been re-launched as an electronic open access publication, available on the FSG's website. (KSR #28)

ii. FSG's website is up and running and available at www.flamingo-sg.org. Pages are still to be built and populated but the core of the website is active. (KSR #28)

iii. The FSG Facebook page is now nearly at 5,000 followers and engagement is high, with posts often reaching 1,500 people. (KSR #28)

Scientific meetings

i. A UK flamingo keepers' workshop was run on 26 July 2018 and attended by ca. 25 delegates. The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) certified training means it was accredited for zoo keepers to add to their skills in flamingo husbandry. (KSR #18, 25)

Acknowledgements

We thank the Association of British and Irish Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK) and ZSL London Zoo for hosting the Flamingo Keepers' Workshop in July 2018, for providing financial assistance and logistical support. We thank members of the Conservation Directorate at WWT (especially Robin Jones) for help maintaining the FSG's membership database and email list serve. Finally, we thank WWT IT and media for helping develop the website and for providing the platform for the website. Thanks to former chair Rebecca Lee for assisting with the creation of the basic website layout and providing admin support for content creation. A big thank you to Molly Grace at the University of Oxford for all of her help with trialling the Green Listing process.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

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|-------------|---|--|
| Assess | 1 | |
| Network | 4 | |
| Communicate | 4 | |

Main KSRs addressed: 11, 12, 18, 25, 28, 29, 30

Resolutions addressed: WCC 2016 Res 041,

WCC 2016 Res 085

KSR: Key Species Result