4th Leaders meeting package
IUCN Species Survival Commission

6-9 October 2019, Abu Dhabi UAE

Help us plan your participation in the different sessions and activities filling this form:
https://forms.gle/NjhSNXZFrQwagkrKA
All activities of the Leaders Meeting will be held at the Beach Rotana Hotel, Abu Dhabi, and all meeting participants will be lodged here.

Hotel reservations have already been made according to each participant’s arrival and departure, a single room for each participant without extra costs.

If you wish to stay additional days or bring a guest we are happy to help with the reservation, but we would ask you to cover the additional cost. Please contact Mayerlin Ramos (mayerlin.ramos@ssc.iucn.org) in case you have any doubt about it. At your arrival the hotel may request a personal credit card as a payment guarantee of the services that are not covered by the SSC: laundry, room service, minibar, others.

Beach Rotana is a five-star resort with a stunning and convenient location on one of Abu Dhabi’s coastal waterways in the centre of the city’s main shopping and commercial area. Guests benefit from the property being situated next door to Abu Dhabi Mall, while the new Central Business District, famous Corniche, as well as Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), Al Maryah and Reem Islands and the Port Zayed Cruise Terminal are just minutes away.

Address:
Beach Rotana 10th Street, Al Zahiyah Area. P.O. Box 45200.
Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates

Address in Arabic
منتجعات الشاطئ روتانا - أبو ظبي - منطقة الزاهية - شارع رقم 10

Contact:
T: +971 2 6979000
F: +971 2 6442111

Information about Abu Dhabi and the UAE

The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven emirates, which united in 1971 to form the modern country. Abu Dhabi is the capital, as well as the largest and wealthiest of the seven. For more information about the country, the emirate and the city, please see some of the following links:

Newspapers: www.thenational.ae; www.gulfnews.com
Dialling Code: The international dialling code for Dubai is +9714
Health: No vaccinations are required to enter the UAE
Airport Procedures and Transport to the Hotel

Abu Dhabi International Airport is **30 minutes by car from Beach Rotana Hotel**.

To receive meeting participants, there will be a couple of staff from the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) wearing full suits and identification card of EAD. They will be waiting in the Arrivals area of the airport, holding sign of IUCN SSC (see picture) to guide you to your transport for Abu Dhabi. They will lead participants to their cars. For some participants arriving together, we will be providing **vans**.

**Please note, that because we are grouping delegates wherever possible to maximise efficiency for ground travel, you may have a waiting time of up to 30 minutes to allow others to join you. For emergencies only** at Dubai Airport please call +971502112052

Ground Transportation

The Bus Public transportation has four Region services with big maps that tell you all the destinations in and around the city. To download bus service network maps and timetables, please review these links: 
**Abu Dhabi Region Bus Services; Eastern Region Bus Services; Intercity Bus Services; Al Dhafra Bus Services.**

**Uber:** you can book Uber rides in Abu Dhabi. You will have access to all the app features such as 24/7 support.

Travel documents

Visa and Passport

If you received the e-visa by email, please print some copies and bring with you. In case you did not receive an e-visa from Mayerlin Ramos is because you do not need to apply for a visa before your travel. You will receive a stamp of your passport valid for 30 days after your arrival date.

- All participants have to be sure to bring your **passport valid for a minimum of six (6) months from the arrival date.** Passport and passport copy
- Visa copy (If it was sent)
- Airplane ticket copy
- Travel medical insurance copy
- Parentage and/or custody documents for accompanying children
- Key contact details, including meeting organizers (see at the end of this document) and the nearest embassy or consulate of your country in UAE.
Reimbursements

SSC leaders will be reimbursed in cash during the meeting registration, for the expenditures they have while travelling to and from Abu Dhabi, such as local transportation to the airport in their cities of origin, and meal costs during travels, including an estimation of return costs.

Please keep all receipts so that the SSC Chair’s Office can make the reimbursement. Mayerlin Ramos will prepare a receipt that you should sign during your registration.

Medications: bring enough medication you need on a regular basis and a copy of the medical prescription in case you may need to purchase while travelling.

Time zone: Abu Dhabi is in Gulf Standard Time (GMT+4).

Weather in Abu Dhabi: sunshine and blue skies can be expected almost every day in Abu Dhabi. The period of October to March is comparatively cool. Dense fog can be also seen some days. (Source: Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority) Always wear sunscreen, sunglasses and hats in open places. It is very hot during the day along with high humidity levels so please ensure you have lightweight summer clothing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current weather conditions</th>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Electricity Supply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37°C (98°F)</td>
<td>AED also called UAE Dirham</td>
<td>230V supply voltage and 50Hz—the associated plug type is G, which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humidity: 47%</td>
<td>1 USD = AED 3.67</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind: West 4.1kph</td>
<td>1 EUR = AED 4.08</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 GPB = AED 4.45</td>
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</table>

Alcohol: the UAE legal system is largely determined by Sharia law, and Sharia law prohibits alcohol. Non-Muslims may legally drink only in specified locations which have licenses, such as restaurants located within hotels, or through purchase of alcohol on the basis of a liquor license, obtainable under strict conditions.

Work and store hours: most commercial concerns in the UAE operate on a five-day week, Sunday to Thursday, usually from 8 am – 6pm. Many stores open seven-days a week from 10 am to 10 pm. Banks are open Sundays to Thursday from 8:00 am to 3.30 pm except on weekends (Friday and Saturday) and public holidays.

Cultural sensitivity: the UAE is generally a liberal and tolerant society, but it is important to bear in mind that the vast majority of inhabitants are Muslim and rules are based on Islamic law. Please show respect for cultural preferences and bear in mind that it is an offence to swear or make rude gestures, or show a public display of affection. For more information please see [http://www.uae-embassy.org/travel-culture/traveling-in-muslim-country](http://www.uae-embassy.org/travel-culture/traveling-in-muslim-country) and [http://www.uaeembassyuk.net/](http://www.uaeembassyuk.net/).
During Leaders meeting

**Meals:** All meals are covered in the hotel for each participant during all meeting days. The meals will be all buffet service with available options for different diets such as vegetarian, vegan, halal, paleo, among others. The schedule for the meals is the following:

- Breakfast 6:30 - 11:00
- Lunch 12:00 - 15:30
- Dinner 19:00 - 23:00
- Coffee break in the morning: 10:00 - 10:30
- Coffee break in the afternoon: 16:00 - 16:30

**Opening dinner:** An opening dinner will be held on October 6th, at 19:00, on the garden areas of Beach Rotana Hotel. The dress code will be formal.

**Dress code**

**While in the hotel:** Smart casual for public events, for the rest of the activities it is up to participants.

**Outside of the hotel:** Visitors are not expected to cover their heads or wear traditional clothing (except in mosques). However, it is advisable to wear long, loose clothing made from natural materials containing cotton or linen. It is one of the best ways to cope with the heat. Skirts or pants/trousers should be knee-length or longer.

**Registration**

Registration will be open during the following dates: 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th from 7:00-8:30, 13:00-14:00, 18:00-21:00. Will be held at the All Thuraya Pre-function Area C in a permanent desk with the SSC Chair’s Office staff. All participants will receive:

1. One badge
2. Twenty (20) stickers to prioritize topics from the parking lot.
3. Reimbursement in cash for travel expenditures (local transportation, meals)
4. Sign a the registration list
5. Confirm if they are interested in breakfast or lunch with SSC Chair and Deputy Chair.
6. Please note we *won't* be providing any other materials such as printed agendas or others.

**Breakfast and lunch with Chair and Deputy Chair of SSC**

Duration: 60 minutes

A conversation with... brings together 1 SSC leader from up to 6 groups for more casual discussions with the SSC Chair Jon Paul Rodríguez and Deputy Chair Domitilla Raimondo. Leaders will need to indicate their interest for this sessions during registration and groups will be selected at random based on that list. These sessions will be from **6-9 October during**:

- Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:30
- Lunch: 13:00 - 14:00
During Leaders meeting - Agenda

Help us plan your participation in the different sessions and activities filling this form: https://forms.gle/NjhSNXZFrQwagkrKA

Public symposium: one of the parallel sessions on the opening day, October 6th, will be a public symposium entitled “Species Conservation in the UAE – Achievements and Challenges”, from 14:00 to 18:00. This symposium will gather experts on UAE species conservation from government agencies, SSC, EAD, universities, IUCN Member institutions and secretariat. It will also be open to public attendance.

Meeting notes and reporting: during the meeting, each parallel session facilitator will be responsible to appoint a rapporteur(s) for the session. The rapporteur(s) will be responsible for making brief notes of the key issues discussed and of the action points, following an online template that will be provided by the SSC Chair’s Office.

Topics from the parking lot: to allow room for discussions covering topics that arise during the Leaders’ Meeting, we will keep a daily list of topics suggested by participants, and then prioritize that list with the votes of all meeting participants daily. Based on the prioritization, the topics will be assigned into the time slots open for topics from the parking lot. Participants can deliver suggestions for parking lot sessions at the information desks outside the meeting room. Each participant will receive twenty (20) stickers to vote for the topic of their preference. The select topics will be confirmed daily, along with their meeting rooms.

Topics not covered: as participants probably understand, it is not possible to cover all the topics of interest of everyone participating during the meeting. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that topics that are too specific and that involve a relatively small number of participants, are independently discussed during meals and coffee breaks.

Networking with the Specialist Groups - Posters: Around 40 posters will be displayed each day on common areas of the meeting. This activity will be a great opportunity to connect with other groups, partners and inspire new opportunities and discover new solutions and strategies.

- All Specialist Groups are invited to bring one poster. Mayerlin Ramos will distribute the poster exhibition along the four meeting days starting at 7:30 to 8:30 and held all day until 18:00.
- Posters should be printed in paper, 70 to 90 cm wide, and 100 to 120 cm long. Poster exhibitors should come with their posters to the lobby outside the meeting rooms.
- If you have videos of your Specialist Group you can also bring them with you, we might be able to share them on screens on common areas around the rooms.

Information desks: there will be information desks at the lobby half hour before and after meeting ours, during breaks and lunches:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>6-Oct</th>
<th>7-Oct</th>
<th>8-Oct</th>
<th>9-Oct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commission System for membership management – Claire Santer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSC Data – Orlando Salamanca</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant opportunities within the SSC – Nahomy De Andrade</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>General information on the meeting – Mayerlin Ramos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linking SSC network with GSP communications – Harriet Brooker, Aritzaith Rodríguez</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Excursion Day

As last day of the Leaders’ Meeting, October 10th will be dedicated to informal activities outside meeting rooms. **EAD-SSC will cover and arrange transportation and tickets for all participants.** We will first visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, in the morning, and after lunch we will visit the Mangrove National Park.

Let us know if you’ll join us this day on this form: [https://forms.gle/NjhSNXZFrQwagkrKA](https://forms.gle/NjhSNXZFrQwagkrKA)

**What is the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque?**

The Mosque is the fruit of Sheikh Zayed’s unique vision. The father of the UAE has created an Islamic monument, a center for Islamic sciences and an emblem of genuine Islamic values, in order to illuminate the horizons of Islamic thought rooted in tolerance, love and peace. The concept of diversity is personified in Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, a majestic marvel that reveals a spectrum of architectural splendors formulating a harmonious unity between different Islamic architectural schools.

**What is the Mangrove National Park?**

Mangrove National Park is a dense, luxuriant concentration of mangrove trees, protected by government order. This is a real haven for nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts and bird lovers, or simply people who want to spend some time away from the daily grind in harmony with nature. (Source: [https://www.ead.ae/Pages/Mangrove-National-Park.aspx](https://www.ead.ae/Pages/Mangrove-National-Park.aspx))
We encourage all participants to join us in communicating about the SSC, our activities, and help us cover the Leaders' Meeting through social media during the event, using the hashtags and tagging the accounts:

**Hashtags**

#SSCLeadersMeeting2019
#WeAreSSC

**Accounts**

**IUCN-SSC**  
Facebook: @IUCNssc  
Instagram: @IUCNssc  
Twitter: @IUCNssc

**IUCN**  
Facebook: @iucn.org  
Instagram: N/A  
Twitter: @IUCN

**EAD**  
Facebook: @EnvironmentAgencyAD  
Instagram: @environmentabudhabi  
Twitter: @EADTweets

**Training with HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and Part2 Pictures**

Thanks to the wonderful support of the science documentary production company [HHMI Tangled Bank Studios](https://www.hhmintangledbank.com) and Emmy-winning [Part2 Pictures](https://www.part2pictures.com), we will be offering interactive training sessions on communications and storytelling. This will happen during the first day of the Leaders Meeting. This team will also carry out interviews with many SSC leaders during the meeting. To prepare for the training and for the interviews, please think about a success story, or a couple of stories, that you would like to tell the world about. Reflect on how your Specialist Group makes a difference. What anecdotes from the field or from your work can help give the audiences hope and optimism for our planet and connect them to conservation?

**Specialist Groups Interviews**

We would like to have a few minutes with each SG Chair for a short interview, be prepared! We can’t guarantee we’ll be able to record all of you, but we will do our best.
**Information contact**

**SSC Chair Office**

**Logistics contact**
Mayerlin Ramos
mayerlin.ramos@ssc.iucn.org
+58 4142732093

**Communications contact**
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**Agenda contact**
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+58 4241441197

Bibiana Sucre
bibiana.sucre@ssc.iucn.org
+58 4242363474

**In Abu Dhabi**

**Nirvana Travel & Tourism - issues with flights or visas**
Islam Alhnaity
T: +971 (5) 02112052

**Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi**
Nagwa Abdal Hakeim, Administrative Assistant
Nagwa.Hakeim@ead.gov.ae
T: +971 (5) 69990201

Terrestrial Biodiversity Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity
Salim Javed, Acting Director -
T: +971 (2) 6934444

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**Emergency phone numbers**

In case of an emergency, you can call the following numbers while anywhere in the UAE:

- 999 for Police
- 998 for Ambulance
- 997 for Fire Department (Civil Defence)

**Link to website:**

@EADtweets