



Species Survival Commission (SSC)

Draft Mandate 2021–2024

MISSION

In the intersessional period of 2021–2024, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) ~~will continue to play a leading role in enabling IUCN to be the world's most authoritative voice on behalf of global biodiversity conservation and the sustainability of natural resource use. In particular, SSC and its worldwide network are uniquely placed to enable~~ IUCN to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity of biodiversity, and to ensure that the use of species is both equitable and sustainable, through:

- ~~providing the provision of~~ knowledge on status and trends of species;
- ~~undertaking analyses of threats;~~
- developing policies and guidelines;
- facilitating conservation planning; and
- ~~catalysing action on the ground and in the water; and~~
- ~~providing advice on ways to reconcile biodiversity conservation with economic development and societal changes.~~

VISION

A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.

GOAL

~~The overriding goal of the Commission is:~~

~~SSC will strive to ensure that the species extinction crisis and massive loss of biodiversity are universally adopted as a shared responsibility, and addressed by all sectors of society taking conservation action, and avoiding negative impacts worldwide.~~

OBJECTIVES

For the intersessional period 2021–2024, SSC, working in collaboration with IUCN Members, National and Regional Committees, other Commissions and the Secretariat, will pursue the following key objectives in helping to deliver IUCN's One Programme commitment:

- a. Network: Enhance and support the SSC network ~~to further significant outcomes across and its alliances to deliver the species conservation cycle~~ IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
- b. Assess: ~~Inform~~ Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity, ~~thus providing measures for the health of our biosphere.~~
- c. Plan: ~~Enhance~~ Develop collaborative, inclusive, and science-based conservation strategies, including policy change, to ensure the most effective species conservation actions and policies.
- d. Act: Convene and mobilize ~~Improve the status of biodiversity, by convening and mobilizing actions involving governments, academia, civil society and the private sector~~ conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.
- e. Communicate: ~~Expand the effectiveness of IUCN's species conservation work through~~ Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance the

impact of IUCN's Species theme.

PROGRAMME AREAS

The specific working priorities of SSC are derived from, and focused on, the five **IUCN Programme areas**. Under each of these Programme Areas, SSC has Key Species Results (KSRs):

Programme areas: Land, Water, Oceans, and Climate

- KSR ~~45~~ Improve ~~and publish the~~ biodiversity and conservation knowledge ~~readily available to the public.~~
- KSR ~~56~~ ~~Develop new and updated~~ Expand the coverage, quality and content of biodiversity assessments: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Environmental Impact Classification ~~of for~~ Alien Taxa (EICAT), Climate Change Vulnerability, Assess to Plan (A2P), Green Status of Species and species-focused Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Species Recovery (Green List of Species).
- KSR ~~67~~ Strengthen the Red List Index (RLI) ~~and widely promote it as an effective biodiversity indicator, as a biodiversity indicator,~~ at global and national scales.
- KSR ~~78~~ ~~Significantly s~~ Strengthen and expand species conservation planning efforts at local, national, regional and global scales.
- KSR ~~89~~ Strengthen species conservation ~~perspectives and requirements~~ in national, regional and global policies.
- ~~KSR 9~~ ~~Increase the number of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified and confirmed.~~
- KSR ~~100~~ Enhance biodiversity conservation action through implementation of effective, collaborative and practical approaches.
- ~~KSR 12~~ ~~Respond swiftly and effectively to sudden emerging threats that can significantly reduce species populations.~~
- KSR ~~45~~13 Increase the visibility of different taxa and species conservation status through strategic and innovative communications that attract new audiences.

Programme area: People

- KSR 1 Develop new, and strengthen existing, partnerships and sustainable funding mechanisms.
- KSR 2 Enhance the membership and the capacity of the SSC groups network and its alliances.
- KSR 3 Enhance collaborations across and beyond IUCN to accomplish species conservation results under the principals of the One Programme Charter.
- KSR 11 Catalyse actions with ~~national governments, and~~ IUCN members and other stakeholders to support them in achieving long-term achieve post-2020 conservation targets.
- KSR 13 Catalyse sustainable use practices to improve governance for people and nature.
- KSR 14 Further Strengthen strengthen further SSGIUCN's position Species theme as a strong and credible source ~~for on~~ biodiversity information.

for target audiences.

Under these KSRs, each SSC Group, as well as the SSC Chairs Office and GSP, will establish SSC plans to develop a set of measurable time-bound targets to be attained by the end of 2024, and will name a focal point responsible for each target. The indicators of these targets will be integrated to provide measure of the progress and impact of SSC as a whole. These KSRs, indicators and targets will be published on the IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2021-2024. T-Each target is also linked to the component of SSC in charge of implementing it (e.g. Steering Committee, particular Specialist Group) and the SSC Chair's Office will be responsible for monitoring and reporting ~~and monitoring~~ results, working in all cases with the IUCN Global Species Programme, and in many cases with IUCN Members and partner organisations.

STRUCTURE

The Commission is led by the Commission Chair elected by the IUCN membership and a Deputy Chair appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair. The Steering Committee of SSC is also appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair in accordance with the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. The Steering Committee assists the Chair and Deputy Chair in overseeing and coordinating the activities of the Commission. The Steering Committee delegates certain aspects of its work to specially designated Committees, which report to the Chair and the Steering Committee on a regular basis. The bulk of the work of SSC is implemented through its Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces and Working Groups Action Partnerships. The roles of these entities are defined in the Bylaws of the SSC.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of SSC is conferred by becoming a member of one of the Commission's groups (e.g. Steering Committee, Committees, Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces, Working Groups Action Partnerships). Membership of these groupings is voluntary and by invitation. SSC seeks to engage cutting-edge experts in all disciplines relevant to the conservation and management of biodiversity. It engages such people with due regard for diversity, be it in terms of gender, age, culture, language, nationality and expertise. By design, SSC members do not hold a common view on most conservation-related issues. Rather, SSC cherishes its diversity and fosters open, respectful, rigorous and evidence-based debate among its members.