



Species Survival Commission (SSC)

Mandate 2021–2024

Adopted by IUCN Members by electronic vote on 10 February 2021.

MISSION

In the intersessional period of 2021–2024, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) enables 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:

- the provision of knowledge on status and trends of species;
- developing policies and guidelines;
- facilitating conservation planning; and
- catalysing action on the ground and in the water.

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.

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 and its alliances to deliver the IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
- b. **Assess:** Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.
- c. **Plan:** Develop collaborative, inclusive, and science-based conservation strategies and policies.
- d. **Act:** Convene and mobilize conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.
- e. **Communicate:** 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 5 Improve and publish biodiversity and conservation knowledge.
- KSR 6 Expand the coverage, quality and content of biodiversity assessments: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT), Climate Change Vulnerability, Assess to Plan (A2P), Green Status of Species and species-focused Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).
- KSR 7 Strengthen the Red List Index (RLI) as a biodiversity indicator, at global and national scales.
- KSR 8 Strengthen and expand species conservation planning efforts at local, national, regional and global scales.
- KSR 9 Strengthen species conservation in national, regional and global policies.
- KSR 10 Enhance biodiversity conservation action through implementation of effective, collaborative and practical approaches.
- KSR 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 network and its alliances.
- KSR 3 Enhance collaborations across and beyond IUCN to accomplish species conservation results under the principals of the IUCN "One Programme Charter".
- KSR 11 Catalyse actions with governments, IUCN Members and other stakeholders to achieve post-2020 conservation targets.
- KSR 13 Catalyse sustainable use practices to improve governance for people and nature.
- KSR 14 Further strengthen IUCN's Species theme as a strong and credible source on biodiversity information for target audiences.

Under these KSRs, each SSC group, as well as the SSC Chair's Office and the IUCN Global Species Programme (GSP), will establish 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. The SSC Chair's Office

will be responsible for monitoring and reporting results, working in all cases with GSP, 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 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, 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.