



Terms of Reference 2021-2025

As revised and adopted by the SSC Steering Committee, 4 September 2020

These Terms of Reference do not apply to SSC Red List Committee nor SSC Standard and Petitions Committee, which have their own terms of reference.

1. Role of a Conservation Committee

Conservation Committees act to mobilise and assist the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and its constituent parts with their responsibilities for achieving effective long-term conservation of the species on which the Committee is focused.

- a) Committees explore SSC's potential role in global and regional species conservation issues, in consultation with SSC and other IUCN constituent parts.
- b) Committees provide strategic guidance and assistance on their focus theme for the activities of the SSC Chair, the IUCN Global Species Programme, and the expert volunteer network of Specialist Groups (SGs), Red List Authorities (RLAs) and Task Forces (TFs).
- c) Committees articulate SSC groups on topics and issues of common interest to their focus theme.
- d) Committees act as ambassadors for SSC interests, expertise and activities in their focus theme within IUCN and far beyond, and help find opportunities to deploy SSC skills effectively.

2. Composition of Committees

- a) As specified in the SSC Bylaws, Committee leadership consists of a Chair or Co-Chairs
- b) The Committee Chair, consulting with the Commission Chair and Director of the IUCN Global Species Programme where necessary, invites members to the Committee who carry specific and collective responsibilities for the implementation of the activities on which the Committee is focused. All members serve in their personal, not institutional, capacities and will be chosen to ensure diversity and balance in terms of geography, age, gender, institutional affiliation and expertise.
- c) However, Committees should be constrained to a manageable size to maximize efficiency of this volunteer body and to achieve meetings within the limited budget. It is desirable that a least part of the members are SSC Leaders from groups in their focus theme.

3. Responsibilities of Committees

- a) Provide technical advice and support to the SSC Chair and Steering Committee on the conservation issues they focus on.
- b) Identify and catalyze action on important and/or emerging issues for conservation of their focus species.
- c) Consult IUCN SSC SGs, RLAs, TFs and relevant Red List Partners to identify needs and issues that could be addressed collectively, with ideas as to possible action.
- d) Establish goals and objectives as part of the strategic visioning for the Committee on a quadrennial basis, in consultation with the SSC Chair's Office and the IUCN Secretariat.

Office to manage any funds provided by the SSC Chair's Office, e.g., for support of Committee meetings.

- d) Work with the SSC Chair's Office and the Global Species Programme in fundraising for priority activities of the Species Strategic Plan.
- e) Propose to the SSC Chair the representative on the theme of the Committee to join the Red List Committee.
- f) Provide feedback during the appointment, reappointment or removal process of Group leaders under the Committee's remit.

4.3. Initial tasks for a Committee Chair, upon appointment

- a) Review the Committee Terms of Reference.
- b) Obtain clear indication of Committee budget.
- c) Make contact with the SGs, RLAs and TFs leaders within the theme of the Committee.
- d) Make contact with SSC Network Coordinators as appropriate, particularly the Coordinators based at the Global Center for Species Survival (GCSS), related to the theme of the Committee, to establish a line of communication and strengthen relationships that will assist with future collaborations and collective efforts.
- e) Develop a proposed set of Committee objectives and priorities to help identify possible Committee members and to give them an insight into what would be expected of them. Reach out to the previous Committee Chair for information on plans and ongoing activities.
- f) Plan a Committee structure that optimises its efficiency and effectiveness, perhaps including a core group of members supported by other observers or advisors for particular work.
- g) Formally invite Committee members and thank former Committee members.
- h) Work with SSC staff and the Committee to plan annual meetings.
- i) Review and update directory of focal points relevant to the theme of the Committee within the IUCN Secretariat and its Commissions.
- j) Maintain regular communications and a close working relationship with the relevant SSC representative for the Conservation Committee on the Red List Committee. The Committee Chair is encouraged to include a standing agenda on each meeting for the RLC representative to report back on Red List-related matters and progress.

Terms of Reference	
11	Terms of Reference of the SSC Steering Committee members
12	Terms of Reference IUCN SSC Regional Vice-Chairs
13	Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC Conservation Committees
14	Terms of Reference of the Chair of the IUCN Red List Committee
15	Terms of Reference of Chairs of Specialist Groups and Task Forces
16	Terms of Reference of the Red List Authority Coordinators
17	Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC National Species Authority
18	Terms of Reference for SSC Members
19	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Ex-situ Conservation
20	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Conservation Planning
21	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Sustainable Use

5. Committee operations

Committees will meet in-person at least every two years, and otherwise remain in contact by other means. The Chair or Co-Chairs may assign specific tasks and responsibilities to individual members of the Committee. The Chair acts as the thematic focal point on the SSC Steering Committee, and is expected to liaise with Committee members and relevant SGs and RLAs regarding inputs to the SSC Steering Committee. On all business of the Committee every effort will be made to reach consensus within the Committee. Should such a consensus not be possible, the Chair will decide taking into account the views expressed by the Committee members.