

2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “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.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

- 1. **Assess**: Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.
- 2. **Plan**: Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.
- 3. **Act**: Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.

Their implementation requires two transversal components:

- 1. **Strengthen**: Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.
- 2. **Communicate**: Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

1. Introduction

2. Objectives

3. Methodology

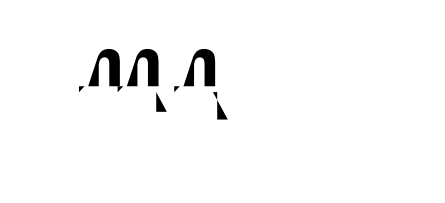
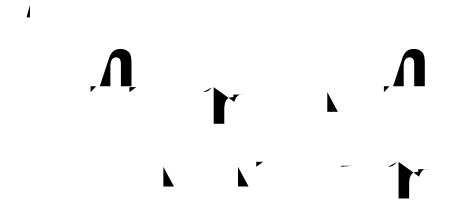


4. Results

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2022



CHAIR
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 242
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The mission of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. For over 40 years, we have accomplished this by using scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyse positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums, as well as other wildlife organisations.

2021-2025
 To increase the number of effective conservation plans for threatened species.

Targets 2021–2025

PLAN

- 001 Help groups to select species for conservation planning attention, by providing ready access to relevant approaches, tools, and case studies.
 Status: On track
- 002 Accelerate identification and activation of pathways to effective conservation for selected species – including, but not limited to, those threatened with extinction.
 Status: On track

- 003 Make Assessing to Plan (A2P) more effective in activating pathways and more useful to a wider range of planning practitioners and situations.
 Status: On track
- 004 Strengthen the tools and processes used for single-species conservation planning activities.
 Status: On track
- 005 Carry forward the A2P process pathways to effective action and create an effective methodology for integrated multi-species conservation planning.
 Status: On track
- 006 Increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library.
 Status: On track
- 007 Provide tools and processes for evaluating and, where appropriate, incorporating existing options into species conservation and collection planning.
 Status: On track
- 008 Develop and deliver effective training in the design and facilitation of species conservation planning.
 Status: On track

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-016 Maintain a database and library of planning information for CPSG and the wider SSC.

Status: On track

-017 Explore the assembly and integration of an expanded body of information that will enhance the species conservation planning process.

Status: On track

-01 Collaborate with appropriate information sources to implement and promote open and accessible data sharing for enhanced species conservation planning.

Status: On track

-01 Collaborate with the information technology community and other sectors where appropriate to construct new tools and methods for interdisciplinary data assembly and analysis.

Status: On track

2022

PLAN

Planning

-001 Library of tools and case studies to support groups to prioritise species for planning and action: 1

Library of tools and case studies to support groups to prioritise species for planning and action: 1

Result description: In addition to the broader CPSG Tools Library update, CPSG published two reports documenting Assess to Plan (A2P) workshop processes for European Hoverflies (2020) and threatened terrestrial vertebrates of the Philippines (2022). The Philippines workshop provided a forum to continue our refinement and improvement of the A2P process as a tool to generate broad recommendations for action-based species

An expert workshop or internal review designed to evaluate existing conservation planning processes for the applicability of selected components to CPSG's species conservation planning methodology: 1

Result description: An internal document has been generated to identify key requirements and conditions for prospective projects that could serve as test cases for integrating diverse data on human behavioural profiles, demographics, etc. with biological data as part of species viability assessments and conservation planning.

Continued collaboration with the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative (SCTI): Ongoing.

Result description: Development proceeded with the novel use of the individual-based modelling software Vortex in simulating hybridisation as a threat to species persistence. Proper simulation of this process requires refinements to software code in order to properly portray the process of hybridization.

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A specific case study in which a candidate set of tools/processes can be tested for applicability to effective multi-species planning: 6

Result description: Six case studies are now available (on the CPSG website) demonstrating the customised use of CPSG's single-species planning tools, along with A2P tools, to deliver multi-species plans. In 2022, a new tool to assist multi-species planning for trees was developed and tested in a workshop, in close collaboration with BGCI.

A workshop or internal review to evaluate existing multi-species conservation planning tools and processes on the basis of applicability to CPSG's species conservation planning methodology: 1

Result description: Superseded by multi-species planning trials which provided a better route to the desired outcomes.

in 2022, with a scheduled pre-launch for January 2023 and a full course launch in March 2023. The CPSG collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which provides the virtual platform for this course.

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Establish training courses accessible to SSC members and beyond for all CPSG planning processes and tools: Ongoing.

Result description: Three courses were launched and served to demonstrate how to put into practice associated IUCN planning guidelines. The new Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis (WDRA) course has been launched and feedback on the course will be collated to inform future developments. The course was run again in October 2023. The *E Si*, Conservation Assessment online training course is in development and was launched at the end of 2022; this course is complementing existing training courses in Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops and the WDRA.

Create a certification scheme to provide explicit recognition of knowledge gained by those individuals who have completed the training successfully: Ongoing.

Result description: Certification scheme already in place. More than 1,200 individuals have now successfully completed at least one Conservation Planning Specialist Group training course since the program was established in 2018. This represents 75% of our target for the quadrennium.

Number of training courses established: 3

Result description: Three online training courses are now established.

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Result description: Planning Clinic ran in the first quarter of 2022, with updates provided from the previous planning clinic (November 2021) and four new projects brought forward for expert advice-planning to prevent primate trafficking in Colombia, Freshwater Turtle conservation planning in Canada, and Humpback Dolphin conservation planning in South Africa. In 2022 Virtual Planning Guidelines linked to application of the CPSG planning principles were drafted. The guidelines will be completed in 2023.

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Help develop a Global Species Action Plan to serve as a guide for implementation of post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets and to include a section on species planning and CPSG principles and steps: Ongoing.

Result description: CPSG played a vital role in the IUCN Global Species Action Plan Working Group. Our species planning tools and training courses are included in the GSAP and will be available to all GBF Signatories and Partners through the GSAP Online Knowledge Platform.

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Contribute species conservation planning content to, and where appropriate participate in, a minimum of three international policy meeting side events annually: 3

Result description: CPSG participated as a member of the IUCN delegation to COP 15 and contributed to two side events on the Global Species Action Plan and supported another side event on genetic diversity conservation.

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Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 1

Result description: Several documents, one general and several specifically tailored to a partner's needs, have been developed to support the development of species conservation plans.

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Produce and distribute documents introducing CPSG tools, processes and capacity development opportunities: Ongoing.

Result description: CPSG produced the Get to Know CPSG document introducing all we have to offer in terms of species conservation planning tools, processes and training. This was distributed to all IUCN national and regional offices, thanks to the assistance of IUCN HQ.

Respond to requests from regional, national and indigenous governments for planning assistance: 14

Result description: CPSG has responded to eight requests for planning assistance from South Korea (three projects), Beavers in Scotland, Mala in Australia, Monarch and Red Wolf in the US, and Eastern Loggerhead Shrike in Canada. In addition, CPSG Brazil conducted six projects in response to requests from the government.

Pursue long-term relationships with governments requesting assistance: Ongoing.

Result description: In Scotland, England and South Korea, CPSG has a commitment to long-term planning assistance as well as training and coaching to develop capacity in species conservation planning in those countries.

Incorporate Species Conservation Planning Focal Points within National Species Specialist Groups with CPSG RRCs and/or CSSs; develop a strategy for supporting these individuals in planning: Ongoing.

Result description: CSS onboarding materials have been developed in collaboration with CPSG and CSS planners are invited to become members of CPSG's Development Path mentoring program. Species Planning Focal Points have all been invited to join CPSG and to take our planner course free of charge.

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Collaborate with at least one national government to develop country-specific guidance and training materials and promote these as an option to other national governments: 3

Result description: We have been working with the South Korean government to develop processes that work for their purposes. We have developed guidance and begun training and mentoring. We have similar projects in place in England and Scotland.

Use expanding contact with governments to build knowledge of the planning approaches, systems, and resources available in each country and any gaps in those: Ongoing.

Result description: We have been working with the wildlife agencies of South Korea, Sjoeraa England a (t)73th te(d a)-8.8.8 0 0 4.3 (n)-18

