



# Terms of Reference 2021-2025

IUCN Species Survival Commission  
Sustainable Use Conservation Focal Point

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

## 1. Relevance of the role for the IUCN SSC

Sustainable use is one of the three foundational pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and a focus for other biodiversity conventions including CITES, CMS and Ramsar. IUCN has a clear policy on sustainable use of living resources adopted in 2000. Sustainable use is recognised as being critical to a) address over-exploitation of wild species and b) generate positive incentives that encourage active stewardship and conservation.

The IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) is the cross-cutting SSC Specialist Group in charge of mobilising global expertise across science, policy and practice sectors to address sustainable use. The focus of SULi is on the deployment of sustainable use as a positive conservation tool that delivers benefits for both people and for wild species. It is recognised, however, that beyond SULi, sustainable use is an issue for many of the other SGs - either because of the need to address the urgent challenge of overexploitation, or because of its potential as an active conservation incentive and management tool.

It is therefore important that sustainable use is treated as a cross-cutting issue within SSC and that there is coordination between SULi and the other SGs that have an interest in sustainable use. This could be achieved by identifying a sustainable use focal point with each SG who is able to coordinate with SULi.

## 2. Profile description

The Sustainable Use Focal Point (SUFP) is a member of the corresponding Specialist Group that is familiarized with the broad range of wildlife uses that occur worldwide, including the consumption of species for food, the legal and illegal trafficking and trade of species and their products, and with any other situation that may entail over-exploitation of species populations or incentivized conservation benefits arising from their use.

### 3. Responsibilities of the Sustainable Use Focal Point (SUFP)

**3.1. Communication liaison between SULi and the SG, within the group itself, and across other taxonomic and/or disciplinary SGs** (and the SSC Chair’s Office when required), regarding:

- contributing information on taxonomic specific sustainable use initiatives and experiences as needed - eg in response to media enquiries, or for technical documents and assessments;
- to ensure effective two-way communication so that the Chair(s) and members of the SG are familiar and up-to-date with the ongoing development of sustainable use and SULi activities;
- to provide feedback / suggestions / information regarding the above and any issues relevant to sustainable use within the group.

**3.2. Promoter of sustainable use for species conservation**, seeking to:

- develop capacity to understand and apply sustainable use principles and where appropriate develop, opportunities for integration and partnership in relation to sustainable use and SULi;
- help mobilize engagement with sustainable use across the wider membership, and beyond the group itself where there may be opportunities to further collaborative efforts for the species under the SG’s remit.

It is strongly encouraged that the SUFP is not the same person serving as SG Chair / Co-Chair to avoid adding an additional burden to the leadership role. Also, giving members an active role in SGs can help to motivate participation and stimulate active engagement more broadly in the group’s activities.

Ideally, the nominated person has adequate experience and relationships within the sustainable use community, is a good communicator prepared to respond to requests and share information in a timely manner.

In addition, the Focal point has to be familiarize with IUCN Species Strategic Plan and SSC By-laws and other governing documents:

Governance Framework	
1	IUCN Programme 2021-2025
2	IUCN One Programme Charter
3	SSC Mandate
4	SSC By laws
5	Code of Conduct for IUCN Commissions
6	Guidance on the Code of Conduct and Practices for its Implementation
7	IUCN Species Strategic Plan, Species Conservation Cycle
8	Guidelines for SSC Members on Engaging in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Terms of Reference	
9	Terms of Reference of Chairs of Specialist Groups and Task Forces
10	Terms of Reference of the Red List Authority Coordinators
11	Terms of Reference for SSC Members
12	Terms of Reference of Focal Point Sustainable Use