



Guide to IUCN SSC Membership 2021-2025

IUCN Species Survival Commission

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

1. Welcome!
2. International Union for Conservation of Nature
 - 2.1. Background
 - 2.2. Mission and vision
 - 2.3. Governance
 - 2.4. IUCN Programme 2021-2025
 - 2.5. IUCN Commission System and Union Portal
3. Species Survival Commission
 - 3.1. Background
 - 3.2. Mission, vision and goal
 - 3.3. Governance
 - 3.4. Membership
 - 3.5. Species Conservation Cycle and Species Strategic Plan 2021-2025
 - 3.6. Steering Committee
 - 3.7. Chair's Office
 - 3.8. SSC and the IUCN Secretariat
4. Working in the SSC
 - 4.1. Contribution of SSC Groups to IUCN
 - 4.2. Knowledge Standards and Tools
 - 4.3. Communications
 - 4.4. Role in advocacy
 - 4.5. Intervention Letters
 - 4.6. IUCN Motions
 - 4.7. IUCN Resolutions

Checklist of documents relevant to the Steering Committee, Leaders and Members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission

| # | Documents / Category of Members | Members | Taxonomic group leaders (Chairs, Co-Chairs, RLACs) | Cross-cutting group leaders (Chairs, Co-Chairs) | Steering Committee |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| Governance Framework | | | | | |
| 1 | IUCN Programme 2021-2025 | x | x | x | x |
| 2 | IUCN One Programme Charter | | x | x | x |
| 3 | IUCN SSC Mandate | x | x | x | x |
| 4 | IUCN SSC By-laws | x | x | x | x |
| 5 | Code of Conduct for IUCN Commissions | x | x | x | x |
| 6 | Guidance on the Code of Conduct and Practices for its Implementation | x | x | x | x |
| 7 | IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2021-2025 | x | x | x | x |
| 8 | Red List Partnership | | x | x | x |
| 9 | Guidelines for IUCN SSC Leaders | | x | x | x |
| 10 | Guidelines for SSC Members on Engaging in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) | When engaging in CITES discussions | When engaging in CITES discussions | When engaging in CITES discussions | x |
| Terms of Reference | | | | | |
| 11 | Terms of Reference of the SSC Steering Committee members | | | | x |
| 12 | Terms of Reference IUCN SSC Regional Vice-Chairs | | | | x |
| 13 | Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC Conservation Committees | When part of a Committee | When part of a Committee | When part of a Committee | x |
| 14 | Terms of Reference of the Chair of the IUCN Red List Committee | | x | | x |
| 15 | Terms of Reference of Chairs of Specialist Groups and Task Forces | | x | x | x |
| 16 | Terms of Reference of the Red List Authority Coordinators | | x | | x |
| 17 | Terms of Reference of the IUCN SSC National Species Authority | | x | x | x |
| 18 | Terms of Reference for SSC Members | x | x | x | x |
| 19 | Terms of Reference of Focal Point Ex-situ Conservation | | x | | x |
| 20 | Terms of Reference of Focal Point Conservation Planning | | x | | x |
| 21 | Terms of Reference of Focal Point Sustainable Use | | x | | x |

1. Welcome!

We are delighted and grateful for accepting our invitation to join the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). As an established expert in your field, your agenda is certainly full with other commitments, so it is especially significant to us that you are willing to find time in your busy schedule to join the thousands of volunteers that comprise our network.

In the broader conservation and development community and in many global fora, SSC Members are held in high esteem and command a great degree of respect for the role they hold. SSC Members are very influential, representing the highest level of scientific rigour and credibility with regard to the conservation of species within their remit.

Our network composed of thousand of volunteer experts is widespread around the world, occupying the majority of ecosystems on Earth's surface. Included are some of the top scientists that exist, and are responsible for the creation of the scientific knowledge that underpins the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, designing action plans that identify priorities and guide investment, and supporting evidence-based conservation action around the world.

The purpose of this document is to provide an introduction to IUCN and SSC, their structure and primary activities. It also outlines what is expected from SSC Members, and how to engage with others within an outside IUCN.

2. International Union for Conservation of Nature

2.1. Background

The International Union for Conservation of Nature was established on 5 October 1948 in the French town of Fontainebleau. As the first global environmental union, it brought together governments and civil society organisations with a shared goal to protect nature. Its aim was to encourage international cooperation and provide scientific knowledge and tools to guide conservation action.

The IUCN membership is composed of States, government agencies, NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 Member organisations and the input of more than 16,000 experts. This diversity and vast expertise makes IUCN the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

IUCN is the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It continues to champion nature-based solutions as key to the implementation of international treaties such as the Paris climate change agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

2.2. Mission and vision

2.2.1. Mission

Influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

2.2.2. Vision

A just world that values and conserves nature.

2.3. Governance

As the Union is composed of both governments and civil society, it brings together the most influential organisations and top experts of the world in a combined effort to conserve nature and acceler-

ate the transition to sustainable development. It operates through three main components: **Members, Commissions and Secretariat.**

The 1,400 Member organisations provide the vision and oversight for the Union and its work. Every four years, IUCN convenes the IUCN World Conservation Congress where members set the global conservation agenda by voting on recommendations and guide the Union's work by passing resolutions and the IUCN Programme.

The IUCN Secretariat works with Member organisations and IUCN Commissions to transform the vision of IUCN's membership into action. The Secretariat includes around 900 staff and projects in more than 50 countries.

In between sessions of the World Conservation Congress, Council is the principal governing body of the Union. At Congress, IUCN Members elect Commission chairs and representatives from Member organisations to serve four-year terms on the Council.

2.4. IUCN Programme 2021-2025

The IUCN Programme provides the framework for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the conservation work undertaken by the Commissions and the Secretariat in collaboration with IUCN Members.

The IUCN Programme is approved by Member organizations at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. It is developed as a result of a nine-month consultation process across IUCN Members and Commissions.

The Programme is implemented through the combined effort of Members and the Secretariat working together with the six IUCN Commissions, who provide critical knowledge for implementation. The Programme relies on impact indicators for people, land, water, oceans and climate, which are the five Prioritised Programme Areas.

2.5. IUCN Commission System and Union Portal

The [IUCN Commission System](#) is a tool to help Members formalize their registration and SSC Leaders manage their membership. It includes a function enabling SSC Chairs to invite and validate their members directly in the IUCN system.

SSC Group Leaders are at the heart of the Commission System as they remain the drivers of SSC membership. All SSC members must be invited to join by the leader of each SSC Group. The instructions for using the Commission System are available here: [Instructions for SSC member invitation and validation management](#).

The [Union Portal](#) is a web-based (password protected) system which provides a platform for networking, interaction and the sharing of information and expertise across the entire IUCN (and is accessible to all SSC members). The Union Portal is a hub for profiling information, promoting events and learning about new opportunities, accessible to all SSC members. All SSC members are encouraged to use the Union Portal for the following:

- Create/upload documents, news stories, consultations, events and opportunities (content that can be shared with the whole Union (public) or restricted to users affiliated to a specific group (private)).
- Create your own specific user or discussion group for a particular issue bringing in people from other commission groups, Members or the Secretariat
- To be the "go-to" place for an up to date directory of people and organizations related to IUCN.

- Each group has a designated web-space for profiling information (e.g., reports, publications, newsletters), news stories, announcements, consultations, promoting events and opportunities (e.g., job openings, funding, awards, capacity building, etc).
- There are specific Union Portal groups for SSC leaders. These can be used to share information with Members.
- The expertise of SSC Members is available throughout the network, via their personal profile, which could help in identifying opportunities for collaboration within the Union.

3. Species Survival Commission

3.1. Background

The [Species Survival Commission](#) (SSC) was established by IUCN in 1949, the year after the Union was founded. Since that time, SSC has grown into a global, science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts.

The SSC, as one of [IUCN's six Commissions](#), works together with the Secretariat and Members to deliver the IUCN Programme and Species Strategic Plan.

The SSC undertakes assessments of the status of species, develops species conservation action plans and strategies, prepares technical guidelines, formulates IUCN policy statements, provides policy advice at national, regional and global scales, and supports and catalyses conservation action. The Commission delivers and promotes this technical knowledge, advice and policy guidance to those who can influence the implementation of conservation action across the world.

The strength behind the SSC is a worldwide network of thousands of volunteer experts who donate their time and expertise to build a scientific and practical foundation for the effective delivery of conservation. These experts are organized into different groups arranged by taxonomy, geography or disciplines, convened by the SSC in response to pressing conservation issues.

3.2. Mission, vision and goal

3.2.1. Mission

In the intersessional period of 2021–2025, 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.

3.2.2. Vision

The work of SSC is guided by the Vision of: *A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of diversity of life on earth.*

3.2.3. Objectives

For the intersessional period 2021–2025, 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.

3.3. Governance

The Commission is under the direct oversight of the IUCN Council, through the Commission Chair. The Chair leads the commission together with its officers, staff and Steering Committee. The second in charge is the Deputy Chair and is appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Chair.

The [Steering Committee of SSC](#) is 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, Task Forces, Red List Authorities, National Species Specialist Groups and Action Partnerships. The roles of these entities are defined in the Bylaws of the SSC.

SSC groups are supported by [Committees](#) established to enhance work on thematic and taxonomic areas. There are currently seven:

- **Fungal Conservation Committee:** created in 2020, aims to raise awareness of the importance of fungi and the need to conserve them, enhance coordination among the fungal and the broader conservation communities, and foster action.
- **Freshwater Conservation Committee:** established in 2010 in order for the SSC to address the urgent global freshwater biodiversity crisis.
- **Invertebrate Conservation Committee:** established in 2005 to tackle the enormous challenge of how to manage conservation action for the most species-rich taxonomic grouping on Earth.
- **Marine Conservation Committee:** to ensure that decisions taken by policy-makers and resource managers on the management of marine resources are based on sound and scientific knowledge.
- **Plant Conservation Committee:** leads IUCN's efforts in stemming the loss of global plant diversity through its wide-ranging network of plant conservationists.
- **Red List Committee:** brings together Red List Partners, Secretariat staff and SSC representatives, to oversee and guide the work of IUCN on biodiversity assessments.
- **Standards and Petitions Committee:** is responsible for ensuring the quality and standards of the IUCN Red List and for ruling on petitions against the listings of species on the IUCN Red List.

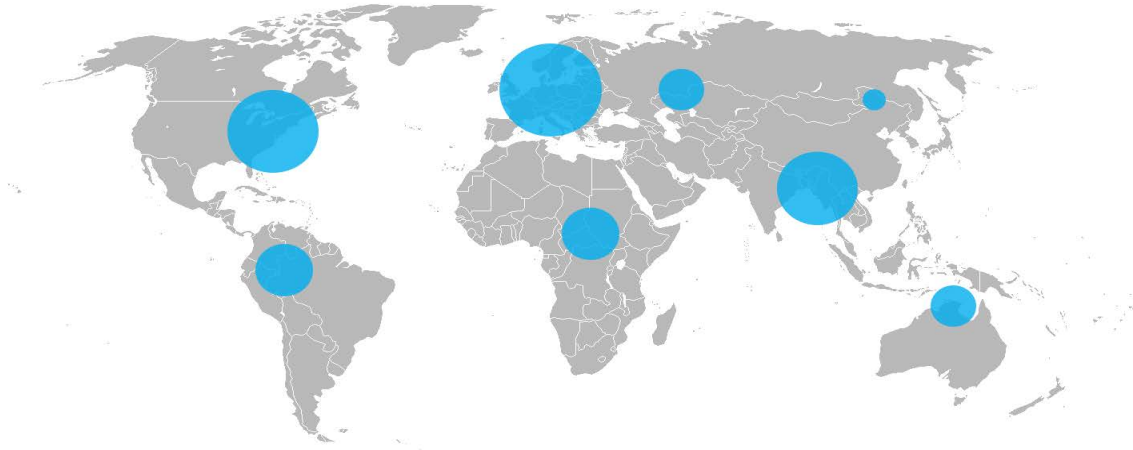
Organizational charts are available here:

- [IUCN Governance structure](#)
- [IUCN SSC Network structure](#)
- [IUCN SSC Structure with Secretariat and Alliances](#)

3.4. Membership

SSC Groups constitute the main working units of the Commission. They are professional networks which operate independently, but adhere to SSC's vision, mission, structure, policies and the [Code of Conduct](#) for IUCN Commissions. The more than 160 groups are composed of over 10,000+ experts who volunteer their time in almost every country of the world, throughout the eight statutory regions of IUCN.

10% Africa; 6% East Europe, North and Central Asia; 11% Meso and South America; 22% North America and the Caribbean; 5% Oceania; 17% South and East Asia; 1% West Asia; 28% West Europe.
 Source: IUCN Global Report, June 2020

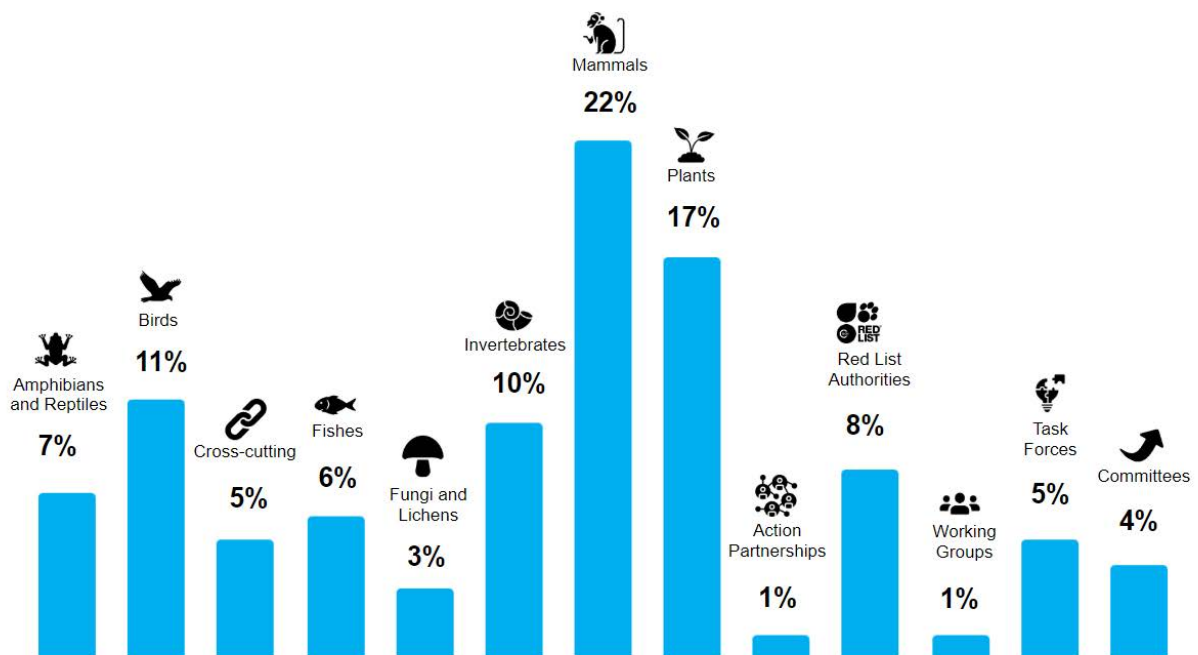


[SSC Groups](#) may be organized by taxonomy, geography or disciplines. They contribute to species assessments in the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#), in collaboration with Red List Partner institutions. Groups are broadly categorized into seven major taxonomic sets:

- Amphibians and Reptiles
- Birds
- Fishes
- Fungi and Lichens
- Invertebrates
- Mammals
- Plants

In addition, the SSC has cross-cutting disciplinary groups focusing on conservation issues and providing tools and advice to taxon-based specialist groups and other stakeholders.

Distribution of SSC groups into the different types.



There are six types of SSC groups: Specialist Groups, Task Forces, Action Partnerships, National Species Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities and Committees. Most (81%) are Specialist Groups (from Amphibians and Reptiles to Cross-cutting, in the figure above), followed by Red List Authorities (8%), Task Forces (5%), Committees (4%) and Action Partnerships (1%). Of these, Task Forces are the only ones expected to achieve time-bound goals. The rest are designed to exist indefinitely, but may also be dissolved at any time.

3.5. Species Conservation Cycle and 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The five objectives of SSC integrate into the Species Conservation Cycle. A typical iteration of the cycle initiates with a scientific assessment, such as developing a species account for the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#). Knowledge is compiled and synthesized, and an evaluation of extinction risk follows, leading eventually to publication on-line.

The following stage is to create an action plan, which identifies interventions, projects and priorities aimed at reduction of a species extinction risk. Next, comes conservation action by mobilizing the resources required to implement action plans. The cycle then starts again, as the status of a species may change over time and a new assessment is required. Implementation requires the SSC Network being in constant communication between all parts.



The 2021-2025 IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of SSC and GSP, as well as a number of partnerships. Designed to contribute to the overall IUCN Work Programme, it is structured around 13 Key Species Results (KSR), distributed along each of SSC's objectives:

Network

- 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 principles of the [One Programme Charter](#).
- KSR 4: Catalyse actions with governments, IUCN members and other stakeholders to achieve post-2020 conservation targets.

Assess

- KRS 5: Improve and publish biodiversity and conservation knowledge.
- KRS 6: Expand the coverage, quality and content of biodiversity assessments: IUCN Red List,

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.

Plan

- 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.

Act

- KSR 10: Enhance biodiversity conservation action through implementation of effective, collaborative and practical approaches.
- KSR 11: Catalyze sustainable use practices to improve governance for people and nature.

Communicate

- KSR 12: Further strengthen IUCN's species theme as a strong and credible source on biodiversity information for target audiences.
- KSR 13: Increase the visibility of different taxa and species conservation through strategic and innovative communications that attract new audiences.

Under these KSRs, each SSC Group, as well as the SSC Chairs Office and GSP, will establish a set of measurable time-bound targets to be attained by the end of 2025, 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 2021-2025.

3.6. Steering Committee

SSC is governed by a [Steering Committee](#), which is headed by the Commission Chair. The Steering Committee balances regional and thematic perspectives and provides overall advice to the work of the Commission. Formal Steering Committee members are appointed by IUCN Council on the recommendation of the SSC Chair, and are accompanied by observers from the Secretariat and partner organizations. In-person Steering Committee meetings typically occur once a year, with additional virtual meetings focusing on specific themes when they are required.

3.7. Chair's Office

The [SSC Chair's office team](#) provides general support to the SSC network to strengthen and build the capacity of SSC Groups in their conservation activities. The team acts as the first point of contact for any queries or information, and assists with mobilizing the network to provide knowledge, expertise and tools through five objectives of the Commission. Primary functions of the team include network coordination, partnerships and grants, communications, strategic planning, annual and quarterly reports, administration and special initiatives.

3.8. SSC and the IUCN Secretariat

The IUCN Secretariat team works hand in hand with SSC at the forefront of the global fight to save species from extinction and supports the activities of SSC and its constituent Specialist Groups. The IUCN Secretariat provides network support to SSC and has a number of units that regularly engage with SSC Groups, including the Red List Unit (RLU), Freshwater Biodiversity Unit (FBU), Marine Biodiversity Unit (MBU) and Biodiversity Assessment Unit (BAU). The six Commissions also count with

the Commission Support Unit, based at the Secretariat. SSC members are encouraged to work directly with IUCN Regional and Country offices as well, who represent the Secretariat around the world.

4. Working in the SSC

4.1. Contribution of SSC Groups to IUCN

IUCN relies on SSC Groups —Specialist Groups, Task Forces, Conservation Committees, Red List Authorities, National Species Specialist Groups and Action Partnerships— to ensure that our work is based on cutting-edge conservation science. This is achieved by identifying emerging conservation issues and opportunities, providing innovative solutions to species conservation challenges, and engaging in higher-level analyses by integrating data from various sources, including other IUCN Commissions.

Specialist Groups and Task Forces in particular are regularly asked to contribute information for IUCN's technical inputs to international treaty work including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and numerous regional agreements. Input is mostly in the form of comments on agenda items, listing proposals, resolutions, matters pertaining to the sustainable use of species, or other substantive issues. IUCN may also call upon specific SSC groups to contribute expert information for global, regional or national biodiversity assessments in addition to indicators of the status and sustainable use of species.

SSC Groups have the capacity to be extraordinarily effective in these fora but need to be aware of existing [policy and position documents](#), to provide objective and science-based information to deliberations, aligned with the organization's agreed views. IUCN policy also includes [Resolutions and Recommendations](#) approved by its Members at the World Conservation Congresses, as well as various programmatic and operational policies approved by the Council.

4.2. Knowledge Standards and Tools

SSC members are active contributors and users of a wide variety of [knowledge standards](#) and tools that are constantly evolving. The most visible is surely the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#), to which the network of experts of SSC is a major contributor. But there are other key tools created by SSC that provide fundamental support to our work, including:

- [Conservation Planning Inventory](#)
- [EICAT - Environmental Impact Classification of Alien Taxa](#)
- [Global Invasive Species Database](#)
- [Green Status of Species](#)

4.3. Communications

Members are actively encouraged to contribute to communicating the work of the SSC both across the IUCN network and through external channels. Please liaise with your Chair to bring exciting, topical and newsworthy material to the attention of the SSC Chair's Office and the GSP.

4.3.1. *Speaking on behalf of the SSC*

Only the SSC Chair, or someone delegated officially by the Chair in writing, may speak on behalf of the Commission. Likewise, only SSC Group leaders (e.g. Chairs of specialist groups, task forces or committees), or someone delegated in writing by them, may speak on behalf of their groups. SSC members, however, are encouraged to widely communicate the work of the Commission and share position papers and policies. No authorization is required to divulge existing documentation.

4.3.2. SSC affiliation

SSC group members are encouraged to publicly acknowledge their affiliation with SSC. When publishing a scientific paper, for example, SSC members may cite their SSC as a second institutional affiliation. When reporting progress of an SSC-related project at a scientific conference, Commission members may indicate their relationship with SSC. It is understood that in doing so, members abide by the [Code of Conduct](#) for IUCN Commissions.

4.4. Role in advocacy

IUCN has a diverse, unique and worldwide membership of governments and NGOs, thus we take particular care to provide objective conservation science to decision-makers, assuring that it is “policy relevant” not “policy prescriptive”. While this approach may be viewed as overly conservative and methodical, experience over the years has shown that it can often be very effective in achieving successful conservation action for species. SSC groups have a pivotal role as technical advisors in helping IUCN address complex and controversial conservation issues, drawing on specific expertise to provide sound, scientifically rigorous and unbiased information. Many groups are drawn into advocacy roles. As an SSC member, and therefore representative of IUCN, care should be taken to ensure that all approaches are made with integrity and credibility and acted through the appropriate IUCN channels. Any questions or doubts should be addressed to the SSC Chair’s Office or the GSP to provide helpful advice and guidance.

4.5. Intervention letters

The high-level interventions letters address conservation issues of serious and urgent concern, through written communications to governments, private companies or any other entity, which highlight the threat(s) to species and/or their habitats, using SSC expert advice, proposing suitable action to influence decision-making and therefore helping to avoid or reduce any adverse impacts on biodiversity, and offering IUCN expertise to address the issue.

Since 2013, intervention letters have become an increasingly important area of the SSC Chair’s work. This tool uses the power of IUCN as a global authority on the natural world at the highest level of international governance. The simple premise of most letters is to ensure informed decision-making i.e., by drawing on the technical expertise of the SSC network, information is provided to governments (and in some cases industry) to aid them to better understand the potential costs to biodiversity of a specific action/decision (proposed or already implemented).

Each intervention letter provides the background, technical information, and a thorough review process led by the SSC Chair’s Office, engaging the appropriate Specialist Groups experts across the network as well as the IUCN Regional and National offices, other IUCN Commissions and IUCN Programmes. These intervention letters are usually requested by the SSC Groups leaders, due to alerts issued by members.

How to promote intervention letters?

1. The intervention letters have to be well science evidence-based.
2. The SSC Group leader must gather the key information, facts, relevant stakeholders and statistics (if applicable) to support the conservation issue.
3. Send the request and information to work together with the SSC Network Coordinator (edgard.yerena@ssc.iucn.org) on the draft letter.
4. The SSC Chair’s Office evaluates if other units of IUCN could be part and signs the letter. Most of the time the letters are signed by the SSC Chair or, co-signed by the SSC Chair. Also, the signature of the the IUCN Director General.might be required if the case deserves so

The SSC Chair’s Office and the Chair of the corresponding SSC group should keep track of the letters

to obtain information about the status and impact it might have generated, and whether there exists any intention of opening dialogue for discussions with the relevant stakeholders. To keep this tracking the SSC Group leader must complete a form [here](#).

4.6. IUCN Motions

Many of the species-focused resolutions are generated from the SSC network, therefore the SSC Chair's Office working closely with the Global Species Programme has an important role in overseeing their implementation, assisting where possible to mobilise resources and provide support where it is most needed.

It will also be an important role for the SSC Chair's Office to ensure that the network, having initially submitted the Motions prior to Congress, carries their engagement forward by taking ownership of these as Resolutions and implementing action where called for. The SSC Steering Committee may also decide that it is necessary to agree priorities among the species-related resolutions.

To improve the engagement of SSC with the motions process, it is necessary:

1. Motions should be linked to SSC groups
2. SSC Chair's office ensure that the proposed actions might be defined as SMART
3. SSC Steering Committee provide support on controversial motions
4. Working groups be established for controversial and strategic motions

4.7. IUCN Resolutions

The SSC Network Support Team assists with mobilizing the network to provide their expertise and knowledge as required and help to implement and report on species-related IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations. IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations are the body of IUCN's general policy.

Resolutions that call on IUCN Commissions are assigned a focal point in order to initiate and coordinate action with the Secretariat focal point assigned to the same Resolution. Some of the Resolutions directly call upon or request the SSC to work towards a certain goal. Other resolutions request Commissions in general to support a certain policy.

A newly improved implementation strategy for Congress Resolutions was launched to ensure increased action on the adopted Resolutions/Recommendations. The strategy requires a more active approach to implementation including:

- Focal points from all constituents
- Coordination of action between Secretariat / Members / Commissions
- Actively encouraging Members to contribute – cognizant of commitments made
- Awareness raising strategy for Resolutions and Recommendations
- Regular follow-up and support
- Required annual reporting

There is a strong emphasis on maintaining the commitment of Members and garnering a feeling of ownership, as well as using the One Programme Approach to help guarantee action. The Secretariat has identified a focal point for each Resolution and all Resolutions that call on the SSC have been also assigned a focal point. These focal points have a role in initiating and coordinating action on the respective Resolutions.

Further information and contacts of the SSC Chair's Office Global Team is available [here](#). You can also write: ssc@iucn.org