

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
Pablo Garcia-Borboroglu
Global Penguin Society and CONICET, Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina



CO-CHAIR
P. Dee Boersma
Department of Biology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, US

RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR
Pablo Garcia-Borboroglu
Global Penguin Society and CONICET, Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
60

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Twitter: @IUCNPenguin
Website: <https://www.penguinsg.org>

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group (PSG) is to provide scientific advice that informs policy and engages people in effective conservation action.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The disconcerting and rapid population decreases reported for most of the world's penguin species will be reversed only through immediate and affirmative action on the part of the global community of researchers, governmental entities, conservation organisations, fisheries' managers and the general public. If we address the identified threats, undertake priority research needs using an interdisciplinary and integrated approach, and begin to implement appropriate conservation actions, management could perhaps slow or stop the observed decreases in penguin populations. We wish to call attention to the plight of this important and charismatic taxonomic group, whose dire situation is a clear reflection of the current escalating crisis facing the world's marine ecosystems and as indicators of future global warming scenarios. To improve the conservation status of penguin species we will: (1) identify the need for management actions and/

or studies for particular species, critical areas, or threats to penguins; (2) provide scientific advice on conservation and management issues concerning penguins to interested parties; (3) coordinate input from penguin experts for the IUCN Red List assessments; (4) facilitate dissemination of scientific information concerning penguins, including supporting publications and regional and international meetings.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Reassess IUCN Red List status of penguin species.

T-005 Publish at least one paper of global relevance related to the ecology and conservation of all penguin species.

PLAN

T-001 Convene meetings of the PSG Steering Committee focused on updating our Wild Penguins in Perpetuity Conservation Strategy.

T-003 Convene annual Steering Committee meetings to revise and redefine priorities for global penguin conservation.

T-006 Convene a meeting of the PSG Steering Committee to update and redefine priorities for global penguin conservation prior to the International Penguin Congress in Chile in 2022.

ACT

T-008 Redefine priority conservation actions needed and priority research.

NETWORK

T-002 Continue to add expert members as needed.

T-007 Convene a Steering Committee meeting in Chile 2022 to update status of PSG and define future goals.

T-011 Convene regular virtual meetings every six months with Steering Committee members.

COMMUNICATE

T-009 Develop the Specialist Group official website.

T-010 Develop the logo of the Specialist Group.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-004 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: ongoing

Result description: As we regularly do, we compiled information from our network and updated the data needed for the last conservation status assessment.



Magellanic Penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*)
Photo: Global Penguin Society (Pablo Garcia Borboroglu)

IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group Meeting.
Dunedin, New Zealand, 2019
Photo: IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group

PLAN

Planning

T-001 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 0

Result description: We have started the process to develop our Strategic Planning and we have made very good progress. Dr Lauren Waller has been leading this process together with Susie Ellis.

T-003 (KSR 8)

Number of meetings in quadrennium: ongoing

Result description: We replaced this in-person annual meeting with our monthly virtual meetings. The redefinition of priorities is now part of the Strategic Planning development.

T-006 (KSR 8)

Conservation meeting to redefine priorities held: 0

Result description: The International Penguin Congress in Chile was postponed until September 2023. We have started to discuss the details with the local and international Organising Committee. We explored options for the agenda of the meeting, which will take place before the Congress in 2023.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-008 (KSR 11)

Priority actions and research identified: ongoing

Result description: Under the framework of our strategic planning process, we had 12 meetings virtually to redefine priority conservation actions needed and priority research.

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 23

Result description: We conducted a detailed selection of new members and 23 new members have been added to our membership.

Synergy

T-007 (KSR 4)

Update PSG status updated and goals defined: 1

Result description: Due to the pandemic, the International Penguin Congress to be held in Chile was postponed, so we did not have a meeting there. However, we held monthly meetings with the Steering Committee.

T-011 (KSR 2)

Number of Steering Committee meetings: 12

Result description: We replaced our in-person meetings with monthly meetings with all the members of our Steering Committee.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-009 (KSR 12)

Website designed and running: 1

Result description: We finished the process to design our official website and launched it successfully (<https://www.penguinsg.org>).

T-010 (KSR 13)

Logo designed and adopted: 1

Result description: We finished the process to design our first, brand new logo and have already adopted it.

Acknowledgements

The IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group would like to acknowledge the University of Washington and The Global Penguin Society for institutional support, as well as Detroit Zoo for donating funds for our web page development.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 11

Geographic regions: 10 Global, 1 America

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 3 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 4)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

