

IUCN SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group



CHAIR
Dilys Roe
International Institute
for Environment and
Development (IIED),
London, UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
260

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @iucnsuli
Twitter: @IUCNSULI
Websites: <https://iucnsuli.org>;
<https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/our-work/human-wellbeing-and-sustainable-livelihoods>

Mission statement

To build global understanding of the importance of sustainable use of wild species, both for nature and for people, and to guide sound decision-making by generating and disseminating high quality, evidence-based information, tools and advice, that enhance legal, sustainable, equitable wildlife management practices and draw attention to those that are illegal, unsustainable and inequitable.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The main goal for SULi this quadrennium is “to build the capacity of SULi to act as an effective advocate for sustainable use globally, through enhanced evidence, communications and political engagement, thus fulfilling its potential as THE international authority on sustainable use”. To achieve this goal SULi is working hard to diversify and strategically expand its membership through better representation of species use across all taxonomic realms and achieving a more balanced representation of members globally. SULi is keen to help bring much more attention to the use of species in the fungi, invertebrate and plant groups which are frequently overlooked. SULi is developing a database (the Sustainable Use of Species (SUS) database) to be a reliable and trusted provider of high-quality information on the utilisation

(sustainable and unsustainable) of wild species, and the recorded ecological, social and economic impacts of that utilisation. SULi is working on a number of technical outputs, some are near completion and some are at the planning stage, and include guidance on integrating indigenous and local knowledge into Red List assessments and guidance on the harvesting of threatened species, a contribution to the CITES World Wildlife Trade report, a situation analysis on the contribution of hunting to wildlife conservation and management, and a project to develop, test, and build capacity for a multi-dimensional assessment framework that determines whether use of wild species is both sustainable and safe.. SULi will continue its engagement with the institutions, conventions and treaties that determine international wildlife policy, e.g. CITES, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and to track initiatives, enquiries and proposals opposing the utilisation of wildlife. SULi also continues to work on initiatives which highlight the critical role of communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade, including People Not Poaching, Beyond Enforcement and the First Line of Defence.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Publish in at least one peer-reviewed journal per year with SSC SULi affiliation.

T-015 Conduct ongoing research to identify and write case studies to contribute information to the Sustainable Use of Species Database.

PLAN

T-004 Develop and submit inf. docs for CITES, Convention on Migratory species (CMS) and CBD as required to inform decisions on sustainable use and links to livelihoods.

T-005 Attend CBD and CITES Conference of the Parties (CoPs) meetings and relevant subsidiary bodies and working groups.

T-010 Publish a hunting situation analysis to help inform IUCN guidelines and a position statement.

ACT

T-006 Conduct a global situation analysis of social, economic and ecological impacts of hunting.

T-007 Develop and test a framework for assessing sustainability of wildlife uses.

T-008 Design a sustainable use database and document at least 20 sustainable use practices per year.

T-009 Hold at least one event per year to build capacity amongst policy makers and



Bupa Banda speaking at the SULi event in the Reverse the Red pavilion, WCC in Marseille
Photo: Dilys Roe

project implementers to engage communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade.

T-011 Produce at least one new IUCN publication or other output on engaging communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade.

T-016 WCC-2020-Res-076: Develop a programme of work to support wildlife based economic development in Africa (with IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, ESARO).

T-017 Prepare emergency Motions to submit at Congress if needed to counter anti-use submissions.

T-022 Develop a SULi strategy which outlines key priorities and objectives (2021–2025).

T-020 (T2017-6) Roll out the First Line of Defence initiative in further East/Southern African countries.

NETWORK

T-001 Establish at least one new funding partnership in 2021 and establish or maintain at least one in 2023.

T-002 Develop and implement at least one new initiative per year with other IUCN Commissions and/or Regional Offices and/or Members.

T-013 Conduct a comprehensive review of membership in advance of the IUCN quadrennial renewal process to understand where efforts need to focus on achieving better balances across geographical location, age, gender and expertise.

T-014 Internal restructuring to establish sub-groups (thematic/geographic) to improve efficiency and engagement of members in delivering the SULi strategy.

COMMUNICATE

T-012 Produce the SULi Digest at least four times per year each year.

T-018 Provide ongoing technical and science-based support to guide sustainable use.

T-019 (T2017-1) Publish a new Annex on harvesting of threatened species.

T-021 (T2019-17) Populate Communities and Illegal Wildlife Trade Learning Platform; conduct periodic analyses of lessons learnt; run learning activities including webinars.

T-023 Develop a communication strategy to guide outputs, media engagement, policy briefings, etc.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Research activities

T-003 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 3

Result description: (1) Wilson-Holt, O., and Roe, D. (2021). 'Community-Based Approaches to Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade—What Works and How Is It Measured?'. *Frontiers in Conservation Science* 2:765725. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2021.765725>; (2) Marsh, S.M.E., et al. (2021). 'Prevalence of sustainable and unsustainable use of wild species inferred from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species'. *Conservation Biology* 36(2):e13844. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13844>; (3) Cooney, R., et al. (2021). 'Think Before You Act: Improving the Conservation Outcomes of CITES Listing Decisions'. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 9:631556. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.631556>

T-015 (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: A literature search to gather relevant content to rigorously test the prototype of the database started in December 2021 and will also be used to seed the database with records once the testing is completed.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 (KSR 9)

Number of Multilateral Environmental Agreement meetings attended by the SSC group: 5

Result description: We attended the following: (1) SBSTTA-24 Informal Sessions, 17–19 February and 24–26 February; (2) SBSTTA-24, 3 May–9 June; (3) 31st Meeting of CITES Animals Committee, 3–4 May and 21–22 June; (4) 3rd Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group, 23 August–3 September; (5) Convention on Biological Diversity CoP15 Part 1, 11–15 October.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-011 (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 3

Result description: (1) Wilson-Holt, O., and Roe, D. (2021). 'Community-Based Approaches to Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade—What Works and How Is It Measured?'. *Frontiers in Conservation Science* 2:765725. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2021.765725>; (2) *Community-led approaches to tackling illegal wildlife trade: Case studies from the Southern African Development Community Region* (People Not Poaching Initiative, jointly published by IUCN SULi and IIED); (3) *Community-based approaches to tackling poaching and illegal wildlife trade: Five case studies of community-based approaches in Tanzania* (People Not Poaching Initiative, jointly published by IUCN SULi and IIED).

T-022 (KSR 10)

Strategy developed, agreed following consultation with SULi Steering Committee and membership, and published: 1

Result description: SULi members were invited to two online consultation events (to accommodate different time zones) to provide their feedback on a n initial draft. The comments received (together with comments provided by the SULi



Livelihoods of the rural communities in the Bay of Cispatá area, Colombia, depend greatly upon natural resources and wild species
Photo: ASOCAIMAN



Dilys Roe, SULi Chair, speaking as a panelist at the “Is Africa being heard? Hunting, Conservation and Livelihoods” Conference, Brussels, 2022
Photo: Alexander Louvet

Steering Committee) were used to refine the final version published on the SULi website (available at: https://iucnsuli.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SULi-Strategy_2021-2025.pdf). This will be used as SULi’s work plan for the 2021–2025 quadrennium.

Synergy

T-016 (KSR 10)

Establishment of One Programme Initiative to deliver the required actions of the Resolution: 1

Result description: SULi is working with IUCN ESARO and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) to develop a programme of work around Resolution WCC-2020-Res-076. This calls on all parts of the Union – Members, Commissions and Secretariat – to establish a One Programme Initiative to build and strengthen wildlife economies in Eastern and Southern Africa. An online event was held (August 2021) to raise awareness of the Resolution and to plan next steps for implementation. There has been additional follow up with an online survey to get a better understanding of the initiatives being undertaken in the region and get feedback from IUCN constituents to help design the One Programme which will help to deliver the actions of this Resolution.

T-020 (KSR 11)

Number of rural communities involved in species conservation programmes and sustainable use practices: 2

Result description: Online learning events have been held for the East African Community and Southern African Development Community and options for roll out with interested parties are under discussion, including a proposal submitted to the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund by WWF Tanzania. There are also training plans that IUCN ESARO has with BIOPAMA funds and the EA training and assistance, with roll out for Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania with USAID CONNECT funding.

Technical advice

T-006 (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 0

Result description: The situation analysis had a delayed start due to funding needed which has now been secured. The proposed scope of the analysis will combine elements of the original planned situation analysis (2016) with work Oxford University is leading to undertake new data analyses in Africa. SULi members will be called on to contribute evidence and to identify one person per IUCN region that can provide an overview of wildlife management in that region, and the role of hunting within it.

T-008 (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 0

Result description: Initial consultations were held with technical and sustainable use experts to help with the database design. First phase of development is completed, and testing started. The documentation of practices won’t begin until the database has been tested and goes live. Note that that consultation and development stage has also started to build internal capacity of SULi, by developing relationships with the SSC Conservation Committees (fungi, marine, plants, freshwater) to encourage early ‘buy-in’.

T-009 (KSR 11)

Number of unsustainable use practices tackled: 1

Result description: (1) 30 March 2021: People not Poaching webinar ‘Community-based rangers – an effective approach to tackling illegal wildlife trade?’. Joint IIED and SULi online event (see <https://www.iied.org/community-based-rangers-effective-approach-tackling-illegal-wildlife-trade>); (2) July 2021: ‘Engaging local communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade – experience in the Southern African

Development Community (SADC) region’. An online learning event organised by SULi and IIED (see <https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/event/engaging-local-communities-tackling-illegal-wildlife-trade-experience-sadc-region>).

T-017 (KSR 10)

Number of motions prepared: 1

Result description: Urgent motion submitted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress and accepted as Resolution WCC-2020-Res-137 *Affirming the right of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to sustainably manage and utilise wild resources in the context of COVID-19* (<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/137>).

T-020 (KSR 11)

Engaging communities as partners in combating the illegal wildlife trade (IWT): Ongoing.

Result description: Online learning events have been held for the East African Community and Southern African Development Community and options for roll out with interested parties are under discussion, including a proposal submitted to the IWT Challenge Fund by WWF Tanzania. There are also training plans that IUCN ESARO has with BIOPAMA funds and the EA training and assistance, with roll out for Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania with USAID CONNECT funding.

NETWORK

Membership

T-013 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 385

Result description: SULi carried out a comprehensive review of its membership in preparation for the SSC membership renewal process. Three existing membership lists have been reconciled through individual outreach to members. We now have an up-to-date member list being used for the SULi D-Groups Listserv. A survey of the SULi members was carried out in August to

update the profiles of individual members, which is being used to identify gaps for recruitment (e.g. age, gender, geographic location, and expertise).

T-014 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 1

Result description: A SULi membership survey carried out in August 2021 was used to gauge the interest of members in participating in (potential) new working groups. This is now being analysed to inform the process of developing these groups. Very positive conversations have also been had with the Chairs of the Plant, Fungi and Marine Conservation Committees and the formation of a Plant Use Group is near to completion (with discussions continuing on a Fungi Use Group and a group focusing on the use of aquatic species). SULi members will also be allocated to geographic sub-groups (based on their location and geographic area of work and/or expertise) to better connect members in regions and provide a contact point to improve SULi's ability to identify, monitor and engage with sustainable use issues at the local, regional and national level.

Proposal development and funding

T-002 (KSR 3)

IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates: 2

Result description: SULi has been working with IUCN ESARO and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) to implement the actions called for in Resolution WCC-2020-Res-076 (see Target coded T-016 for details).

Synergy

T-001 (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1

Result description: SULi has a new funding partner – Jamma International – who is providing a grant over 23 months (ending 31 December 2022) to support the building of the group's capacity (including the funding of a full-time Technical Officer and a part-time Programme Officer and the development of the SULi database).

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-012 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 4

Result description: The SULi Digest was published four times this year: (1) 15/12/2021: IUCN SULi Digest October–December 2021; (2) 13/10/2021:

IUCN SULi Digest May–September 2021; (3) 06/05/2021: IUCN SULi Digest March & April 2021; (4) 01/03/2021: IUCN SULi Digest January & February 2021.

T-018 (KSR 12)

Technical and science-based support provided: ongoing

Result description: (1) We are co-developing (with IUCN) guidance on integrating indigenous and local knowledge into Red List assessments, to be finalised after peer reviewed comments are assessed; (2) we assisted with preparing responses for a possible UK ban on trophy hunting (including a letter to *The Times*), coordinating with Resource Africa and the Community Leaders Network; (3) a letter was written in response to proposed text on restricting wildlife trade – European Parliament's resolution on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030; (4) we engaged with the SSC Situation Analysis on Covid-19 and Wildlife Trade; (5) guidance was written for maximising benefits of trade in CITES species to indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs; commissioned by the CITES Secretariat), which SULi members are being invited to contribute to; (6) initial discussions were held with the CITES Secretariat regarding collaboration to develop guidance for CITES Parties on engaging IPLCs in CITES processes; (7) we commissioned a survey to determine the public's response to a ban on trophy hunting in the UK. Results were distributed through SULi Twitter and also included in evidence submitted to a UK Parliamentary Committee inquiry on the draft Animals Abroad Bill; (8) submission to the Canadian consultation process on elephant ivory trade.

T-019 (KSR 12)

Annex published and included on IUCN Red List: ongoing

Result description: Ongoing discussions on how best to revise the guidelines has led to recognising the potential need for two sets of guidance – one as a shorter annex to the Red List and one as a longer more detailed set of stand-alone guidance. Additional consultation is required on this proposal with the Red List Committee (at the January 2022 meeting), and it is likely that a consultant will be hired for its completion.

T-021 (KSR 12)

Number of case studies collected, webinars hosted, briefings produced: 115

Result description: There are now 115 case studies on the People not Poaching (PnP) platform, which receives over 1,000 visitors per month on average and has a growing following on social media (more than 1,000 Twitter followers). In October,

an article was published that analysed the PnP case studies to understand how many had been effective and how this has been measured (see <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2021.765725>). In March, a webinar was held showcasing PnP case studies where community members have been employed or volunteer as wildlife rangers. The webinar also featured a panel discussion on lessons learnt from these types of anti-poaching approaches (see <https://www.peoplenotpoaching.org/event/community-based-rangers-effective-approach-tackling-iwt>). Over the next few months a further two webinars are planned, as well as an overall synthesis of the case studies featuring voices from the field.

T-023 (KSR 12)

Communication Strategy developed, agreed and published: 0

Result description: A draft strategy is being finalised after consultation with a newly formed SULi communications working group (established to broaden the group's communication expertise and to have greater support and inputs from members into SULi communications activities). Input and guidance have also been provided by IIED's Head of Communications Research.

Acknowledgements

SULi wishes to acknowledge Jamma International for their generous financial support, which funds the position of Rachel Hoffmann (full-time Technical Officer) and Amanda Hull (part-time Programme Officer). These positions have provided invaluable support to SULi's work in 2021, by not only increasing the number and breadth of activities being worked on, but also helping to strategic develop the group to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 23

Geographic regions: 20 Global, 3 Africa

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

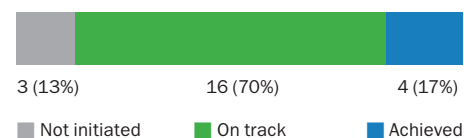
Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Act: 9 (KSR 10, 11)

Network: 4 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 5 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Not initiated

On track

Achieved