

Template for an SSC Specialist Group members' questionnaire

Part I – Introduction

Stating background and reason for the questionnaire (could be driven by a wish to better define member demographics, involve members in target setting, need to confirm members' ongoing interest to contribute, fund-raising, communication or all of the above). Many groups have used [Google Forms](#) to set up these questionnaires and easily compile results. Others have used [Survey Monkey](#).

Example introductory text: Thank you for taking time (10-15 min.) to complete this survey from the IUCN SSC _____ Specialist Group. We ... seek your input on how the SG can assist your science and conservation goals, as well as the aims of the SG and the wider IUCN SSC. Your answers will also aid the larger efforts of our volunteer SG, thanks again.

Name

Email

Do you wish to be an active participant in the SSG SG? If you indicate no we will remove you, thank you for your time.

Part II – Member demographics and expertise

This may help SGs to better understand how balanced the group is in terms of diversity and geographical representation.

Institution

Category of Institution (*Academic/University, NGO, Government, Consultancy, Industry, other*)

Title

Age (*optional – can be presented as drop-down options in 10-year bands*)

Sex/Gender (*optional*)

Education level (*provide drop-down menu choices from High school to PhD*)

Main country of residence (*drop-down menu may simplify processing*)

Taxonomic group of expertise (*specific to SG if relevant*)

How many years have you been a member of the SG?

Other Areas of expertise (*provide a drop-down list of topics relevant to SG – e.g. taxonomy, genetics, behaviour, ecology, fisheries management, law and policy, climate change, education/outreach, etc. – include an 'other' category*).

Countries or regions where actively engaged in research or conservation work relevant to the SG's Taxa (*use continents, countries, or FAO fishing areas, depending on what is most logical for the SG's focal species – but make choices clear with drop-down menus or pre-defined lists to aid analysis*).

Part III – Member interests and contributions to SG

This section can be used to collect information on members' interests and areas where they could contribute more actively to the SG if they are not already doing so. It is also an area where members' priorities for the SG's future work could be clarified.

Example intro text: The IUCN SSC [Strategic Plan](#) is built on the Species Conservation Cycle of 'Assess-Plan-Act', incorporating the overarching elements of 'Networking' and 'Communicating'. The [terms of reference for SSC SGs](#) make it clear that we should aim to address each element of this cycle with respect to our work. In this following section we will try to learn about your personal interests and priorities and the ways in which you, as an SG member can contribute to the different elements of this work.

What are the 3 main reasons for wishing to retain your SG membership?

- To stay updated with XXX (insert species group) research and conservation
- Contribute to Conservation Planning (development of conservation strategies and action plans)
- Contribute to conservation projects (work with other members on species/projects)
- Contribute to policy development
- Contribute to species assessments for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
- To be part of a global network
- To get support for research funding
- Associated credibility and profile
- Contribute to science and communication work
- Other

What can the SG do to keep you engaged?

- Organise quarterly regional virtual meetings for members
- Organise quarterly global virtual meetings between Co-Chairs and members
- Provide updates on project developments through the SG newsletters
- Organise SSG member events at regional/international conferences
- Provide frequent updates on SG projects or initiatives through social media
- Host a yearly online Q&A with the SG Chairs for all members
- Ensure regular consultation with all members on 'hot topics'

Ranking of SG targets – some SGs use these questionnaires to ask members to rank the SG targets that have already been set for a quadrennium, in order to know where they should place emphasis on fund-raising and implementation. Other SGs use these questionnaires to list a number of issues that could become targets for the SG in the next quadrennium, and/or provide members with the space to suggest new targets for the SG.

How can we ensure that you are able to contribute to the SG targets?

- Provide you with at least 2 weeks' notice for input on major issues
- Identify clear roles and responsibilities for members
- Communicate regularly on opportunities, upcoming projects, and initiatives
- Provide training and learning opportunities

Is there a particular role you see yourself playing within the SG? (please check your top 3 responses only)

- Support species assessments
- Engage in conservation planning activities
- Assist in media and communications
- Contribute to capacity-building initiatives
- Support international policy developments (e.g., CMS, CITES...)
- Engage with governments and conventions at the regional level (e.g., SPAW, GFCM, WIOMSA...)
- Provide expertise for the update of domestic policies
- Provide expertise on specific taxa
- Provide expertise on specific issues (bycatch, marine protected areas, social sciences...)

Do you have training in

- Red List assessments
- Species Conservation Planning
- Green Listing
- Other

Are you willing to undergo online training in

- Red List assessments
- Species Conservation Planning
- Green Listing
- Other

Would you be interested in contributing to a Working Group on....

- Communication
- Fundraising
- Capacity building for younger members
- Bycatch
- Taxonomy
- Etc. as relevant for the SG

Which Social Media Platforms do you use? Can you indicate if you use it professionally/academically, or personally?

	No, I don't use this	Yes, as a professional/academic	Yes, for personal use
Twitter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instagram	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linkedin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research gate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academia.edu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have particular skills in the following areas that you would be willing to contribute to assist the SSG to improve and enhance communications?

- Website development
- Science communication & outreach
- Graphic design/infographic preparation
- Media release preparation
- Translation
- Data analysis
- Mapping
- Other

Please provide any additional input on how the SSG SG can better serve your needs or how you could be involved in the SSG SG's efforts moving forward.