

IUCN SSC Snake Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

131

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @IUCNSSG

Instagram: iucn_ssg

Twitter: @IUCN_SSG

Website: <https://www.iucnsnake.org/>

Mission statement

The Snake Specialist Group's (SSG) mission is to provide expert opinion and scientific advice to IUCN and other conservation organisations, government, and non-government agencies, applicable to the conservation of snakes.

Projected impact 2021–2025

(1) To provide expert opinion and scientific advice on the conservation, management and sustainable use of boas and pythons; (2) to assess and disseminate the role of boas and pythons (and other snakes) in ecosystem health and functioning, and their support to people's livelihoods; (3) to foster and encourage research into all aspects of these taxa; (4) to provide solutions to identified problems.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-010 Re-assess priority species within the SSG's remit for the IUCN Red List .

T-011 Ensure no Red List assessments are older than 10 years at the end of the quadrennium (2025).

PLAN

T-014 Attend and provide input to key multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. CITES, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), etc.) to help improve science-based policy and decision making.

T-016 Identify species at greatest conservation risk and develop conservation planning at the local, national and regional level.

ACT

T-015 Increase the number of technical consultations provided to support conservation and wildlife management initiatives.

T-018 Increase support for scientific research and conservation action involving threatened species.

T-024 Increase the number of sustainable use initiatives supported, such that those initiatives continue to be sustainable and do not jeopardise conservation.

T-025 Continue to provide technical support to sustainable use and wildlife management initiatives to ensure sustainable practices and benefits to local communities.

NETWORK

T-001 Organise an inaugural meeting for SSG members.

T-002 Appoint two members as Red List assessors.

T-003 Broaden funding base beyond private sector donations.

T-009 Increase the number of governments that the SSG is supporting to meet their conservation goals.

T-012 Increase representation of members from species Range States.

T-017 Increase financial and in kind support to scientific research projects, such that acknowledgement of the SSG is warranted.

T-019 Increase the number of early career (less than 35 years old) SSG members.

T-020 Establish Thematic Working Groups and Chairs within SSG.

T-022 Increase the number and type of stakeholders involved in implementing conservation and wildlife management plans.

T-029 Explore mechanisms for diversification within the SSG.

T-031 Appoint one member as fundraising officer for the SSG.



Coastal Taipan (*Oxyuranus scutellatus*)
Photo: Christina Zdenek



Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota*)
Photo: Jessica Lyons

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Publish an annual newsletter for the SSG.

T-008 Establish a website for the SSG.

T-013 Enhance social media presence through the development, rebuilding and maintenance of the SSG's social media platforms.

T-026 Enhance communication within the SSG and develop a formal communication strategy.

T-027 Explore the action of developing an online resource which compiles key literature on boa and python conservation.

T-028 Contribute to the development of materials for communication and awareness-raising, by offering presentations, online webinars, workshops, etc.

T-030 Appoint two (2) members as communication officers for the SSG.

Activities and results 2021

ACT

Conservation actions

T-025 (KSR 11)

Number of communities benefited from sustainable use programmes: 4

Result description: Four communities have benefited from sustainable use programmes, including Argentina, Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-002 (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 2

Result description: Two Red List Authorities have been appointed for the newly formed SSG.

Membership

T-012 (KSR 1)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: Three new members have been admitted to the SSG.

T-019 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: Two new members have been admitted to the SSG.

T-020 (KSR 2)

Membership expertise distribution: 12

Result description: Several new members have been added to the group since forming the SSG.

Proposal development and funding

T-031 (KSR 2)

Number of fundraising officers appointed: 1

Result description: One member was appointed as fundraising officer for the SSG.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 1

Result description: We have developed a new communication team for the group, who is working to complete the first newsletter for the newly formed SSG.

T-013 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 5

Result description: Several social media posts have been created for the newly formed SSG. The new communications team is working closely to publish more social media posts in the coming months.

T-026 (KSR 12)

Enhance communication in the SSG and develop a formal communication strategy: achieved

Result description: A formal communication strategy was finalised in 2021 for the newly formed SSG.

T-028 (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 0

Result description: We are working with the new communication team for the SSG to explore other innovative communication tools to aid snake conservation.

T-030 (KSR 12)

Number of communication officers appointed: 2

Result description: Two members were appointed as communication officers for the SSG.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 26

Geographic regions: 23 Global, 1 Africa, 3 Asia, 1 Oceania

Actions during 2021:

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 7 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

