

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Snake Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
 131

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
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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.

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

The SSG wishes to acknowledge and thank the following entities for supporting the SSG's work: the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Fundación Biodiversidad, CITES Secretariat, EggPicnic, and the Southeast Asian Reptile Conservation Alliance (SARCA). Thanks to Phil Bowles for contributing to the completion of Red List assessments. Thanks to our dedicated members and supporters of the SSG and snake conservation.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 26

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

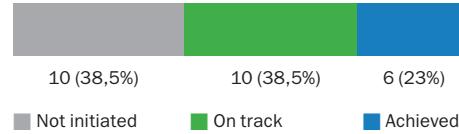
Actions during 2021:

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 7 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



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.