



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



---

## The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC’s major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

---

### 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

**ASSESS:** Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

**PLAN:** Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

**ACT:** Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

**NETWORK:** Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

**COMMUNICATE:** Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

---

### SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network each year. Each SSC Group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

---

## Structure of the IUCN SSC Stand-alone Report

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

---

### Title of the SSC Group

---

### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

---

### Group information

Includes names of Chair / Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators and Program Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

---

### Logo of the SSC Group

---

### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

---

### Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

---

### Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC Group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

---

### Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

---

### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

---

### Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

---

### Recommended citation:

Breitenmoser, C and Breitenmoser, U. 2023. 2022 Report of the Cat Specialist Group. In: Nassar, JM, García, L, Mendoza, L, Andrade, ND, Bezeng, S, Birkhoff, J, Bohm, M, Canteiro, C, Geschke, J, Henriques, S, Ivande, S, Mileham, K, Ramos, M, Rodríguez, A, Rodríguez, JP, Street, B, and Yerena, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 10 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

# IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group



**CO-CHAIR**

**Christine Breitenmoser**  
KORA, Muri b. Bern,  
Switzerland

**CO-CHAIR**

**Urs Breitenmoser**  
FIWI/Universtiät Bern  
and KORA, Muri b.  
Bern, Switzerland

**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**

**Lanz Tabea**  
KORA, Muri b. Bern,  
Switzerland

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

200

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Facebook: IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group

Website: [www.catsg.org](http://www.catsg.org)

**Mission statement**

Cat Manifesto (<http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=44>).

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

To promote the long-term conservation of all cat species across their range.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-018** Publish at least once a year an article on new/updated Felidae Red List assessments or Red List assessment-related subjects in *Cat News* by encouraging lead assessors to write articles on published Red List assessments, also addressing problems during the assessment process.  
Status: On track

**T-019** Update the Cat Conservation Compendium (*Cat News* Special Issue 9) incorporating new information and approaches such as Assess to Plan, updated IUCN Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning, Green Status assessment, etc., and publish it as a *Cat News* Special Issue.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-020** Assess the following taxa for the first time for the IUCN Red List: African Leopard (*Panthera pardus pardus*), Sunda Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus javanensis*) and Northeast African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus soemmeringii*).  
Status: On track

**T-021** Reassess the following taxa for the IUCN Red List: Caracal (*Caracal caracal*), Pampas Cat (*Leopardus colocola*), Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), Flat-headed Cat (*Prionailurus planiceps*), Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor/tulliana*) and Northwest African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus hecki*).  
Status: On track

**T-022** Finalise, submit and get published the (re-)assessments of African Wildcat (*Felis lybica*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Chinese Mountain Cat (*Felis bieti*), European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), Andean Cat (*Leopardus jacobita*), Mainland Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Mainland Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Sumatran Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi diardi*), Bornean Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi borneensis*), Indian Leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) and Javan Leopard (*Panthera pardus melas*).  
Status: On track

**T-023** Encourage assessment team members or contributors to global Red List (re-) assessments to conduct regional and national Red List assessments of the taxa globally assessed and support them with the implementation of National Red List Guidelines.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-024** Conduct and publish the Green Status assessments of Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*).  
Status: On track

**T-025** Conceptualise the Guidelines for Climate Change Vulnerability for cat species and identify for which cat species a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment should be first conducted.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-026** Enhance the information in the Red List assessments and Green Status assessments, especially about threats and conservation of a taxon, to facilitate and benefit the development of conservation planning for the taxon as demanded by the Assess to Plan approach.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-027** Evaluate the assessment and the status of knowledge of small cat species, identify gaps and define the most urgent conservation actions per species.  
Status: On track



African lion  
Photo: Patrick Meier

**T-028** Maintain and expand the Cat Specialist Group Species Database (CSGSD).

Status: On track

**T-029** Develop a strategy to collect camera trapping by-catch data and opportunistic species records, synchronise the exchange of records between institutions and integrate these records into the Cat Specialist Group Species Database (CSGSD, used for Red List distribution maps).

Status: Not initiated

**T-030** Reflect the revised taxonomy of the cat species (Kitchener et al., 2017. A revised taxonomy of the Felidae. The final report of the Cat Classification Task Force of the IUCN/ SSC Cat Specialist Group.' *Cat News* Special Issue 11:1–80) in the Red List and Green Status assessments.

Status: On track

**T-061** Develop guidelines for the monitoring of African Lion (*Panthera leo*) and its prey.

Status: On track

**T-062** Certify the Cat Specialist Group Red List Authority Coordinator as an IUCN Red List Trainer.

Status: Achieved

#### PLAN

**T-031** Develop a Regional Conservation Strategy for Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana/saxicolor*).

Status: Achieved

**T-032** Develop a Conservation Strategy for European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*).

Status: Not initiated

**T-033** Develop a Regional Conservation Strategy for Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in Southern Africa.

Status: Not initiated

**T-034** Update the *Regional Conservation Strategy for the Cheetah and African Wild Dog in Eastern Africa*.

Status: Achieved

**T-035** Support the development of an updated Action Plan for the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*).

Status: Not initiated

**T-036** Update the Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan for Wild Cats.

Status: Not initiated

**T-037** As required or requested: Comment on cat related policies.

Status: Not initiated

**T-038** Attend CITES and Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) meetings and comment on cat-related Resolutions and Decisions.

Status: On track

**T-039** CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI): Advance initiative at global, regional and national level, attend respective meetings.

Status: Not initiated

**T-040** CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) and related IUCN Save Our Species (SOS) programme: Review Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) conservation status, develop Persian Leopard conservation strategy, advance conservation projects for other cat species (Snow Leopard, *Panthera uncia*; Asiatic Cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*), attend CAMI meetings.

Status: On track

**T-041** Use the Conservation Strategy for European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) to promote an improved Wildcat conservation within the European Union member states (Fauna-Flora and Habitats (FFH) Directives).

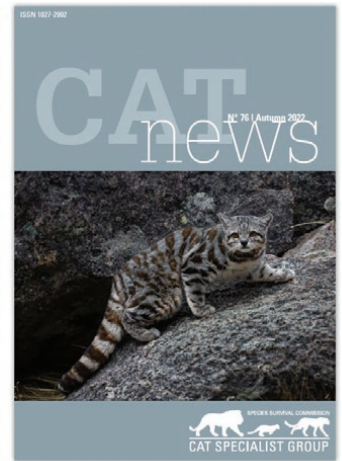
Status: Not initiated

**T-042** Use the continental European conservation recommendation for the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) to lobby for a more coordinated approach with multilateral agreements (EU FFH Directives, Council of Europe's Berne Convention).

Status: Not initiated

**T-066** Develop a spatially explicit conservation action plan for the lion in West and Central Africa.

Status: Achieved



## ACT

**T-043** Support the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*).

Status: On track

**T-044** Support the implementation of the LIFE Project for the recovery of the European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) in Scotland (Saving Wildcats Advisory Group).

Status: On track

**T-045** Support the implementation of conservation actions for the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in the Caucasus, including implementation of an MoU between IUCN, Russian Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRE) and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA).

Status: Not initiated

**T-046** Support the implementation of cat conservation projects under the ACI.

Status: Not initiated

**T-047** Support the implementation of the ACI through a coordinated implementation plan developed by the Cat Specialist Group and its members working on ACI species in Africa.

Status: Not initiated

**T-048** Attend CITES Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) conference and provide recommendation on NDFs for Lion (*Panthera leo*) and Leopard.

Status: On track

**T-059** Develop mechanisms to expand the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) to incorporate Snow Leopards and Leopards.

Status: Achieved

**T-063** Participate in the project 'Act Green: A near-real time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts: applying, extending and enhancing an application for Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) to Lions (*Panthera leo*), Jaguars (*Panthera onca*), and American Bison (*Bison bison*)' together with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Panthera, WWF, a.o.

Status: On track

## NETWORK

**T-002** Develop an MoU with Foundation KORA for hosting the Cat Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

**T-003** Develop a funding strategy, both institutional and project related, and update and adapt it annually to the work programme.

Status: On track

**T-004** Secure funding to deliver K2-13.

Status: On track

**T-005** Strengthen the relationship with the zoo community in regard to the implementation of the Assess-Plan-Act (APA) approach in cats.

Status: Not initiated

**T-006** Update the membership strategy (number of members, expertise, regional distribution, affiliations, etc.), review Terms of Reference for members and re-constitute the Cat Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

**T-007** Develop a programme for and conduct periodical webinars with Cat Specialist Group members to strengthen the team spirit of the group, inform about news and/or issues, and provide the opportunity to ask questions to the Co-Chairs and group members.

Status: On track

**T-008** Develop and conduct Red List assessment and Green Status assessment (online) training courses with emphasises on 'Assess to Plan' for assessors and Cat Specialist Group members.

Status: On track

**T-009** Develop and conduct (online) training courses for Cat Specialist Group members and others in important conservation-related subjects.

Status: Not initiated

**T-010** Support already existing and the building of new (small) cat networks in regard to organisational questions, looking for funding, making connections, capacity building, etc.

Status: On track

**T-011** Maintain and expand the Cat Specialist Group Library.

Status: On track

**T-012** Within SSC: Enhance collaboration with the SSC Chair's Office, Species Office, and other Specialist Groups as possible and needed, e.g. SOS: Tiger programme, CAMI, ACI; Conservation Translocation Specialist Group: Cat Re-introduction Guidelines; Canid Specialist Group: ACI; Species Conservation Success Task Force: Green Status assessment.

Status: On track

**T-013** Within IUCN: Inform other Commissions and Regional Offices on cat issues related to their themes or regions, respectively.

Status: Not initiated

**T-014** UN Conventions: Continue and deepen cooperation with CITES and CMS on cat issues, e.g. African Carnivore Initiative, Central Asian Mammal Initiative, Jaguar Decisions, NDFs, etc.

Status: On track

**T-015** World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), EAZA, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a.o.: Continue and deepen cooperation with AZA and EAZA Felid Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) on various issues, e.g. Eurasian Lynx recommendations, Leopard reintroduction guidelines, conservation breeding recommendations, and maintain good relationship with head offices.

Status: On track

**T-016** NGOs: Continue and deepen cooperation with specific NGOs on various cat conservation topics, e.g. WCS (Tiger), Panthera (Lion, Small Cats), WWF (Leopard, Jaguar).

Status: On track

**T-017** Encourage cat assessors or contributors of global Red List (re-)assessments as well as Cat Specialist Group members and other stakeholders to implement Assess-Plan-Act at different locations and opportunities in cooperation with governments (e.g. through conducting national assessments).

Status: Not initiated



Persian leopard  
Photo: Alexander Sliwa



Caracal  
Photo: Sebastian Kennerknecht

**T-049** Explore in a discussion with the whole group, and adapt if desired, the internal structure and organisation of the Cat Specialist Group, e.g. geographic subgroups, taxonomic or topical working groups, specific task forces, etc.  
Status: On track

**T-060** Update the Cat Specialist Group in the IUCN Commission System.  
Status: On track

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-050** Produce two regular issues of *Cat News* with peer-reviewed articles.  
Status: On track

**T-051** Promote *Cat News* and gain more Friends of the Cat Group, the sponsor group of *Cat News*.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-052** Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* on Jaguar Conservation need and Regional Strategy for South America.  
Status: On track

**T-053** Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* on the status of the Eurasian Lynx including Recommendations for Continental Europe.  
Status: Achieved

**T-054** Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* about the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme.  
Status: On track

**T-055** Renew the Cat Specialist Group website addressing more the IUCN environment.  
Status: On track

**T-056** Increase the presence of the Cat Specialist Group on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter).  
Status: On track

**T-057** Produce Unite for Literacy booklets on cat species.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-058** Establish and maintain the Wild Cat Club as a group of non-members to support the work of the Cat Specialist Group.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-064** Keep the IUCN SSC website updated.  
Status: On track

**T-065** Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* on the Persian Leopard.  
Status: Achieved

---

#### Activities and results 2022

##### ASSESS

##### Green Status

**T-024** Conduct and publish the Green Status assessments of Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*). (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 1

Result description: Participation in online meetings on the Green status assessment of Tiger.

##### Red List

**T-020** Assess the following taxa for the first time for the IUCN Red List: African Leopard (*Panthera pardus pardus*), Sunda Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus javanensis*) and Northeast African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus soemmeringii*). (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 1

Result description: Throughout 2022 support was given to build up an assessor team for Sunda Leopard Cat via online meetings. Additionally, online meetings were held with several experts and the IUCN SSC to discuss the best way forward in regard to Red List assessments concerning species and subspecies occurring in Indonesia. Lastly, the Northeast African Cheetah has been assessed for the IUCN Red List and the assessment has been sent out for review. It will be published in 2023.

**T-021** Reassess the following taxa for the IUCN Red List: Caracal (*Caracal caracal*), Pampas Cat (*Leopardus colocola*), Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), Flat-headed Cat (*Prionailurus planiceps*), Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor/tulliana*) and Northwest African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus hecki*). (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 7



Result description: The reassessments of *Caracal aurata*, *Catopuma temminckii*, *Felis nigripes*, *Panthera leo*, *Panthera pardus*, *Prionailurus viverrinus* and *Panthera pardus tulliana* have been started. All are aimed to be submitted to the Red List Unit in 2023.

**T-022 Finalise, submit and get published the (re-)assessments of African Wildcat (*Felis lybica*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Chinese Mountain Cat (*Felis bieti*), European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), Andean Cat (*Leopardus jacobita*), Mainland Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Mainland Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Sumatran Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi diardi*), Bornean Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi borneensis*), Indian Leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) and Javan Leopard (*Panthera pardus melas*)** (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Assessments of *Prionailurus bengalensis*, *Felis lybica* and *Felis silvestris* were published, and the assessment of *Panthera pardus fusca* is ready for submission and aimed to be published in 2023.

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 3

Result description: Reassessments of *Felis bieti*, *Panthera tigris* and *Acinonyx jubatus* were finalised, submitted and published. The reassessment of *Panthera pardus nimr* has been finished and submitted and the reassessment of *Panthera pardus fusca* is ready for submission. Further work and online meetings on reassessments of *Leopardus jacobita* have been done.

**T-027 Evaluate the assessment and the status of knowledge of small cat species, identify gaps and define the most urgent conservation actions per species.** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 4

Result description: The reassessments of the European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), African Wildcat (*Felis lybica*), Chinese Mountain Cat (*Felis bieti*) and the Mainland Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) have been published. In addition, the reassessments of *Catopuma temminckii*, *Caracal aurata*, *Felis nigripes*, *Prionailurus viverrinus*, *Leopardus jacobita* and *Herpailurus yagouarundi* have been started or further worked on, and reports on small cat species finished.

**T-030 Reflect the revised taxonomy of the cat species (Kitchener et al., 2017. A revised taxonomy of the Felidae. The final report of the Cat Classification Task Force of the IUCN/ SSC Cat Specialist Group.)' Cat News Special Issue 11:1-80) in the Red List and Green Status assessments.** (KSR 6)

All (re-)assessed taxa follow the revised taxonomy: Ongoing.

Result description: Based on the revised taxonomy, *Panthera pardus fusca*, *Felis silvestris* and *Felis lybica* have been newly assessed.

**T-061 Develop guidelines for the monitoring of African lion (*Panthera leo*) and its prey.** (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 1

Result description: Attended the workshop organised by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, supported by the Lion Recovery Fund, in South Africa.

#### Research activities

**T-018 Publish at least once a year an article on new/updated Felidae Red List assessments or Red List assessment-related subjects in Cat News by encouraging lead assessors to write articles on published Red List assessments; also, addressing problems during the assessment process** (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 6

Result description: Articles on updated Red List assessments of *Panthera tigris*, *Acinonyx jubatus*, *Felis silvestris*, *Felis lybica*, *Felis bieti* and *Prionailurus bengalensis* have been published in *Cat News* 76.

#### PLAN

##### Planning

**T-031 Develop a Regional Conservation Strategy for Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana/saxicolor*).** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: Online meetings have been conducted with several experts to prepare the development of the Regional Conservation Strategy for *P. p. tulliana*. An online workshop with experts from all range countries of the Persian Leopard was organised, conducted and led by the Cat SG to prepare the draft Range-wide Conservation Strategy of the Persian Leopard on behalf of the CMS Secretariat. The strategy was reviewed by the Range States and subsequently approved at the First Range State

Meeting of the Persian Leopard, which was organized by CMS CAMI in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 20-22 September 2023, and where the Cat SG participated in.

#### Policy

**T-034 Update the Regional Conservation Strategy for the Cheetah and African Wild Dog in Eastern Africa.** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 1

Result description: The Regional Conservation Strategy for Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and the African Wild Dog in East Africa has been updated.

**T-040 CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) and related IUCN Save Our Species (SOS) programme: (1) Review Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) conservation status; (2) develop Persian Leopard conservation strategy, advance conservation projects for other cat species (Snow Leopard, *Panthera uncia*; Asiatic Cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*), and (3) attend CAMI meetings.** (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: The conservation status of the Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor/tulliana*) across its range was reviewed by experts and, together with topical papers on the Persian Leopard, published in a *Cat News* Special Issue. A Range-wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard has been developed (Target 31).

**T-066 Develop a spatially explicit conservation action plan for the Lion in West and Central Africa.** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: The spatially explicit conservation action plan for the Lion in West and Central Africa has been developed in cooperation with several species experts and NGOs.

#### ACT

##### Technical advice

**T-044 Support the implementation of the LIFE Project for the recovery of the European Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) in Scotland (Saving Wildcats Advisory Group).** (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: As part of the Advisory Group of the LIFE Project, we attended an online workshop to finalise a release strategy for the Wildcat in Scotland.



Cheetah  
Photo: Sugoto Roy

European Wilcat (*Felis silvestris*)  
Photo: Alexander Sliwa

**T-063 Participate in the project 'Act Green: A near-real-time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts: applying, extending and enhancing an application for Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) to Lions (*Panthera leo*), Jaguars (*Panthera onca*), and American Bison (*Bison bison*)' together with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Panthera, WWF, a.o. (KSR 10)**

A near real time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts is implemented: 0

Result description: Participation in several online meetings in the project Act green on Lions and Jaguars. Provision of data and advice for the project.

## NETWORK

### Capacity building

**T-007 Develop a programme for and conduct periodical webinars with Cat Specialist Group members to strengthen the team spirit of the group, inform about news and/or issues, and provide the opportunity to ask questions to the Co-Chairs and group members. (KSR 2)**

Number of webinars conducted per year: 0

Result description: A preliminary concept for webinars and information exchange between Cat SG members has been developed. The concept will be discussed, adapted and finalised in the first months of 2023.

**T-008 Develop and conduct Red List assessment and Green Status assessment (online) training courses with emphasises on 'Assess to Plan' for assessors and Cat Specialist Group members. (KSR 2)**

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 2

Result description: An RLA online training course (with a special focus on cat species) for assessors has been developed with support from the Red List Unit. The course was conducted twice for interested

Cat SG members: once in September 6-9 2022 and once on October 18, 19, 25 and 26 2022. Thirty-three (33) Cat SG members from 25 countries participated in the courses. The level of expertise of the participants varied (14 people with no experience, nine people with experience as contributors or co-assessors, and 10 people with experience as lead assessors).

**T-010 Support already existing and the building of new (small) cat networks in regard to organisational questions, looking for funding, making connections, capacity building, etc. (KSR 2)**

Number of networks supported: 1

Result description: The Persian Leopard Working Group has been initiated.

**T-011 Maintain and expand the Cat Specialist Group Library. (KSR 2)**

Number of new publications integrated and uploaded to the web per year: 327

Result description: Besides previously uploaded publications, 327 new documents were integrated and uploaded into the *Digital Cat library*.

### Membership

**T-006 Update the membership strategy (number of members, expertise, regional distribution, affiliations, etc.), review Terms of Reference for members and re-constitute the Cat Specialist Group. (KSR 2)**

Number of SSC members recruited: 194

Result description: The reconstitution of the Cat SG has been finalised. Not all members could register in the SSC Data system due to different technical problems, which led to a lot of frustration and additional work for the Co-Chairs. Regardless, 201 members were (re)appointed. The ToR for members has been updated and uploaded to the Cat SG website.

**T-060 Update the Cat Specialist Group in the IUCN Commission System. (KSR 2)**

Membership in the IUCN Commission System updated: 79.5%

Result description: Most but not all members could be included in the IUCN Commission System due to different problems encountered in the process.

### Synergy

**T-002 Develop a MoU with Foundation KORA for hosting the Cat Specialist Group. (KSR 1)**

Number of 'in kind' partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: MoU signed by KORA and the Cat SG.

**T-003 Develop a funding strategy, both institutional and project related, and update and adapt it annually to the work programme. (KSR 1)**

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1

Result description: A funding strategy has been developed and one new funding partnership has been established.

**T-012 Within SSC: Enhance collaboration with the SSC Chair's Office, Species Office and other Specialist Groups as possible and needed, e.g. SOS: Tiger programme, CAMI, ACI; Conservation Translocation Specialist Group: Cat Re-introduction Guidelines; Canid Specialist Group: ACI; Species Conservation Success Task Force: Green Status assessment. (KSR 3)**

IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: We conducted several online meetings with the SSC Chair on various topics. We worked together with the Global Mammal Assessment Team and the Red List Unit on specific questions regarding the Red List. We worked with CITES and CMS on various projects (see Target T014).

**T-014 UN Conventions: Continue and deepen cooperation with CITES and CMS on cat issues, e.g. African Carnivore Initiative, Central Asian Mammal Initiative, Jaguar Decisions, NDFs, etc. (KSR 3)**

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: Together with experts, and within the frame of CMS CAMI, we developed the Range-wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard through online meetings and finalised it at the First Range State Meeting of the Persian Leopard from 20-22 September 2022.

**T-015 World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), EAZA, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a.o.: Continue and deepen cooperation with AZA and EAZA Felid Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) on various issues, e.g. Eurasian Lynx recommendations, Leopard reintroduction guidelines, conservation breeding recommendations, and maintain good relationship with head offices. (KSR 3)**

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: We attended the EAZA Felid TAG workshop to update the Regional Collection Plan (January 2022) for felids.

**T-016 NGOs: Continue and deepen cooperation with specific NGOs on various cat conservation topics, e.g. WCS (Tiger), *Panthera* (Lion, Small Cats), WWF (Leopard, Jaguar). (KSR 3)**

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: We participated together with several NGOs in project Tiger Landscape Units 3.0, which aims to show the change in the distribution of the Tiger over time to highlight areas of conservation priorities and define most urgent conservation actions. Within the same group, we developed the vision *Securing a viable future for the tiger*.

**T-049 Explore in a discussion with the whole group, and adapt – if desired – the internal structure and organisation of the Cat Specialist Group, e.g. geographic subgroups, taxonomic or topical working groups, specific task forces, etc. (KSR 2)**

Appropriate structure established: Ongoing.

Result description: A mapping working group has been initiated and work will start in 2023. The taxonomy task force will become a permanent working group.

Proposal development and funding

**T-004 Secure funding to deliver K2-13. (KSR 1)**

Funding secured to deliver K2-K13: 30%  
Result description: Part of the funding was secured in 2022.

## COMMUNICATE Communication

**T-050 Produce two regular issues of Cat News with peer-reviewed articles. (KSR 12)**

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 2

Result description: *Cat News* issues 75 and 76, with 38 peer-reviewed articles, were published in 2022.

**T-052 Produce a Special Issue of Cat News on Jaguar Conservation need and Regional Strategy for South America. (KSR 12)**

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: The Special Issue on Jaguar in South America has progressed. It will be published in 2023.

**T-054 Produce a Special Issue of Cat News about the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme. (KSR 12)**

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: Work on the Special Issue has been started. It will be published in 2023.

**T-055 Renew the Cat Specialist Group website addressing more the IUCN environment. (KSR 12)**

New website developed and online: 1

Result description: A concept for the renewal of the Cat SG website was developed. The layout of the website has been discussed and will be finished in the first months of 2023. Several texts on the website have been revised or newly created. The re-launch of the website is planned for 2023.

**T-064 Keep the IUCN SSC website updated. (KSR 12)**

The Cat SG website is updated: Ongoing.

Result description: Several sections have been updated: members, terms of reference, cat profiles, *Cat News* and the conservation center.

## Acknowledgements

Working very closely with the Cat Specialist Group Co-Chairs were Manuela von Arx (Digital Cat Library, Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme), Tabea Lanz (Assistant to the Chair, Red List Assessments), Roland Bürki (Assistant to the Chair), Eline Brouwer (intern), Valentyna Laskova (book keeping): a great thank you to all of them. We would like to thank the many dedicated people who helped develop and run the various projects: Brian Bertram, Juan Repucci, Maximilian Allen, Sugoto Roy, Giridhar Malla (associate editors *Cat News*). Alex Sliwa, Patrick Meier and Sebastian Kennerknecht have generously made available their superb cat pictures for Cat Specialist Group purposes. Our projects would not be possible without financial support from many committed institutions and private persons. We are very grateful for the support of the Friends of the Cat Group, Zoo Leipzig, Fondation Segré, IUCN SSC Internal Grant, the Ayers Wild Cat Conservation Trust, Lion Recovery Fund, Caucasus Nature Fund, CMS Convention on Migratory Species, Stämpfli AG, and especially Patrick Meier, Malini Pittet and Peter Stämpfli.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 66

**Geographic regions:** 47 Global, 8 Africa, 2 America, 5 Asia, 6 Europe

**Actions during 2022:**

Assess: 9 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 4 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 14 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 5 (KSR 12)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

