

IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group



2018 Report



Christine Breitenmoser



Urs Breitenmoser

Co-Chairs

Christine Breitenmoser ⁽¹⁾
Urs Breitenmoser ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Tabea Lanz ⁽¹⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ KORA, Muri b. Bern, Switzerland
⁽²⁾ FIWI/Universtiät Bern and KORA, Muri b.
Bern, Switzerland

Number of members

193

Social networks

Facebook:
IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group
Website:
www.catsg.org



Mission statement

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

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By 2020, we will have implemented the Assess-Plan-Act (APA) approach for additional cat species. We envision to improve the status assessments and launch new conservation planning processes. These conservation initiatives will be combined with communicational and educational programmes for people and institutions living with these species.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: update key Red List assessments: Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), Chinese Mountain Cat (*Felis bieti*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) subspecies.

Research activities: develop camera trapping database which feeds into the Global Mammal Assessment and the IUCN SIS database.

Technical advice: (1) develop Cat Monitoring Guidelines; (2) conservation of the Wild Cat (*Felis silvestris*) in Scotland: review of the conservation status and assessment of conservation activities.

Plan

Planning: (1) revise the National Action Plan for Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) in Iran; (2) participate in Javan Leopard (*Panthera pardus melas*) workshop; (3) facilitate lynx workshop; (4) develop conservation strategy for the Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*); (5) plan-

ning for the Leopard in Africa and Southeast Asia; (6) updating and coordination for the Lion (*Panthera leo*) Conservation Strategy; (7) facilitate a workshop to develop a conservation strategy for the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in a number of neglected countries in collaboration with San Diego Zoo Global.

Scientific meetings: attend workshop on non-detriment findings in regard to trophy hunting in Sevilla, Spain.

Synergy: attend European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Felid Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) meetings.

Technical advice: (1) attend Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) midterm workshop; (2) attend CITES Animal Committee, Steering Committee meetings and Conference of the Parties (CoP); (3) attend first range state meeting of the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative (ACI).

Act

Conservation actions: (1) support implementation of revised strategy for Leopard in the Caucasus eco-region; (2) support implementation of revised National Action Plan for Asiatic Cheetah in Iran.

Network

Technical advice: organise a meeting with Lion specialists and the appointed Lion database manager to discuss the Lion database and the content of the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*.



Communicate

Communication: (1) World Wildlife Day celebration: Cat theme; (2) develop *Cat News* issue on the Status and Conservation Needs for Pallas's Cat; (3) develop *Cat News* issue on the Status and Conservation Needs for Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Continental Europe; (4) scale up communication and fundraising; (5) produce two regular *Cat News* issues per year.

Scientific meetings: (1) participate in the Suicide or Survival (SOS) Conference in The Hague representing the IUCN SSC APA approach; (2) attend the 2nd International Small Wild Cat Conservation Summit; (3) attend meeting of the African Lion Working Group.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. Key re-assessments of Fishing Cat, Chinese Mountain Cat and Leopard subspecies have been initiated and are underway. (KSR #1)

Technical advice

i. The conservation status of the Wild Cat in Scotland and the implementation of conservation activities have been reviewed for the Scottish Wildcat Conservation Action Plan Steering Group. Report delivered. (KSR #26)

Plan

Planning

i. Attended the Javan Leopard workshop in January 2018. (KSR #15)

ii. Facilitated a workshop on the conservation of the Bohemian-Bavarian-Austrian (BBA) Eurasian Lynx population. (KSR #18)

iii. Facilitated a workshop to develop a conservation strategy for the Pallas's Cat. (KSR #15)

iv. Developed the *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa*, delivered in English and French together with more than 50 authors from the wider Cat Specialist Group network. (KSR #15)

v. Reviewed the status of the Jaguar in a number of neglected countries in the region and developed a conservation strategy and action plan. (KSR #15)

Scientific meetings

i. Attended a workshop on non-detriment findings in regard to trophy hunting in Sevilla, Spain. (KSR #28)

Synergy

i. Attended the EAZA Felid TAG meeting in Ireland in spring 2018. (KSR #29)

Technical advice

i. Attended the CMS CAMI midterm workshop. (KSR #29)

ii. Attended the 30th CITES Animal Committee meeting in Geneva in July 2018; gave a talk in a WAZA, AZA and EAZA side event about our cooperation with zoos. (KSR #26)

iii. Attended the first range state meeting of the joint CMS-CITES African Carnivores Initiative (ACI) and presented the *Guidelines for the Conservation of the Lion in Africa* and a draft of a Leopard roadmap, as well as the Regional Conservation Strategies for the Cheetah and African Wild Dog. (KSR #26)

Act

i. Participated in meetings of the Advisory team (including the EAZA Felid TAG chair, EAZA European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) coordinator, Cat Specialist Group) for the Sochi breeding programme. (KSR #27)

Network

Technical advice

i. Organised and held a workshop with key Lion people on the Lion database and content of the *Guidelines for the Conservation of Lions in Africa*. (KSR #26)

Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*), Near Threatened
Photo: P. Meier



Pallas's Cat Workshop Group
Photo: Nordens Ark

Lions in Mana Pools in Zimbabwe
Photo: P. Meier



Celebration of World Wildlife Day 2018 in Bern
Photo: Cat SG archives



Communicate

Communication

- i.** Celebration with a symposium on cat conservation in Bern with participation of CITES and CMS Secretariats. The proceedings of the symposium just got published as a special issue of *Cat News*. (KSR #28)
- ii.** All chapters of the *Cat News* issue on the Status and Conservation Needs for Pallas's Cat have been drafted and are either in the review process or already in the layout. The Special Issue will be out in spring 2019. (KSR #28)
- iii.** Invitations for a symposium to produce a *Cat News* issue on the Status and Conservation Needs for Eurasian Lynx in Continental Europe are out, and guidelines for the chapters are developed. (KSR #28)
- iv.** Produced two regular *Cat News* issues (CN67 and CN68) with 34 peer reviewed papers. (KSR #28)

Scientific meetings

- i.** Participated in the Suicide or Survival (SOS) Conference, The Hague, with a presentation on the SSC Species Conservation Cycle. (KSR #28)

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, website, Red List Assessments), Roland Bürki (support to the Chair), Anna Huber (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: Alex Sliwa (Sochi leopard reintroduction), Marianne Hartmann (Sochi leopard reintroduction), Keith Richmond, Brian Bertram, Juan Repucci and Maximilian Allen (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: Friends of the Cat Group, MAVA Foundation, Zoo Leipzig, Forestry Bureau of the Taiwan Council of Agriculture, the Governments of Switzerland, Germany and Belgium, Fondation Segré, AZA Felid TAG, Copenhagen Zoo, IUCN Netherlands, Nordens Ark, Council of Europe, Convention on Migratory Species, Foundation Temperatio, Inflow AG, Stämpfli Publikationen AG, and especially Patrick Meier and Peter Stämpfli.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	2	
Plan	10	
Act	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	5	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 18, 26, 27, 28, 29

KSR: Key Species Result