

IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group

2020 Report



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Chair

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Location/Affiliation

Global Conservation Network, 12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124 US

Number of members

310

Social networks

Facebook:

Conservation Planning Specialist Group

Instagram: [iucn_conservationplanningsg](#)

Twitter: [@IUCN_CPSG](#)

Website: [www.cpsg.org](#)



Mission statement

The mission of IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. For over 30 years, we've accomplished this by using scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyse positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums, and other wildlife organisations.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Through the implementation of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) 2017–2020 Strategic Plan, we will more efficiently prioritise and plan for target species; develop and apply best practice planning methods that are based on a One Plan approach; increase species conservation planning capacity across the SSC, governments and other key partner organisations; improve the ability of governments to reach biodiversity targets through species conservation planning; and continuously improve species conservation planning methods by evaluating their impact and effectiveness. Together, these goals will allow us to enhance our and the SSC's ability to plan more effectively for threatened species and ultimately improve the status of biodiversity worldwide.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: explore deployment of a more rapid risk assessment tool for Specialist Group-driven risk assessments, particularly for species-rich taxonomic groups, to accelerate the diagnosis of taxa for which planning might be needed.

Plan

Planning: (1) deploy a universally applicable conservation needs assessment tool; (2) improve complementarity between Red Listing, conservation needs assessments, and conservation planning; (3) develop and test new mechanism(s) for evaluating the impact of conservation plans and enhancing the SSC's species conservation planning process to increase probability of implementation and facilitate future evaluation; (4) implement and manage the SSC monitoring and evaluation mechanism; (5) lead, guide and support SSC Specialist Groups in species conservation planning.

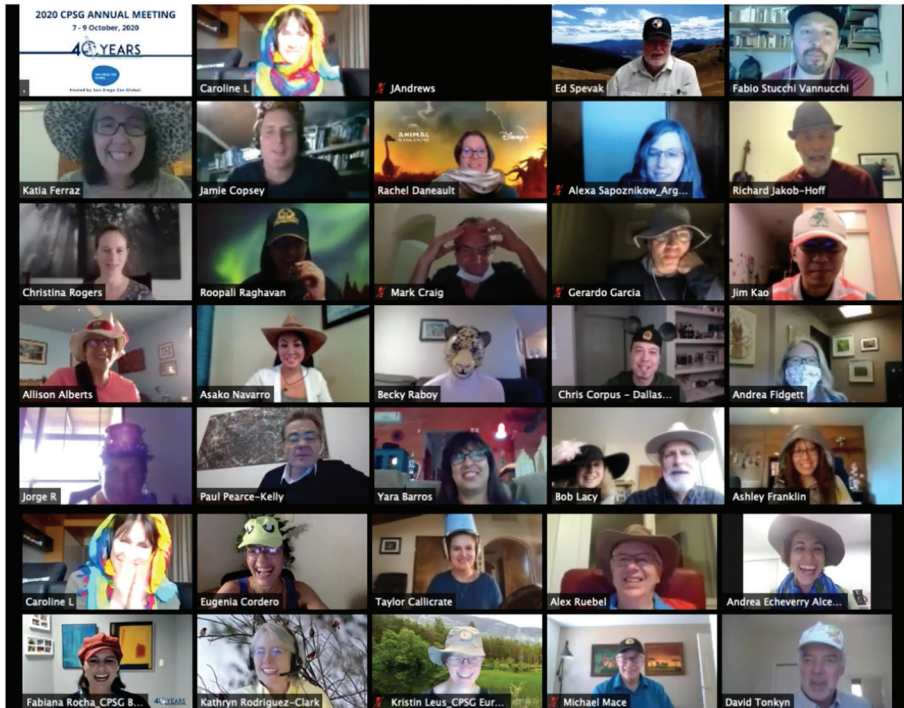
Act

Conservation actions: (1) increase awareness and consideration of potential *ex situ* conservation roles and activities where appropriate among all species conservation planners and population managers; (2) provide tools and processes for evaluating and incorporating *ex situ* options into species conservation and collection planning; (3) promote integrated species conservation planning by involving both *in situ* and *ex situ* communities in the One Plan Approach to species conservation and collection planning processes.



ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Celebrating CPSG's 40th Anniversary during CPSG's 2020 Annual Meeting
Photo: CPSG



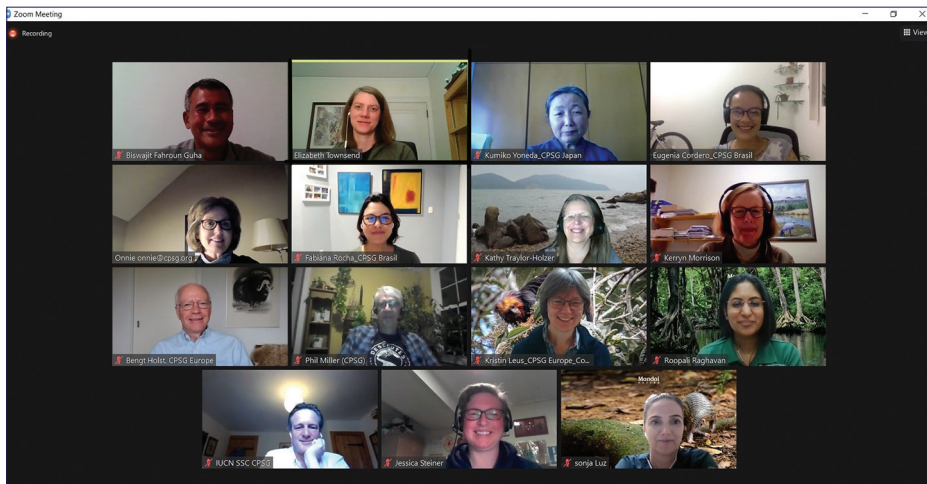
2020 CPSG Annual meeting | Day 3

Network

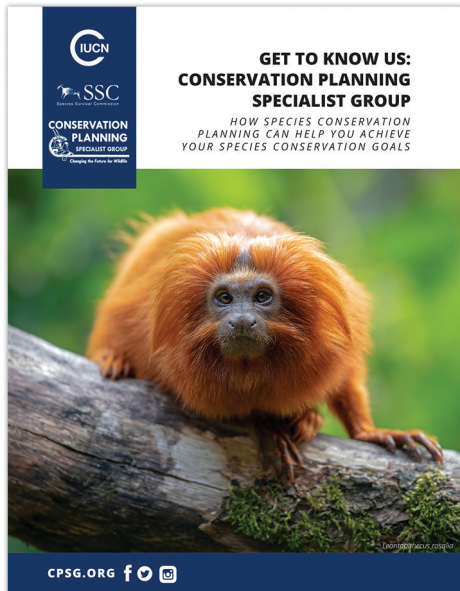
Capacity building: (1) establish and implement CPSG's Species Conservation Planning Training Programme; (2) launch the Species Conservation Planners Development Path programme. By 2020, a minimum of 50 participants will have passed through the development path.

Synergy: establish CPSG Species Conservation Planning Learning Network (SPLAN).

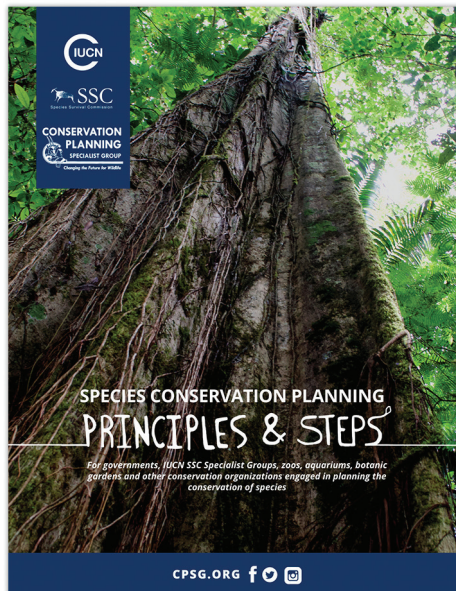
Technical advice: (1) provide a generic process for species prioritisation for planning, adaptable to a range of relevant situations; (2) increase the rate of conservation planning (number of species with identified conservation needs and actions); (3) explore opportunities to strengthen the tools and processes used for single-species conservation planning activities; (4) develop a suite of planning tools and templates that can be applied to planning activities for multiple species on a landscape; (5) contribute to enhancing the SSC Species Conservation Planning Guidelines; (6) increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library; (7) create a facilitation skill subsection of the species conservation planning processes tools library; (8) within our area of influence, develop a clear and practical response to the challenges countries face in achieving Biodiversity Targets; (9) assist governments to use the SSC species conservation planning process to help them meet their obligations under Target 12 of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2020 Strategic Plan; (10) play a meaningful role in influencing the next iteration of biodiversity targets, post-2020, ensuring that species conservation planning is included in the next set of internationally agreed biodiversity conservation targets; (11) expand CPSG capacity in Southeast Asia.



A virtual meeting of CPSG's Regional Resource Centers
Photo: CPSG



Cover of CPSG's "Get to Know CPSG" resource document
Photo: CPSG



Cover of CPSG's "Species Conservation Planning Principles & Steps" resource document
Photo: CPSG

Activities and results 2020

Plan

Planning

- i.** CPSG's Assess to Plan (A2P) tool continues to be developed and trialled; CPSG led two A2P workshops in 2020, for Kenyan trees and for European hoverflies, reviewing over 376 species. (KSR #15)
- ii.** CPSG's Assess to Plan (A2P) tool continues to be refined and trialled to integrate it into the Red Listing process. (KSR #15)
- iii.** The Red List Index was tested for evaluating the impact of initial planning intervention on long-term aggregate conservation status of multiple taxa. (KSR #16)
- iv.** The database of SSC plans was further developed to capture additional information. The project is ongoing. (KSR #16)
- v.** CPSG's planning activities in 2020 involved numerous other SSC Specialist Groups, including the Primate Specialist Group (Black Lion Tamarin, *Leontopithecus chrysopygus*, population viability analysis), the Bumblebee Specialist Group (Rusty-patched Bumble Bee, *Bombus affinis*, *ex situ* assessment), and the Hoverfly Specialist Group (hoverfly A2P). Additionally, CPSG published its 'Species Conservation Planning Principles & Steps' document as a tool for other SSC Specialist Groups to use to guide their planning work. (KSR #20)

Act

Conservation actions

- i.** CPSG provided or participated in *ex situ* conservation for One Plan Approach webinars and discussions for zoo and aquarium associations, universities and other conservation partners. Five webinars or roundtable discussions were held. (KSR #25)

ii. CPSG led or participated in workshops to assess the potential role(s) of *ex situ* management in the conservation of the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), Purple-winged Ground Dove (*Paraclaravis geoffroyi*), Galliformes and Tinamiformes (10 taxa), Amazon parrot species, Japanese Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica minor*), Cobble Skink (*Oligosoma robinsoni*) and Sumatran Tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*). Seven *ex situ* conservation assessment/planning or Intensively Managed Populations (IMP) for Conservation meetings/projects were completed. (KSR #25)

iii. CPSG led or participated in 28 species conservation planning meetings for over 787 species found in more than 58 countries. (KSR #25)

Network

Capacity building

i. CPSG led four training activities in CPSG's species conservation planning tools and processes, including a virtual retreat for participants in CPSG's Planner Development Path Mentorship Programme. One-hundred and nine (109) individuals completed training, 50% of all course graduates reporting design and/or facilitation of species conservation planning in 2020, with 324 species impacted by this planning in 19 countries. (KSR #17)

ii. Since 2018, 13 mentees have completed or are still participating in CPSG's Planner Development Path Mentorship Programme. A new cohort of mentees is in the process of being developed. (KSR #17)

Synergy

i. sPLAN was launched as CPSG-Connect including a group Facebook page and WhatsApp group. It consists of individuals who have completed CPSG training courses and is used to share information, seek planning support, and to network. (KSR #29)

Technical advice

i. CPSG's Assess to Plan (A2P) tool continues to be developed and trialled. (KSR #21)

ii. CPSG led one *ex situ* assessment and planning workshop for 10 taxa of Galliformes and Tinamiformes, integrated into the relevant National Action Plan. (KSR #21)

iii. We are actively involved in the Reverse the Red initiative to offer countries the tools, processes and capacity development needed to apply Assess-Plan-Act at a national level. We contributed to development of the IUCN Global Species Action Plan in 2020 and will continue to contribute to its development in 2021. (KSR #21)

iv. CPSG produced and distributed a document ('Get to Know CPSG') designed to introduce national wildlife agencies (via IUCN Regional and Country Offices) to the tools, processes and capacity development CPSG has to offer to assist them with the plan component of Assess-Plan-Act. CPSG is currently assisting wildlife agencies (or the equivalent) in Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, US, Republic of Korea, Europe and others with species planning. (KSR #21)

v. CPSG contributed to development of the IUCN Global Species Action Plan in 2020 and will continue to contribute to its development in 2021. We participated in only one policy forum but are working with the IUCN Global Species Programme to ensure that planning is recognised as a tool for conservation of species. We added Dao Nguyen from the Global Species Programme to our strategic committee to link more directly to their policy work. (KSR #21)

Acknowledgements

CPSG acknowledges its donors, members, and partners.

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Plan	5	
Act	3	
Network	8	

Main KSRs addressed: 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 25, 29

KSR: Key Species Result