

IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Onnie Byers

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

Minnesota, US

Number of members

272

Social networks

Facebook:

Conservation Planning Specialist Group

Twitter:

@IUCN_CPSG



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group is to scale up effective species conservation planning in the SSC in order to support efforts to conserve and restore populations of species under threat and ultimately to halt species extinctions. CPSG helps 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 catalyze positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, other Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums and other wildlife organizations.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. Produced a portfolio of species conservation planning-related training courses, including online and face-to-face courses, to be offered by CPSG and collaborators. (KSR #17)

ii. Launched an 18-month long development path for species conservation planners. (KSR #17)

iii. Developed a funding proposal for the training initiative. (KSR #17)

■ Conservation activities

i. Facilitated 27 Species Conservation Planning Workshops for 19 species, including the Iberian lynx and the helmeted hornbill, in 14 countries with participants from the *in situ* and *ex situ* community, government, academic institutions, NGOs, and other conservation organizations. (KSR #17, KSR #25)

ii. Conducted six Training Workshops in four countries. (KSR #15)

iii. Participated in nine conferences in six countries. (KSR #15)

iv. Facilitated two Planning Workshops for conservation organizations. (KSR #20)

v. Changed our name from IUCN SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group to IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group. (KSR #20)

■ Synergy

i. Created the Species Conservation Planning Support Directory, a resource for Specialist Groups seeking technical assistance for species conservation planning by connecting them to others willing to share their expertise (<http://www.cpsg.org/new-initiatives/species-conservation-planning-support-directory>). This is a living document that can be added to by contacting the CPSG office (office@cpsg.org). (KSR #29)

■ Technical advice

i. Conducted a survey to gauge current planning expertise and needs among SSC Specialist Groups. (KSR #21)

ii. Created the SSC Species Conservation Planning Project Inventory, which is a compilation of planning projects conducted or enabled by SSC Specialist Groups between 2012 and 2017 (<http://www.cpsg.org/new-initiatives/ssc-species-conservation-planning-project-inventory>). This is a living document that can be added to by contacting the CPSG office (office@cpsg.org). (KSR #18)

Acknowledgements

We thank all 272 CPSG members, our 10 volunteer CPSG Regional Resource Centers, our many project partners and the generous and loyal donors of the Global Conservation Network that support CPSG's work.

International Conference on One Plan Approach Conservation Planning and Formosan Pangolin PHVA Workshop hosted by Taipei Zoo, Taiwan facilitated by CPSG
Photo: Taipei Zoo



CPSG training course in Brazil on using the IUCN Guidelines on the Use of *Ex Situ* Management for Species Conservation as a tool to guide the implementation of recommended *ex situ* activities during species conservation planning
Photo: Kristin Leus



Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

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

Bolster work at national scales

Technical advice: (1) within our area of influence, develop a clear and practical response to the challenge facing countries in achieving Biodiversity Targets; (2) assist governments to use the SSC species conservation planning process to help them meet their obligations under Target 12 of the CBD 2020 Strategic Plan; (3) 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 targets.

Capacity building

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

Conservation activities: (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) CPSG to lead, guide and support SSC Specialist Groups in species conservation planning.

Synergy: establish CPSG Species Conservation Planning Learning Network.

Technical advice: (1) provide a generic process for species prioritization 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 facilitation skill sub-section of the Tools Library.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) facilitate species conservation planning workshops and provide training in conservation planning tools and processes; (2) increase awareness and consideration of potential *ex situ* conservation roles and activities where appropriate among all species conservation planners and population managers; (3) provide tools and processes for evaluating and incorporating *ex situ* options into species conservation and collection planning; (4) promote integrated species conservation planning by involving both *in situ* and *ex situ* communities in the One Plan Approach species conservation and collection planning processes.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The IUCN SSC CPSG Strategic Plan is designed to provide a shape and direction to our actions, in collaboration with other SSC Specialist Groups, to increase substantially the effectiveness of the SSC's leadership in planning to avoid

species extinctions. The Plan consists of five high level goals, with associated objects (see Targets for the quadrennium), which map directly to SSC Strategic Plan KSRs 15-18, 21 and 25. All actions in the plan are intended to be steps toward the same end, scaling up effective species conservation planning in the SSC in order to support efforts to conserve and restore populations of species under threat and ultimately to halt species extinctions. The five goals are: (1) target species are prioritized, and conservation needs assessed, for conservation plan development and conservation planning efforts are expanded; (2) context-specific, best practice planning methods are applied based on a One Plan Approach; (3) species conservation planning capacity is increased across SSC Specialist Groups and governments; (4) the ability of governments to meet international biodiversity targets is improved and (5) species conservation planning methods are evaluated for impact and effectiveness, leading to continual improvement.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 1/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Capacity building (11 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 17, 18, 20, 21, 29

Resolutions 2016 WCC: 040, 045, 056, 057, 069

KSR: Key Species Result