

IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



P.J. Stephenson

Chair

P. J. Stephenson

Location/Affiliation

Science & Knowledge Unit, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland & Ecosystem Management Group, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Number of members

42

Social networks

Twitter:

@Monitor_Species



SPECIES MONITORING
Specialist Group

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group (SMSG) aims to enhance biodiversity conservation by improving the availability and use of data on species populations, their habitats and threats.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Research activities

- i. Working with a volunteer (Laura Van Galen) and Alessandro Badalotti of IUCN SOS, we reviewed the SOS project portfolio to identify trends in data availability. The results were presented in a report which will be adapted into a scientific paper in 2018 and also incorporated into the larger data gap analysis. (KSR #32)
- ii. With help from Laura Van Galen (SMSG volunteer) we used Survey Monkey to assess the monitoring issues in taxonomic specialist groups identifying their data gaps, their capacity and their support needs. The results were presented in a draft report which will be used to feed into a broader data gap analysis. Each group that replied will be engaged to identify potential follow up and support from SMSG. (KSR #32)

Bolster work at national scales

■ Proposal development and funding

- i. Over 30 potential donors were approached to seek funding for group projects and core costs. Initial success has seen the funding of the project "A global audit of biodiversity monitoring" and the Chair's involvement in biodiversity measures work with IUCN's Business & Biodiversity Programme. Several field projects were developed in Latin America and Africa that will start in 2018 if more funding is secured.

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

- i. Strategic plan developed by the group, building on the ideas generated at monitoring workshop held at the SSC Leaders Meeting in 2015 and refined during group conference calls. (KSR #18)

■ Proposal development and funding

- i. Collaborating with the IUCN Secretariat, funding was secured for part of the Chair's time during 2017 and into 2018. (KSR #19)

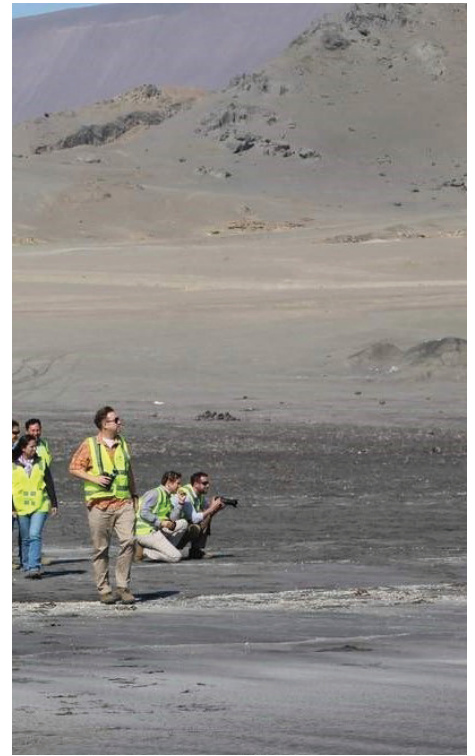
Communications

■ Communication

- i. By the end of 2016, we had in place a branded website to showcase the group's strategy and projects and fund-raising needs, and a Twitter account regularly sharing news and scientific papers relating to species monitoring. (KSR #28)

■ Research activities

- i. In 2017, four scientific papers were published on monitoring by the chair in collaboration with other group members, and an additional three were submitted and are under review. (KSR #32)



Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

i. Forty core members invited to start strategic planning processes and develop first projects; membership will be expanded in 2018 to ensure wider representation of geographic, taxonomic and technical expertise and better gender balance.

Acknowledgements

We thank Tom Brooks and Cyrie Sendashonga at IUCN HQ and Jaboury Ghazoul at ETH Zürich for their support to the chair and Laura Van Galen for her incredibly helpful volunteer placement with the group.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Research activities: (1) review of SOS portfolio data completed and taxonomic and geographic trends identified; (2) survey of SSC taxonomic specialist groups completed and trends in taxonomic and geographic data gaps, and SG monitoring capacity needs, identified; (3) at least one project p.a. implemented to demonstrate monitoring tools and best practices and deliver the group's strategic plan; (4) at least three monitoring frameworks produced for specific uses (e.g., PAs, KBAs, business, restoration, etc.); (5) a database of monitoring systems, tools and data sources is available online; (6) at least one IUCN data product p.a. is improved through input from, the SMSG.

Bolster work at national scales

Proposal development and funding: funding secured annually (CHF) for core and project costs.

Capacity building

Capacity building: at least one training webinar p.a. offered to SSC groups and their partners to improve capacity for monitoring.

Technical advice: at least eight monitoring plans are developed for taxonomic SGs, including at least two for taxa previously unmonitored systematically.

Communications

Research activities: At least one scientific paper published annually promoting goals of the group and IUCN data products produced.

Projected impact for the quadrennium

By 2020, the capacity of the SSC network and its partners for data collection, analysis, sharing and use are enhanced, resulting in at least ten significant initiatives starting to fill identified taxonomic and geographic gaps in species data needed for IUCN Red List assessments. We therefore expect Red List assessments for at least 30 species to use richer data sets.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 5/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (2 activities)
- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Capacity building (2 activities)
- Communications (2 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 18, 19, 28, 32

KSR: Key Species Result



PJ speaking at WCC 2016