

IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group

2018 Report



P.J. Stephenson

Chair

P.J. Stephenson

Location/Affiliation

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

Number of members

40

Social networks

Twitter:

@Monitor_Species

Website:

www.speciesmonitoring.org



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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By 2020, the capacity of the SSC network and its partners for data collection, analysis, sharing and use is 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.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Research actions: (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, as well as Specialist Group monitoring capacity needs, identified; (3) at least one scientific paper published annually promoting the goals of the group and IUCN data products; (4) at least one project implemented per year to demonstrate monitoring tools and best practices and deliver the group's strategic plan; (5) at least three monitoring frameworks produced for specific uses (e.g. protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, business, restoration, etc.); (6) a database of monitoring systems, tools and data sources is available online; (7) at least one IUCN data product per year is improved through input from the SMSG.

Act

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

Network

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

Proposal development and funding: funding secured annually (CHF) for core and project costs (value of grants received: US\$ 150,000).

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Research actions

- i.** Review of SOS portfolio data completed, paper ready for submission to peer-reviewed journal. (KSR #32)
- ii.** Survey of SSC taxonomic specialist groups completed, report produced, paper in preparation. (KSR #32)
- iii.** In 2017-18, seven papers (equivalent to 3.5 per annum) were published by the SMSG Chair (with members) on biodiversity monitoring issues. (KSR #32)
- iv.** SMSG projects implemented in 2018 included: "A Global Audit of Biodiversity Monitoring" and "Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting Frameworks for Business". Updates are on the SMSG website at: <https://www.speciesmonitoring.org/programmes--projects.html> (KSR #32)
- v.** Draft monitoring guidelines produced for business. (KSR #14)
- vi.** A preliminary list of tools and data sources is available online. A full database of known monitoring projects and an additional database of all available data sets will be completed in 2019.



Claude Garcia of ETH Zürich explaining the role-playing game MineSet to IUCN staff at an SMSG/IUCN/ETH workshop, September 2018
Photo: PJ Stephenson

P.J. Stephenson, SMSG chair (right), working with Guy Parker of Fauna & Flora International's business team, to assess biodiversity monitoring needs of an Enel power plant in Chile.
Photo: Jermone Duramy



The Enel sustainability team for Brazil outside their office in Rio. The team worked with the SMSG chair to develop corporate biodiversity indicators
Photo: PJ Stephenson

vii. The Chair is an active member of the IUCN Green List of Species Task Force and in 2019 will help finalise the standard and the guidelines. (KSR #14)

Network

Proposal development and funding

i. (1) Funding from the Cambridge Conservation Initiative Collaborative Fund used to implement A Global Audit of Biodiversity Monitoring project; (2) funding from Enel supported the IUCN Global Business and Biodiversity Programme and the SMSG Chair to implement the project Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting Frameworks for Business; (3) funding secured from Audemars-Watkins Foundation by Centre for African Wetlands for protected area project in Ghana. (KSR #19)

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Assess **7** ██████████

Network **1** █

Main KSRs addressed: 14, 19, 32

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2012-RES-41

KSR: Key Species Result