

IUCN SSC Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group

2020 Report



K.S. Gopi Sundar



Luis Santiago Cano Alonso

Co-Chairs

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Red List Authority

BirdLife International

Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

107

Social networks

Website: <http://storkibisspoonbill.org>



Mission statement

The Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group (SIS-SG) is a global network of scientists, conservationists, governmental and non-governmental institutions and people committed to the scientific understanding and conservation of SIS species and their habitats.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision a substantial advance in creating a strong network, and a sustainable and active Specialist Group based on participation of the best specialists on our species of concern worldwide. Specifically, our focus will be to raise enough resources to maintain the activity of the Specialist Group, creating a scientific network and promoting scientific research, meetings and conservation actions among members and partners, including other Specialist Groups, who will contribute to improve the knowledge of our species of concern and their threats.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Network

Capacity building: organise the First World Symposium of Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill.
Proposal development and funding: obtain sponsorship for the functioning of the SIS-SG.
Synergy: (1) facilitate communications with related waterbird Specialist Groups to help with capacity building; (2) establish at least two new working groups.

Communicate

Communication: enhance wider communication and share research and conservation findings related to Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill (SIS) species worldwide.

Activities and results 2020

Network

Proposal development and funding

i. The SIS-SG was granted with an IUCN SSC Internal Small Grant. This grant is used to fund communication issues such as the website and the publication *SIS Conservation*. (KSR #19)

Synergy

i. We organised the discussion for reassessment of the status of Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*), and this led to the downlisting of the species from Vulnerable to Near Threatened. Most of the information provided for the status assessment discussion was also compiled as papers in the Special Section of Issue 2 of *SIS Conservation (SISC)*. (KSR #27)
ii. We intended to establish a second working group in 2020 (likely Black Stork or Black-headed Ibis International Network), but because of various challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was not accomplished. (KSR #27)

Communicate

Communication

i. Twelve original articles completed the second Issue of *SIS Conservation* (available on our website as open access in December 2020), nine of them under a special section devoted to Woolly-necked Stork. Some new sections were established: Opinion, Letters to *SISC* and Reviewers. (KSR #28)



Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

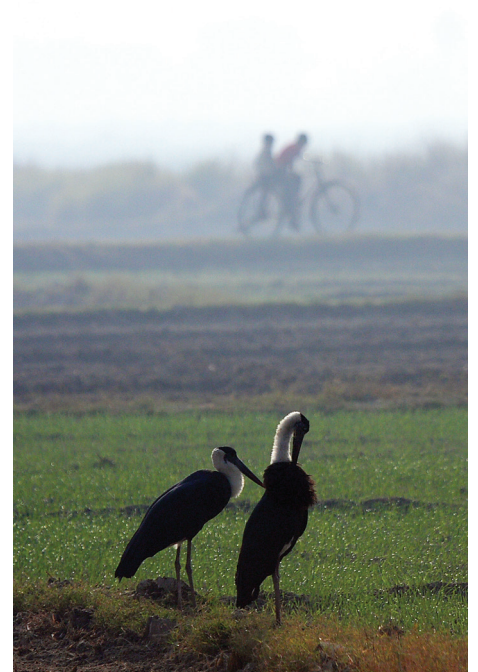
Network **3** |||

Communicate **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 9, 27, 28

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-027

KSR: Key Species Result



Near Threatened Wolly-necked Storks,
Ciconia episcopus, in Etawah, India
Photo: Gopi Sundar