



Species

ISSUE 63

2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC’s major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

ASSESS: Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

PLAN: Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

ACT: Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

NETWORK: Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

COMMUNICATE: Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network each year. Each SSC Group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

Structure of the IUCN SSC Stand-alone Report

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

Title of the SSC Group

Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

Group information

Includes names of Chair / Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators and Program Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

Logo of the SSC Group

Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC Group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

Example for the recommended citation:

Shirley, MH and Parker, K. 2023. 2022 Report of the Pangolin Specialist Group. In: Nassar, JM, García, L, Mendoza, L, Andrade, ND, Bezeng, S, Birkhoff, J, Bohm, M, Canteiro, C, Geschke, J, Henriques, S, Ivande, S, Mileham, K, Ramos, M, Rodríguez, A, Rodríguez, JP, Street, B, and Yerena, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 10 pp..

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

189

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @PangolinSG

Instagram: @pangolinsg

Twitter: @PangolinSG

Website: <https://www.pangolinsg.org>

YouTube: IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group

Mission statement

The mission of the Pangolin Specialist Group (PSG) is to work within the framework of the IUCN SSC to secure a future for wild pangolins through advancing knowledge on pangolin status, threats, and conservation priorities, and by catalysing action to conserve them.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Our vision for this quadrennium is that pangolins are globally celebrated and thriving in viable populations. Conservation action for pangolins from local to international scales is informed by abundant research data and guided by a cohesive pangolin conservation community.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-012 Update global Red List assessments for the eight pangolin species by 2024.
Status: Not initiated

T-013 Encourage, support, and facilitate member-driven pangolin research initiatives to better understand targeted pangolin conservation initiatives.
Status: On track

T-014 Formalise and maintain a pangolin trade, trafficking, and seizure database.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-015 Update the global conservation action plan 'Scaling Up Pangolin Conservation' by 2024.
Status: Not initiated

T-016 Develop range-wide or regional conservation strategies for African pangolin species following the One Plan Approach by the end of 2025.
Status: On track

T-017 Develop range-wide or regional conservation strategies for Asian pangolin species and populations not covered by existing strategies by the end of 2025.
Status: Not initiated

T-018 Produce an updated authoritative report on the status, trade, conservation, and legislation affording protection to pangolins for the CITES Standing Committee to be submitted to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74).
Status: On track

T-019 Contribute scientific and technical expertise to CITES meetings.
Status: Achieved

ACT

T-020 Respond to requests for technical support from IUCN, SSC, governments, and other stakeholders.
Status: On track

T-021 Publish technical guidance documents to support specific priority conservation interventions for pangolins globally.
Status: On track

T-022 Publish position statements on critical pangolin conservation interventions/issues.
Status: On track

T-028 Publish and circulate a guidance document for first responders on handling live seized pangolins by 2021.
Status: Achieved

T-029 Publish a guidance document on best practices of live transport of pangolins by 2025.
Status: On track

T-030 Publish pangolin scale seizure conversion tool by 2023.
Status: On track

T-031 Publish and circulate a guidance document on rescued pangolin translocation by 2025.
Status: Not initiated

T-032 Distribute a guidance document on methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations to key stakeholders by 2023.
Status: On track

T-033 Publish a guidance document on Safe and Sustainable Pangolin Tourism Practices by 2023.
Status: On track



Working with Cameroonian MINFOF on CITES Decision 18.239
Photo: M. Shirley

T-034 Publish a guidance document on collecting, storing, transporting, etc., of pangolin genetic, stable isotope and other samples for laboratory analysis by the end of 2022.

Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-001 Expand Pangolin Specialist Group membership to be more inclusive and representative of the diverse community of pangolin science, conservation, and management expertise, and the 54 range states where pangolins occur, both *in situ* and *ex situ*, by 2025.

Status: On track

T-002 Restructure and refresh the PSG advisory committee by 2022 to more effectively achieve our mission and targets, to be more representative of the regions where pangolins occur, as well as to better provide opportunities for mentorship and capacity building for emerging and future range state PSG leaders.

Status: Achieved

T-003 Convene Pangolin Specialist Group members to strengthen the network and advance dialogue on pressing pangolin conservation science, issues, and solutions.

Status: On track

T-004 Ensure the PSG membership collectively develops community principles, vision, updated mission, goals, objectives, and actions, and produces impactful outputs and outcomes relevant to the PSG mandate through participatory processes.

Status: Achieved

T-005 By 2022, develop a member portal as part of the PSG website, or other platform, to enhance member engagement, collaboration, and access to resources.

Status: On track

T-006 Increase member capacity to engage in the Assess, Plan, Act conservation cycle and implement the One Plan Approach to conservation planning and implementation.

Status: On track

T-007 Establish more than one new formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to PSG by 2025.

Status: On track

T-008 Establish a 'Friends of the PSG' to harness volunteer support for PSG financial, administrative and institutional needs by the end of 2022.

Status: Not initiated

T-009 Revive the Pangolin Specialist Group internship programme by the end of 2022.

Status: On track

T-010 Continue building relationships with range state governments.

Status: On track

T-011 Increase the PSG profile through presence and participation in key global conservation fora.

Status: On track

T-027 Increase and secure core Pangolin Specialist Group funding, including development of PSG potential endowment.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-023 Share the Pangolin Specialist Group's activities through strategic and targeted communications.

Status: On track

T-024 Document and communicate successful local community engagement case studies to catalyse such engagement in other places for pangolin conservation.

Status: Not initiated

T-025 Document and communicate successful law enforcement for interdiction of pangolin crime through case studies.

Status: Not initiated

T-026 Develop materials for educators in formal and informal settings to educate and inspire school children about pangolins by 2025.

Status: On track

T-035 Create a mechanism for Pangolin Specialist Group members to share information and data by mid-2022.

Status: Achieved



CITES CoP19 Side Event on Pangolin Scale Trafficking
Photo: M. Shirley

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Communication

T-014 Formalise and maintain a pangolin trade, trafficking, and seizure database. (KSR 5)

Annual reports from database produced: 0
Result description: In 2022, our Trade and Trafficking Database Focal Point developed the initial draft database structure and populated it with a preliminary set of entries. We secured funding to create the database, which will be finalised in 2023.

Research activities

T-013 Encourage, support, and facilitate member-driven pangolin research initiatives to better understand targeted pangolin conservation initiatives. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: In 2022, the PSG coordinated a partnership among five members from four different countries, including two range states, to secure funding for Operation Pangolin to be initiated in Cameroon and Gabon. We additionally supported members and their conservation initiatives by providing 14 letters of support to potential funders and permitting authorities.

PLAN

Planning

T-016 Develop range-wide or regional conservation strategies for African pangolin species following the One Plan Approach by the end of 2025. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: In 2022 the PSG started the process of developing the very first West Africa Regional Plan for Pangolin Conservation. We developed a planning and facilitation team, undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify key participants for the planning workshop



PSG and Nigerian Customs Service Team Collaboration for CITES Decision 18.239
Photo: M. Shirley

and allocated the funding. In December, the core planning and facilitation team met in person in Accra to finalise the workshop details and put in place all of the logistics for the workshop to be held in 2023. We partnered with USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABiLED) and FFI to implement this plan.

Policy

T-018 Produce an updated authoritative report on the status, trade, conservation and legislation affording protection to pangolins for the CITES Standing Committee to be submitted to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74). (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 0

Result description: In 2022, the PSG advanced work related to CITES Decision 18.239, including the submission of reports to the CITES Animals Committee. This work is ongoing, and we anticipate providing final guidance to the Parties in 2023 or 2024.

T-019 Contribute scientific and technical expertise to CITES meetings. (KSR 9)

Number of contributions by SSC groups to CITES or CMS for listing or uplisting species: 1

Result description: The PSG participated as members of the IUCN delegation to CoP19 (Panama, November 2022), including both the Co-Chair (M. Shirley) and our CITES Focal Point (D. Challender). During the CoP19 we made a key intervention related to agenda items 71.1 and 71.2 on behalf of the IUCN and worked with governments and observers to provide the technical advice needed for their interventions.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-021 Publish technical guidance documents to support specific priority conservation interventions for pangolins globally. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: In 2022, the PSG provided an updated, finalised version of a First Responder's Guide to Short-term Care of Live Pangolins seized from wildlife trafficking. We also translated this guide into French and Chinese, which will be available shortly. We produced a guidance document on pangolins and zoonotic disease transmission, with particular emphasis on the relationship between pangolins and SARS-CoV-2, which was made available to the membership for their interactions with diverse pangolin conservation stakeholders. We initiated the process of developing guidance on live transport of pangolins, including needed updates for IATA regulations, as well as developing guidance on pangolin tourism and photography for social media purposes. These latter will be finalised in 2023 or 2024.

T-028 Publish and circulate a guidance document for first responders on handling live seized pangolins by 2021. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: The PSG completed this guidance in 2022 and published it on our website. The guide was submitted as an Inf. Doc to CITES CoP19 (https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-CoP19-Inf-58_0.pdf). We also have it translated into Chinese and French, which will be published on those language versions of the website as soon as they are completed.

T-029 Publish a guidance document on best practices of live transport of pangolins by 2025. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: In 2022, the PSG formed a working group to begin drafting this guidance document. The drafting group nearly completed it in time to submit it as an Inf. Doc to CITES CoP19 but ran into delays aligning it with its use as the basis for updated IATA guidance. We hope to complete this in 2023.

T-030 Publish pangolin scale seizure conversion tool by 2023. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: Significant data collection and fieldwork progress were made towards achieving the pangolin scale conversion tool. We have nearly achieved the minimum sample size for scale mass for each pangolin species and have additionally collected data on at least 57 seizures in Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda and Kenya, involving 569 bags or containers and >22 tonnes of scales. This data is helping inform our expectations for species composition at the container and consignment levels, including any geographical correlations. We submitted an updated report to CITES AC32 (<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-AC32-31.pdf>).

T-033 Publish a guidance document on Safe and Sustainable Pangolin Tourism Practices by 2023. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: We formed a working group to draft this guidance in 2022 and decided to expand the guidance to also include responsible practices in pangolin social media posts, photography and filming. We hope to achieve this guidance realistically in 2024.

Policy

T-022 Publish position statements on critical pangolin conservation interventions/issues. (KSR 10)

Number of position statements addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: The farming position statement drafting group advanced the revisions, but ultimately decided to pause developing this guidance in the face of other priorities and rapidly evolving information related to wildlife farming due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Working on CITES Decision 18.239 with the Nigerian Customs Service
 Photo: M. Shirley

Technical advice

T-020 Respond to requests for technical support from IUCN, SSC, governments and other stakeholders. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 10
 Result description: At the 19th CITES Conference of the Parties in Panama agenda, the Parties expressed significant interest in agenda item 71.2 regarding proposed amendments to Resolution Conf. 17.10. The head of the IUCN Delegation charged the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group (PSG) with preparing an intervention to ensure the Parties had the best available evidence-based information to support their discussion and decision-making. At the request of the Committee II Chair, PSG Co-Chair Matt Shirley presented the intervention, which was developed with input from Co-Chair Keri Parker, CITES Focal Point Dan Challender, and the PSG Steering Committee. Prior to CITES CoP19, Co-Chair Keri Parker responded to a US Federal Register notice requesting recommendations for priority agenda items, decisions and resolutions of importance for the consideration of the US Delegation to the CoP19 alerting those threats to pangolins, including intercontinental and

international trafficking, continue to escalate the risk of pangolins becoming extinct. The PSG submitted updates regarding work in response to Decision 18.239 developing conversion parameters for seized pangolin scales. The Kenya Wildlife Service invited the PSG to an inception workshop for the development of a country-level pangolin conservation action plan. Co-Chair Matt Shirley and East Africa Chair Stuart Nixon, as well as PSG Members Michelle Moeller and Alegria Olmedo, provided significant input into the workshop including providing recommendations and guidance on how to incorporate stakeholder mapping and other best practices into the design of the future planning endeavour. The PSG continued to provide cooperative leadership and support with Fauna and Flora International and the USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABILED) initiative to develop a conservation planning workshop for pangolins in the West Africa Region. The PSG engaged the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group in this effort, ensuring that the future workshop be supported by a pre-planning foundation of neutral-skilled facilitation along with evidence-based processes such as stakeholder mapping. Matt Shirley, PSG Co-Chair, West Africa Regional Co-Chairs Olajumoke Morenkenji and Agro Prince

Paschal, and members Michelle Moeller and Alegria Olmeda (representing FFI), with CPSG Training Director Jamie Copsey and CPSG African Focal Point Lauren Waller, and CPSG-Facilitator-trainee Bonnie Gulas-Wroblewski provided leadership to the development of the workshop plan. The European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) Small Mammal Taxon Advisory Group requested PSG attendance at their Regional Collection Planning exercise for Xenarthra and Pangolins and was subsequently attended by PSG Co-Chair Matt Shirley, Southeast Asia Region Co-Chair Ade Kurniawan, Ex Situ Conservation Co-Chairs Rajesh Mohapatra and Maja Gudehus, as well as members Sonja Luz, Stewart Muir and Flora Hsuan Yi Lo. Fellows from the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders program requested technical support and guidance related to research of opportunities for developing technological tools to support pangolin field science. The Pangolin Crisis Fund requested support from the PSG in understanding methods and materials to develop ecological monitoring programs for pangolins. The PSG maintains the email address info@pangolinsg.org and responded to more than 100 stakeholder requests for information in 2022.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-002 Restructure and refresh the PSG advisory committee by 2022 to more effectively achieve our mission and targets, to be more representative of the regions where pangolins occur, as well as to better provide opportunities for mentorship and capacity building for emerging and future range state PSG leaders. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in management skills: 26

Result description: The PSG established the world's first leadership body, our Steering Committee, which includes geographic representation from the seven geopolitical regions where wild pangolins occur, as well as thematic representation from cutting-edge expertise necessary to recover pangolins – with working groups for field science, *ex situ*, outreach and education, local communities and cultural engagement, taxonomy, law enforcement and counter wildlife trafficking, and specific focal points for trade and trafficking database management, conservation planning, CITES, and public health. The Steering Committee is currently comprised of 28 people including representation from 17 individuals that are pangolin-range state nationals. In support of the Steering Committee, we have established a dedicated group of neutral-skilled facilitators with training from the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group.

T-006 Increase member capacity to engage in the Assess, Plan, Act conservation cycle and implement the One Plan Approach to conservation planning and implementation. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: 5

Result description: In 2022, three PSG members completed the Facilitation for Conservation Planning training, and two members completed the disease risk analysis training from the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group. At least one of

these individuals is now leading regional conservation action planning for Southern Africa and participated as a facilitator in the West Africa Regional Action Planning workshop.

Membership

T-001 Expand Pangolin Specialist Group membership to be more inclusive and representative of the diverse community of pangolin science, conservation and management expertise, and the 54 range states where pangolins occur, both in situ and ex situ, by 2025. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 48

Result description: The PSG added 48 new members in 2022. Of the 54 range states where wild pangolins occur, we newly achieved representation from Cote d'Ivoire*, Uganda, Liberia*, Malawi, Togo*, Mozambique* and Kenya (*represented by country national).

T-003 Convene Pangolin Specialist Group members to strengthen the network and advance dialogue on pressing pangolin conservation science, issues and solutions. (KSR 2)

Number of meetings held: 5

Result description: We convened three Zoom Membership meetings, providing opportunities at each 'date' for PSG members to join and discuss PSG and other pangolin-related conservation issues. Additionally, the new Steering Committee met twice in 2022.

T-009 Revive the Pangolin Specialist Group internship programme by the end of 2022. (KSR 2)

Number of interns engaged: 1

Result description: In 2022, the PSG brought on a part-time communication assistant who filled the communications-relevant responsibilities of past interns. We also evaluated the state of the intern program that was previously run in collaboration with our fiscal partner, ZSL. This evaluation is ongoing and with the help of extramural funds secured in 2022, we will be bringing on interns in 2023.

Synergy

T-004 Ensure the PSG membership collectively develops community principles, vision, updated mission, goals, objectives and actions and produces impactful outputs and outcomes relevant to the PSG mandate through participatory processes. (KSR 2)

Publication of participatory Pangolin SG conservation strategy: 1

Result description: Internal PSG work plan strategy developed through a participatory process with 122 members and operationalized.

T-005 By 2022, develop a member portal as part of the PSG website, or other platform, to enhance member engagement, collaboration and access to resources. (KSR 2)

Portal created, populated and launched: 0

Result description: In 2022, the PSG began the process of revamping its website for better communication about the group to the public and, through the development of a member portal, to better facilitate communication within the group. We made significant progress to both ends and this Target will be achieved in 2023.

T-007 Establish more than one new formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to PSG by 2025. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 0

Result description: In 2022, the PSG initiated conversations with several different potential partner organizations. These conversations continue and we hope to secure a new agreement in 2023 into 2024.

T-010 Continue building relationships with range state governments. (KSR 4)

Number of government engagement activities conducted by Pangolin SG Leadership Committee or members on behalf of Pangolin SG: 8

Result description: In 2022, the PSG worked to build or maintain relationships with range states in both Africa and Asia largely linked to matters related to CITES

PSG with the Nigerian Customs Service
Evaluating Seizures of Pangolin Scales
Photo: M. Shirley



Res. Conf. 17.10 (the pangolin conservation resolution), CITES Decisions 18.2239 and 18.240, as well as on the development of pangolin conservation programs. Specifically, we worked with the governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, and Kenya to implement CITES Decision 18.239, and at the CITES CoP19 we responded to requests for meetings from the governments of China, the US, Gabon, and Liberia. Outside the context of CITES, we are facilitating the development of the Kenya National Conservation Action Plan, including providing regular advice to KWS.

T-011 Increase the PSG profile through presence and participation in key global conservation fora. (KSR 3)

Number of Pangolin SG participants at key global conservation fora: 17

Result description: In 2022, the PSG sent a delegation of two leaders (Co-Chair M. Shirley and CITES Focal Point D. Challender) to be part of the IUCN delegation and represent PSG during CITES CoP19, and we participated virtually in CITES Standing Committee SC74 (only because physical attendance was limited). During the CoP19, we coordinated get-together and strategic planning with the 11 total PSG members in attendance to ensure appropriate intervention on all matters of relevance. In 2022 we also attended the European Association

of Zoos and Aquariums, officially represented by Co-Chair M. Shirley, *Ex Situ* Thematic Chairs Maja Gudehus and Rajesh Mohapatra, and Southeast Asia Regional Co-Chair Ade Kurniawan. Additional PSG members in attendance included Sonia Luz, Stewart Muir, and Flora Hsuan Yi Lo.

T-027 Increase and secure core Pangolin Specialist Group funding, including development of PSG potential endowment. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1

Result description: In 2022, the PSG secured operational funds totalling \$940,000 as part of the Operation Pangolin partnership. These funds include some core funding for PSG operation discretion, as well as the implementation of key activities related to strategic pangolin conservation in Cameroon and Gabon in partnership with ZSL and ANPN.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-023 Share the Pangolin Specialist Group's activities through strategic and targeted communications. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 5

Result description: World Pangolin Day, which for 12 years has taken place on the third Saturday of each February,

continues to be the centre of the Pangolin Conservation Year from a communications standpoint. Our outreach objectives continue to be: (1) raise the profile of the eight pangolin species, (2) raise the profile of our members, and, of course, (3) raise the profile of the PSG. For 2022, we developed the video 'Collaboration Makes us Hopeful for Pangolins,' which featured PSG Member photos, video clips, quotes and stories as well as information about pangolins and the PSG purpose and PSG Members' work. The video is available on YouTube in Chinese, English, French and Vietnamese at <https://www.youtube.com/@iucnscpangolinspecialistg8112>. The video achieved 11,835 views on Instagram, 317 views on YouTube, and 1,520 impressions on Twitter, as well as 6,502 individuals reached on Facebook (Chinese version – 936 reached), (Vietnamese version – 1,953 reached), (French version – 837 reached), (English – 2,776 reached). We welcomed creative support from the Center for Species Survival, who developed a series of social media-friendly infographics and fact cards about the eight pangolin species for Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to accompany the video launch. Importantly, in 2022 we hired an Independent Consultant who conducted a third-party evaluation of PSG Communications and with that improved understanding and significant input from



PSG Members at the EAZA Pangolin and Xenarthran TAG
Photo: M. Shirley

PSG Leadership and Members developed a new, comprehensive Communications Strategy to guide PSG Outreach for the next 10 years. As part of this effort, we developed a new template for PSG-produced factsheets and developed a new overview factsheet for the group that enables members to quickly share fundamental information about who we are and what we do.

T-035 Create a mechanism for Pangolin Specialist Group members to share information and data by mid-2022. (KSR 12)

Communications working group established and effectively sharing information and data: 12

Result description: With the creation of the PSG Steering Committee and group structure, we created Google Groups and WhatsApp groups to facilitate dialogue between members affiliated with each thematic and geographic region.

Communication

T-023 Share the Pangolin Specialist Group's activities through strategic and targeted communications. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events organized: 1

Result description: The IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group cooperatively organised and hosted a side event at the 19th CITES Conference of the Parties in Panama City, Panama with the Nigeria Customs Service, Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux du

Gabon, and Fauna and Flora International to discuss: (1) the role of Nigeria in pangolin trafficking and efforts to address it; this talk characterised Nigeria's role in pangolin trafficking and recent efforts to combat such trafficking. This includes the launch of the Special Wildlife Office in the Nigeria Customs Service and the development and launch of Nigeria's Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime (2022-2026); (2) understanding and addressing pangolin trafficking from West and Central Africa; this talk detailed recent efforts to understand and address pangolin trafficking in Gabon and more broadly in West and Central Africa including the application of novel forensic methods; and (3) implementation of CITES Decision 18.239 on conversion parameters for pangolins; this talk from PSG Co-Chair Matt Shirley and CITES Focal Point Dan Challender shared results from the implementation of CITES Decision 18.239 on the development of conversion parameters to estimate the number of pangolins in seizures of scales. It also shared available guidance on determining the number of, and which, species are involved in seizures of pangolin scales. This side event was attended by world governments, media outlets, NGOs and myriad stakeholders, and presented a significant opportunity to connect with multiple target audiences.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 35

Geographic regions: 31 Global, 3 Africa, 3 Asia

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 7 (KSR 10)

Network: 11 (KSR 1, 2, 3, 4)

Communicate: 3 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021-2025:

