



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the SSC Group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the SSC Group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

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

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### 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.

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Karesh, WH and Grillo, T. 2023. 2022 Report of the Wildlife Health 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. 4 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

# IUCN SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group



**CO-CHAIR**

**William B. Karesh**  
EcoHealth Alliance,  
New York, US



**CO-CHAIR**

**Tiggy Grillo**  
Wildlife Health  
Australia, Mosman,  
Australia

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

125

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Facebook: IUCN SSC Wildlife Health Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCNWildHealth

Website: [www.iucn-whsg.org](http://www.iucn-whsg.org)

**Mission statement**

The group is commissioned to serve as a first response for wildlife health concerns relevant to conservation around the world. The focus of the group is on health impacts that relate to the conservation of species, some of which are negative to wildlife population persistence and a threat to endangered species.

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

The Wildlife Health Specialist Group is dedicated to amplifying wildlife health as an essential aspect of global conservation. By providing support on investigations following disease outbreaks, promoting the intersection of health and conservation, and contributing to global knowledge on zoonotic diseases, the group aims to promote the conservation status of threatened and protected species around the world.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-005** Investigate five wildlife mass morbidity/mortality events.  
Status: On track

**PLAN**

**T-002** Adopt a policy for a simplified process for international movement of emergency diagnostic specimens of conservation species.  
Status: On track

**ACT**

**T-003** Deliver ten technical recommendations and disseminate as appropriate.  
Status: On track

**T-008** Enhance wildlife health and One Health training programmes as a pathway to supporting species survival.  
Status: On track

**NETWORK**

**T-001** Expand membership representation to 100 countries.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Deliver ten external outreach events/materials/forums (e.g., policy conventions, social media) showcasing the relevance of wildlife health to One Health.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Establish focal points for wildlife health in SSC Groups.  
Status: Not initiated

**Activities and results 2022**

**PLAN**

**Planning**

**T-002** Adopt a policy for a simplified process for international movement of emergency diagnostic specimens of conservation species. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: The WHSG informed the joint IUCN-WWF-WOAH intervention at the CITES Standing Committee in March 2022.

Members contributed to the CITES COP19 discussions on rapid movement of wildlife diagnostic samples (CoP19 Doc. 9.1.1 #27) and the role of CITES in reducing risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade (CoP19 Doc. 23.1 and CoP19 Doc. 23.2). This included a WOA / IUCN WHSG joint paper on Rapid Movement of Specimen (CoP19 Info 35), a side event on 'Saving species and preventing pandemics' through collaborations between the World Organisation for Animal Health and CITES, and input into IUCN CITES COP19 position paper.

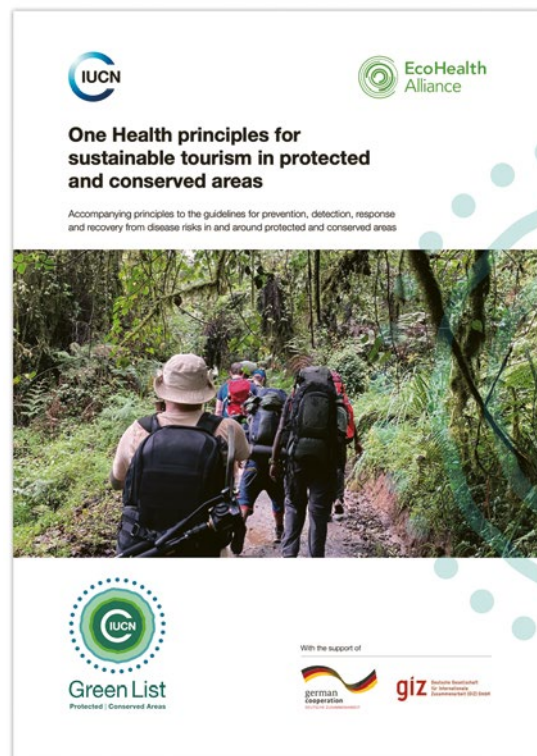
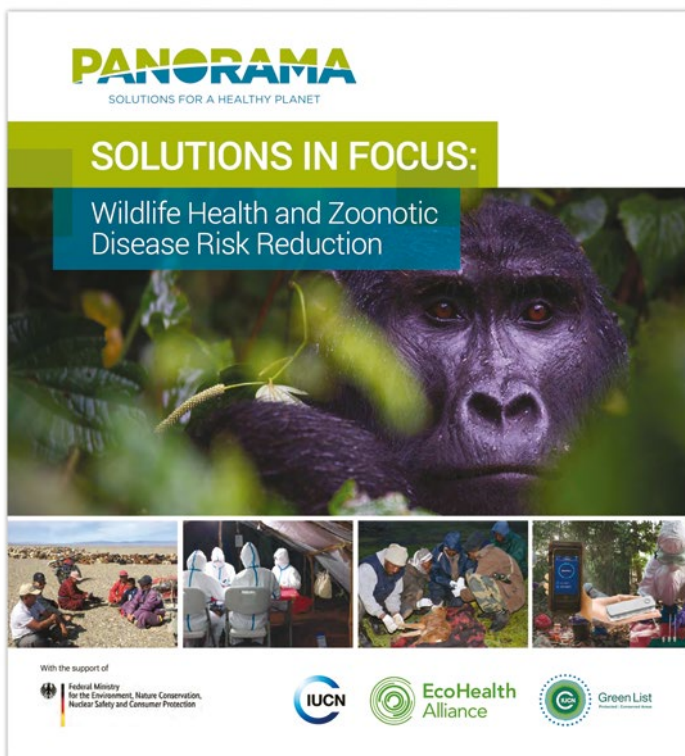
**ACT**

**Technical advice**

**T-003** Deliver ten technical recommendations and disseminate as appropriate. (KSR 10)

Number of technical recommendations delivered: 9

Result description: The WHSG has contributed to two WOA papers on specific strategies to reduce disease risks. The IUCN SSC WHSG / WOA guidance 'Avian influenza and Wildlife Risk management for people working with wild birds' is aimed at people who handle wild birds to address disease risks associated with avian influenza virus strains. The guidance takes a One Health approach by considering the health of wildlife, poultry, and people. The 'Risk Guidance on Reducing Spillover of Monkeypox Virus



from Humans to Wildlife, Pet Animals and other Animals' provides disease-specific guidance to reduce the risk of human-to-animal spillover. Dr Karesh continued to serve as the IUCN SSC representative on the WOAHC *ad hoc* group on reducing spillover risks associated with wildlife trade. The WHSG contributed to multiple other publications including: (1) Machalaba, C, and Sleeman, JM. (2022). 'Leading Change with Diverse Stakeholders'. *Wildlife Population Health* (pp. 227-237). Cham: Springer International Publishing; (2) Vanstreels, RE *et al.* (2023). 'Health and diseases'. *Conservation of Marine Birds* (pp. 131-176). Academic Press; (3) IUCN and EcoHealth Alliance. (2022). 'PANORAMA Solutions in Focus: Wildlife Health and Zoonotic Disease Risk Reduction'. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and New York, US: EcoHealth Alliance; (4) IUCN and EcoHealth Alliance. (2022). 'One Health principles for sustainable tourism in protected and conserved areas: Accompanying principles to the guidelines for prevention, detection, response and recovery from disease risks in and around protected and conserved areas'. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN, and New York, US: EcoHealth Alliance; (5) IUCN Policy Brief (November 2022) 'One Health: Reducing Disease Risk'.

**T-008 Enhance wildlife health and One Health training programmes as a pathway to supporting species survival. (KSR 10)**

Number of One Health training programs enhanced: 2

Result description: Provided ongoing support and input on measures to reduce disease transmission risk between humans

and free-ranging wildlife, including with other IUCN specialist groups. The BCOMING is a new initiative aimed at reducing the risk of infectious disease emergence and promoting conservation in biodiversity hotspots. Co-funded by Horizon Europe and backed up by 14 partners from Europe, Asia and Africa, the program uses an iterative participatory process with stakeholders to create innovative conservation strategies and zoonotic disease surveillance systems utilizing emerging infectious disease screening tools in three tropical biodiversity hotspots (Cambodia, Guadeloupe, Guinea/Ivory Coast). Philippe Chardonnet, a WHSG member, is one of the 7 Advisory Board members who provide expertise, alongside highly qualified consortium members, to the BCOMING Initiative.

**NETWORK Synergy**

**T-007 Deliver ten external outreach events/materials/forums (e.g., policy conventions, social media) showcasing the relevance of wildlife health to One Health. (KSR 4)**

Number of events/materials/forums delivered: 3

Result description: In April 2022, Dr Grillo served as moderator of an IUCN Save Our Species webinar, 'Detecting and Managing Wildlife Diseases' in which IUCN WHSG members, Dr Patterson and Dr Machalaba participated as speakers. Moreover, Dr Grillo and Dr Machalaba participated as speakers in a plenary session titled

'Pandemic Prevention through Resilient Ecosystems' at the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium in July 2022. Additionally, the WHSG co-organised a side event with the World Organisation for Animal Health titled 'The Urgent Need for Rapid Transport of Wildlife Diagnostic Samples' at CITES CoP19 in November 2022, where Dr Karesh co-lead the event and participated as a speaker.

**Acknowledgements**

We wish to thank EcoHealth Alliance, the Royal Veterinary College and Wildlife Health Australia for providing in-kind support for WHSG activities, including the development of a new website. We are grateful for the assistance of Ms Kelly Rose Nunziata, the WHSG Program Officer, the WHSG Regional Coordinators and WHSG expert members.

**Summary of achievements**

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 Global

Actions during 2022:

- Plan: 1 (KSR 8)
- Act: 2 (KSR 10)
- Network: 1 (KSR 4)

Overall achievement 2021-2025:

