



Species

ISSUE 64

2023 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 and Centers for Species Survival (CSS) each year. Each SSC and CSS 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 and CSS Stand-alone Reports

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

Title of the group

Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

Group information

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

Logo of the 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 or CSS 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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

Example for the recommended citation:

Breitenmoser, C. and Breitenmoser, U. 2024. 2023 Report of the Cat Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 12 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
Christine Breitenmoser
KORA, Muri b. Bern,
Switzerland



CO-CHAIR
Urs Breitenmoser
KORA, Muri b. Bern,
Switzerland

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Lanz Tabea
KORA, Muri b. Bern,
Switzerland

PROGRAMME OFFICER
Sugoto Roy
KORA, Muri b. Bern,
Switzerland

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
200

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

Facebook: [IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group](#)

Website: www.catsg.org

Mission statement

[Cat Manifesto](#).

Projected impact 2021–2025

To promote the long-term conservation of all Cat species across their range.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-018 Publish at least once a year an article on new/updated Felidae Red List assessments or Red List assessment-related subjects in *Cat News* by encouraging lead assessors to write articles on published Red List assessments, also addressing problems during the assessment process.
Status: On track

T-019 Update the Cat Conservation Compendium (*Cat News* Special Issue 9) incorporating new information and approaches such as Assess to Plan, updated IUCN Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning, Green Status assessment, etc., and publish it as a *Cat News* Special Issue.
Status: Not initiated

T-020 Assess the following taxa for the first time for the IUCN Red List: African Leopard (*Panthera pardus pardus*), Sunda Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus javanensis*) and Northeast African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus soemmeringii*).
Status: On track

T-021 Reassess the following taxa for the IUCN Red List: Caracal (*Caracal caracal*), Pampas Cat (*Leopardus colocola*), Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), Flat-headed Cat (*Prionailurus planiceps*), Fishing Cat (*P. viverrinus*), Persian Leopard (*P. pardus saxicolor/tulliana*) and Northwest African Cheetah (*A. jubatus hecki*).
Status: On track

T-022 Finalise, submit and get published the (re-)assessments of African Wildcat (*Felis lybica*), Cheetah (*A. jubatus*), Chinese Mountain Cat (*F. bieti*), European Wildcat (*F. silvestris*), Andean Cat (*Leopardus jacobita*), Mainland Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Mainland Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Sumatran Clouded Leopard (*N. diardi diardi*), Bornean Clouded Leopard (*N. diardi borneensis*), Indian Leopard (*P. pardus fusca*) and Javan Leopard (*P. pardus melas*).
Status: On track

T-023 Encourage assessment team members or contributors to global Red List re-assessments to conduct regional and national Red List assessments of the taxa globally assessed and support them with the implementation of National Red List Guidelines.
Status: On track

T-024 Conduct and publish the Green Status assessments of Tiger (*P. tigris*), Iberian Lynx (*L. pardinus*) and European Wildcat (*F. silvestris*).
Status: On track

T-025 Conceptualise the Guidelines for Climate Change Vulnerability for Cat species and identify for which Cat species a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment should be first conducted.
Status: On track

T-026 Enhance the information in the Red List assessments and Green Status assessments, especially about threats and conservation of a taxon, to facilitate and benefit the development of conservation planning for the taxon as demanded by the Assess to Plan approach.
Status: On track

T-027 Evaluate the assessment and the status of knowledge of small Cat species, identify gaps and define the most urgent conservation actions per species.
Status: Achieved

T-028 Maintain and expand the Cat Specialist Group Species Database (CSGSD).
Status: On track

T-029 Develop a strategy to collect camera trapping by-catch data and opportunistic species records, synchronise the exchange of records between institutions



Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in the Pantanal
Photo: Patrick Meier

and integrate these records into the Cat Specialist Group Species Database (CSGSD, used for Red List distribution maps).

Status: Not initiated

T-030 Reflect the revised taxonomy of the cat species (Kitchener et al., 2017. A revised taxonomy of the Felidae. The final report of the Cat Classification Task Force of the IUCN/ SSC Cat Specialist Group.' *Cat News* Special Issue 11:1–80) in the Red List and Green Status assessments.
Status: On track

T-061 Develop guidelines for the monitoring of African Lion (*Panthera leo*) and its prey.
Status: On track

T-062 Certify the Cat Specialist Group Red List Authority Coordinator as an IUCN Red List Trainer.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-031 Develop a Regional Conservation Strategy for Persian Leopard (*P. pardus tulliana/saxicolor*).
Status: Achieved

T-032 Develop a Conservation Strategy for European Wildcat (*F. silvestris*).
Status: Not initiated

T-033 Develop a Regional Conservation Strategy for Leopard (*P. pardus*) in Southern Africa.
Status: On track

T-034 Update the *Regional Conservation Strategy for the Cheetah and African Wild Dog in Eastern Africa*.
Status: Achieved

T-035 Support the development of an updated Action Plan for the Iberian Lynx (*L. pardinus*).
Status: On track

T-036 Update the Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan for Wild Cats.
Status: On track

T-037 As required or requested: Comment on cat-related policies.
Status: On track

T-038 Attend CITES and Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) meetings and comment on cat-related Resolutions and Decisions.
Status: On track

T-039 CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI): Advance initiative at global, regional and national level, attend respective meetings.
Status: On track

T-040 CMS Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) and related IUCN Save Our Species (SOS) programme: Review Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) conservation status, develop Persian Leopard conservation strategy, advance

conservation projects for other cat species (Snow Leopard, *Panthera uncia*; Asiatic Cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*), attend CAMI meetings.
Status: On track

T-041 Use the Conservation Strategy for European Wildcat (*F. silvestris*) to promote an improved Wildcat conservation within the European Union member states (Fauna-Flora and Habitats (FFH) Directives).
Status: Not initiated

T-042 Use the continental European conservation recommendation for the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) to lobby for a more coordinated approach with multilateral agreements (EU FFH Directives, Council of Europe's Berne Convention).
Status: On track

T-066 Develop a spatially explicit conservation action plan for the lion in West and Central Africa.
Status: Achieved

T-067 Update the conservation strategy for the Arabian Leopard (*Panthera pardus ssp. nimr*).
Status: On track

ACT

T-043 Support the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for the Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*).
Status: On track

T-044 Support the implementation of the LIFE Project for the recovery of the European Wildcat (*F. silvestris*) in Scotland (Saving Wildcats Advisory Group).
Status: On track

T-045 Support the implementation of conservation actions for the Leopard (*P. pardus*) in the Caucasus, including implementation of an MoU between IUCN, Russian Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRE) and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA).
Status: On track

T-046 Support the implementation of cat conservation projects under the ACI.
Status: Not initiated

T-047 Support the implementation of the ACI through a coordinated implementation plan developed by the Cat Specialist Group and its members working on ACI species in Africa.
Status: Not initiated

T-048 Attend CITES Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) conference and provide recommendation on NDFs for Lion (*P. leo*) and Leopard.
Status: On track

T-059 Develop mechanisms to expand the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) to incorporate Snow Leopards and Leopards.
Status: Achieved

T-063 Participate in the project 'Act Green: A near-real time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts: applying, extending and enhancing an application for Tigers (*P. tigris*) to Lions (*P. leo*), Jaguars (*Panthera onca*), and American Bison (*Bison bison*)' together with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Panthera, WWF, a.o.
Status: On track

T-068 Support the implementation of the Spatially explicit strategic action plan for the recovery of the northern Lion in Africa 2023–2027.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Develop an MoU with Foundation KORA for hosting the Cat Specialist Group.
Status: Achieved

T-003 Develop a funding strategy, both institutional and project-related, and update and adapt it annually to the work programme.
Status: On track

T-004 Secure funding to deliver K2-13.
Status: On track

T-005 Strengthen the relationship with the zoo community in regard to the implementation of the Assess-Plan-Act (APA) approach in cats.
Status: On track

T-006 Update the membership strategy (number of members, expertise, regional distribution, affiliations, etc.), review Terms of Reference for members and re-constitute the Cat Specialist Group.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Develop a programme for and conduct periodical webinars with Cat Specialist Group members to strengthen the team spirit of the group, inform about news and/or issues, and provide the opportunity to ask questions to the Co-Chairs and group members.
Status: On track

T-008 Develop and conduct Red List assessment and Green Status assessment (online) training courses with emphasises on 'Assess to Plan' for assessors and Cat Specialist Group members.
Status: On track

T-009 Develop and conduct (online) training courses for Cat Specialist Group members and others in important conservation-related subjects.
Status: Not initiated

T-010 Support already existing and the building of new (small) cat networks in regard to organisational questions, looking for funding, making connections, capacity building, etc.
Status: On track

T-011 Maintain and expand the Cat Specialist Group Library.
Status: On track

T-012 Within SSC: Enhance collaboration with the SSC Chair's Office, Species Office, and other Specialist Groups as possible and needed, e.g. SOS: Tiger programme, CAMI, ACI; Conservation Translocation Specialist Group: Cat Re-introduction Guidelines; Canid Specialist Group: ACI; Species Conservation Success Task Force: Green Status assessment.
Status: On track

T-013 Within IUCN: Inform other Commissions and Regional Offices on cat issues related to their themes or regions, respectively.
Status: Not initiated

T-014 UN Conventions: Continue and deepen cooperation with CITES and CMS on cat issues, e.g. African Carnivore Initiative, Central Asian Mammal Initiative, Jaguar Decisions, NDFs, etc.
Status: On track

T-015 World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), EAZA, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a.o.: Continue and deepen cooperation with AZA and EAZA Felid Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) on various issues, e.g. Eurasian Lynx recommendations, Leopard reintroduction guidelines, conservation breeding recommendations, and maintain good relationship with head offices.
Status: On track

T-016 NGOs: Continue and deepen cooperation with specific NGOs on various cat conservation topics, e.g. WCS (Tiger), Panthera (Lion, small cats), WWF (Leopard, Jaguar).
Status: On track

T-017 Encourage cat assessors or contributors of global Red List (re-)assessments as well as Cat Specialist Group members and other stakeholders to implement Assess-Plan-Act at different locations and



Cat News issues 77 and 78
Photo: CSG



Cat News Special Issue 16
Photo: CSG



opportunities in cooperation with governments (e.g. through conducting national assessments).

Status: On track

T-049 Explore in a discussion with the whole group, and adapt if desired, the internal structure and organisation of the Cat Specialist Group, e.g. geographic subgroups, taxonomic or topical working groups, specific task forces, etc.

Status: On track

T-060 Update the Cat Specialist Group in the IUCN Commission System.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-050 Produce two regular issues of *Cat News* with peer-reviewed articles.

Status: On track

T-051 Promote *Cat News* and gain more Friends of the Cat Group, the sponsor group of *Cat News*.

Status: On track

T-052 Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* on Jaguar Conservation need and Regional Strategy for South America.

Status: Achieved

T-053 Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* on the status of the Eurasian Lynx including Recommendations for Continental Europe.

Status: Achieved

T-054 Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* about the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme.

Status: On track

T-055 Renew the Cat Specialist Group website addressing more the IUCN environment.

Status: On track

T-056 Increase the presence of the Cat Specialist Group on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter).

Status: On track

T-057 Produce Unite for Literacy booklets on cat species.

Status: Not initiated

T-058 Establish and maintain the Wild Cat Club as a group of non-members to support

the work of the Cat Specialist Group.

Status: Not initiated

T-064 Keep the IUCN SSC website updated.

Status: On track

T-065 Produce a Special Issue of *Cat News* on the Persian Leopard.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Communication

T-019 Update the *Cat Conservation Compendium (Cat News Special Issue 9)* incorporating new information and approaches such as Assess to Plan, updated IUCN Guidelines for Species Conservation Planning, Green Status assessment, etc., and publish it as a *Cat News Special Issue*. (KSR 6)

Cat Conservation Compendium updated and published: 0

Result description: We identified parts of the Cat Conservation Compendium that have to be updated and reviewed new or not yet considered publications that should be integrated into the update of the Cat Conservation Compendium.

Green Status

T-024 Conduct and publish the Green Status assessments of Tiger (*P. tigris*), Iberian Lynx (*L. pardinus*) and European Wildcat (*F. silvestris*). (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 0

Result description: The Green Status assessments of Tiger is ongoing and should soon be finished. The GSS of the Iberian Lynx is in the final review stage and should be ready for publication in summer of 2024.

Red List

T-020 Assess the following taxa for the first time for the IUCN Red List: African Leopard (*P. pardus pardus*), Sunda Leopard Cat (*P. javanensis*) and Northeast African Cheetah (*A. jubatus soemmeringii*). (KSR 6)



Pallas's Cat (*Otocolobus manul*)
Photo: Urs Breitenmoser

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 1

Result description: The subspecies Northeast African Cheetah has been assessed and published on the Red List website, the Red List assessment of the Sunda Leopard Cat is currently on hold due to issues that have to be solved first regarding using data from Indonesia for the Red List assessment.

T-021 Reassess the following taxa for the IUCN Red List: Caracal (*C. caracal*), Pampas Cat (*L. colocola*), Iberian Lynx (*L. pardinus*), flat-headed cat (*P. planiceps*), Fishing Cat (*P. viverrinus*), Persian Leopard (*P. pardus saxicolor/tulliana*) and Northwest African Cheetah (*A. jubatus hecki*). (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The Red List assessment of Iberian Lynx is in the review process. The Red List assessment of the Persian Leopard has been finalised and published on the Red List website on 6.12.2023. Additionally, to the mentioned taxa, the Red List assessments of Puma, Bobcat and Guiña were initiated in 2023.

T-022 Finalise, submit and get published the (re-)assessments of African Wildcat (*F. lybica*), Cheetah (*A. jubatus*), Chinese Mountain Cat (*F. bieti*), European Wildcat (*F. silvestris*), Andean Cat (*L. jacobita*),

Mainland Clouded Leopard (*N. nebulosa*), Tiger (*P. tigris*), Mainland Leopard Cat (*P. bengalensis*), Sumatran Clouded Leopard (*N. diardi diardi*), Bornean Clouded Leopard (*N. diardi borneensis*), Indian Leopard (*P. pardus fusca*) and Javan Leopard (*P. pardus melas*). (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 2

Result description: The Red List assessments of the Andean Cat and the Jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*) are almost ready for the review process. Due to unexpected issues, they have been delayed. The Red List assessment of Sunda Clouded Leopard is currently on hold due to issues that have to be solved first regarding using data of Indonesia for the assessment. The assessments of the Lion (*Panthera leo*), the Indian Leopard and *P. pardus* ssp. *nimr* have been finalized and published on the Red List website on 6.12.23. For the assessment of the Jaguarundi we applied, for the first time, a participatory research approach by applying an online questionnaire using Google Forms to collect new information on the species. The method was successful and 69 people from 18 range countries of the species participated in the questionnaire survey. More information can be found in the Cat News article: Weston-Flores, M, Ramírez-Fernández, JD, and Caso, A. (2023).

'Participatory research and technological tools for global insights on the Jaguarundi'. *Cat News* 78, 36–38.

T-023 Encourage assessment team members or contributors to global Red List (re-)assessments to conduct regional and national Red List assessments of the taxa globally assessed and support them with the implementation of National Red List Guidelines. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: Samantha Nicholson, the lead assessor of the Lion, expressed her interest in doing more national and regional assessments, and we will follow up on this. Assessors of leopards and lions also expressed their interest in regional assessments, especially for West Africa.

T-025 Conceptualise the Guidelines for Climate Change Vulnerability for cat species and identify for which cat species a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment should be first conducted. (KSR 6)

Climate Change Vulnerability guidelines reviewed: Ongoing.

Result description: Central Asia multispecies strategies for Felidae will partly be driven by Climate Change as this region will see the biggest temperature changes. We are currently developing a regional strategy for Central Asia and Climate Change will be one of the issues raised.

T-026 Enhance the information in the Red List assessments and Green Status assessments, especially about threats and conservation of a taxon, to facilitate and benefit the development of conservation planning for the taxon as demanded by the Assess to Plan approach. (KSR 6)

Number of RLAs and GSAs meeting the needs of A2P: 0

Result description: Information in Red List assessments (and Green Status assessments) is steadily improved. We have submitted several funding applications to improve mapping protocols for Red List assessments for Felidae. The outputs will apply to other species.

T-027 Evaluate the assessment and the status of knowledge of small cat species, identify gaps and define the most urgent conservation actions per species. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 25

Result description: The Small Cat Report has been finalized in December 2023 and will be published on the Cat SG website.

T-028 Maintain and expand the Cat Specialist Group Species Database (CSGSD). (KSR 6)

Number of georeferenced data points integrated per year: 0

Result description: Before we integrate more records into the database we want to review and optimise the structure of the database and make sure that it is compatible with other databases and software (ArcGIS Map, ArcGIS Pro etc.).

T-030 Reflect the revised taxonomy of the cat species (Kitchener et al., 2017. A revised taxonomy of the Felidae. The final report of the Cat Classification Task Force of the IUCN/ SSC Cat Specialist Group.' Cat News Special Issue 11:1–80) in the Red List and Green Status assessments. (KSR 6)

All (re-)assessed taxa follow the revised taxonomy: Ongoing.

Result description: We applied for any updated or new Red List assessments

and new Green Status assessments in the revised Taxonomy of Kitchener *et al.* 2017.

T-061 Develop guidelines for the monitoring of African lion (*P. leo*) and its prey. (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 0

Result description: Guidelines for lion monitoring will be updated in early 2024 through consultation with NGO and Government stakeholders.

Research activities

T-018 Publish at least once a year an article on new/updated Felidae Red List assessments or Red List assessment-related subjects in Cat News by encouraging lead assessors to write articles on published Red List assessments; also, addressing problems during the assessment process. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 6

Result description: The only Red List assessment update in 2023 took place on 6. December 2023 (due to technical issues, the Red List Unit could not update the Red List website in summer 2023). Therefore, articles on the updated assessments have not yet been published in *Cat News* but will be featured in the next *Cat News* issue in spring 2024.

PLAN

Planning

T-033 Develop a Regional Conservation Strategy for Leopard (*P. pardus*) in Southern Africa. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: A funding proposal for 'Updating the roadmap for conservation of the leopard in Africa' was submitted to CITES-CMS ACI in December 2023. The roadmap will be an important input document to Regional Conservation Strategies.

T-035 Support the development of an updated Action Plan for the Iberian Lynx (*L. pardinus*). (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies updated: 0

Result description: The first steps to support the updated Action Plan for the Iberian Lynx have been done with Workshop on Red List and Green Status assessments on the Iberian Lynx in Sevilla, Spain, which took place from 14.11.-17.11.23 and was organized by the life project Lynxconnect.

T-036 Update the Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan for Wild Cats. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies updated: 0

Result description: A concept and funding proposal have been developed, and we hope to be able to start working in 2024.

T-067 Update the conservation strategy for the Arabian Leopard (*P. pardus* ssp. *nimr*). (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies updated: 0

Result description: Discussion with United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been initiated to renew the Arabian Leopard Conservation Strategy.

Policy

T-037 As required or requested: Comment on cat related policies. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: We have answered numerous requests for commenting on cat related policies.

T-038 Attend CITES and Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) meetings and comment on cat-related Resolutions and Decisions. (KSR 9)

Number of motions in MEA's influenced by IUCN that are adopted: 0

Result description: In 2023, the Cat SG attended the CITES Animals Committee (May 2023) and the Standing Committee

Iberian Lynx Workshop participants
 Photo: lynxconnect



(November 2023). Interventions and inputs into discussions were contributed as they arose. CMS Scientific Council meeting (July 2023) was attended to present the listing proposals for Eurasian Lynx and Manul.

T-039 CITES-CMS African Carnivores Initiative (ACI): Advance initiative at global, regional and national level, attend respective meetings. (KSR 9)

Number of cat-related conservation projects implemented: Ongoing.

Result description: We attended the second ACI meeting in Entebbe Uganda, May 2023 with a series of input presentations to the agenda items.

T-042 Use the continental European conservation recommendation for the Eurasian Lynx (*L. lynx*) to lobby for a more coordinated approach with multilateral agreements (EU FFH Directives, Council of Europe's Berne Convention). (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: We attended the follow-up meeting of the Bonn Conference from 2019 on the conservation of Eurasian Lynx in continental Europe in May 23, in the Harz Mts, Germany, with participation of the Berne Convention. At the meeting, we initiated the permanent Eurasian Lynx Working Group according to Recommendation No. 204 (2019) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.

**ACT
 Conservation actions**

T-045 Support the implementation of conservation actions for the Leopard (*P. pardus*)

in the Caucasus, including implementation of an MoU between IUCN, Russian Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRE) and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 0

Result description: The Cat SG has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Persian Leopard Working Group, which also works for the conservation of the Leopard in the Caucasus. We have been able to raise funds to commission a report from the PeLe WG on the status of the Persian Leopard in the Lesser Caucasus.

T-068 Support the implementation of the Spatially explicit strategic action plan for the recovery of the northern Lion in Africa 2023–2027. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 1

Result description: We supported an application for the IUCN SSC internal grant for the project: 'Lost Lion Diversity: supporting restoration efforts for lions in Ghana'. The grant application has been successful. The project outcome will inform the implementation of sensible conservation measures for the Lion in West Africa and thus also the implementation of the SECAP.

SSC Grant awarded

Technical advice

T-044 Support the implementation of the LIFE Project for the recovery of the European wildcat (*F. silvestris*) in Scotland (Saving Wildcats Advisory Group). (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: We attended two meetings of the Saving Wildcats Advisory Group to advise on the release and post-monitoring protocols.

T-048 Attend CITES Non-detriment Findings (NDFs) conference and provide recommendation on NDFs for Lion (*P. leo*) and Leopard. (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 1

Result description: The Cat SG attended the international expert workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs), Nairobi, Kenya, in 2023 (see also Target 014) and was participating in Working Group 6 – Transboundary and Migratory Species.

T-063 Participate in the project 'Act Green: A near-real-time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts: applying, extending and enhancing an application for Tigers (*P. tigris*) to Lions (*P. leo*), Jaguars (*P. onca*), and American Bison (*B. bison*)' together with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Panthera, WWF, a.o. (KSR 10)

A near real time integrated mapping and reporting system for re-wilding efforts is implemented: 2

Result description: We attended online meetings with the Lion and Jaguar working groups.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-008 Develop and conduct Red List assessment and Green Status assessment



(online) training courses with emphasises on 'Assess to Plan' for assessors and Cat Specialist Group members. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 17

Result description: One online Red List assessments course was conducted in August 2023. The course was conducted over 4 days. Each day a session of two hours has been held. The course was aimed at people working in the conservation of Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, or African Golden Cat in Africa. Seventeen participants attended the course, and 11 of them attended all sessions.

T-010 Support already existing and the building of new (small) cat networks in regard to organisational questions, looking for funding, making connections, capacity building, etc. (KSR 2)

Number of networks supported: 5

Result description: We have signed MoUs with 5 (sub)species Working Groups and provided financial support to 4 of them.

T-011 Maintain and expand the Cat Specialist Group Library. (KSR 2)

Number of new publications integrated and uploaded to the web per year: 793

Result description: We performed 6 updates to the *Digital Cat Library* and added a total of 793 publications.

Synergy

T-003 Develop a funding strategy, both institutional and project related, and update and adapt it annually to the work programme. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 2

Result description: A number of funding applications have been submitted to fulfil identified technical gaps such as robust mapping for species assessments. Further applications are being developed for regional gaps to work on species and develop capacity in Central Asia.

T-005 Strengthen the relationship with the zoo community in regard to the implementation of the Assess-Plan-Act (APA) approach in cats. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 0

Result description: We participated in an online discussion with the Centre for Species Survival UK on potential fields of collaboration for small cats.

T-012 Within SSC: Enhance collaboration with the SSC Chair's Office, Species Office and other Specialist Groups as possible and needed, e.g. SOS: Tiger programme, CAMI, ACI; Conservation Translocation Specialist Group: Cat Re-introduction Guidelines; Canid Specialist Group: ACI; Species Conservation Success Task Force: Green Status assessment. (KSR 3)

IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: A webinar with IUCN IdSSG was held on 13 July 2023 on the Current Status of Medium and Small Wild Cats in Indonesia. Over 100 people from Indonesia attended. The Cat SG gave presentations on strategic planning and the Red List assessment process as well as on the importance of working together in the

conservation of species. The Cat SG co-organised and participated in the Red List and Green Status workshop on the Iberian Lynx together with the IUCN Green Status of Species (GSS) Working Group. The Cat SG collaborates further with the GSS to create preliminary GSAs of all cat species which then will be used to do full GSAs of all species and subspecies of cats.

T-013 Within IUCN: Inform other Commissions and Regional Offices on cat issues related to their themes or regions, respectively. (KSR 3)

IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: Broader collaboration is being developed with other SSC groups such as Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence, and Invasive Species Specialist Groups, looking at common issues such as areas where wild cat species are the cause of conflict, and the scope for establishing webinars on topics such as detecting, monitoring and managing cats using common techniques.

T-014 UN Conventions: Continue and deepen cooperation with CITES and CMS on cat issues, e.g. African Carnivore Initiative, Central Asian Mammal Initiative, Jaguar Decisions, NDFs, etc. (KSR 3)

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: The Cat SG prepared a presentation on the overview of the conservation status of big cat species in the wild for the CITES Big Cat Task Force meeting,

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)
Photo: Laila Bahaa-el-din



which took place on 23-29 April 2023 in Entebbe, Uganda. The Cat SG contributed to species banners produced by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland for the side event on the Silk Road Cats at CMS COP 14, February 2024, in Samarkand. The Cat SG has attended the Animals Committee and Standing Committee meetings of CITES. We have also authored documentation for African Lions as part of the work programme for the Joint Cites-CMS African Carnivore Initiative (e.g., the Northern Lion Action Plan and supporting information reviewing how NDFs are applied to lions).

T-015 World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), EAZA, Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a.o.: Continue and deepen cooperation with AZA and EAZA Felid Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) on various issues, e.g. Eurasian lynx recommendations, leopard reintroduction guidelines, conservation breeding recommendations, and maintain good relationship with head offices. (KSR 3)

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.
Result description: We attended the EAZA Felid TAG mid-year meeting in Innsbruck, Austria, where we gave an update on Cat SG activities and presented the most urgent cat conservation issues, where conservation breeding will play an important role.

We had a first online meeting with the new AZA Felid TAG Co-Chairs to discuss fields for cooperation. We are currently planning and bringing together authors to develop a publication of Guidelines for the Conservation of the Eurasian Lynx in continental Europe that will be published as IUCN Guidelines.

T-016 NGOs: Continue and deepen cooperation with specific NGOs on various cat conservation topics, e.g. WCS (tiger), *Panthera* (lion, small cats), WWF (leopard, jaguar). (KSR 3)

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.



Kodkod (*Leopardus guigna*)
Photo: Alexander Sliwa

Result description: We are supporting a multi-NGO coalition to advance the strategies and action plans for the Northern Lion in West and Central Africa and have begun a series of meetings and workshops. We are developing and strengthening collaborations with the multi-NGO Tiger conservation coalition, developing press releases, publishing joint papers and developing joint events such as a conference in 2024 for fundraising and a side event at Climate COP in December 2023.

T-017 Encourage cat assessors or contributors of global Red List (re-) assessments as well as Cat Specialist Group members and other stakeholders to implement Assess-Plan-Act at different locations and opportunities in cooperation with governments (e.g. through conducting national assessments). (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies and number of people encouraged to apply assess-plan-act: 1

Result description: The Northern Lion Action Plan (SECAP), was completed and we are now exploring ways to develop regional and national workshops and training.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-050 Produce two regular issues of Cat News with peer-reviewed articles. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 2

Result description: *Cat News* issues 77 and 78, with 25 peer-reviewed articles, were published in 2023.

T-051 Promote Cat News and gain more Friends of the Cat Group, the sponsor group of Cat News. (KSR 12)

Number of new friends of the Cat Group recruited per year: 15

Result description: The publication of the *Cat News* issues was advertised on Facebook in LinkedIn.

T-052 Produce a Special Issue of Cat News on Jaguar Conservation need and Regional Strategy for South America. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: [The Special Issue 16 on Jaguar in South America](#) has been completed. It contains 11 peer-reviewed articles on status assessment and topical issue and a Regional Conservation Strategy for the Jaguar in South America. With 120 pages, it is by far the largest Special Issue we ever have produced.

T-055 Renew the Cat Specialist Group website addressing more the IUCN environment. (KSR 12)

New website developed and online: 0

Result description: We drafted almost all the text for the new website and defined the structure of it. Moreover, most of the website is already programmed.

T-056 Increase the presence of the Cat Specialist Group on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). (KSR 12)

Increase in number of followers: 0%

Result description: The Cat SG and publication information were disseminated on LinkedIn and Facebook.

T-064 Keep the IUCN SSC website updated. (KSR 12)

The Cat SG website is updated: Ongoing.

Result description: The Cat SG website has been regularly updated.

Acknowledgements

Working very closely with the Cat Specialist Group Co-Chairs were Tabea Lanz (Assistant to the Chair, Red List Authority Coordinator), Roland Bürki (Assistant to the Chair, Digital Cat Library), Eline Brouwer (Assistant to the Chair, technical editor *Cat News*), Sugoto Roy (Programme officer), Valentyna Laskova (bookkeeping): a great thank you to all of them. We would

like to thank the many dedicated people who helped develop and run the various projects: Juan Repucci, Maximilian Allen, Sugoto Roy, and Giridhar Malla (associate editors *Cat News*). Alex Sliwa, Patrick Meier, Sebastian Kennerknecht and many more colleagues have generously made available their superb cat pictures for Cat Specialist Group purposes. Our projects would not be possible without financial support from many committed institutions and private persons. We are very grateful for the support of the Friends of the Cat Group, Zoo Leipzig, IUCN SSC Internal Grant, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Ayers Wild Cat Conservation Trust, The Gift of the Estate of Ted Bailey, CITES through IUCN Science and Data Centre, Stiftung XKBB, Stämpfli AG, and especially Patrick Meier, Malini Pittet and Peter Stämpfli.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 67

Geographic regions: 47 Global, 9 Africa, 2 America, 5 Asia, 6 Europe

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 13 (KSR 5, 6)

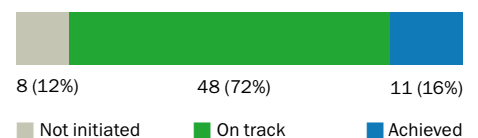
Plan: 8 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 5 (KSR 10, 11)

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

Communicate: 6 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated

■ On track

■ Achieved



Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus
Photo: Csenge Nagy



Tetra Parnaiba
Photo: Karina Molina



Trioceros hoehnelii
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson



Sternberia lutea
Photo: Hayri Duman



Egretta rufescens
Photo: Ernesto Gómez



Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf