



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 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 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the 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, Program Officers, Species Survival Directors, and Species Survival Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the 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 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).

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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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Shirley, M.H. and Parker, K. 2024. 2023 Report of the Pangolin Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 10 pp.

# IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
189

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Facebook: @PangolinSG

Instagram: @pangolinsg

X: @PangolinSG

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

YouTube: IUCN 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 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74).  
Status: Achieved

**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: Achieved

**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: On track

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



Pangolin Specialist Group Member Sathya Chinnadurai leading round table discussions at the Babanango In- and Ex Situ Workshop with Vienna Zoo  
Photo: M. Shirley

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

**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: On track

**NETWORK**

**T-001** Expand PSG 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: Achieved

**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 PSG members to strengthen the network and advance dialogue on pressing pangolin conservation science, issues, and solutions.  
Status: Achieved

**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: Achieved

**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: Achieved

**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 PSG internship programme by the end of 2022.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Continue building relationships with range state governments.  
Status: Achieved

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

**T-027** Increase and secure core PSG funding, including development of PSG potential endowment.  
Status: On track

**COMMUNICATE**

**T-023** Share the PSG's activities through strategic and targeted communications.  
Status: Achieved

**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 PSG members to share information and data by mid-2022.  
Status: Achieved

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## Activities and results 2023

### 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 2023, our Trade and Trafficking Database Focal Point finalised and coordinated the peer review of the database architecture. We secured a quote from a web developer to complete the work, and we estimate that the system will be completed in 2024.

### 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 2023, PSG continued coordination of a partnership between five members from four different countries, including two range states, to implement Operation Pangolin including in Cameroon and Gabon. The PSG developed

a partnership between six members from four different countries, including two range states, to secure funding for a study on traditional medicine practitioner engagement in multistakeholder wildlife management systems to be initiated in Benin. We additionally supported members and their conservation initiatives by providing six 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: We hosted the West Africa Regional Conservation Action Planning workshop in March 2023, developing a multistakeholder strategy covering the three species of pangolins that occur in the region to guide conservation actions across the next 30 years. Following the workshop, the action plan drafting team proceeded to develop the written action plan through a participatory review process agreed upon by workshop participants. We anticipate the plan will be completed in 2024. In 2023 the PSG started the process of developing the very first Southern 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, and initiated fundraising. We are partnering with WESSA and the Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation to undertake this work.

### 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: 1

Result description: Completed authoritative report on pangolin scale conversion parameters for the CITES Animals Committee, which was included as part of agenda item 31 at AC32. The conversion parameters presented were considered to be preliminary, and the Animal's Committee encouraged Parties and other interested stakeholders to continue collaborating with this initiative. Updated conversion parameters will be presented to AC33 in 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 completed an authoritative report on pangolin scale

# World Pangolin Day 2023

## February 18



2023 World Pangolin Day Logo, designed by Adam Peyman  
Photo: PSG Archives

conversion parameters for the CITES Animals Committee, which was included as part of agenda item 31 at AC32. The CITES Focal Point (D. Challender) participated in AC32 to present the report and field questions from the Parties. The report is attached to target 018.

### 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: 0  
Result description: A task force was initiated to develop guidance about translocating pangolins (also referenced in Target 031). The task force continues to meet and work on this document. Progress continued relevant to developing guidance on live transport of pangolins, including needed updates for IATA regulations (also referenced in Target 029), as well as developing guidance on pangolin tourism and photography for social media purposes (also referenced in Target 033). These latter will be finalised in 2024. We also completed an authoritative report on pangolin scale conversion parameters for the CITES Animals Committee, which was included as part of agenda item 31 at AC32. Data collection continued in 2023 to enable updated

conversion parameters for 2024. We secured external funding to produce and develop a guidance document on methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations. We liaised with PSG members and other stakeholders implementing species monitoring to update the guidance. Additionally, we created a task force and began collating information on guidance related to genetic, isotopic and forensic sampling of pangolins.

#### 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: The draft transportation guidance was circulated for commentary and peer-review. We anticipate this document to be produced and published in 2024.

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

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0  
Result description: In 2023 the PSG team was in communication with global governments about the availability of seizures that could be analysed for species composition, but none became available. We continued data collection, with individual scale masses added to the database for four species. Updated conversion parameters will be presented to AC33 in 2024.

#### T-031 Publish and circulate a guidance document on rescued pangolin translocation by 2025. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0  
Result description: A Task Force was initiated to develop guidance about translocating pangolins. The Task Force continues to meet and work on this document.

#### T-032 Distribute a guidance document on methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations to key stakeholders by 2023. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0  
Result description: We secured external funding from the Pangolin Crisis Fund and engaged a consultant to produce and develop the guidance document on methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations. We liaised with PSG members and other stakeholders implementing species monitoring to collect data on the various detection and monitoring methods being applied to pangolins globally, and analysed these data to better understand the success of each method. The manuscript was drafted and has undergone several rounds of review and revision. We anticipate the guidance document to be submitted as a peer-reviewed publication, as well as made into a living document on the PSG website, in 2024.



Pangolin Specialist Group Members in attendance at the West Africa Regional Action Planning Workshop  
Photo: M. Shirley

**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: The working group continued to meet and draft this guidance in 2023.

**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.** (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: We created a Task Force and began collating information on guidance related to genetic, isotopic and forensic sampling of pangolins. The Task Force produced a first draft of the guidance and circulated it for peer-review. We anticipate finalising this guidance 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 has kept the pause on developing this guidance as the PSG has focused on developing strategic approaches to addressing sensitive topics with appropriate evidence, in particular in the face of rapidly evolving information related to wildlife farming due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic and a shifting focus to One Health and the One Plan Approach under the IUCN.

**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: 11

Result description: The PSG submitted a report to AC32 in response to CITES Decision 18.239 developing conversion parameters for seized pangolin scales. The Kenya Wildlife Service invited the PSG to review its draft action plan. To do this we formed a review team comprised of five PSG members, including one of our dedicated facilitators, who reviewed the document and provided extensive comments to KWS. The PSG collaborated with Fauna and Flora International and the USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development (WABILED) to implement the West African Regional Conservation Action Planning workshop for pangolins in the West Africa Region, following which three PSG members (S. Zanvo, F. Simo, and S. Heighton) lead the drafting and review of the Action Plan (anticipated publication date in 2024). For the workshop itself, PSG engaged CPSG's African Focal Point Lauren Waller to support the implementation of the workshop, who co-facilitated alongside PSG Co-Chair Matt Shirley, which was attended and supported by 20 PSG members. Southern Africa regional PSG Co-Chair Kelsey Prediger responded to requests from the government and NGO stakeholders of Tanzania, Botswana, and Zambia to initiate pangolin conservation programs. Fellows from the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders program continued to request technical support and guidance related to research opportunities for developing

technological tools to support pangolin field science. The PSG was invited by the Vienna Zoo to participate in an emerging initiative assessing how the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation communities can synergise for pangolin conservation. This was implemented as a three-day workshop at the Babanongo Private Reserve in South Africa, and was attended by PSG Co-Chair M. Shirley, the Southern Africa Regional Co-Chairs K. Prediger and H. Atkinson, *Ex Situ* Thematic Co-Chair M. Gudehus, Southeast Asia Regional Co-Chair A. Kurniawan, West Africa Regional Co-Chairs P. Agro and O. Morenikeji – virtually – and four additional PSG members. As a result of this meeting, PSG is developing an MoU with WAZA for strengthened collaboration. The IUCN was implicated in consulting with the Ugandan government regarding the development of oil extraction concessions in Murchison Falls National Park, and our East Africa Chair, S. Nixon, provided critical information on the potential impact of these activities on pangolins and remains the focal point as this initiative moves forward. New pangolin conservation stakeholders in Indonesia, specifically Sarawak, were guided by technical support provided by SE Asia Co-Chair A. Kurniawan. The PSG maintains the email address <mailto:info@pangolinsg.org> and responded to more than 100 stakeholder requests for information in 2023.

**NETWORK**

**Capacity building**

**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)

Pangolin Specialist Group Members participating in the Operation Pangolin Kick-Off event in Yaounde, Cameroon  
Photo: M. Shirley



Cameroonian and Gabonese stakeholders discussing novel technologies being developed as part of Operation Pangolin to improve detection and monitoring of wild pangolin populations, as well as enable a better understanding of pangolin trafficking  
Photo: M. Shirley



Number of people trained in conservation planning: 12

Result description: In 2023, twelve PSG members gained facilitation and conservation planning experience through organizing, hosting and delivering the West Africa Regional Conservation Action Planning Workshop, which took place in March 2023. Several members completed the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group online six-week training.

#### Membership

**T-001 Expand PSG 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: 22

Result description: The PSG added 22 new members in 2023. Of the 54 range states where wild pangolins occur, we newly achieved representation from Zambia and Botswana (both represented by country national). We also increased ties with the international *ex situ* conservation community and welcomed facilitators who completed IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group conservation planning training.

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

Number of meetings held: 22

Result description: We convened three Zoom meetings open to the entire Membership, providing two opportunities

at each “date” for PSG members to join and discuss PSG and other pangolin-related conservation issues. The Steering Committee met twice in 2023. Regional Chairs also convened their member working groups (East Asia, 4 meetings; West Africa, 3 meetings; Central Africa, 1 meeting; Philippines, 4 conservation and management subcommittee meetings; South Asia, 1 meeting; Southern Africa, 4 meetings).

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

Number of interns engaged: 2

Result description: In 2023, the PSG continued to employ a part-time communication assistant who filled the communications-relevant responsibilities of past interns. We welcomed a volunteer intern to the operations team to support social media engagement and assist with the website overhaul. We secured funding and developed position descriptions for several new support roles that will be hired in 2024.

#### Synergy

**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: 1

Result description: In 2023, the PSG website has been entirely revamped and now includes a members-only section that is password-accessible. This section includes a member directory, resources such as our member-developed Community Principles, communications strategy, draft work plan, and other internal guidance materials. Additionally, the portal includes a literature library, and we are in the

process of developing a trade and trafficking database and a legal atlas that will outline the regulatory status of pangolins in relevant countries.

**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 2023, the PSG initiated conversations with several different potential partner organizations. These conversations continue and we hope to secure a new agreement in 2024.

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

Number of government engagement activities conducted by PSG Leadership Committee or members on behalf of Pangolin SG: 13

Result description: Through the organization and implementation of the West Africa Regional Conservation Action Planning Workshop, relationships with governments within the West African region were enhanced and newly established as part of building the fundamental regional network critical to achieving conservation action through coordinated efforts. All pangolin range states within the region were represented at the workshop (Cameroon, Togo, Nigeria, Guinea, Benin, Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia). The government of Kenya organized and delivered a conservation planning workshop for the three pangolin species that occur there. Before this workshop, our network in Kenya was still in its infancy. The PSG was invited to contribute to the meeting organization and

process planning, and six PSG Members were in attendance to provide technical content and guidance. Regional PSG Co-Chairs in Southern Africa commenced organizing a regional planning workshop slated to take place in 2024. As part of the process, they are building a new regional network that includes reaching out to countries where the PSG previously lacked members and/or points of contact, such as Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. Further, initial steps to develop the pangolin conservation network in East Asia have been undertaken by the East Asia Regional Co-Chairs, particularly through developing an understanding of and building relationships with China's conservation agencies.

**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: 1

Result description: In 2023, the PSG CITES Focal Point (D. Challender) participated as a member of the IUCN delegation to the 32nd meeting of the CITES Animals Committee.

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

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1

Result description: In 2023, the PSG secured operational funds totalling \$990K as part of a United States State Department grant. These funds include some core

funding for PSG operation discretion, as well as the implementation of key activities related to strategic pangolin conservation in Benin in partnership with ZSL.

**COMMUNICATE  
Communication**

**T-023 Share the PSG's activities through strategic and targeted communications.** (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 3

Result description: World Pangolin Day, which for 12 years has taken place on the third Saturday of each February, continues to be the center of the pangolin conservation year from a communications standpoint. Our outreach objectives continue to be (1) to raise the profile of the eight pangolin species, (2) to raise the profile of our Members, and of course (3) to raise the profile of the PSG. For 2023, we developed a series of social media-friendly infographics and fact cards about the eight pangolin species for Instagram, Facebook and X. Dr Tulshi Laxmi, our World Pangolin Day Focal Point, developed a video highlighting our message for 2023, which was "Communities Leading Pangolin Conservation". The theme was translated into numerous languages by the PSG Membership and our member Adam Peyman developed a colourful logo to highlight its message, which was adopted

by many of our members in celebration of World Pangolin Day. We overhauled the [PSG website](#), which now includes interactive features and better highlights member activities, our role in the SSC's Assess-Plan-Act cycle, as well as the Steering Committee. The website also includes a members-only section that is acknowledged in Target 005. The PSG continues to engage with the public through social media accounts including Facebook, LinkedIn, X and Instagram. For 2023, we published 24 posts on Instagram, 22 on Facebook, 7 on LinkedIn, and 22 on X.

**T-026 Develop materials for educators in formal and informal settings to educate and inspire school children about pangolins by 2025.** (KSR 13)

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

Result description: We overhauled the [PSG website](#), which now includes interactive features and better highlights member activities, our role in the SSC's Assess-Plan-Act cycle, as well as the Steering Committee. The PSG continues to engage with the public through social media accounts including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram.

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

Communications working group established and effectively sharing information and data: 2



Pangolin pup yawning. This pup was born wild and free after its mother was successfully rescued and released back into the wild – a result of successful collaboration between law enforcement, veterinarians, community members, wildlife monitors, and PSG members in South Africa  
Photo: Francois Meyer

Result description: As part of the [PSG website](#) overhaul, we created a members-only section that provides directory information including country, expertise and contact information. An extensive PDF-based publication library has been established and is available to members via this members-only portal.

### Scientific meetings

#### T-023 Share the PSG's activities through strategic and targeted communications. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events organized: 4

Result description: In 2023 the PSG was involved in organizing four events that implicated both PSG members and non-members. As part of the development of the West African Regional Conservation Action Plan, we held a workshop attended by representatives from government, NGO, and academic stakeholders during which presentations, panels, and round tables were held on a variety of topics related to pangolin science and conservation. We participated alongside the Vienna Zoo in a workshop as part of an emerging initiative to assess how the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation communities can synergize for pangolin conservation during which presentations were delivered to PSG members and non-members on a variety of topics related to pangolin science and conservation. PSG's East Asia region hosted four webinars in 2023 that provided a platform for scientists to share their research and

scientific endeavours that are relevant to pangolin conservation in East Asia, which are open to members and non-members. PSG co-organized the Operation Pangolin kick-off event in Cameroon in July 2023 that was attended by 50 people representing government, NGO, and academic stakeholders - including presentations on Operation Pangolin and round tables on topics related to its activities and stakeholder engagement.

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 35

Result description: The East Asia Region working group of the PSG hosted four webinars in 2023 that provided a platform for scientists to share their research and scientific endeavours that are relevant to pangolin conservation in East Asia. East Asia Co-Chair Dr Nick Sun presented the published conservation plans for the population of the Chinese pangolin in Taiwan to the PSG Membership at one of our all-hands meetings in order to support and encourage adherence to the scientific principles of developing conservation strategies for pangolins. During the West Africa workshop, 4 presentations and 5 panels were held on topics related to pangolin science and conservation. During the Babanango workshop, 12 presentations were delivered. At the Operation Pangolin event, 5 presentations and 4 round tables were held.

### 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 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

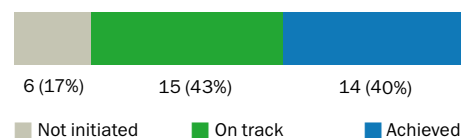
Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 9 (KSR 10)

Network: 9 (KSR 1, 2, 3, 4)

Communicate: 5 (KSR 12, 13)

#### Overall achievement 2021–2025:





*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