



## SSC Chair's Citation of Excellence

### 1. Selection criteria

The SSC Chair's Office will recognize SSC Groups for their commitment to the annual reporting process and their outstanding contributions to any of the five components of the Species Conservation Cycle.

#### **Commitment to the reporting process**

##### **I. Delivery of annual reports through the SSC DATA Information System:**

We value the commitment of the SSC Groups to submit their annual reports of activities and results obtained in connection with the targets formulated for the quadrennium. We expect to receive an annual report from every SSC Group, every year during the quadrennium, using the SSC DATA Information System to upload the information.

##### **II. Responsiveness and engagement with the reporting process:**

We value the interest and care shown by the leaders of the SSC Groups in the process of report submission every year, including on-time report submission, report completeness, responsiveness to requests for missing data, broad involvement of group members (focal persons) in the reporting process, and efficient proofreading of the draft report.

#### **Criteria by Component of the Species Conservation Cycle**

##### **I. Assess Component:**

This category focuses on recognizing the groups that have significantly contributed to monitor species and inform the world about their conservation status and trends of biodiversity, thus providing measures for the health of our biosphere.

Specifically, we are recognizing the groups that had outstanding results in terms of:

- Number of Red List assessments and reassessments completed (global, regional or national).
- Number of other assessments completed (Green Status, invasive species, climate change).
- Number of research projects in progress or completed.
- Number of scientific results published in connection with the SSC Group's work.

## **II. Plan Component:**

This category recognizes the groups that have developed collaborative, inclusive, and science-based strategies and conservation action plans including policy change initiatives, to ensure the most effective species conservation actions.

We are recognizing the groups that had outstanding results in terms of:

- Number of conservation action plans and strategies developed.
- Number of policy-related initiatives conducted at local, national, regional, or global level, organized and attended where the species conservation perspective has been strengthened.
- Number of technical documents generated to support plans, strategies, and policies.
- Number of conservation action plans and policy-related initiatives endorsed by authorities/governments.

## **III. Act Component:**

Under this category, we are recognizing SSC Groups that have contributed to improve the conservation status of biodiversity, by convening and mobilizing actions involving governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

Specifically, we are recognizing the groups that had outstanding results in terms of:

- Number of conservation projects in progress or accomplished.
- Number of technical consultations contributing to the implementation of conservation actions.
- Number of intervention letters/position statements addressing major drivers/emerging threats.
- Number of sustainable practices supported.

## **IV. Network Component:**

This category focuses on recognizing the groups that have enhanced and supported the SSC Network to further significant outcomes across the Species Conservation Cycle.

Specifically, we are recognizing the SSC Groups that had outstanding results in terms of:

- Number of members recruited and countries represented.
- Number of capacity-building initiatives implemented.
- Number of in-kind partnership initiatives established.
- Number of funding partnership initiatives established.
- Collaborations established with IUCN and non-IUCN bodies.

## **V. Communicate Component:**

This category recognizes the groups that have enhanced their conservation work through strategic and targeted communications.

Specifically, we are recognizing the SSC groups that had outstanding results in terms of:

- Number of group newsletters and similar periodicals published.
- Number of scientific meetings organized and held.
- Number of communication products using innovative tools.
- Number of public participations through social media.

## **2. Eligibility**

SSC Groups eligible to participate in this recognition program are those who have completed their SSC DATA reports accordingly during the 2021-2023 period.

## **3. Award**

This award is going to be a certificate and public recognition at the Leaders' Meeting.

## **4. Selection Process**

SSC Groups will be evaluated based on activities and results reported in SSC DATA within the current quadrennium.

All group categories of the SSC Network will be considered for this recognition (Taxonomic Specialist Groups, Disciplinary Specialist Groups, Geographic Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces, Committees, and Action Partnerships).

In the case of Taxonomic Specialist Groups, we will subdivide them based on membership size (less than 50 members and more than 50 members). Subsequently, within each of these size categories, we will consider the different taxonomic groups (mammals, amphibians and reptiles, plants, fishes, etc.) to guarantee broad representativeness across taxonomic groups.

Finally, to come up with a final top list of awarded groups, in the case of multiple tied groups, we will use the criterion of the number of components of the Species Conservation Cycle (Assess, Plan, Act, Network, Communicate) addressed by each group.

## **5. Communication**

The SSC members will be notified of their Citation of Excellence Award during the 5<sup>th</sup> IUCN SSC Leaders Meeting, in Abu Dhabi, on October 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.