

**For immediate release****Meet the species experts****Background:**

Come meet IUCN's on-the-ground experts in species conservation and have your questions answered in person. The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) has over 100 Specialist Groups, many of whom will be attending Congress. Learn about their 'real' work in the field, their stories, successes and challenges in conserving species.

**Key Issues:**

- The IUCN Species Survival Commission is a group of 7,500 volunteer experts dedicated to conserving species as the foundation for a sustainable future
- Over 100 SSC Specialist Groups are working to conserve species through research and assessing their status on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™
- These are the people to talk to in order to discover the adventure and real issues of conserving species on-the-ground.

**Where:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> – 9th October (Monday to Thursday), 11.00-11.30am, Species Pavilion (coffee provided)

**Spokespersons:**

- Dena Cator [dena.cator@iucn.org](mailto:dena.cator@iucn.org)
- Julie Griffin [julie.griffin@iucn.org](mailto:julie.griffin@iucn.org)

**Materials for the Media:**

<http://www.iucn.org/species>

SSC Specialist Group webpage with a directory for all group profiles:

[http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/about\\_ssc/specialist\\_groups/directory\\_specialist\\_groups/index.cfm](http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/about_ssc/specialist_groups/directory_specialist_groups/index.cfm)

Photos of SSC Specialist Group Chairs:

[http://intranet.iucn.org/webfiles/doc/SSC/presentations/SG\\_Chairs\\_Meeting/Photos\\_SG\\_Chairs\\_March\\_27\\_Main\\_Web\\_Page\\_2.pdf](http://intranet.iucn.org/webfiles/doc/SSC/presentations/SG_Chairs_Meeting/Photos_SG_Chairs_March_27_Main_Web_Page_2.pdf)

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**About IUCN**

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges by supporting scientific research; managing field projects all over the world; and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN, international conventions and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

The world's oldest and largest global environmental network, IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)