



The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)



QUARTERLY REPORT
MARCH 2018

White-backed vulture, *Gyps africanus*, CR
Photo © Andre Botha



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our focus for this quarterly report is on human resources for conservation and major threats to species. We begin with a summary of the activities of the SSC Chair's Office team, and continue by highlighting an important workshop carried out in Abu Dhabi between 11 and 15 February. There are several reasons why this was a significant event. First, the group of instructors was inspired by [IUCN's One Programme Charter](#). It combined representatives from two Commissions (SSC and the Commission on Ecosystem Management), the Secretariat, and two IUCN Members (Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and Provita). Second, it emphasized that the greatest strength of the knowledge products mobilized by IUCN is their integration. The workshop introduced participants to the [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#) and the [IUCN Red List of Ecosystems](#), while briefly outlining their contribution to the delineation of [Key Biodiversity Areas](#). Third, it built the connections needed and developed a workplan to assess the species and ecosystems of Abu Dhabi by local experts, in collaboration with the instructors. This is a model that we wish to improve and replicate in other countries.

Plumeria sp.
Photo © David Southall

We welcome Nahomy De Andrade, a new member of our team. With her appointment, we move closer to finalizing the establishment of the core staff of the SSC Chair's Office. The final two positions programmed to date, are expected to be filled by mid-2018.

Strengthening the capacity of "rangers, veterinarians, police and other law enforcement and conservation staff" is shown by Andre Botha's article (Co-Chair Vulture Specialist Group), as an effective method to address mass vulture poisonings in Africa. He reports that mortality can be reduced by implementing public awareness campaigns and training agency teams to rapidly respond to poisoning incidents, following best practices. The challenge is enormous, but strategically trained human resources can make a big difference.

We close the report with an inspiring conversation with Karin Ebey, the youngest member of the SSC network. Early on she became interested in crocodiles and got involved in their study and conservation. Karin was selected this year to present her high school research on American alligator population dynamics at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, USA). She is determined to continue down the path of becoming a professional conservationist and save the gharial, her "favorite species." We wish her success!

Resumen ejecutivo

Nuestro foco en este reporte trimestral está en el desarrollo de talento humano para conservación y en grandes amenazas sobre especies. Empezamos con un resumen de las actividades del equipo de la Oficina de la Presidencia de CSE, y continuamos resaltando un importante taller celebrado en Abu Dabi entre el 11 y 15 de febrero. Hay varias razones por las cuales este fue un taller significativo. En primer lugar, el grupo de instructores estuvo inspirado en el enfoque de [Un Solo Programa de UICN](#). Integró a representantes de dos Comisiones (CSE y la Comisión para el Manejo de Ecosistemas), el Secretariado y dos instituciones Miembro de UICN (Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi y Provita). En segundo lugar, puso énfasis en que la mayor fortaleza de los productos del conocimiento movilizados por UICN es su integración. El taller dio a los participantes una introducción a la [Lista Roja de Especies Amenazadas de UICN](#) y la [Lista Roja de Ecosistemas de UICN](#), así como también abordó brevemente la contribución de éstas al establecimiento de [Áreas Clave para la Biodiversidad](#). En tercer lugar, se crearon las conexiones necesarias, así como se desarrolló un plan de trabajo para que expertos locales evalúen las especies y ecosistemas de Abu Dabi, en colaboración con los instructores. Este es un modelo que deseamos mejorar y replicar en otros países.

Damos la bienvenida a Nahomy De Andrade, una nueva integrante de nuestro equipo. Con su incorporación nos aproximamos al establecimiento de todo el equipo central de la Oficina de la Presidencia de CSE. Por el momento tenemos otras dos posiciones faltantes que esperamos ocupar para mediados de 2018.

Fortalecer las capacidades de "guardaparques, veterinarios, policías y otras autoridades y profesionales de la conservación" es mostrado por el artículo de Andre Botha (Co-Presidente del Grupo de Especialistas en Buitres), como un método efectivo para enfrentar el envenenamiento masivo de buitres en África. Él reporta que la mortalidad puede reducirse al implementar campañas de concienciación pública y entrenar al personal de distintas agencias para responder rápidamente a incidentes de envenenamiento, siguiendo mejores prácticas. El reto es

enorme, pero el talento humano entrenado de forma estratégica puede hacer una gran diferencia. Cerramos este reporte con una inspiradora conversación con Karin Ebey, la miembro más joven de la red CSE. Desde niña se interesó en los cocodrilos y se involucró en su estudio y conservación. Karin fue seleccionada este año para presentar su investigación de secundaria sobre dinámicas poblacionales de cocodrilo americano en la International Science and Engineering Fair en Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, USA). Ella está decidida en convertirse en una profesional de la conservación y salvar el gavial, su “especie favorita”. ¡Le deseamos éxitos!

Résumé

Notre objectif pour ce rapport trimestriel concerne les ressources humaines de la conservation et des principales menaces aux espèces. Nous commençons par un résumé des activités de l'équipe du Bureau de la Présidence de la CSS, et continuons en soulignant un atelier important qui s'est déroulé à Abu Dhabi du 11 au 15 Février. Il y a plusieurs raisons pour lesquelles cet événement était significatif. Premièrement, le groupe d'instructeurs a été inspiré par la [Charte Un seul Programme de l'UICN](#). Il a réuni des représentants de deux Commissions (CSS et la Commission de la Gestion des Écosystèmes), le Secrétariat et deux membres de l'UICN (Agence Environnementale – Abu Dhabi et ProVita). Deuxièmement, il a souligné que le meilleur moyen pour faciliter la connaissance des produits mobilisés par l'UICN est leur intégration. L'atelier a présenté aux participants la [Liste Rouge des Espèces Menacées de l'UICN](#) et la [Liste Rouge des Écosystèmes de l'UICN](#), tout en soulignant brièvement leur contribution à la délimitation des [Zones Clés pour la Biodiversité](#). Troisièmement, il a construit les connexions nécessaires et a développé un plan de travail pour évaluer les espèces et les écosystèmes d'Abu Dhabi par des experts locaux, en collaboration avec les instructeurs. C'est un modèle que nous souhaitons améliorer et reproduire dans d'autres pays.

Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à Nahomy De Andrade, une nouvelle membre de notre équipe. Avec sa nomination, nous nous rapprochons de la mise en place définitive du personnel de base du Bureau du Président de la CSS. Les deux derniers postes programmés à ce jour devraient être pourvus d'ici mi-2018.

Renforcer la capacité des “rangers, des vétérinaires, de la police et d'autres membres du personnel chargé de l'application de la loi et de la conservation” est présentée dans l'article d'Andre Botha (Coprésident du Groupe de Spécialistes des Vautours), comme une méthode efficace pour lutter contre les empoisonnements de vautour de masse en Afrique. Il signale que la mortalité peut être réduite en mettant en œuvre des campagnes de sensibilisation du public et des équipes d'organismes de formation pour répondre rapidement aux incidents d'empoisonnement en suivant les meilleures pratiques. Le défi est énorme, mais les ressources humaines formées stratégiquement peuvent faire une grande différence.

Nous clôturons le rapport par une causerie constructive avec Karin Ebey, le plus jeune membre du réseau CSS. Très tôt, elle s'est intéressée aux crocodiles et s'est impliquée dans leur étude et leur conservation. Karin a été sélectionnée cette année pour présenter ses recherches sur la dynamique des populations d'alligators américains à la Foire Internationale des Sciences et de l'Ingénierie de Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, Etats-Unis). Elle est engagée à devenir conservatrice professionnelle et sauver le gavial, son “espèce favorite”. Nous lui souhaitons du succès!

RECENT ACTIVITIES



CONFERENCES

WHERE THE SSC CHAIR'S OFFICE ATTENDED OR OFFERED A LECTURE



MEETINGS

WHERE THE SSC CHAIR'S OFFICE PARTICIPATED



INTERVENTIONS

LETTERS SENT TO GOVERNMENTS OR COMPANIES TO PROPOSE ACTIONS FOR SPECIES AND HABITATS UNDER THREAT



Conferences and meetings

(Jon Paul Rodríguez, JPR; Domitilla Raimondo, DR; Rachel Hoffmann, RH; Kira Mileham, KM; Bibiana Sucre, BS; Orlando Salamanca, OS; Simeon Bezeng, SB; Robert Bullock, RB)

Meetings

- *South African Threatened Species Unit Strategic Planning meeting*, 8-10 January, Pretoria, South Africa. (SB, DR)
- *Establishing a Red List Hub*, 9-12 January, Albuquerque Biopark, New Mexico, USA. (KM)
- *Freshwater Conservation Sub-Committee Meeting*, 11-12 January, London, UK. (RH)
- *IUCN Training Workshop on Species and Ecosystems Red Lists*, 11-15 February, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (JPR, RB, in partnership with Provita, see article on [page 9](#))
- *Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation*, 22-26 January, ZACC Conference, Jacksonville, Florida, USA. (KM)
- *South African regional stakeholder's engagement meeting*, 5 February, South African Biodiversity Institute, Cape Town, South Africa. (SB, DR)
- *St. Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute Planning Workshop*, 6-8 February, Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA. (JPR)
- *Association of Zoos and Aquariums Professional Development Conference*, 11-14 February, Wheeling, West Virginia, USA. (KM)
- *Partnership review meeting and update on conservation issues and efforts to Al Ain Zoo staff*, 13 February, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (JPR)
- *The Role of Scientific Publishing in Conservation*, 22 February, Cambridge, UK. (RH)
- *Red List workshop*, 26 February-6 March, Maputo, Mozambique. (SB, DR)
- *Space for Nature Symposium, ZSL*, 27-28 February, London, UK. (RH)
- *Topeka Zoo partnership scoping visit and conservation lecture*, 7-10 March, Kansas, USA. (KM)
- *Red List training workshop for a consortium of Hawaiian conservation organizations*, 18 March, Honolulu Zoo, Honolulu, Hawaii. (RB)
- *Conservation Planning Specialist Group meeting with UK Specialist Group Chairs*, 19 March, Cambridge, UK. (RH)
- *Green List Workshop*, 22-23 March, Oxford, UK. (RH)
- *Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Midyear Conference*, 23-29 March, Jacksonville, Florida, USA. (KM)
- *IUCN Species Communication Meeting*, 29 March, Cambridge, UK. (RH)

Conferences

- *Presentation at BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria)*, 18 January, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, East Yorkshire, UK. (RB)
- *The role of the IUCN Species Survival Commission in saving the world's species*, 1 February, Global Wildlife Conservation Retreat, Austin, USA. (JPR)
- *Introduction to National Red Lists of Threatened Species and Ecosystems, using IUCN categories and criteria*, 11 February, IUCN Training Workshop on Species and Ecosystems Red Lists, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (JPR)
- *The role of the IUCN Species Survival Commission in saving the world's species*, 13 February, Al Ain Zoo, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (JPR)
- *The New Global KBA Standard*, 14 February, IUCN Training Workshop on Species and Ecosystems Red Lists, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (JPR, in collaboration with Penny Langhammer, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Zoltan Waliczky, BirdLife International).

Interventions

High-level interventions address conservation issues of serious concern, through letters to governments or companies which highlight species and habitats under threat, and propose actions on their behalf. Each letter provides the necessary background and technical information, and a thorough review process led by Rachel Hoffmann, engaging the appropriate Specialist Groups, experts across the network, the IUCN regional offices and IUCN programmes.

- **Increasing pressure on the Critically Endangered Pehuenche Spiny-chest Frog (*Alsodes pehuenche*)**, on 19 February 2018, Jon Paul Rodríguez, Ana Di Pangraco (Executive Director of Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, and Chair of Argentinian National Committee and South American Regional Committee of IUCN) and Ariadne Angulo (Co-Chair, IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group and Interim Executive Director, Amphibian Survival Alliance), sent a letter to Humberto Mingorance (Environment Secretary of Mendoza Province) and Mabel Chambouleyrón (Director of Renewable Natural Resources of Mendoza Province), to call their attention to increasing pressure on the less than 9 km² that make up the geographical distribution of the Pehuenche Spiny-chest Frog, located in Argentina, very close to the border with Chile. During the last few years, creek beds have been modified by road building, and habitat has been altered due to trampling by cattle and solid waste deposition from annual bi-national gatherings that take place there. Population has declined by 40% from a total of 500 individuals estimated in 2008. The letter recommended: 1) build wildlife tunnels to facilitate movement of frogs and other animals under the road, 2) modify the winter road salt collectors to avoid pollution of frog habitat, 3) return flow to creeks whose flow has been diverted, 4) exclude cattle, 5) periodically collect all solid waste, especially after bi-national gatherings. No response has been received yet.



Pereza, *Bradypus tridactylus*, LC
Photo © Jhonathan Miranda



Participants to the training workshops on Species and Ecosystem Red Lists for Abu Dhabi
Photo © Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

Training Workshop on Species and Ecosystem Red Lists for Abu Dhabi Emirate

Bolstering work at the national level is one of the key priorities of the SSC Chair's team. The portfolio of knowledge products mobilized by IUCN helps inform progress towards nations' international environmental commitments, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

More importantly, conservation action is more likely to take place at the national than the global level, so documenting the status of biodiversity locally allows governments to focus interventions on their top priorities. Between 11 and 15 February, a seven-person team from SSC, the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), the IUCN Secretariat and Provita joined forces with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), to carry out a training workshop on the categories and criteria that underlie IUCN's red lists of species and ecosystems. From Provita, the trainers were Ariany García, José Rafael Ferrer-Paris (also CEM), Jesús Morales and Irene Zager (also CEM); from the IUCN Global Ecosystem Management Programme, Rebecca Miller, and from SSC, Rob Bullock (employed by The Deep) and Jon Paul Rodríguez.

The EAD team, headed by Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri (Executive Director, Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector, Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity) and Salim Javed (Acting Director, Terrestrial Biodiversity, Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity), totaled over 25 specialists on species and habitats.



The first two days focused on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the assessment process, the criteria, applications at the regional and national level, examples and case studies. Days three and four were structured similarly, but on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, while the final day was devoted to presenting results and discussing integration of species and ecosystem assessments. A brief session also introduced Key Biodiversity Areas and their connection to red lists.

The next step of the process is for the EAD team to perform several hundred species assessments and share them with the team of trainers for review and feedback. A work plan that covers the rest of 2018

and possibly early 2019, establishes the number of assessments to be produced each month, and the maximum period for sending comments back to the assessors. Regular on-line consultation sessions are also planned, to assist with questions or challenges that may arise. Once species assessments are complete, the team will move on to ecosystems. The ultimate goal of this exercise is to strengthen the capacity of EAD specialists in performing biodiversity status assessments to inform public policies on conservation and sustainable use. The lesson learned in Abu Dhabi will also help to streamline the fairly uncommon practice within IUCN of simultaneous training in more than one knowledge product at a time, allowing for lower costs and higher efficiency of national biodiversity assessments.



SSC CHAIR'S OFFICE

Welcome to our new Partnerships and Grants Officer Nahomy De Andrade!

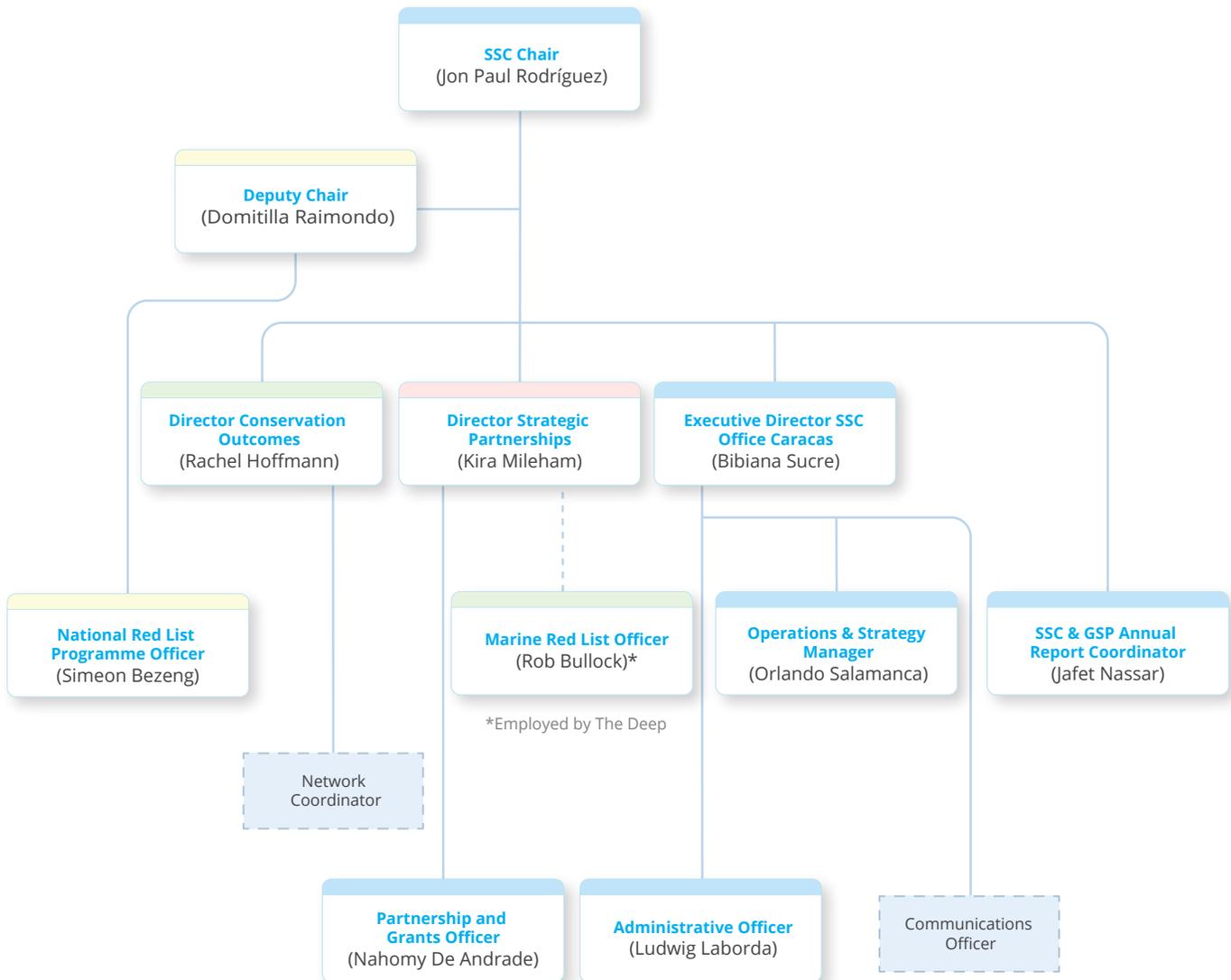
On March 2018, [Nahomy De Andrade](#) joined the SSC Chair's Office in Caracas, as Partnerships and Grants Officer. She is now a key member of the SSC partnership team, led by Kira Mileham. Nahomy is responsible for overseeing the ongoing management and operation of partnerships and conservation grants programs, ensuring projects are implemented and managed according to best practices in order to produce high standard outcomes in a timely manner.

Nahomy is an economist from *Universidad Central de Venezuela* with a Master's degree in public management from *Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración*, and additional courses in leadership and coaching.

Welcome to the team Nahomy!



Organizational chart



BASED IN:

- Venezuela
- South Africa
- Positions under recruitment
- United Kingdom
- USA



White-backed vulture, *Gyps africanus*, CR
Photo © Andre Botha

Efforts to reduce vulture deaths in Africa by mass poisonings

Andre Botha

Co-Chair Vulture Specialist Group

There is an escalating crisis impacting wildlife on the Africa continent, and vultures are taking the biggest hit. The use of poisons to kill wildlife has a long-established place in African history. However, the rapid acceleration in this use, coupled with the move to synthetic pesticides, has been shown to have a devastating effect on populations of many scavenging species ranging from hyenas to vultures, and many of which are threatened on the IUCN Red List.

The most significant drivers of wildlife poisoning in Africa are related to human-wildlife conflict and illegal hunting for bush-meat or other wildlife products used in trade. Africa's large mammal species are both a blessing and curse for many of its human inhabitants; species such as African Elephants, Hippopotamus, and especially large carnivores such as Lion and Leopard, are often responsible for crop and livestock losses that have a substantial impact on the livelihoods of many rural communities. Desperate farmers and herders often turn to poisoned baits to target wildlife that



pose a threat, or are perceived to do so. Sadly, however, such baits are indiscriminate in their nature and any species scavenging on the carcasses of the target animals (or the baits directly) are unintentionally killed.

Vultures are often most severely affected by these types of poisoning events due to their social feeding behaviour. In March 2018, 76 African White-backed Vultures were killed near the Ruaha National Park in Tanzania after feeding on the carcasses of 6 lions poisoned by villagers in retaliation for the predation of livestock by the pride. This coincided with the killing of 40 vultures in the Maasai Mara region of Kenya in April 2018, when herdsmen poisoned a carcass targeted to kill predatory lions. And, in south-western Zambia in December 2017, a total of 168 vultures were killed after feeding on an elephant carcass killed in response to crop damage.

In southern Africa, sentinel poisoning currently accounts for the highest increases in vulture mortalities. This form of deliberate poisoning is carried out by poachers to eradicate vultures, who increase their risk of detection, from the areas where they are conducting their illegal activities. Since 2011, when the first incident of this nature was detected in southern

Africa in association with ivory poaching, it is estimated that more than 3,500 vultures have been poisoned in recorded incidents of this nature in the region (although it is likely that many more of these incidents are never detected or reported). The most recent example of sentinel poisoning was confirmed in southern Mozambique, in February 2018, when 96 African White-backed Vultures and 7 Hooded Vultures were killed at a poisoned elephant carcass in the Mbashene-district after a poacher had laced an elephant carcass with carbofuran.

An added incentive for the use of poisoning is the trade in vulture parts for belief-use. Vultures are being deliberately targeted, especially in southern and West Africa, due to the demand for consumption by people who believe that they acquire clairvoyant and other abilities when doing so. As a result, ivory poachers now often return to deliberately poisoned elephant carcasses due to the additional income that can be derived from the harvest and sale of vulture parts. The recently adopted [CMS Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures](#) (Vulture MsAP), of which the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group was a major drafting partner, identifies various forms of poisoning

as the most significant threat that faces this ecologically important group of birds across its range of 128 countries. It most certainly is the main factor that is driving the rate of decline that currently sees 4 African species listed as Critically Endangered, with another 3 being Endangered. Species such as the White-headed Vulture (96%), Rüppell's Griffon (97%) and African White-backed Vulture (93%) have been affected by substantial population declines over the last 30 years.

The Vulture MsAP recommends a range of actions to reduce the impact of unintentional and intentional poisoning on vultures. This includes the following essential actions that are considered critical to reverse the current negative population trends:

- **Action 1.1.3.** Implement awareness campaigns, specifically covering (a) negative impacts on vultures and other non-target species; (b) likely ineffectiveness of poisoning as a problem animal control technique; (c) impacts of poisoning on human and livestock health; and (d) legal alternatives to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.
- **Action 1.2.2.** Establish protocols and train and support relevant agency staff (conservation, rangers, police and judiciary) to rapidly respond to poisoning incidents including sharing of best practices.
- **Action 5.4.1.** Expand poisoning response training programs to support conservation staff to rapidly respond to poisoning incidents.

Fortunately, vulture conservationists have already commenced with the implementation of measures towards achieving the above actions in various parts of southern and East Africa. Since 2015, more than 1,500 rangers, veterinarians, police and other law enforcement and conservation staff have received poisoning response and intervention training in 10



countries. Its aim is to enable early detection and rapid response to wildlife poisoning events to reduce the number of mortalities from incidents, as well as improving the likelihood of successful prosecution through thorough investigation and the proper collection of samples and other evidence for analysis.

Initial results from areas which have benefitted from training show that vulture mortalities can be reduced by more than 30%. However, a lot more needs to be done in terms of training to address the drivers of poisoning and to reduce the demand for wildlife products which leads to vultures being poisoned.

These results do provide a glimmer of hope that the impact of poisoning can be reduced to ensure the continued existence of sustainable vulture populations in Africa and to support the overall implementation of the Vulture MsAP.



Caimán de Orinoco, *Crocodylus intermedius*, CR
Photo © David Southall



Karin Ebey
Photo © Ruth Skoug and Peter Ebey

WHO SHAPES THE SSC?

Meet Karin Ebey, the youngest member of our network

Karin Ebey is the youngest member of the Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) and of the Species Survival Commission (SSC). She has been a supporter of CSG since she was just 6 years old, when she decided that instead of receiving birthday presents she preferred to gather donations to support CSG. In 2014, when she was only 10 years old, she became a member of CSG.

In December 2017 Karin and her family made a donation through the IACS-USA to the CSG; this amount has been matched by CSG to assist students to attend the next CSG meeting in Argentina in May 2018.

The SSC Chair's Office was captivated by this story and wanted to know and share more about Karin; a remarkable young conservationist!

Karin, what is the first memory you have about your interest in crocodiles? How old were you?

I don't have a first memory. I have loved crocodiles since age 5 ½. Before that I loved dinosaurs. I think I "evolved" in my passion.

Why is the Gharial your favorite crocodilian?

The Gharial is my favorite crocodilian because they are very unique and beautiful. I also like the other slender snouted species a lot, including *Mecistops cataphractus* and *Crocodylus johnstoni*.

How did you find out about the Crocodile Specialist Group? And how did you approach them?

I found out about the CSG from reading a book about crocodiles. At that time, I was trying to find a way to help the crocodiles by finding an organization to donate to. My family and I had already donated to the WWF, but most of their support goes towards mammals, which bothered me. I then wrote a letter to the CSG, and my family made a donation to them. I then started my tradition of donating my birthday money to the CSG. I received information that my donation went to fund radio transmitters for gharial research. I have continued to donate money every birthday of mine, knowing that I am helping to preserve my favorite creatures, the crocodilians.

Tell us about your research on crocodilian morphometrics!

For my 8th grade science fair project, I analyzed data from several crocodilian species looking at the relationship between head length and head width. I found that head length and head width are not related, and the relationship between the two varied among the species I examined. This suggests a possible way to identify species in trade, but more research is needed.

This year my science fair project was on exploring the effects of human interaction and hurricanes on American alligator population dynamics with a model I made. I found that human interaction has minimal effects on the alligator hurricane recovery. I also learned that human interaction only manages the population when the amount of hunting and farm release are balanced. Too much hunting or too much farm release results in population loss. This model needs validation for more significant results to be obtained, but with validation it has the potential to explore crocodilian population dynamics in more detail.

Do you think you will follow a career on crocodile conservation? What would you like to achieve?

I think that I will most likely follow a career in crocodile conservation. I hope to save the gharial because they are my favorite species and they are critically endangered. I also hope to add to our knowledge on crocodilians and discover something new.

What do you think IUCN, SSC and the Specialist Groups could do to increase the development of more young people like yourself into conservation careers?

I think the IUCN could get the word out about the SSC and Specialist Groups better through books, zoos, and online. I was very lucky to have learned about the CSG in the book that I read when I was younger because it connected me to scientists and support for my interest. Without that connection, I would not be where I am today. I think better education on the IUCN, SSC, and Specialist Groups is needed to allow young people to get excited and see the possibilities of conservation careers. These groups should be referenced in books and discussed at zoos because these are two places where much learning about animals and conservation occur.

Also, more middle level literature on conservation topics is needed because I struggle to find books on crocodiles and conservation that are at a high school reading level. There are many animal books at an elementary level and at the college level, but few in between, reducing outreach to high school students.



Red siskin, *Spinus cucullatus*, EN
Photo © Jhonathan Miranda

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Green vine snake, *Oxybelis fulgidus*
Photo © David Southall