



**The IUCN Species
Survival Commission**

QUARTERLY REPORT
DECEMBER 2022

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Cover Photo:

Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) **EN**.

Photo © Ishan Seefromthesky - unsplash

Turquoise Dwarf Gecko (*Lygodactylus williamsi*) **CR**.

Photo © Frederik Linti, Zoo Schwerin

The black-fronted piping guan or jacutinga
in Brazilian Portuguese, (*Pipile jacutinga*) **EN**.

Photo © Parque das Aves

The giant otter or giant river otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) **EN**.

Photo © Caroline Leuchtenberger



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IUCN Species Survival Commission



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Executive summary

We have now concluded the first year of the second quadrennium of the current SSC Leadership team. A new Chair will be elected in 2025, a new Steering Committee appointed shortly after that, and the entire roster of SSC group chairs renewed, following the procedure that we adopted at the 2019 SSC Leader's Meeting in Abu Dhabi. We have worked hard with our colleagues at the Secretariat to improve the membership system so that the next round of renewals runs more efficiently and effectively. Despite the challenge of reappointing the thousands of experts that make the IUCN Species Survival Commission the species conservation intellectual powerhouse that it is, we have recovered to almost 8,500 members, getting close to the numbers we had at the end of 2021. We are deeply grateful to all SSC leaders for your patience and your help in reconstituting the membership. We still have to address the [Biodiversity Paradox](#) but are gradually getting there thanks to your help.

For the remainder of the 2021-2025 quadrennium, the top priorities for the SSC Chair's Office are: 1) Diversify leadership and membership of SSC groups; 2) Fill taxonomic and geographic Specialist Group gaps; 3) Expand the role of SSC in implementation of Species Conservation Cycle at the national level; 4) Consolidate Center for Species Survival model, regionally and thematically to strengthen capacity; and 5) Plan for transition to new SSC Chair.

As it is the end of the year, we open our *Quarterly Report* with a summary of our recent activities and the network's achievements in 2022. As one can easily see, SSC DATA has allowed us to organize our work and systematize our reporting. Only one year of the quadrennium has gone by, and 67% of targets are in progress or have been achieved already. There is no doubt that we will surpass the expectations set at the beginning of this term. Financial support in the order of US\$ 560,000 has been disbursed in support of our network of 176 Groups in 186 Countries. This year we focused on supporting peer-review publications by SSC members and launched two efforts in this regard. Partnerships and work at the national level continue to occupy much of our time. Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership, Centers for Species Survival, Reverse the Red, and the Sumatran Rhino Survival Alliance show us that joining forces with others allows us to achieve larger goals. Much more on these topics can be read in the pages that follow below!

Resumen ejecutivo

Hemos concluido el primer año del segundo cuatrienio como equipo líder de la CSE. Se elegirá un nuevo presidente en 2025, se designará un nuevo comité directivo poco después y se renovará la lista completa de presidentes de grupos de la Comisión, siguiendo el procedimiento que adoptamos en la reunión de líderes de la CSE en Abu Dabi, 2019. Hemos trabajado arduamente con nuestros colegas en la Secretaría para mejorar el sistema de membresía, y así, la próxima ronda de renovaciones se lleve a cabo de manera más eficiente y eficaz. A pesar del desafío que ha representado volver a nombrar a los miles de expertos que hacen de la Comisión para la Supervivencia de las Especies de la UICN la potencia intelectual de conservación de especies que es, hemos re-registrado casi 8.500 miembros, acercándonos a los números que teníamos a fines de 2021. Estamos profundamente agradecidos con todos los líderes de la CSE por su paciencia y su ayuda para reconstituir la membresía. Todavía tenemos que abordar la [Paradoja de la conservación de la Biodiversidad](#), pero estamos llegando gradualmente gracias a su ayuda.

Para el resto del cuatrienio 2021-2025, las principales prioridades de la Oficina del Presidente de la CSE son: 1) Diversificar el liderazgo y la membresía de los grupos; 2) Llenar los vacíos taxonómicos y geográficos de los Grupos de Especialistas; 3) Ampliar el rol de la CSE en la implementación del Ciclo de Conservación de Especies a nivel nacional; 4) Consolidar el modelo de los Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies, a nivel regional para fortalecer la capacidad; y 5) Planificar la transición para el nuevo presidente de la CSE.

Como es fin de año, abrimos nuestro Informe Trimestral con un resumen de nuestras actividades recientes y los logros de la red en 2022. Fácilmente se evidencia cómo el SSC DATA nos ha permitido organizar el trabajo y sistematizar los informes. Solo ha pasado un año del cuatrienio y el 67% de las metas están en progreso o ya se han logrado. No hay duda de que superaremos las expectativas planteadas al inicio de este mandato. Al rededor de US\$ 560.000 se han destinado para apoyar proyectos de nuestra red —176 Grupos en 186 Países. Este año nos enfocamos en financiar publicaciones revisadas por pares de los miembros de la CSE y promovimos dos esfuerzos en este sentido. Las alianzas y el trabajo a nivel nacional continúan ocupando gran parte de nuestro tiempo. *Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership*, *Centers for Species Survival*, *Reverse the Red* y *Sumatran Rhino Survival Alliance* nos muestran que unir fuerzas con otros nos permite lograr objetivos más grandes. ¡Puede leer mucho más sobre estos temas en las páginas que siguen a continuación!

Résumé

Nous avons maintenant conclu la première année du deuxième quadrienium de l'actuelle équipe de direction de la CSE. Un nouveau président sera élu en 2025, un nouveau comité de pilotage nommé peu de temps après et la liste complète des présidents du groupe CSE renouvelée, conformément à la procédure que nous avons adoptée lors de la réunion des dirigeants de la CSE en 2019 à Abu Dhabi. Nous avons travaillé dur avec nos collègues du Secrétariat pour améliorer le système d'adhésion afin que la prochaine série de renouvellements se déroule plus efficacement. Malgré le défi de reconduire les milliers d'experts qui font de la Commission de la Sauvegarde des Espèces de l'UICN la centrale intellectuelle de la conservation des espèces qu'elle est, nous sommes revenus à près de 8 500 membres, nous rapprochant des chiffres que nous avions fin 2021. Nous sommes profondément reconnaissants à tous les dirigeants de CSE pour votre patience et votre aide dans la reconstitution des effectifs. Nous devons encore aborder [le Paradoxe de la Biodiversité](#) mais nous y arrivons progressivement grâce à votre aide.

Pour le reste du quadrienium 2021-2025, les principales priorités du bureau du président de la CSE sont :1) Diversifier le leadership et la composition des groupes CSE ;2) Combler les lacunes taxonomiques et géographiques du groupe de spécialistes ;3) Étendre le rôle de la CSE dans la mise en œuvre du cycle de conservation des espèces au niveau national ;4) Consolider le modèle du Centre pour la survie des espèces, au niveau régional et thématique pour renforcer les capacités ;et 5) Planifier la transition vers le nouveau président de la CSE.

Comme c'est la fin de l'année, nous ouvrons notre rapport trimestriel avec un résumé de nos activités récentes et des réalisations du réseau en 2022. Comme on peut facilement le constater, SSC DATA nous a permis d'organiser notre travail et de systématiser nos rapports. Une seule année du quadrienium s'est écoulée et 67% des objectifs sont en cours ou ont déjà été atteints. Il ne fait aucun doute que nous dépasserons les attentes fixées au début de ce mandat. Un soutien financier de l'ordre de 560 000 USD a été déboursé pour soutenir notre réseau de 176 groupes dans 186 pays. Cette année, nous nous sommes concentrés sur le soutien des publications à comité de lecture par les membres de la CSE et avons lancé deux initiatives à cet égard. Les partenariats et le travail au niveau national continuent d'occuper une grande partie de notre temps. *Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership*, *Centers for Species Survival*, *Reverse the Red* et la *Sumatran Rhino Survival Alliance* nous montrent qu'unir nos forces avec d'autres nous permet d'atteindre des objectifs plus vastes. Vous pouvez amplement lire sur ces sujets dans les pages qui suivent ci-dessous!

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.



WORKSHOPS

Organised by the SSC chair's office or where the SSC chair's office participated.





Conferences and meetings

(Jon Paul Rodríguez, JPR; Rima Jabado, RJ; Kira Mileham, KM; Nahomy De Andrade, NDA; Edgard Yerena, EY; Levi Mendoza, LM; Jafet Nassar, JN; Aritzaith Rodríguez, AR; Mayerlin Ramos, MR; Milangela Dell'Aquila, MDA; Simeon Bezeng, SB; Mirza Kusriini, MK; Julia Geschke, JG)

CONFERENCES

- *Presence of the dorsal patch in males of *Leptonycteris curasoae* y *L. yerbabuenae* as a quality signal of the immune system. Oral Session on Migratory Bats. III Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Murciélagos. 26 - 30 September 2022. Mérida, Yucatán, México (JN)*
- *Eleven years' balance of AICOMs and SICOMs. Symposium "Impact of AICOMs and SICOMs in bat conservation." III Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Murciélagos. 26 - 30 September 2022. Mérida, Yucatán, México (JN)*
- *AICOMs as drivers of protected areas in arid and semi-arid environments of Venezuela. Symposium "Impact of AICOMs and SICOMs in bat conservation". III Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Murciélagos. 26 - 30 September 2022. Mérida, Yucatán, México (JN)*

- *Symposium "Impact of AICOMs and SICOMs in bat conservation."* III Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Murciélagos. 26 - 30 September 2022. Mérida, Yucatán, México. (JN)
- *Mobilizing SSC Networks for Conservation.* 11 October 2022, Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA (JPR)
- *IUCN SSC CPSG Annual Conference: Together saving our planet's biodiversity.* 20 - 23 October 2022. Tenerife, Spain (KM, NDA, MR).
- *World Association of Zoos and Aquariums Annual Conference.* 23 - 27 October 2022. Tenerife, Spain (KM, NDA, MR).
- *International Aquarium Congress.* 30 October - 4 November 2022. Boulogne sur Mer, France (KM)
- *UICN CSE y los Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies. Un plan único para la conservación de especies. Sesión de Conservación para la Academia ALPZA.* 03 November 2022. Chile. Online. (NDA)
- *IUCN Species Survival Commission: Mobilizing Experts to Address the Biodiversity Paradox.* 7 November 2022, SSC Iguana Specialist Group Annual Meeting, Jungle Bay Resort, Soufriere, Dominica (JPR)
- *How Reverse the Red and the IUCN Species Survival Commission can support implementation of GSAP at the national level, Introducing the Global Species Action Plan to support the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.* 16 November 2022, 19th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Panamá City, Panamá (JPR)
- *Panelist in Call for Multi-National Collaborative Efforts to Combat Transnational Environmental Crimes.* 16 November 2022, 19th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Panamá City, Panamá (JPR)
- *Reverse the Red, Community Engagement in CITES.* 23 November 2022, 19th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Panamá City, Panamá (JPR)
- *Conservation Symposium.* 31 October - 05 November 2022. Durban, South Africa (SB)
- *Pan - African Ornithological Congress.* 20 - 25 November 2022. Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (SB)
- *Biología de Conservación.* 7 December 2022, Colegio CEAPUCV, Caracas, Venezuela (JPR)
- *Human actions drive declines, recovery and sustainable use of animals, fungi, and plants.* 16 December 2022, Human Dimension of Small Cetacean Conservation, Nuremberg, Germany. Hybrid event (JPR)

MEETINGS

- *San Diego Zoo and IUCN SSC Partnership Strategy.* 3 October 2022, San Diego Zoo, USA (KM)
- *American Humane and IUCN SSC Partnership Strategy.* 5 October 2022, Washington DC, USA (JPR, KM, NDA)
- *KBA Committee Meeting.* 5-7 October 2022, Conservation International, Arlington, Virginia, USA (JPR)
- *Georgia Aquarium Center for Species Survival Strategy Meeting.* 12 October 2022. Atlanta, USA (KM)

- *WAZA Council Strategic Planning and Annual Meeting*. 22-24 October. Tenerife, Spain. (KM)
- *SSC Iguana Specialist Group Annual Meeting*. 6-10 November 2022, Jungle Bay Resort, Soufriere, Dominica (JPR, JG)
- *19th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*. 11-27 November 2022, Panamá City, Panamá (JPR).
- *Red List Committee Partnership Agreement meeting*. 30 November 2022, online meeting. (SB, JPR)

WORKSHOPS

- *Stakeholder Engagement Training for Conservation Leadership Programme*. 16-17 November 2022. Pretoria, South Africa. In-person (SB)



SSC Chair's Office achievements 2022

SSC Network

NETWORK

Membership status and SSC Network

8347 members have renewed or joined the SSC Network for the new quadrennium **2021-2025**.

176 SSC Groups in **186** Countries:

- **15** Stand-alone Red List Authorities
- **8** Task Forces
- **1** Action Partnership
- **8** Conservation Committees
- **144** Specialist Groups

9 new SSC groups:

- **3** National Species Specialist Groups
 - » IUCN SSC China Species Specialist Group
 - » IUCN SSC Colombia Species Specialist Group
 - » IUCN SSC Madagascar Species Specialist Group

8347 renewed members



- **1** Stand-alone Red List Authority
 - » IUCN SSC Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority
- **5** Specialist Groups
 - » IUCN SSC Animal Biobanking for Conservation Specialist Group
 - » IUCN SSC Colombia Fungal Specialist Group
 - » IUCN SSC Dung Beetle Specialist Group
 - » IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group
 - » IUCN SSC Sea Cucumber Specialist Group

SSC DATA Information System

2,368

targets integrated into the **2021-2025** Species Strategic Plan

33%

of targets are related to the Assess component, which is leading in importance

1,195

targets with a global geographic scope

48%

of targets were contributed by Mammal & Plant groups

1,390

activities and results were reported for **2021**

67%

of targets are in progress or have been achieved already

Capacity Building

NETWORK

Center for Species Survival Partnerships with the Network

Continuing with their growth, the SSC's Centers for Species Survival partnerships supports the network in strengthening local capacity, conservation planning, and implementing conservation action.

3 new Centers were formalised in **2022**:

- CSS Southeast Asia in partnership with Mandai Nature, Singapore
- CSS Australasia in partnership with Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia, Australia
- CSS Georgia Aquarium focused on marine conservation, United States.

The network of Centers for Species Survival now includes 30 staff working across 10 Centers in 8 countries in support of the SSC network to assess, plan and act. Discussions are progressing with a further 20 organisations interested in partnering with the SSC as Centers for Species Survival, with 4 of these confirmed for creation in the first quarter of 2023.

SSC Network Funding Support

Thanks to the ongoing partnerships with Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi and On the EDGE, the SSC Chair's Office has been able to provide financial support to the SSC Network, the Red List Unit and flagship conservation initiatives such as BASPA. Through different funding opportunities and a total amount of US\$562,498.38 allocated, the SSC Network can implement their activities/projects and achieve targets across the Species Conservation Cycle.

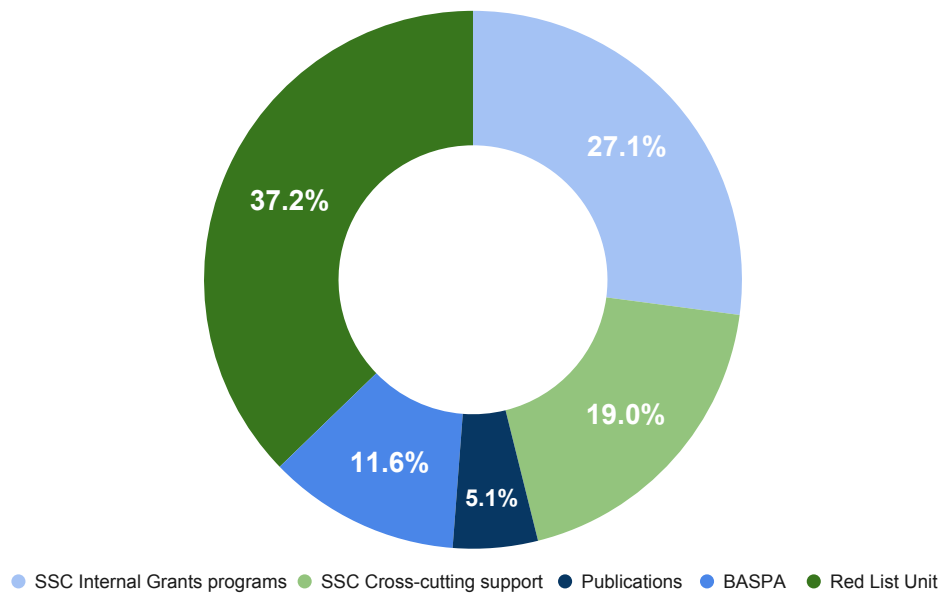
Internal Grants programs:

- **SSC Internal Grant:** the SSC Chair's Office launched two rounds of this grant program (February and August) with 23 applications selected for a total of US\$73,346.
- **SSC EDGE Internal Grants:** these were awarded to 8 Specialist Groups for an amount of US\$79,036.
- **Cross-cutting support:** this grant of US\$107,000. contributes to implementing key activities of the following Specialist Groups: Invasive Species, Sustainable Use and Livelihoods, Conservation Planning, and the Asian Species Action Partnership.
- **Biodiversity Assessment for Spatial Prioritization in Africa (BASPA):** this US\$65,000. grant contributes to building the technical capacity of conservation practitioners to develop national Red Lists (species and ecosystems) and identify Key Biodiversity Areas.
- **IUCN Red List Unit:** With the purpose to assist in delivering the Barometer of Life through capacity building, Red List species assessments and supporting the IUCN Red List website/database. The Red List Unit is granted a total amount of US\$209,457.

Funding for publications:

SSC-Oryx Publication. One paper was [published](#) online, one more was accepted, and 8 under review as part of our [partnership](#) with *Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation*, which aims to cover the cost of publication of 11 open-access articles by 2023 with a fund of US\$21,650.

SSC - Diversity Issue. In 2022, new funding for publications was made possible by the EAD-SSC partnership. 15 articles were published, two are currently in review and an introductory editorial is in process for a total of 18 open-access papers published as part of a [special issue in Diversity](#), on Assessments, Planning and Action for Conservation of Species and Ecosystems at Multiple Spatial Scales, for a total of US\$7,009.38 awarded.



Barometer of Life

ASSESS



Red List Partnership, IUCN Secretariat and SSC network delivered key indicators through the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:

- The IUCN Red List now includes **150,388** species
- **42,108** species are threatened with extinction

Work at national scales

ASSESS

PLAN

ACT

Biodiversity Assessment for Spatial Prioritization in Africa (BASPA)

- BASPA has supported the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to implement a CEPF-KBA project in west Africa; including five countries: Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. During this project, the National Red List Programme Officer, Simenon Bezeng delivered a four-day KBA training and assessment workshop in Sierra Leone from 02-04 March 2022 where 33 participants (government representatives, civil society organizations, researchers, indigenous local people's representatives, and postgraduate students) were trained on the KBA standard.
- KBA successfully showcased at the inaugural IUCN African Protected Areas Congress (APAC), which took place from 18-23 July 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. Two KBA events were hosted at APAC including progress with the KBA programme of work implementation in Africa and a KBA mini-training.
- It was organised and facilitated an IUCN Red List assessment workshop (21 attendees), which took place from 13-16 June 2022 at the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Nairobi-Kenya. As a result of this workshop, 6 reptiles, 6 amphibians, 12 plants, 6 butterflies, 3 dragonflies, and 23 freshwater fish, including their range maps have been submitted to the IUCN Red List Unit for publication.

Webinar series and National Species Specialist Groups

- A series of National Red List webinars were co-hosted under the Reverse the Red initiative:
 - » National Red Listing and its links to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
 - » How to apply the IUCN Red List Criteria for National Red List assessments.
 - » Step by Step guidelines to set up a National Red List Project.
 - » National Red List Indexes: why do we need to produce them and how should we go about it.
 - » National Red List website: how to use it and how to share your national Red List data.
- Work in progress to develop proposals for the establishment of National Species Specialist Groups, including organising and hosting stakeholder consultation meetings. Proposals for Indonesia and Kenya have been completed, and significant progress has been made for South Africa, Nigeria and Spain.

Conservation action

ACT

Intervention letters

5 intervention letters were delivered, jointly with SSC Groups, experts across the network, IUCN regional offices and programmes.

- Poisoning of migratory birds in Crimea - January, 18.
- Poaching losses of rhinos in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa - May, 24.
- Urgent call to reactivate the work for habitat restoration and protection of the Loa frog (*Telmatobius dankoi*) in Chile - July, 16.
- Protecting the Lower Congo River from large hydro-electric dam developments - August, 5.
- Urgent declaration of the American red swamp crayfish, *Procambarus clarkii*, as an invasive species in Colombia - September, 16.

Progress of Sumatran Rhino Conservation in Indonesia

- A female Sumatran rhino in Way Kambas SRS (Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary), called Rosa, gave birth for the first time to a female cub on March 22, 2022. Rosa had been mated with a male rhino named Andatu. Andatu was born in Way Kambas SRS on June 23, 2012.
- A new SRS is being established in Aceh Province and this will be the third SRS in Indonesia after Way Kambas SRS (in Lampung Province) and Kelian SRS (in East Kalimantan Province). The new SRS in Aceh is intended to accommodate rhinos from the wild in Aceh Province.
- Implementing partner in Aceh is conducting intensive preparation to rescue rhino which has been identified in the southern part of Aceh. Rhino capture activities are planned to be executed in the first semester of 2023.
- Pahu, the only female rhino in Kelian SRS, is still in good health. The veterinarians conducted a routine health check, and they did not find any abnormalities.



Communicating the work

COMMUNICATE

- The [2020 Annual report](#) was published.
- Publication of **110** 2021 SSC group reports, over the **146** produced by the end of the year.
- SSC's members, allies, and IUCN secretariat contribute to the Species E-bulletin. 3 issues were published this year: [May](#), [September](#) and [November](#).
- Continuing with the aim to share the activities of the SSC Chair's Office and highlights from the SSC Network, **4** Quarterly Reports were published. [Access here to the full library](#).
- Supported 2 Species Publications by guiding design and coordination with IUCN HQ: Guidelines for the management of confiscated, live organisms —[Malay](#) and [Indonesian](#) versions.
- Simenon Bezeng contributed to the publication of [State of the World's Birds](#).
- Actively contributed to the migration of the new [IUCN SSC website](#), launched last June 30, 2022.
 - » **15+** pages readapted to the new website. Incorporating the Centers for Species Survivals.
 - » Drafted content and developed the mock-ups for **140+ Group pages**. New [SSC Directory](#) is available and updated.
 - » SSC is supporting the content development for 10 Topics sections and will be collaborator on these pages: *Key Biodiversity Areas; Livelihoods and sustainable use; Marine species; Crime, conflict and nature; Species conservation science; Biodiversity and health; Climate change impacts on nature; Freshwater species; Invasive alien species; Species conservation action*.
- Collaborator and/or editor of **3** Press releases, **1** blog, **6** web stories/contributions and **1** joint statement.

SSC and REVERSE THE RED



[Reverse the Red](#) is a global movement focused on igniting strategic action and optimism to ensure the survival of wild species and ecosystems. It was launched in 2021 together with key partners such as the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, On the Edge Conservation, Re:Wild and others. This movement now has four main pillars of work which we believe are necessary for supporting countries to achieve the Global Biodiversity Framework: 1. Mobilising National Networks; 2. Measuring and Prioritising Impact; 3. Empowering Communities; 4. Amplifying Success. The IUCN SSC is involved with each of these pillars but is primarily focused on leading the Mobilising National Networks pillar through the following activities.

Supporting National Species Specialist Group Process

Since July 2022, the SSC Chair's Office has been supporting Centers for Species Survival holding SSC Webinars with SSC members based in Argentina, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Singapore, Brazil and Spain, and hybrid meetings with SSC Leadership in Oceania and Asia.

To date, we have held regular meetings with SSC Leaders, IUCN National Committees, CSSs, Regional Vice-chairs and others to identify potential proposals for the creation of new National Species Specialist Groups. Spain and Singapore have initiated a process of gathering information and key actors to prepare their proposals.

Supporting National Centers for Species Survival

In 2022 two new geographically focused Centers for Species Survival were created: CSS: Southeast Asia in partnership with Mandai Nature, and CSS: Australasia in partnership with the Zoo and Aquarium Association of Australasia. We hope to work together with these Centers and those previously established to mobilise stronger, more collaborative species conservation networks in their regions, ideally in partnership with National Species Specialist Groups, relevant government agencies and other partners.

Key Events 2022

- **2022 CPSG Annual Meeting**
 - » SSC Chair's Office team led a working group session with 35 participants in small group discussions about
 - » Reverse the Red movement, goals and key pillars
 - » IUCN SSC efforts in Mobilising National Network
 - » Jenny Grey led a working group session with 25 participants to discuss the metrics required by the Plus One methodology to drive successful conservation action planning.
- **2022 WAZA Conference**
 - » Plenary Panel Sessions - Led by Theo Pagel, Jenny Gray, Kira Mileham, Judy Man.
 - » Centers for Species Survival Posters and networking.
 - » Executive Committee in-person Meeting.
 - » Major partner engagement - eg. CITES and CBD.
- **Side-events:**
 - » CITES CoP19 - Reverse the Red: Community engagement as a tool for CITES, November 23.
 - » CBD CoP15 - A Strategy of Hope: Mobilizing national networks and empowering communities to reverse biodiversity loss trends, December 17.

Executive Committee expansion

New 4 organisations formally joined the movement this year: Re:wild, On the edge, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

Reverse the Red day

Save the date! February 7, 2023. Grow momentum for social, political and donor conversations about saving species

- Host on-site events
- Plan online activities
- Create and share social media content
- Utilize Reverse the Red's network for publicizing



SSC DATA

Sign In

Email address

Password

☒ Remember me

Sign In

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Are you a new user? Register here.](#)

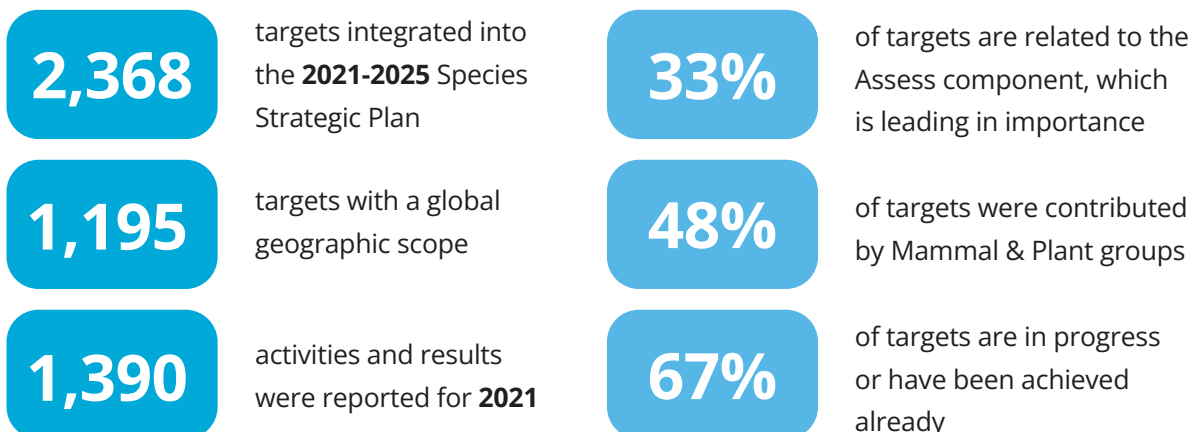
SSC DATA system, background photo *Epinephelus polycephalus* in spawning aggregation
Photo ©Yvonne Sadovy

SSC DATA updates for 2022

Throughout 2022, SSC DATA entirely operated with its information system platform to upload and process the SSC groups' information, targets and 2021 results. In addition to the day-to-day activities, the SSC DATA Unit identified remarkable results to publish in the [Contributions for Nature Platform](#) and supported the decision-making in the [SSC Internal Grants](#) process throughout the year.

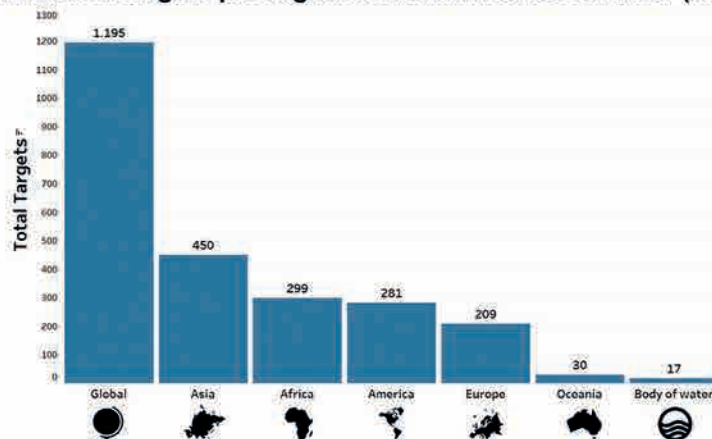
Out of 172 groups that integrate the SSC network, 158 (92%) have contributed already with targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium. We are sure that the remaining 8% is also actively working on behalf of species conservation, and we encourage the leaders of these groups to take the time to know SSC DATA Information System (IS), get used to it and have the advantage of managing their targets, promoting their annual achievements, and improving the chances to get access to SSC Internal Grants. We put at the leader's service our team at the SSC Chair's Office and the Global Center for Species Survival for assistance. We also offer a series of resources, including guides and video tutorials, that can be reached at any time by just clicking [here](#).

Below are a few outstanding statistics getting from our most recent analysis (November 2022) on the progress of the SSC Network:

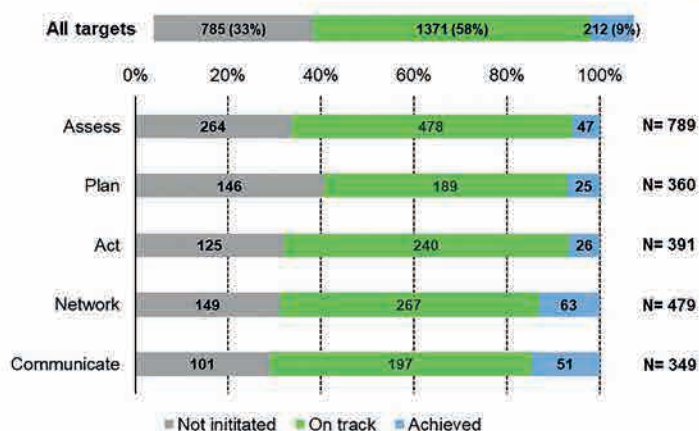


This is just the beginning of a promising quadrennium thanks to the effort of all our members.

Distribution of targets per region and main bodies of water (N=2,368)



Targets' status by component (N= 2,368 targets)



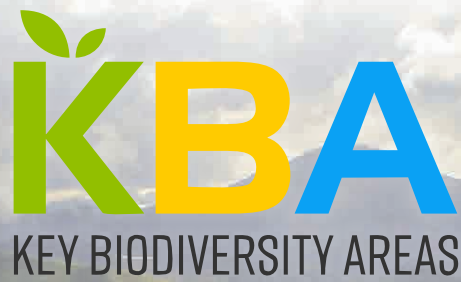


Photo © Paul vincent roll on unsplash

From Species to Area-based Conservation

using Key Biodiversity Areas as a prioritisation tool to identify the most important places for biodiversity on Earth

Simeon Bezeng Bezeng

IUCN SSC and BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

Samridhi Rijal, Andrew Plumptre

BirdLife International, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Julia Geschke, Sergio Henriques

Global Center for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States of America

The Steering Committee as the governance body of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) has adopted an ambitious plan for species conservation - [IUCN SSC Species Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#). The IUCN SSC Species Strategic Plan outlines high-level targets to bend the curve and halt biodiversity loss, towards achieving the IUCN SSC's vision of "a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of diversity of life on earth".

The SSC utilises the species conservation cycle approach of Assess – Plan – Act as the conceptual framework for delivering on its activities. This framework is currently being used to guide over 2,000 conservation targets, being delivered by a dedicated and highly motivated volunteer network of experts across the world; distributed over more than 170 Specialist Groups.

Amongst these conservation targets, there are area-based conservation targets, which when adequately harnessed have the potential to retain the integrity of important natural land and seascapes on Earth. In particular, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, being amongst the most important approaches to set and prioritise area-based targets, which are used to inform stakeholders around the world.

The KBA approach is a global standard that harmonises existing conservation approaches such as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction, Important Plant Areas etc. to identify sites of global importance for the persistence of biodiversity. This approach is informed by five overarching criteria designed to capture different ways in which a site in the marine, freshwater, terrestrial or subterranean systems can be important for the long-term persistence of global biodiversity. Of the five overarching criteria (i.e., A: Threatened biodiversity, B: Geographically restricted biodiversity, C: Ecological integrity, D: Biological processes and E: Irreplaceability through quantitative analysis), criterion A is perhaps the most relevant to the SSC network as it is informed by species assessed under the three IUCN Red List of Threatened Species categories (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable).

To trigger KBA status at a site, proposers can use the following parameters: number of mature individuals, area of occupancy, extent of suitable habitat, range, number of localities or distinct genetic diversity. These KBA assessment parameters can be equally important for the Red Listing process as they can also inform species assessment based on criteria A-D. As such, there is a tight synergy between the KBA and Red List approaches and thus a seamless transition can be made from one to the other, particularly in narrow endemic species. This transition has been exemplified by an earlier publication by [Bezeng et al., 2021](#) in the March issue of the SSC Quarterly Report (pp 23-26).

Given this broad alignment between the two approaches, as well as the inclusion of KBAs as an important component of the SSC Species Strategic Plan, it is imperative to explore how both the Red List and KBAs stakeholders can best work together to optimise species and habitat conservation; recognising that conservation actions happen at a local/site level. Prioritising this synergy is further justified by the fact that, first, in the SSC Species Strategic Plan, several Specialist Groups have already set KBA identification targets to be achieved during the current IUCN quadrennium (e.g. the Firefly SG, Mollusc SG, Butterfly and Moth SG, Seahorse, Pipefish, and Seadragon SG, Colombian Plant SG, Western Ghats Plant SG, Global Tree SG, China Plant SG, Southern African Plant SG, Seed Conservation SG, and Madagascar Plant SG). Second, the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit championed the identification of freshwater KBAs in west Africa including species from the following SGs – Dragonfly, Mollusc, Freshwater Crustacean and Freshwater Fish. Last, at a national level, many countries are increasingly interested or have already identified KBAs for single or multiple taxonomic groups including South Africa, Mozambique, Colombia, Canada, Oman, United Arab Emirates etc. As such, 21 KBA National Coordination Groups have been established globally to coordinate the process of identifying, documenting, delineating and conserving KBAs at the national level, and oversee the domestication of the global standard (See photo 1).

With increasing KBAs recognition as an effective area-based conservation prioritisation tool and as an important component of the current SSC Species Strategic Plan, there is a need for coordinated efforts to enhance the capacity of the SSC network, in applying the global KBA criteria on species and ecosystems already assessed. This

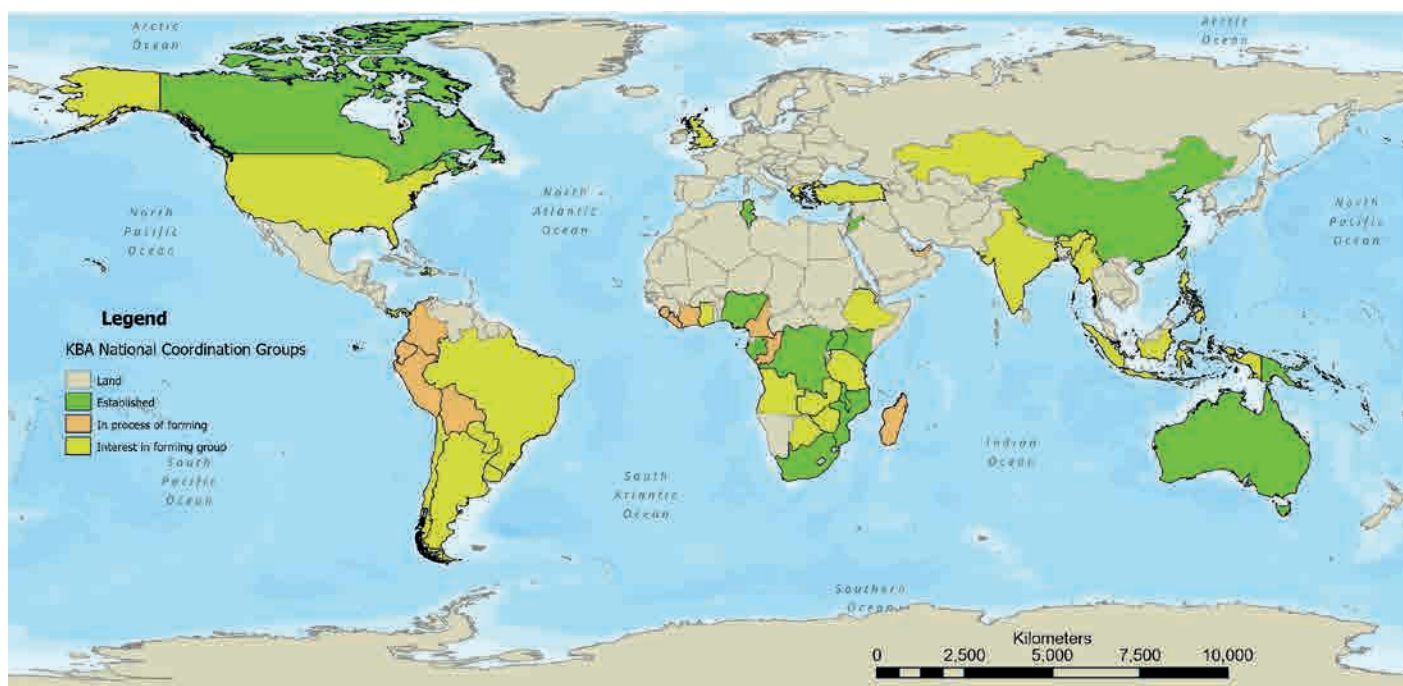


Photo 1

is further supported by the UN biodiversity ambition calling for the protection of 30% of the planet Earth by 2030. As such, the synergies between the KBA and Red List approaches need to be scaled up within the SSC network as currently only 11 out of 174 formally established SGs, have included KBA identification as targets to be achieved during this IUCN quadrennium (2021-2025). To scale up KBA and Red List synergies, various mechanisms have been identified from both partnerships. For example, working closely with Reverse the Red, Global Center for Species Survival (GCSS), KBA Secretariat and the IUCN SSC, there are a growing number of initiatives related to convening, training, supporting, and activating national networks of biodiversity conservation experts, including but not limited to the identification of KBAs.

For example, the SSC Chair's Office staff are working closely with representatives from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Biodiversity Assessment for Spatial Prioritization in Africa project (BASPA), Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI), Re:Wild, IUCN National Red List Working Group, GCSS and the KBA Secretariat towards creating opportunities to connect, build synergies and aim to develop a joint strategy that would better support the SSC network. Particularly, the KBA Secretariat has made major strides to further scale up this support by hiring a dedicated KBA Trainer, designated Regional Focal Points (RFP) for each region, including a francophone RFP (see link to RFPs: <https://tinyurl.com/559vywwr>).

Furthermore, in an effort to support and sustain the partnerships mentioned above, staff from the SSC Chair's Office, GCSS, and KBA Secretariat are working collaboratively to design a series of online webinars targeted at the SSC network and beyond to support SGs to (i) understand what KBAs are and how they can be used (ii) provide guidance to the SSC network on how to use Red List data to identify KBAs for single or multiple taxa as well as ecosystems. To do this, four webinar series have been designed and will be delivered by KBAs practitioners in the first quarter of 2023. These webinar series will be hosted by the GCSS.

KBA WEBINAR SERIES

PRESENTED BY: THE KBA SECRETARIAT & THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR SPECIES SURVIVAL

SESSION 1
SPEAKER
FEB 7, 2023
What are KBAs, how are they used and why should IUCN SSC members engage with them?
Andrew Plumptre, Head of the KBA Secretariat

SESSION 2
SPEAKER
FEB 21, 2023
KBA criteria for identifying sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity
Charlotte Boyd, Africa Oceans Fellow, Conservation International

SESSION 3
SPEAKER
MAR 7, 2023
Monitoring the status of Key Biodiversity Areas
Olivia Crowe, Global Science Coordinator, BirdLife International

SESSION 4
SPEAKER
MAR 21, 2023
The relevance of the IUCN Red List on the KBA identification process: Mozambique example
Representative from the Mozambique Team



@KEYBIODIVERSITY
@PROTECTSPECIES



Please save these dates and we look forward to supporting the SSC network to move from species assessment, planning and conservation actions on the ground. This approach is in line with SSC Leaders' aspirations, who would like to be remembered not only for assessing the conservation status of species but making sure the threats to the species are reduced or eliminated. This will ensure the species they care about are well protected to continue providing the much-needed ecosystem goods and services humankind depends on and especially achieving the IUCN SSC's vision.



Reverse the Red networking and communicating with partners

Reverse the Red is a global movement that ignites strategic cooperation and action to ensure the survival of wild species and ecosystems and reverse the negative trend of biodiversity loss. Through a strategic initiative, Reverse the Red brings together a diverse coalition of leading scientists, advocates, and partners committed to using a data-driven and science-based approach to assess, plan, and act for species conservation. Reverse the Red provides the tools and expertise to empower governments, partners and local communities to set and reach species conservation targets and celebrates and amplifies successful achievements for species. Reverse the Red focused on growing its network of partners from October to December 2022 and coordinating efforts to widen engagement in the new year:

Mark your calendars for Reverse the Red day on February 7th

Reverse the Red is excited to announce the first annual Reverse the Red Day on February 7, 2023. Please join us in celebrating Reverse the Red Day at your zoos, aquariums and botanic gardens all week long! There will be guidance for online and in person engagement, but also make this day your own by highlighting the work that you are doing and the impact you are having for species. We encourage you to share actions and success in improving the status of threatened species and stories of how you collaborate with government, communities, supporters, partners, and visitors to make positive change for biodiversity.

Follow and engage with Reverse the Red on social media. We would like to share your stories of hope and conservation successes and continue to grow this movement as we look to our 2023 Year of Action.



[Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)

Presenting Reverse the Red to galvanize involvement

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Reverse the Red Committee updated a resolution that was shared with the wider membership at the Annual Conference in October and approved in the 77th WAZA Annual General Meeting as Resolution 77.2: Changing Outcomes for Biodiversity. This will leverage the work of leading zoos and aquariums, support the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage action within the Reverse the Red initiative, in furthering the partnership established by WAZA and IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). At the conference, held in Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain in October, attendees heard from several Reverse the Red panels as part of a session on Reverse the Red in Evolution. Reverse the Red Executive Committee members and guest panelists from a variety of zoos and aquariums talked about utilizing conservation status improvement plans, growing the Centres for Species Survival and National Networks, and gave examples of empowering communities and amplifying success.

At CITES CoP19 in Panama City, Panama in November, Reverse the Red hosted a side titled “Reverse the Red: Community engagement as a tool for CITES” that featured a panel of speakers including Dr. Jon Paul Rodríguez (Chair of IUCN SSC), Prof Theo Pagel (WAZA Immediate Past-President and CEO of Koelner Zoo), and Dr. Dilys Roe (Chair of IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group - SULi) and moderated by Martín Zordan (CEO of WAZA).

At COP15 in Montreal, Canada in December, Reverse the Red hosted a session as part of the Rio Conventions Pavilion. Martín Zordan spoke about the important role of community engagement in working together to meet biodiversity targets agreed upon by the parties that will stem and reverse biodiversity loss.



The great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) VU.
Photo © Angadachappa

GCSS new coordinators

The Office of the SSC Chair and the Global Center for Species Survival (GCSS) are pleased to announce the addition of four new coordinators to the team. The Network Conservation Coordinators are working as an extension of the SSC Chair's Office team to help catalyse, connect and communicate the work and efforts of the SSC Network across the species conservation cycle. They are:



Julia Geschke

GCSS Reptile & Amphibian Conservation Coordinator

jgeschke@indyzoo.com

Julia has worked with a variety of wildlife species and conservation organizations, from non-profits to state and federal governments. She brings her experience with herpetofauna along with expertise in conservation funding, policy, and geospatial analysis to her role at the Global Center.



Laura Perry

GCSS Behavior Change Coordinator

lperry@indyzoo.com

Laura has worked on the themes of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence around the world, particularly as they relate to human behaviour change. She has worked across a range of social science methodologies and brings her knowledge of Human Dimensions challenges and opportunities to the team.

Samuel Ivande*GCSS Bird Conservation Coordinator*sivande@indyzoo.com

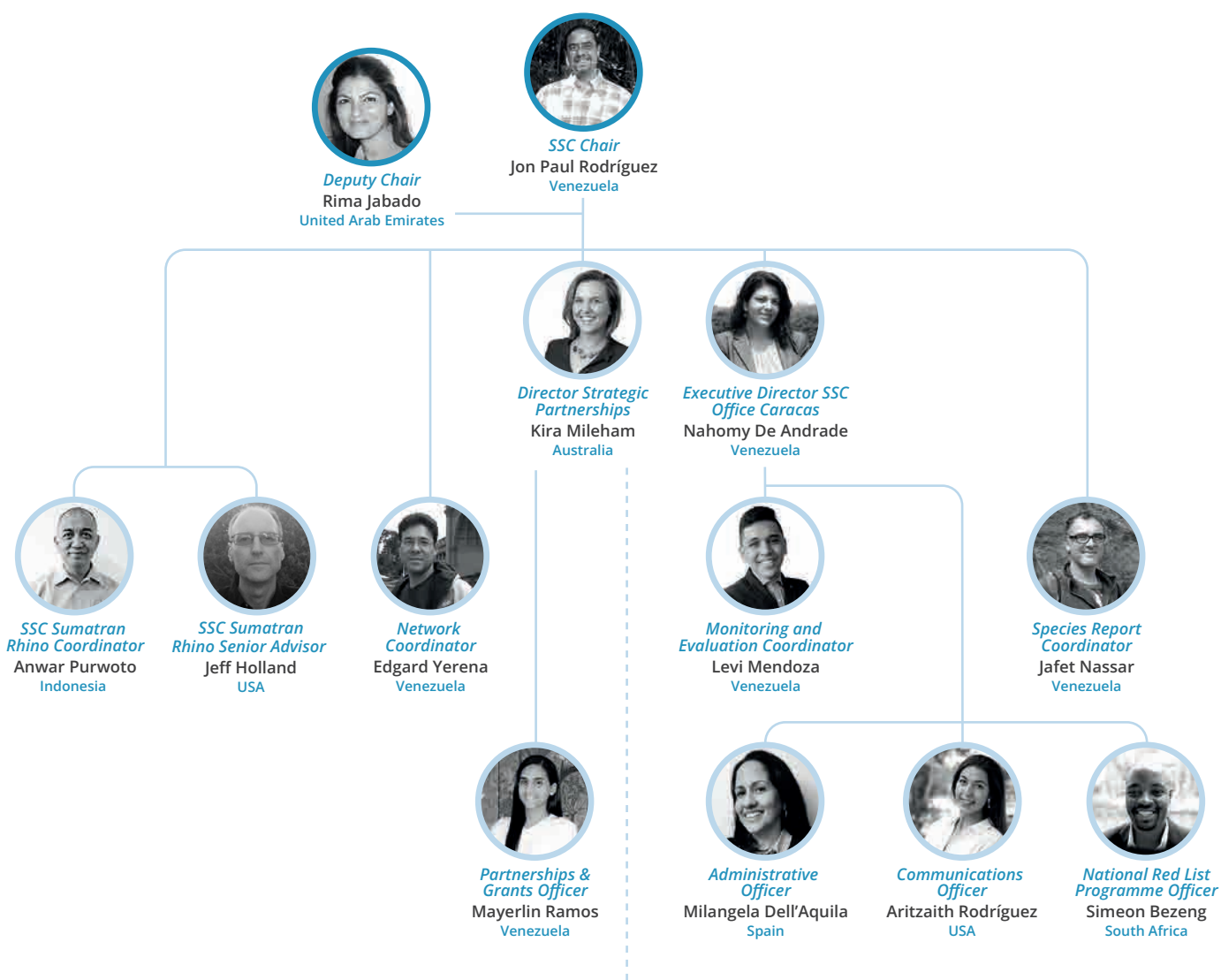
Sam is a conservation biologist and educator who most recently served as Research and Teaching Director at the foremost conservation and ornithology training institute in west Africa – the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute at the University of Jos in Plateau, Nigeria. Dr. Sam Ivande describes himself as a passionate advocate for citizen participation in bird and biodiversity conservation and research, especially in Africa. He brings his talents in ornithological research, biodiversity monitoring and scientific writing to the Global Center.

**Justin Birkhoff***GCSS Mammal Conservation Coordinator*jbirkhoff@indyzoo.com

Justin has been working in the zoo and conservation space for over ten years, where he has focused on the intersection of in situ and ex situ conservation efforts. His experience ranges from animal husbandry to collection management and planning. Justin is a firm believer in the integrated IUCN One Plan approach to conservation, making his role as the Mammal Conservation Coordinator a phenomenal fit. He has a passion for connecting communities with conservation and supporting conservation practitioners in maximizing their impact.



Welcome to the team!



Centers for Species Survival

EUROPE



CSS - Portugal:
Oceanário de Lisboa
3 Species Survival Officers



CSS - United Kingdom:
Paradise Wildlife Park
1 Species Survival Officer



CSS - Macaronesia:
Loro Parque Fundación
1 Species Survival Officer

NORTH AMERICA



CSS - United States:
New Mexico BioPark Society
1 Conservation Manager
2 Species Survival Officers



CSS - United States:
Georgia Aquarium
1 Conservation Specialist



Global CSS - United States:
Indianapolis Zoo
1 Director
1 Media specialist
1 Behavioural Change Coordinator
7 Conservation Coordinators

SOUTH AMERICA



CSS - Brazil:
Parque das Aves
3 Species Survival Officers



CSS - Argentina:
Fundación Temaikèn
2 Species Survival Officers

ASIA



CSS - Southeast Asia:
Mandai Nature
2 Species Survival Officers

OCEANIA



CSS - Australasia:
Zoo Aquarium Association
2 Species Survival Officers



IUCN SSC Centers for Species Survival

During the last quarter part of the Centers for Species Survival (CSS) Network had the opportunity to attend the CPSG Annual Meeting to discuss and interact with CPSG members, other Specialist Group members, part of the SSC Chair's Office and the Reverse the Red team. Center coordinators and directors also had a panel discussion at the 77th Annual Conference of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), to showcase the key role CSS plays as part of the Reverse the Red movement. Below are detailed activities of some Centers to increase the possibilities for training in key tools, updating red lists, communication efforts and project implementation.

EUROPE

CSS - Macaronesia: Loro Parque Fundacion

During these last months the Center for Species Survival Macaronesia (CSSM) assisted at their first CPSG and WAZA annual meetings where they were able to connect with officers and directors from other Centers and participated in different activities. The CSSM has been supporting the creation of the new National Species Specialist Group and two more meetings were carried out. In addition, the meetings were a space to share and gather information on the regional and national Red List assessments status in Spain. The information gathered is relevant to continue with the gap analysis work in the country. This analysis aims to identify the existing gaps between the information provided by the IUCN Red List, the government lists, and the local lists that every autonomous community from Spain has regarding the conservation status of species. In order to obtain the first data set about all the species available in Spain, the Center has collaborated with the IUCN Spanish Committee. After supporting the identification of Critically Endangered snails from Tenerife, the Center participated in scientific conferences between November 11-16, 2022 carried out by experts in the field. The translation into English of the document with the Canary Islands analysis is ongoing. Gap analysis for the other islands of Macaronesia is ongoing (Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde). Goals for the following years have been established based on the classification given by SSC. Regarding training, the new Species Survival Officer completed the “CPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps” course. A new communications focal point has been introduced to the group and participated in his first meeting.

Activities developed and achieved during the last quarterly based on the Species Conservation Cycle

Assess:

- Support in identifying Critical Endangered snails and insects from Tenerife (Achieved).
- Gap analysis for Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde (Ongoing).
- Gap analysis for mainland Spain (Ongoing).

Network:

- TCPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps training- Online version (achieved).
- Participation in online meetings for the creation of the Spain Species Specialist Group.
- Collaboration with the IUCN Spanish committee to analyse the status of national species.
- Participation in different regional meetings to showcase the results of the Red List assessments analysis to government agencies and institutions.

Communicate:

- Translate into English document with the Canary Islands analysis (Ongoing). Translation carried out by species survival officer.
- Introduction of the new communications focal point (Yusef Amaioua García).
- Participation in the 77th WAZA Annual Conference Plenary “Reverse the Red: Centers for Species Survival” and presentation of posters summarising the results obtained by October 2022.

NORTH AMERICA

Global CSS - United States: *Indianapolis Zoo*

In the last quarter, our team has devoted a significant amount of time to the development of a new one-stop-shop platform for IUCN SSC Specialist Groups. This platform launches in 2023 and will include a calendar of events, member forum, and resources related to fundraising, communications, training, management and more. Here are some other updates from the Global Center for the period of September through December 2022.

Assess:

- The Global Center team is working with the Key Biodiversity Areas secretariat to plan a KBA webinar series in early 2023. Coordinators at the Global Center will help identify speakers, set the agenda and serve as hosts of these sessions.
- For the fall semester, the Global Center hosted two undergraduate interns. Under Reptile & Amphibian Conservation Coordinator Julia Geschke’s supervision, Zach Coulis is working on a climate change vulnerability assessment for Brazilian lizards, part of a larger project to undertake detailed spatial conservation planning for the herpetofauna of Brazil (led by collaborators at São Paulo University). Under Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator Cátia Canteiro’s supervision, Grace Whitacre is assessing the extinction risk of monospecific genera in the Hydnaceae family of fungi. Our Global Center intern program started with one intern last year, and we plan to grow the program next year with additional interns from more universities who will continue to meet the needs of specialist groups.
- In collaboration with CSS New Mexico BioPark, the Global Center conducted an online IUCN Red List training workshop for invertebrate Specialist Groups, with around 40 participants (specifically from the Wild Bee, Butterfly & Moth and Firefly Specialist Groups, and the Terrestrial & Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority). This workshop took place over four half-days.

- Bird Conservation Coordinator Sam Iwande is working with the BirdLife Red List Team to plan a webinar for bird specialist groups on engaging with the assessment process. Specifically, the Global Center will serve as the host of the webinar and help secure participants.
- The Global Center team supported the Red List Technical Working Group with a webinar and consultation of Red List assessors on the upcoming revision of the Threat Classification Scheme for the IUCN Red List.

Plan:

- The Global Center team met with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group to discuss goals for 2023 related to planning and taxonomic Specialist Groups. Some priorities for next year include increasing uptake of the Assess to Plan (A2P) process among specialist groups and increasing the number of specialist groups with Conservation Planning and ex situ focal points. These focal points will take the lead on conservation planning activities for their specialist group.
- Freshwater Conservation Coordinator Monni Böhm has been leading a book chapter on conservation planning for invertebrates (in revision) in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee.

Act:

- Global Center Conservation Coordinators played a key role in the Indianapolis Zoo conservation granting process to encourage project applications. As a result, we experienced a surge in quality and quantity of applications received. Applicants are more culturally and regionally diverse, and the taxa represented is also more diverse.
- Coordinators helped with funding applications by Specialist Groups – and subsequent work for successful applications – for projects focusing on different parts of the species conservation cycle, e.g., for aquatic fungi (a Specialist Group in the making) and Socotra freshwater (Freshwater Conservation Committee).
- The Global Center has been developing the process and logistics of a \$1M grant challenge that will launch in Q1 2023. This award will provide \$1M in funding to the project that completes a conservation action plan that provides the best opportunity for a species to be downlisted from its existing threatened status.

Network:

- Coordinators continue working on the development of new Specialist Groups including Gekkota, Agamid Lizard, Aquatic Fungi, Colombia Fungal, Brazil Fungal, Psittacids, Migrant Landbirds and Parasites. Additionally, the Global Center team is producing a video series that will soon be used to help onboard new Specialist Group chairs and members. The videos will be in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.



- Coordinators held meetings of all Specialist Groups in their remit to share updates and connect with each other, where relevant in collaboration with the respective conservation committees. Freshwater Conservation Coordinator Monni Böhm held two meetings with freshwater groups which were attended by the other coordinators due to the overlap with their remits, and she joined Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator Sérgio Henriques for two meetings with invertebrate groups. Reptile & Amphibian Conservation Coordinator Julia Geschke held one meeting for all groups in her remit, and she attended the Iguana Specialist Group meeting in person in Dominica. Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator Cátia Canteiro held three meetings for plant groups, and she organizes regular meetings for the Fungal Conservation Committee. Bird Conservation Coordinator Sam Ivande met with all the bird groups this year, and he participated in meetings with the BirdLife Red List Team and the Stand-Alone Red List Authority for birds. Mammal Conservation Coordinator Justin Birkhoff conducted an introductory meeting with all the mammal Specialist Group chairs.
- Coordinators are working with various Specialist Groups to pilot a strategy for meaningful young professional engagement in taxonomic Specialist Groups.
- Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator Cátia Canteiro led the planning and execution of a webinar focused on plant conservation planning. Speakers included Yvette Harvey-Brown and Herbert Ongubo from Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Marcio Verdi from Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute, and Cristina Lopez-Gallego from the IUCN SSC Plant Conservation Committee. Media Specialist Kelly Griese assisted in the promotion of the event and technical solutions. The webinar was recorded and uploaded to the Global Center YouTube playlist.
- Freshwater Conservation Coordinator Monni Böhm and Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator Cátia Canteiro were the driving force behind planning a webinar for IUCN SSC Specialist Groups looking to engage with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Media Specialist Kelly Griese provided technical assistance during the event and promotional materials for the invites. This webinar was recorded and uploaded to the Global Center YouTube playlist.
- We welcomed Mammal Conservation Coordinator Justin Birkhoff and Behavior Change Coordinator Laura Perry to the Global Center team. Both are spending their first months networking and engaging with relevant Specialist Groups. Additionally, Bird Conservation Coordinator Sam Ivande moved to Indianapolis. We have a nearly full team and are actively seeking a Marine Conservation Coordinator.





- The Global Center team continues to host conservationists at the Indianapolis Zoo for networking and presentations. Our guests in the past quarter include Amy Dickman from Lion Landscapes, Al Dove from the Georgia Aquarium, Diogo Verissimo from the University of Oxford. Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator Sérgio Henriquez and Reptile & Amphibian Conservation Coordinator Julia Geschke are organizing a conservationist symposium for January at the Zoo that will bring together all of the major conservation organizations in Indiana.
- Senior Vice President Bill Street, Freshwater Conservation Coordinator Monni Böhm, and Media Specialist Kelly Griesse all attended the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) conference in Baltimore, Maryland. It provided the three with an opportunity to network with other Centers for Species Survival and to share knowledge about IUCN SSC with zoos and aquariums in the United States.

Communicate:

- The Global Center team working on content development and planning for the new Global Center exhibit and Indianapolis Zoo entrance to be opened in May 2023. The space will include messaging about IUCN, IUCN SSC, global conservation initiatives and videos aimed at inspiring Zoo guests to protect nature and care for our world. This \$53M expansion, including a new chimpanzee exhibit, was announced to the media at an event in December.
- The Global Center continues to highlight IUCN SSC work in our blog. For example, Freshwater Conservation Coordinator Monni Böhm partnered with the Freshwater Conservation Committee on a blog about freshwater conservation in Socotra. Additionally, we have amplified the work of various Specialist Groups through our social media channels by sharing their content and creating our own content about the species they are working to protect.
- Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator Cátia Canteiro co-authored a fungal conservation paper published

in Diversity. Media Specialist Kelly Griese produced a graphical abstract (video) to accompany the paper. Both have been shared widely among key stakeholders, and both have been featured on Global Center social media channels and our YouTube playlist

- Freshwater Conservation Coordinator Monni Böhm led a paper published in Diversity, also co-authored by Cátia Canteiro and Sérgio Henriques. The paper, titled “Catalyzing Red List Assessments of Underrepresented Taxa through Partner Networks and Student Engagement,” highlights the need to develop the next generation of contributors to these assessments.
- Our Conservation Coordinators have given multiple presentations regarding Global Center and IUCN SSC work. Audiences include the University of Illinois, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the University of Connecticut, the Amphibian Foundation, the Georgia Aquarium, the Iguana Specialist Group, and the Migrant Landbirds Study Group.

SOUTH AMERICA

CSS - Brazil: *Parque das Aves*

CSS Brazil is the union of three co-founders: IUCN SSC Species Survival Commission, SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) and Parque das Aves, our host institution. We work hand-in-hand with the Brazilian conservation community and the government to enhance the national capacity to assess-plan-act, and influence policy to save species. Our recent activities:

Assess:

- From November 28th to December 2nd, we co-organized and hosted at Parque das Aves, Foz do Iguaçu, the ICMBio’s National Red List of Fauna species - Assessments checks and review workshop, together with the Fauna Species Extinction Risk Assessment Coordination / Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation ([COFAU/ICMBio](#)). Sixteen people, including ICMBio officers and external experts were responsible for reviewing whether The IUCN Red List Criteria have been applied appropriately and consistently for 1,526 fauna assessments. The CSS Brazil Red List officer contributed to the review of 93 species.

Plan:

- We designed and facilitated a three-day workshop, together with the National Center for Bird Conservation and Research (CEMAVE / ICMBio), to develop a Best practice guidelines for the translocation of the Harpy

Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*). The document was built with the collaboration of 45 specialists from 29 institutions from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Spain, Mexico, Panama y Venezuela. The event was organized by the Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education (SPVS), Itaipu Binacional, the IUCN SSC CPSG | CSS Brazil, CEMAVE/ICMBio and supported by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums of Brazil (AZAB).



- On November 14-17, the Second Giant Otter International Workshop was held in Corrientes, Argentina, hosted by Fundación Rewilding Argentina. The workshop aimed to strengthen the network of teams working with giant otters (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) globally, both in situ and ex situ. During the meeting, 27 participants from nine countries representing 18 organizations, including representatives of the IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group, universities, zoos, Aquariums, and NGOs, agreed upon the establishment and structure of the International Giant Otter Alliance - IGOA, under the “umbrella” of the IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group, and developed a two-year work plan for the network. The purpose of the IGOA is to work as an international collaborative group to communicate, share information, train and act to promote and strengthen giant otter conservation.



- The workshop “Evaluation of population management for the conservation of the red howler monkey (*Alouatta guariba*) in the province of Misiones, Argentina” is part of the objectives of the National Plan for the Conservation of Primates in Argentina. Currently, there are less than 50 individuals in the wild in Argentina. The workshop is divided into two stages. The first one was held virtually on December 14-15, 2022, and the second will be in person next April 2023, in Argentina. The aim is to evaluate population management strategies for the long-term recovery of the *A. guariba* populations in the province of Misiones. The workshop was organized by the National Directorate of Biodiversity of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation, the Ministry of Ecology of Misiones, and IMiBio and designed and facilitated by IUCN SSC CPSG / CSS Brazil and the National Center for Research and Conservation of Brazilian Primates (ICMBio/CPB).

Act:

- Ex situ work with model species for the Critically Endangered Alagoas Antwren (*Myrmotherula snowi*)

continued, in collaboration with SAVE Brasil, with captures of a pair of one model species for ex situ breeding efforts, and a further ten individuals of two model species which were kept for shorter periods, including a feeder training experiment.

- Protection and monitoring systems were installed, in collaboration with SAVE Brasil, for two Alagoas Antwren nests at Murici, Alagoas, but despite these efforts both nesting attempts failed. The known population at this point is six birds.
- Two more individuals of the threatened frog *Pithecopus rusticus* were translocated from the wild, bringing the ex situ population to four. This is a single-site endemic for which we are establishing an insurance population with support from Amphibian Ark, as a priority identified by the Amphibian Specialist Group (Brazil). The Center participated in a conservation planning exercise led by the Amphibian Specialist Group (Brazil) for two threatened amphibian species, including *Pithecopus rusticus*.
- Parque das Aves staff participated in the annual census of the Endangered Grey-breasted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura griseipectus*), subject of one of our first conservation planning workshops, in 2018. The population continues to grow year on year thanks to an effective conservation project run by our partners Aquasis.

Network:

- In order to support a demand from [COFAU/ICMBio](#), on October 4-6, we conducted a two-day virtual workshop with 20 experts, who are responsible for the Assessments checks and review of the National Red List of Fauna species Assessments. The meeting aimed to level and ensure standardization before the Assessments checks and review workshop.
- From October 24th to December 16th, we collaborated on the delivery of the second iteration of the [Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis online training course](#) for 37 participants from 17 countries. The course was led by the CPSG with the collaboration of Wildlife Health Australia.
- On October 24-28, we co-organized and delivered a Red List training workshop for 23 state officers from seven Brazilian states, in partnership with [COFAU/ICMBio](#), and the Brazilian National Center for Plant Conservation/Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute ([CNCFlora/JBRJ](#)). The course was based on the [IUCN Red List Online course](#), followed by tutorial sessions for Q&A and examples of the application of the fauna and flora national assessments. This training was part of the activities foreseen by the National Strategy for the Conservation of Endangered Species (GEF Pró-Espécies), coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, with funding from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF) and execution of WWF-Brazil.

Communicate:

- We continued our work on the translation of IUCN Red List documents, by revising eighteen translated documents. These translations are part of CSS Brazil's strategy to reduce language barriers to facilitate red list capacity building in Brazil and were funded by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, through GEF Pró-Espécies. Among the translated documents are the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1;

Mapping Standards and Data Quality for the IUCN Red List Spatial Data, Version 1.19 and Documentation Standards and Consistency Checks for IUCN Red List Assessments and Species accounts. Version 2.

- We elaborated two documents 1) Diagnosis of the fauna and flora Brazilian States Red Lists and 2) Report on the fauna and flora species assessment CNCFlora/JBRJ and CPFAU/ICMBio's process and workflow, highlighting their particularities. Both documents were funded by GEF Pró-Espécies, as part of the strategy for incentivizing the elaboration of State Red Lists.
- Instituto Claravis contributed to the production and launch of a [video](#) with CEMAVE/ICMBio on the National Action Plan for Conservation of Birds of the Atlantic Rainforest.
- Together with a range of partners, Parque das Aves and Instituto Claravis contributed to a communications campaign on two interlinked threatened species of the Atlantic Rainforest, the Black-fronted Piping-guan (*Pipile jacutinga*) and the juçara palm (*Euterpe edulis*) (#jacuçara), reaching 776,000 Instagram accounts, with engagement from 43,000 accounts.

To learn more about CSS Brazil, please visit: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

Watch CSS Brazil institutional video: [Portuguese](#) | [English](#)

CSS - Argentina: Fundación Temaikèn

With the mission to strengthen biodiversity conservation strategies in Argentina and Latin America, the CSS-ARG operates from Fundación Temaikèn facilities in Escobar, province of Buenos Aires. Here are some updates from the Center for the period of September through December 2022:

Assess:

- Within the framework of our Yellow Cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*) flag species, field work was carried out to obtain blood samples from wild individuals. From these samples, data will be obtained for the genetic structuring of populations in the south of Buenos Aires and studies will also be carried out to characterize blood parasites in this species.
- At the end of December, field work will be carried out with the objective of monitoring nests and chicks of Yellow cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*). With the aim of generating valuable information on reproductive behaviors and breeding of this species.

Plan:

- The Delta Conservation Program of the Fundación Temaikèn began to be planned under the CPSG methodology.

- Participation in the workshop “Evaluation of population management for the conservation of the red howler monkey (*Alouatta guariba*) in the province of Misiones, Argentina.” Organized by Neotropical Primate Conservation Argentina – Ministry of Ecology and R.N.R. of the Province of Misiones – Misiones Institute of Biodiversity of the Province of Misiones (IMiBio).

Act:

- The CSS Argentina specialists taught a module in a diploma on “Strengthening of technical and institutional capacities in wildlife management under human care for the conservation of biodiversity” promoted by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The module was entitled “Ex situ conservation, Reproduction for conservation, Considerations when carrying out translocations of wildlife and Population reinforcements and reintroductions” and was delivered virtually and in person with workshops in the Fundación Temaikèn Biopark. The public that attended (45) was Personnel who work with the management of fauna in public and private institutions that house wildlife under human care, as well as officials and personnel of the competent authorities that monitor said institutions under their jurisdiction.

Network:

- Project presentation “Initiative of the Center for species Survival” in the ALPZA academy. In which the CSS Fundacion Temaikèn Argentina promoted the strategy of “One Plan Approach” for more than 70 assistants.
- Meetings with regional species experts and officers for SSC were held to promote the creation of the national group of species specialists Argentina.
- The CSS Argentina sponsored the Argentine Mastozoology Conference, The Argentine Mastozoology Conference (JAM) was held from November 7 to 11, 2022 at the Puerto Iguazú Events and Conventions Center and has the objective of exchanging knowledge and discussing the ecology and conservation of Argentine mammals. (KSR3)

Communicate:

- Presentation of CSS Argentina at the 77th WAZA Annual Conference: Ex situ conservation as a strategy to “REVERSE THE RED”(Experiences, achievements and next steps).
- Participation in the 77th WAZA Annual Conference Plenary “Reverse the Red: Centers for Species Survival”.
- On November 29th we spread content of the environmental calendar on social networks for the Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) international day.
- The impact report of the Fundación Temaikèn 2021-2022 was launched. In it, there is a section that communicates the progress of CSS Argentina.



ASIA

CSS - Southeast Asia: *Mandai Nature*

The Centre for Species Survival: Southeast Asia is based in Singapore and hosted by Mandai Nature. It was officially established in August 2022 to catalyse assessment, planning and action for priority species in the region. As the conservation arm of Mandai Wildlife Group, Mandai Nature aims to be the trusted wildlife conservation organisation in Asia, with a focus on reversing and slowing species loss, protecting and restoring ecosystems and habitats, as well as engaging and benefitting local communities. For the period of October to December 2022, we would like to share the following updates:

Plan:

- Mandai Nature attended the first Southeast Asian Primate Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) Workshop in Taipei from 9 to 12 November. The workshop covered priority setting for primates with a focus on threatened Asian species and taxa in SEAZA zoos.
- Mandai Nature participated in two conservation planning workshops for Asian primates in Vietnam:
 - » 25 primate researchers and government officials gathered for an update and review of the Vietnam Primate Action Plan 2017 which covers 26 species and sub-species in Vietnam, with the aim of setting up a Vietnam Primatological Association
 - » Over 200 participants from 20 countries gathered at the 8th Asian Primate Symposium in Hanoi.

Act:

- Mandai Nature has continued its support for 40 in situ conservation projects across Southeast Asia for this reporting period.
- Mandai Nature joined a delegation from Singapore at the CITES 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) from 14 to 25 November in Panama. Representatives from Singapore, Malaysia and the US participated in putting forth a joint proposal for the Straw-headed Bulbul to be uplisted from Appendix II to Appendix I, while Singapore and Malaysia proposed for the White-rumped Shama to be included in CITES. Mandai Nature, National Parks Board Singapore and other partners presented these proposals at



CITES songbirds side event.
Photo © Mandai Nature

a CITES side event, *"Keeping the Music Alive"*. Participating countries agreed to the uplistings of the two Asian songbirds, allowing them to receive more protection against international trade.

Network:

- Mandai Nature participated in the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group annual conference and 77th World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) annual conference in Tenerife, from 20 to 28 October. Mandai Nature shared about the organisation's efforts in driving species conservation in Southeast Asia including on our role and workplan for the IUCN SSC Centre for Species Survival: Southeast Asia during a "Reverse the Red" panel session. Mandai Nature also submitted and presented a poster showcasing the Centre's species conservation efforts within the Assess-Plan-Act framework.



Communicate:

- Mandai Nature continues to run its social media presence on Facebook and LinkedIn to bring attention to conservation efforts being done for threatened species in the region. These included posts on [World Animal Day](#) and [Reptile Awareness Day](#) to spotlight our conservation partners' ongoing work in the field to improve animal welfare standards and ensure better protection for animals, as well as efforts to save endangered reptiles like the Roti Snake-necked Turtle, Siamese Crocodile, Southern River Terrapin and Palawan Forest Turtle.
- IUCN SSC ASAP continues to raise the profile of its Partners while also highlighting conservation needs of ASAP species. On [World Primate Day](#), ASAP collaborated with ASAP Partner Selamatkan Yaki to feature their team and their efforts in engaging communities for Celebes Crested Macaque conservation. On [World Mental Health Day](#), an interview with Dr Vik Mohan, Wellbeing Lead of the ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme, highlighted why and how the conservation community should prioritise mental health and wellbeing.



The giant otter or giant river otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) EN.
Photo © Caroline Leuchtenberger

SSC Partners





IUCN SSC QUARTERLY REPORT / DECEMBER 2022



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