



**The IUCN Species
Survival Commission**

QUARTERLY REPORT
MARCH 2022

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Cover Photo:
Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) EN.
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IUCN Species Survival Commission



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Executive Summary

We launch 2022 with a gradual return to in-person events and with a renewed Steering Committee. Five new Steering Committee members join the remaining 20 voting members and 6 observers, for a total of 31 people. We look forward to a productive 2021-2025, which will emphasize diversification of the leadership and membership of SSC, and strengthening the role of the network in assessing, planning and acting at the national level.

In 2016, IUCN Council adopted the Code of Conduct (CoC) of the members of IUCN Commissions, which sets values and principles that guide the behaviour of the 18,500+ volunteers in the IUCN Commission networks. Since its adoption, SSC has applied the CoC in an *ad hoc* manner, without a formal mechanism for handling complaints or for appealing to them. In this quarterly report, we launch the Code of Conduct Complaints and Appeals Panel, chaired by Steering Committee member Vivek Menon. We invite SSC members with CoC concerns to please write CodeOfConductConcerns@ssc.iucn.org.

We also announce the establishment of the Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force, a joint initiative of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and SSC, which was established in response of the 2020 IUCN Resolution on Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning. This is the first IUCN entity focused exclusively on the connections between reproductive and environmental health. A welcomed new initiative that will surely raise the profile of this very important topic.

Next, we hear from Rima Jabado, Chair of the Shark Specialist Group, and recently appointed SSC Deputy Chair. Rima shares her ambition and vision for SSC, which includes raising the profile of aquatic issues, especially those related to overfishing and wildlife trade, while making sure that we keep our focus not only on problems but also on bringing solutions to the table.

The final two articles highlight the continued growth of our partnership model and the consolidation of both National Species Specialist Groups (NSSG) and Centers for Species Survival (CSS). NSSG are an internal strategy, consisting of mobilizing the critical mass of SSC members present in any country and focusing their effort on supporting conservation nationally. NSSG are also key for attracting new talent, especially emerging professionals who might not yet have reached the international credentials required to join the SSC network. CSS are an external strategy, partnering with other organizations that contribute at least one staff member to support SSC on the Species Conservation Cycle. Through these partnerships, in five years we have reached 29 staff based at 8 CSS in Argentina, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, all of them in zoos or aquariums. Several more CSS are already in the works.

Resumen Ejecutivo

Iniciamos el 2022 con un regreso progresivo a los eventos presenciales y un Comité Directivo renovado. Cinco nuevos miembros se unen a los restantes 20 miembros con derecho a voto y 6 observadores, para un total de 31 personas en el Comité Directivo. Esperamos un productivo 2021-2025, que enfatizará la diversificación del liderazgo y la membresía de la CSE, y fortalecerá el papel de la red para evaluar, planificar y actuar a nivel nacional.

En 2016, el Consejo de la UICN adoptó el Código de Conducta (CoC) para los miembros de las Comisiones de la UICN, que establece valores y principios que guían el comportamiento de los más de 18.500 voluntarios en las redes de Comisiones. Desde su adopción, la CSE ha aplicado el CoC *ad hoc*, sin un mecanismo formal para manejar quejas o apelaciones. En este informe trimestral introducimos el panel de quejas y apelaciones del Código de Conducta, presidido por el miembro del Comité Directivo, Vivek Menon. Invitamos a los miembros de la CSE que tengan inquietudes sobre el CoC a que escriban a CodeOfConductConcerns@ssc.iucn.org.

También anunciamos el establecimiento del Grupo de Trabajo sobre Biodiversidad y Planificación Familiar, una iniciativa conjunta de la Comisión de Política Ambiental, Económica y Social (CPAES) y la CSE, que se estableció en respuesta a la Resolución 2020 de la UICN sobre la importancia para la conservación de la naturaleza de eliminar las barreras a la planificación familiar voluntaria basada en los derechos. Esta es la primera entidad de la UICN enfocada exclusivamente en las conexiones entre la salud reproductiva y ambiental. Una nueva iniciativa bienvenida que seguramente elevará el perfil de este tema tan importante.

A continuación, Rima Jabado, Presidenta del Grupo de Especialistas en Tiburones y recientemente nombrada Vicepresidenta de la CSE, comparte su ambición y visión para la Comisión. Rima espera elevar el perfil de los problemas acuáticos, especialmente aquellos relacionados con la sobrepesca y el comercio de vida silvestre, mientras nos aseguramos de mantener nuestro enfoque no solo en los problemas sino también en traer soluciones.

Los últimos dos artículos destacan el crecimiento continuo de nuestro modelo de asociación y la consolidación de los Grupos Nacionales de Especialistas en Especies (NSSG, por sus siglas en inglés) y los Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies (CSS, por sus siglas en inglés). Los NSSG son una estrategia interna, que consiste en movilizar un número importante de miembros de la CSE presentes en cualquier país y enfocar su esfuerzo en apoyar la conservación a nivel nacional. Los NSSG también son clave para atraer nuevos talentos, especialmente profesionales emergentes que quizás aún no hayan alcanzado las credenciales internacionales requeridas para unirse a la red de la CSE. Los CSS son una estrategia externa, en asociación con otras organizaciones que aportan al menos un miembro del personal para apoyar a la Comisión en el Ciclo de Conservación de Especies. A través de estas alianzas, en cinco años hemos llegado a 29 funcionarios en 8 CSS

en Argentina, Brasil, Portugal, España, Reino Unido y Estados Unidos, todos ellos en zoológicos o acuarios. Otros Centros ya están en proceso de desarrollo.

Résumé

L'année 2022 a débuté avec un retour progressif aux événements en présentiel et avec un comité directeur renouvelé. Cinq nouveaux membres du Comité de Pilotage rejoignent les 20 membres votants et 6 observateurs restants, pour un total de 31 personnes. Nous attendons avec impatience une période 2021-2025 productive qui mettra l'accent sur la diversification du leadership et des membres de la CSE ainsi que sur le renforcement du rôle du réseau à travers l'évaluation, la planification et l'action au niveau national.

D'abord, il y a lieu de parler des différentes créations.

En 2016, le Conseil de l'UICN a adopté le Code de conduite (CoC) des membres des Commissions de l'UICN qui définit les valeurs et les principes. Valeurs et principes qui guident le comportement des plus de 18 500 bénévoles des réseaux des commissions de l'UICN. Depuis son adoption, la CSE applique le CoC de manière *ad hoc*, sans mécanisme formel de traitement des plaintes ou d'appel. Dans ce rapport trimestriel, nous lançons le Comité des plaintes et des appels du Code de conduite, présidé par Vivek Menon, membre du Comité directeur. Nous invitons les membres de la CSE ayant des préoccupations concernant le CoC à écrire à CodeOfConductConcerns@ssc.iucn.org.

Nous annonçons également la création du Groupe de travail sur la biodiversité et la planification familiale. Une initiative conjointe de la Commission des politiques environnementales, économiques et sociales (CPEES) et de la CSE, prise en réponse à la résolution de l'UICN de 2020 sur l'importance pour la conservation de la nature de supprimer les obstacles à la planification familiale volontaire fondée sur les droits. Il s'agit de la première entité de l'UICN qui se concentre exclusivement sur les liens entre santé reproductive et santé environnementale. Cette nouvelle initiative est bienvenue car elle rehaussera sûrement l'ampleur et la prise en considération de ce sujet très important.

Ensuite, attardons nous sur les pensées de Rima Jabado, présidente du groupe de spécialistes des requins et récemment nommée vice-présidente du CSE. Rima partage son ambition et sa vision pour la CSE. En effet, ses objectifs comprennent la sensibilisation aux problèmes aquatiques notamment ceux liés à la surpêche et au commerce des espèces sauvages. Par ailleurs, elle veille à ce que nous restions concentrés non seulement sur les problèmes, mais également sur la mise en place de solutions.

Enfin, les deux derniers articles soulignent la croissance continue de notre modèle de partenariat et la consolidation des groupes nationaux de spécialistes des espèces (NSSG, pour ses sigles en anglais) et des centres pour la survie des espèces (CSS). Les NSSG sont une stratégie interne, consistant à mobiliser la masse critique des membres de la CSE présents dans n'importe quel pays et à concentrer leurs efforts sur le soutien à la conservation au niveau national. Les NSSG sont également essentielles pour attirer de nouveaux talents, en particulier des professionnels émergents qui n'ont peut-être pas encore atteint les qualifications internationales requises pour rejoindre le réseau CSE. Les CSS sont quant à eux, une stratégie externe en partenariat avec d'autres organisations qui fournissent au moins un membre du personnel pour soutenir la CSS. Et ce, sur le cycle de conservation des espèces au niveau national. Grâce à ces partenariats, nous avons pu obtenir en cinq ans, 29 employés basés dans 8 CSS, tous dans des zoos ou des aquariums. Les différents sites sont l'Argentine, le Brésil, le Portugal, l'Espagne, le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis. Plusieurs autres CSS sont déjà en préparation.

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.





WAZA Council and EAZA Directors days meetings at Beauval zoo. Photo © Kira Mileham

Conferences and Meetings

(Jon Paul Rodríguez, JPR; Kira Mileham, KM; Nahomy De Andrade, NDA; Orlando Salamanca, OS; Jafet Nassar, JN; Aritzaitz Rodríguez, AR; Mayerlin Ramos, MR; Edgard Yerena, EY; Simeon Bezeng, SB; Rima Jabado, RJ; Milangela Dell'Aquila, MDA)

CONFERENCES

- SSC in 2021-2025. *2022 African Rhino Specialist Group Meeting*. 13 March 2022, Zambia, on-line event. (JPR)
- SSC conservation action on the ground and SOS. *IUCN Species Conservation Action Team Retreat*. 24 March 2022, Gland, Switzerland, hybrid event. (JPR)
- *From Mission to Impact - supporting Zoos and Aquariums to develop organisational strategies to deliver conservation impact*. 17 and 31 March 2022, on-line event. (KM)

MEETINGS

- Visit to SSC Chair's Office partners and collaborators in Albuquerque (Albuquerque BioPark), Chicago (Shedd Aquarium, Brookfield Zoo, Morton Arboretum and Chicago Botanic Garden), Indianapolis (Global Center for Species Survival) and Austin (Re:wild). 28 February-5 March. (JPR, NDA, KM, AR, EY, OS)
- Key Biodiversity Areas training workshop in-person, Freetown-Sierra Leone. 02-04 March 2022. (SB)
- Virtual Key Biodiversity Areas training workshop. March 2022 - Madagascar. (SB)

- 2021 Rolex Awards. 14-16 March, London and 17-18 March, 2022, Geneva. (JPR)
- National Geographic Celebration of Exploration. 16 March 2022, London. (JPR)
- Plenary meeting of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife. 22 March 2022, Bonn, Germany, on-line event. (JPR)
- Reverse the Red Measuring Impact Working Group 1st Meeting. 10-11 March 2022, on-line event. (OS, JN)
- Reverse the Red major partner strategy meetings with Tangled Bank Studios and Re:Wild. March 17 - 21 2022, Washington DC, USA. (KM)
- SSC Chair's Office Partner meetings with American Association of Zoos and Aquariums and National Geographic Society. 21-23 March 2022, Washington, DC. (KM)
- SSC Chair's Office Partners meetings with Durrell (Bath, UK), Chester Zoo (Chester, UK) and The Deep Aquarium (Hull, UK), United Kingdom. March 23-31 March 2022. (KM)
- South African Key Biodiversity Area National Coordination Group meeting. 30 March 2022. (SB)

INTERVENTION LETTERS & STATEMENTS

- **POISONING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN CRIMEA.** On 18 January 2022, Dr Nigel Collar and Dr Mimi Kessler, Co-Chairs of the IUCN SSC Bustard Specialist Group (BSG) sent letters to authorities in Russia with concerns about a massive loss in December 2021 of about one-third of the population (70 dead birds were counted; <https://rossaprimavera.ru/news/09c875a9>) of Great Bustards (*Otis tarda tarda*) wintering in the western part of Crimea. The details of the deaths are consistent with a misuse of agricultural chemicals by farmers. This species is Vulnerable globally and Endangered within the Russian Federation. The Bustard Specialist Group urged the authorities to take preventive actions to avoid the misuse of agricultural poisons, as additional incidents of this magnitude could very quickly drive the remaining population to extinction. In response, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Crimea, replied in early 2022 stating that they found the corpses of five bustards and have initiated an administrative investigation against a business entity on possible violation of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation for the use of pesticides in an unacceptable way. One year ago, in spring 2021, the Bustard Specialist Group sent a letter to authorities in Ukraine with concerns about similar, earlier massive bird poisonings in adjacent Kherson Province.



Introducing the new SSC Steering Committee 2021-2025

The SSC Chair's Office supports the mission of the Commission by empowering and accompanying the network, providing leadership, boosting impact, helping build capacity, keeping efforts on track, and building relationships and partnerships. Contributing to these tasks, the SSC Steering Committee balance regional and thematic perspectives and provides overall direction to our work.

We are delighted to welcome five new members!



Asha de Vos

Member at large, Sri Lanka

Asha de Vos is an internationally acclaimed Sri Lankan marine biologist, ocean educator and pioneer of long-term blue whale research within the Northern Indian Ocean. She is also an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Oceans Institute of the University of Western Australia. She has degrees from the University of St. Andrews, University of Oxford and the University of Western Australia but escaped academia to establish her own Sri Lankan grown non-profit, Oceanswell - Sri Lanka's first marine conservation research and education organization.



Axel Moehrenschlager

Conservation Translocation Specialist Group, Canada

Dr Moehrenschlager is the Director of Conservation and Science with the Wilder Institute. Axel has been a member of the Species Survival Commission since 1998. As Specialist Group Chair, he guided a transformation of the former Reintroduction Specialist Group into the IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group (CTSG) to broaden its conceptual reach and global impact. Conservation translocations constitute releases into the wild from human care or other wild populations. Activities range from reintroductions to assisted colonization, with wide-reaching relevance to emerging themes such as climate change adaptation, rewilding and de-extinction. Through experts in over 50 countries, CTSG pursues ambitious strategic priorities to advance science, guidance, policy, training, action, and outreach to save species and restore ecological functions across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.



Dilys Roe,

Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, United Kingdom

Dilys is the IUCN CEESP-SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) Specialist Group' Chair and also biodiversity lead at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) – a UK-based sustainable development think tank. She has a PhD in Biodiversity Management from the Durrell Institute (DICE), University of Kent. Her work focuses on the human dimensions of conservation – including understanding and supporting the necessary conditions for effective community-based conservation – and on integrating biodiversity into climate and development policy. Dilys is a member of the UK Government Darwin Expert Committee and Illegal Wildlife Trade Advisory Group, the Scottish First Ministers Environment Council and the Board of Trustees of Resource Africa.



Paul Smith

Plant Conservation Committee, United Kingdom

Paul Smith is the Secretary-General and CEO of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), the largest plant conservation network in the world. With a career spanning 30 years in conservation, Paul joined BGCI as Secretary-General in March 2015. Before joining BGCI, Paul was Head of the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew's Millennium Seed Bank (MSB). During his nine years at the helm there, seeds from >25,000 plant species were conserved in the MSB and, in 2009, the MSB achieved its first significant milestone, securing seeds from 10% of the world's plant species, prioritising rare, threatened and useful plants.



Tomas Diagne,

Member at large, Senegal.

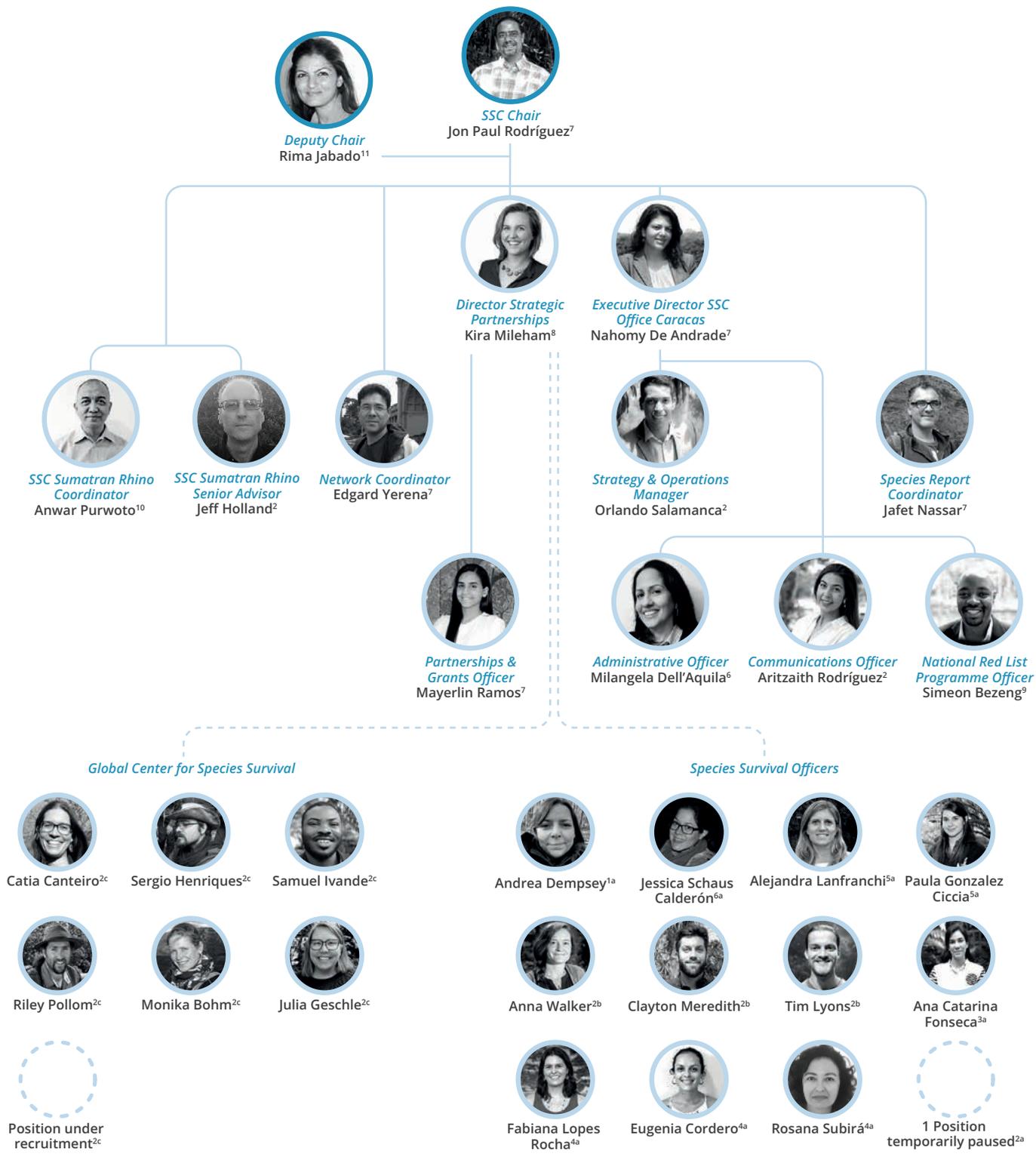
Tomas Diagne is an African freshwater turtle and tortoise expert who has been working to save threatened and endangered turtle species throughout West Africa for the past 28 years. He began rescuing endangered African Spurred Tortoises (*Geochelone sulcata*) as a teenager, and in 1992 he created S.O.S. (Save Our Sulcatas), a non-profit organization. He co-founded and built the Village des Tortues in Rufisque, Senegal, a sanctuary and captive breeding facility for Sulcata Tortoises that now houses over 400 individuals and has re-introduced numerous others back to the wild. Tomas has also been actively involved in freshwater and marine turtle research throughout Africa.

Hereby is the full list of appointments approved February 2022 by the IUCN Council:

- **Amanda Vincent**, Marine Conservation Committee, Canada.
- **Asha de Vos**, Member at large, Sri Lanka.
- **Axel Hochkirch**, Invertebrate Conservation Committee, Germany.
- **Axel Moehrenschrager**, Conservation Translocation Specialist Group, Canada.
- **Dilys Roe**, Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, United Kingdom.
- **Domitilla Raimondo**, Plant Conservation Committee, South Africa.
- **Ehab Eid**, Regional Vice-Chair for West Asia, Jordan.
- **Gabriela Lichtenstein**, Regional Vice-Chair for Meso and South America, Argentina.
- **Greg Mueller**, Fungi Conservation Committee, United States.
- **Ian Harrison**, Freshwater Conservation Committee, United States.
- **Jean-Christophe Vié**, Regional Vice-Chair for West Europe, Switzerland.
- **Luigi Boitani**, Red List Committee, Italy.
- **Mike Hoffmann**, Member at large, United Kingdom.
- **Mirza Kusriani**, Regional Vice-Chair for South and East Asia, Indonesia.
- **Nunia Thomas**, Regional Vice-Chair for Oceania, Fiji.
- **Onnie Byers**, Conservation Planning Specialist Group, United States.
- **Paul Smith**, Plant Conservation Committee, United Kingdom.
- **Piero Genovesi**, Invasive Species Specialist Group, Italy.
- **Russell Mittermeier**, Member at large, United States.
- **Tomas Diagne**, Member at large, Senegal.
- **Topiltzin Contreras MacBeath**, Freshwater Conservation Committee, Mexico.
- **Vivek Menon**, Code of Conduct Complaints and Appeals Panel, India.
- **Yan Xie**, Regional Vice-Chair for China, China.

Observers

- **Barney Long**, Re:wild.
- **Clément Lanthier**, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
- **Elizabeth Bennett**, Wildlife Conservation Society.
- **Richard Scobey**, TRAFFIC.
- **Rob Shumaker**, Indianapolis Zoo.
- **Stuart Butchart**, BirdLife International.



CHAIR OFFICE AND EMPLOYED BY SSC PARTNERS:

- 1. (UK) a) Paradise Wildlife Park
- 2. (USA) a) Georgia Aquarium, b) Albuquerque Biopark, c) Indianapolis Zoo
- 3. (Portugal) a) Oceanário de Lisboa
- 4. (Brazil) a) Parque Das Aves
- 5. (Argentina) a) Fundación Temaikèn
- 6. (Spain) a) Loro Parque Fundacion
- 7. (Venezuela)
- 8. (Australia)
- 9. (South Africa)
- 10. (Indonesia)
- 11. (Abu Dhabi)



Code of Conduct Complaints and Appeals Panel

To join SSC one must accept the [Code of Conduct of the members of IUCN Commissions](#), as the set of values and principles that we are committed to follow and enforce as a part of the SSC community.

To help members navigate the Code of Conduct (CoC), the SSC Chair's Office developed the [SSC Guidance on the Code of Conduct and practices for its implementation 2021-2025](#). This document provides additional guidance for compliance with the CoC, and establishes practices for its implementation, giving us a framework to report and address violations of the CoC, including an [Incident Report Form](#) that may be used to denounce cases.

The SSC Chair's Office is also committed to implement a regular communication plan to build awareness and promote the adequate interpretation of the CoC across SSC, its groups and relevant stakeholders, ensuring the SSC members know and embrace it properly. We are aware that effective implementation must be part of a learning process that requires communication, consistent enforcement, and continuous improvement.

Some of the actions included within the Guidance and that we have planned in order to raise awareness on the importance of the CoC are:

- a. Making the CoC, its Guidance and all the materials related available on SSC's website.
- b. Developing a communication campaign to disseminate the CoC and its Guidance through the different SSC channels and media.
- c. Engaging SSC Leaders and members to take part in awareness-raising and communication activities to disseminate and implement the CoC and its Guidance widely.

Complaints and Appeals Panel

The next step in the process of rolling out the CoC is to create a body within SSC to consider reports of CoC violations or other formal complaints lodged by SSC members. "To make sure that we listen to members' concerns and offer a formal mechanism for communicating them, we have been exploring the creation of a Code of Conduct Complaints and Appeals Panel, composed of three SSC Steering Committee members (one of them to chair)", said Jon Paul Rodríguez, SSC Chair in his message to the Steering Committee for requesting nominations to become members of the Panel.

The Panel aims to be geographically diverse and gender-balanced. Vivek Menon, from India has accepted to be on the panel as its Chair, and the other SSC Steering Committee members that will be serving alongside him are Onnie Byers (USA) and Mike Hoffmann (UK).

The functions of the Panel would be: 1) Support the SSC Chair's Office in widely disseminating the [SSC Guidance on the Code of Conduct and practices for its implementation 2021-2025](#) among SSC members, and invite them to report incidents to the panel. 2) Examine incident reports and conduct investigations, by reaching out to all those involved. 3) Produce a recommendation for implementation by the SSC Chair. Edgard Yerena, Network Coordinator for the Chair's Office, would be the designated staff support member for the Panel.

To report a violation of the CoC, please reach the Complaints and Appeals Panel through the following email address: CodeOfConductConcerns@ssc.iucn.org



Rubaya clinic on the edge of threatened wetland, Uganda.
Photo © Margaret Pyke Trust.

IUCN SSC CEESP Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force

The Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force is the first IUCN entity focussed exclusively on the connections between reproductive and environmental health, and is the IUCN Task Force with the greatest emphasis on human health. The Task Force was created because of a growing need within biodiversity conservation policy and practice, to change to reflect the realities of the twenty-first century. Human and environmental health are inextricably linked, conservation organisations are aware of the need to integrate community health actions within programming but need to do so more often, and successful conservation requires genuine and substantive action to further human health and gender outcomes.

The Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force was founded thanks to an overwhelming vote at the World Conservation Congress in 2020, when IUCN Members voted in support of the resolution “Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning”. It is an inter-commission Task Force of the Commission on Environmental, Economic

and Social Policy (CEESP) and the Species Survival Commission (SSC). Task Force members comprise global experts on sexual and reproductive health and rights, biodiversity conservation, demography and those in direct dialogue with their national policymakers. The Task Force contributes members' passion and expertise from a variety of national, regional and international organisations from all corners of the globe for the benefit of human and environmental health.

The Task Force will develop a variety of ambitious work streams aimed at supporting IUCN Members to develop guidance on how and why removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning can strengthen conservation outcomes in addition to promoting the health, well-being and empowerment of women and girls. The Task Force will produce publications, guidance and best practice materials through a series of output oriented Working Groups and support activities to change national and organisational plans and policies. The Task Force will help IUCN ensure its work and focus reflects the interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, respects human rights to health, promotes multi-sector approaches benefiting human and environmental health, and acts as a flagship Task Force in terms of level of output and governance.



Who shapes the SSC?

Interview with Rima Jabado

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group Chair and SSC Deputy Chair

Rima Jabado is a scientist and conservationist with a passion for all things marine. She has spent over two decades developing and working on conservation initiatives globally and has experience as a field research scientist, government official, project manager, and director for non-profit organizations. In the latter case, Rima Jabado leads the Elasmobranch Project, a non-profit initiative she founded in 2010 to encourage work in data-poor areas focused on investigating shark and ray fisheries and trade.

Her work has centered on bridging the gap between science and policy to ensure issues such as bycatch, threatened species conservation, and illegal trade are tackled. Her research has been instrumental in influencing decision makers to implement meaningful measures for the protection of species across a range of fisheries.

Rima has a B.A. in Political Science, a Masters of Applied Sciences in Natural Resource Management, a Ph.D. in

Environmental Science and Ecology, and several other graduate degrees including Public Relations and Education. She has authored/co-authored over 70 scientific, technical, and popular publications, lectured at schools and universities and appeared in radio and television productions.

She has been involved in the Species Survival Commission for over a decade and was appointed as the Chair of the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group in 2021. Rima is a member of the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee, serves as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Appointed Scientific Councilor for Fish, and sits on the Advisory Committee for the CMS Sharks Memorandum of Understanding as the representative of the Asia region. In 2022, Rima was appointed Deputy Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. In this issue of *Who shapes the SSC?* we invite Rima to share her vision for leading and achieving under this role.



Photo © Rima Jabado

What would you describe as the main drivers to biodiversity loss?

Threats to species and biodiversity will vary depending on the taxon, region, type and intensity of exploitation, etc. I think, however, that there is overall agreement within the scientific community that the main drivers of biodiversity loss around the world are direct exploitation of natural resources, habitat loss and degradation, pollution, invasion of alien species, and climate change. We have significantly altered nature and continue to do so at unprecedented scales and as a network, we need to collectively act to tackle these. However, working in the marine realm, my biggest concern is simply fishing. I have seen the scale of damage to species and ecosystems and I think this driver of biodiversity loss doesn't get enough attention. I would like to raise awareness of this pervasive activity as the largest single immediate threat to aquatic species.

How do you see your past experience contributing to the network as Deputy Chair?

As a network, we have far more experience than I can ever bring as Deputy Chair. What I bring is my determination, ambition, vision, and hope of a better world. I have engaged widely on species conservation, capacity development initiatives, ensured inclusion and diversity in my work, and achieved conservation impact at various scales. But my largest contribution will be my collaborative nature and my global perspective of conservation challenges, particularly from data-poor areas where conservation is often seen as the enemy of growth. I will work to actively promote our mission for biodiversity conservation and support the development of partnerships with governments and civil society. I will connect with the network, learn from their experience and their collective successes and

failures, and make sure we can work together to catalyze change. For many species, we are running out of time and we need to find ways to effectively support each other across our network of Specialist Groups, Conservation Committees, Red List Authorities, Task Forces, the IUCN Secretariat, and other actors, and make sure we can contribute to policy changes.

Are there any changes that you would like to see take place to strengthen the network in the upcoming 4 years?

The SSC network is one of a kind. It is impressive in its mission, size, accomplishments, and plays an incredibly important role in the conservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity around the world. We are a network that brings together the best minds in conservation and potentially the future leaders of the world. Our work is key in shaping policy and interventions at national, regional, and international levels. This is our strength and we need to build on it by being louder and bolder in our work and messaging. We need to work harder to highlight some of the most pressing conservation issues but more importantly by highlighting solutions and showcasing that conservation does work. Of course, I hope to raise the profile of aquatic issues, especially those related to overfishing and wildlife trade, but also make sure we focus on bringing solutions to the table. I want to support the SSC as it works on expanding its membership in terms of taxa represented and as it endeavors to ensure that all regions and actors have a voice. As members of the SSC, we often forget how big our reach and influence can be from within the network and how much we can benefit from engaging with each other to leverage change. We have a huge problem to tackle and we will need the right tools to connect with each other and learn from our collective experiences. I would like to facilitate this process to ensure we can all be more involved with IUCN processes and deliver transformative action for species.



Photo © Rima Jabado



Temaiken Evento Satellite 1 2021-09-09
Photo © Fundación Temaiken

Expanding the SSC Partnerships Network

The structure of SSC Partnerships continues to evolve with a focus for 2021-2025 on expanding the SSC network and species conservation impact at the national level.

Through the creation of Centers for Species Survival (CSS) and National Species Specialist Groups (NSSG), the SSC Chair's Office is looking to set up a coordinated platform of experts, local communities, national governments and organizations to lead and improve our collective ability to assess-plan-act for species conservation, especially at local level. Through this approach, we continue to grow and refine the structure of partnerships to better reflect and support the interconnections between the different types of SSC Specialist Groups, CSS and partners. The structure is based on three main dimensions:

Geographic: focus on national and subnational multi-taxa support for the assess, plan and act components of the Species Strategic Cycle. The new NSSG play a relevant role in organizing a network of volunteer experts in possible collaboration with a CSS to help coordinate efforts across taxonomic and disciplinary groups for each country, to support governments and facilitate science-based decision making and the development of policies that will contribute towards halting the loss of species.

Taxonomic: focus on assess-plan-act priorities as determined by SSC taxonomic groups with the support of CSSs based on the following areas of expertise: amphibians, fungi, birds, reptiles, plants, fishes and invertebrates.

Disciplinary: the main objective will be to provide guidance, best practices and capacity on key topics relevant to species conservation. These SSC Disciplinary Groups and possible new CSSs

will provide technical input to international conventions, national, regional or global species assessments and understanding emerging conservation issues and opportunities, as well as driving innovative solutions to key challenges.



This structure aims to reflect and reinforce two of the SSC Chair's Office priorities for the quadrennium: consolidate the CSS model around the world, as well as expand the role of SSC in implementation of Species Conservation Cycle at the national level.



In addition to this new partnerships structure that shows the interaction between the SSC Network and the different CSS, SSC continues to have a diverse platform of partners around the world from zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens to recognized production companies which play a key role in funding, hosting projects, administrating resources and providing technical support to advance with our Species Strategic Plan.



Toucan toucan, *Ramphastos toco*, LC.
Photo © Fundación Temaikén

IUCN SSC Centers for Species Survival

Centers for Species Survival (CSS) are partnerships between the SSC Chair's Office and leading species conservation organisations. They empower dedicated partner-based staff teams of at least one full-time staff member, to work closely with relevant SSC Groups in catalysing priority efforts for assess-plan-act at various geographic scales or taxonomic focuses.

The SSC works closely with CSSs across NGOs, government agencies, zoos and aquariums, among other stakeholders, to understand the key networks and conservation efforts that are underway in their country or region. Many of the CSS staff receive training in IUCN Red Listing, conservation planning and other knowledge products to support the SSC network and efforts, often at the national level, identifying priority gaps and ensuring that efforts, resources and experts are effectively connected to maximize conservation species impact. The following is a summary of some of the progress and outcomes recently achieved by the Centers:

Fundación Temaikèn

Center for Species Survival - Argentina: Fundación Temaikèn

- Assess: Basic diagnosis on Red Lists – endemic species, endemic flora in Misiones – Brasil support; main actors and Legal framework.
- Selection of Flag Species Projects framed within the principles and steps of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) methodology, these projects are:
 - » Yellow Cardinal;
 - » Endemic Flora in Misiones;
 - » Paraná Delta Ecosystem.
- Training of the CSS team on IUCN methodologies:
 - » Conservation Planning Methodology by CPSG (March 2022);
 - » Red List training supported by Albuquerque Biopark Zoo team, United States.
- Organizational strengthening - Provide internal training and workshops within the Fundación Temaikèn team through specific workshops of flagship projects. We have worked on the integration of all the areas of Fundación Temaikèn. Initially, we worked on Yellow Cardinal and later we will continue with endemic flora in Misiones.
- Strategy to position *ex situ* conservation according to the IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2021-2025.



Center for Species Survival - United Kingdom: Paradise Wildlife Park

The Center for Species Survival United Kingdom (UK) has been working closely with the British Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria (BIAZA) to brainstorm how its members can contribute to the Reverse the Red movement, and participate in the conservation cycle of Assess-Plan-Act. To that end the Center has organized:

- Meetings between the Center, SSC and BIAZA to strategize on how we might catalyze collaboration between the IUCN National Committee (NCUK) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The JNCC is the statutory adviser to the government and devolved administrations on the UK and international nature conservation. Its work contributes to maintaining and enriching biological diversity, conserving geological features and sustaining natural systems. JNCC is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.
- Meetings with NCUK and JNCC to understand the current landscape and procedure for red list assessing, and held a workshop for BIAZA members to learn more about Reverse the Red and our objective. The workshop delivered presentations on Red Listing, Green Status, CSPG, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and JNCC to give an overview of the tools available to facilitate Assess-Plan-Act. The workshop also allowed for a SWOT and brainstorming session to gauge the interest from the BIAZA members, and to better understand their strengths but also any potential weaknesses that we would need to address. The workshop was very positive with an encouraging commitment from the participants.
- Participation in the Red List team in Cambridge and will be co-hosting a 4-day hybrid Red List training workshop at the British Antarctic Society.



LORO PARQUE FUNDACIÓN

Center for Species Survival - Spain: Loro Parque Fundación

The establishment of the Center for Species Survival Macaronesia by Loro Parque Foundation aims to assess the current situation of biodiversity in all the archipelagos. Macaronesia is a geographical region that comprises five archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores, Madeira, the Selvagens Islands, Canary Islands and Cape Verde. This region is a biodiversity hotspot with a large number of endemic species of flora and fauna, and therefore important for conservation strategies and priorities.

The first activities of the Center include a review of the assessments carried out by IUCN in order to understand the extinction risks of species. The Center will also focus on obtaining information regarding species that are yet to be assessed and species that lack adequate protection by the government authorities despite the threat to their survival.

Since 1996, the IUCN has globally assessed 3,447 species in Macaronesia. Eleven have gone extinct and 734 are under threat: 243 Critically Endangered, 256 Endangered and 235 Vulnerable. Plants are the most threatened group as they represent 38% of Critically Endangered and 44% of Endangered species. Arthropods are the second most threatened group. 1,216 species (35%) are Macaronesian endemics, of which 542 (45%) are under threat. However, the extinction risk and the groups under threat vary within the region, highlighting the uniqueness of the archipelagos and the importance of their conservation.

By understanding the extinction risk and threats of Macaronesian species, the Center for Species Survival Macaronesia aims to promote conservation of key species and be part of the Reverse the Red movement to ensure the survival of wild species and reduce biodiversity decline.



Center for Species Survival - New Mexico: Albuquerque Biopark Zoo

The Center for Species Survival New Mexico is taking important steps by developing onboarding resources for prospective centers and establishing mentorship opportunities for new team members. Some activities that stand out are:

- Continue to support Red List capacity by undertaking reassessment processes for medicinal plants in the European Union, marine fishes in Jordan, and wild bees in North America.
- Held a Red List training workshop in March 2022 to support invertebrate specialist groups based throughout Asia.
- Begun a stakeholder and gap analysis for conservation in the State of New Mexico.
- Co-hosting a workshop series with the IUCN Red List Unit titled “The IUCN Red List Criteria: your questions answered”.
- Co-hosting an IUCN Red List Trainer course (date TBD) in 2022. Space is limited to ten participants.



Global Center for Species Survival - United States: Indianapolis Zoo

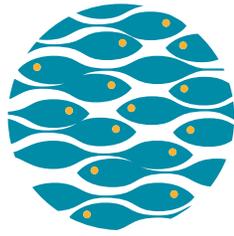
- Since January 2022, the Global Center has grown its social media audience from 414 Twitter followers and 139 Facebook followers to 616 Twitter followers and 211 Facebook followers.
- Top social content included posts about World Pangolin Day, Year of the Tiger, International Women's Day, Joro spider misinformation, and Specialist Group Chair Tanya Kryvomaz for her work with slime molds.
- The Global Center hosted Dr. Luke Jacobus in February. He is an Indianapolis Zoo grant recipient working on mayfly conservation.
- Monni Böhm and Global Center intern Noelle Grabowski authored a blog post for World Wetlands Day in February.
- Angela Yang and Monni Böhm traveled to Chicago to meet with Karen Murchie, Chuck Knapp, and SSC Chair Jon Paul Rodríguez at the Shedd Aquarium to introduce the Global Center to their science team. Angela and Monni also met with staff at Lincoln Park Zoo.



Center for Species Survival - Brazil: Parque das Aves

- We signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), IUCN SSC, and the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) aiming to cooperate for improving and integrating national extinction risk assessments, conservation planning, as well as, to build the capacity of ICMBio servers and collaborators in the use of IUCN tools.
- As result of the project “[An integrative approach to advance the conservation of the biodiversity of endangered species in the Brazilian Cerrado](#)” (Jul 2021-Jan 2022), funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), and co-executed by CSS Brazil, ICMBio, and the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden (CNCFlora/JBR), we:
 - » Developed a National Action Plan for two threatened Faveiro tree species.
 - » Applied the IUCN Green Status of Species to ten Brazilian endemic and threatened cacti species.
 - » Enhanced the ICMBio Fauna Species Extinction Risk Assessment System (SALVE) to embed an automatic translation tool and to allow its integration with IUCN Species Information System.
 - » Translated two IUCN Red List Guidelines and the IUCN Red List Online Course into Portuguese.
- We contributed to the BirdLife forum with information for 11 endemic species.
- In partnership with CPSG, we develop and are delivering the [Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis](#) online training course (Mar-April).

Please visit cssbrazil.org for more information on our activities and agenda.



Oceanário de Lisboa

Center for Species Survival - Portugal: Oceanario de Lisboa

- CSS Oceanário de Lisboa maintains its focus on the assessment of marine species. Despite continuing its work in global Red List assessments, the focus in 2022 has extended to national marine Red List assessments. In late 2021, we started working on the [Red Book of the Marine Fishes of Portugal](#). Between January and March the team completed 138 pre-assessments for this project.
- We also contributed as facilitators to the assessment of five species of sunfishes (family Molidae), now in the final stages.



Proposed Center for Species Survival - Southeast Asia: Mandai Nature, Singapore

Mandai Wildlife Group (MWG), through its newly formed conservation entity Mandai Nature, sets a global example in collaborative, science-driven, impact-focused conservation and is a long-term partner of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) in driving assessments, planning and action across the region of Southeast Asia (SEA).

Mandai Wildlife Group and Mandai Nature have enabled the IUCN Red List assessments of many key taxa for the region to bolster understanding and inform prioritisation of efforts. In partnership with the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), Mandai Nature hosts the Southeast Asia CPSG Resource Center which works to streamline and prioritise conservation action planning for threatened species in this region. Furthermore, as the host of the IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP), Mandai Nature works to focus and scale-up urgent conservation attention and action for the species most at risk of extinction in Southeast Asia whilst also strengthening skills of regional conservationists.

While the official set-up of a SEA Regional Center for Species Survival is still to be finalised, activities relevant to the Center are ongoing and growing every year.

For January to March 2022, we would like to share the following activities under our Assess, Plan, Act, Network and Communicate activities:

Assess:

- Mandai Nature under the auspices of IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group

(ASTSG) conducted research and published a paper in January, 'The dynamics of songbird ownership and community interconnectedness in Singapore'.

- Mandai Nature, as part of the Singapore Straw headed Bulbul working group, evaluated the current status of the species in the country, to prepare for a conservation action plan.

Plan:

- In March, Mandai Nature together with the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group (HHWG) under the Hornbill Specialist Group (HSG) started an internship-based project with the National University of Singapore with the aim of developing a strategy for the Demand Reduction subgroup.

Assess to Plan:

- Mandai Nature financially supported as well as co-facilitated alongside CPSG and the IUCN-CI Biodiversity Assessment Unit an assess to plan workshop for all threatened terrestrial vertebrate taxa of the Philippines on 25 – 27 January 2022.

Act:

- Mandai Nature continued the funding of 40 *in situ* conservation projects across southeast Asia, that commenced in April 2021 – approximating to around SGD 250,000 for this reporting period.
- During this period, ASAP funded 3 ASAP Species Rapid Action Fund projects (through support from Foundation Segré) - roughly SGD 39,400.
- At the CITES 74th meeting of the Standing Committee in March, Document 77 on Helmeted Hornbills (HH) was discussed, which acknowledged the USA's support to relevant country governments to implement the HH range-wide action plan. The HHWG core team (led by HSG, hosted by Mandai Nature) took this opportunity to highlight that we remain concerned with a low response by governments on reporting their progress on the action plan. Furthermore, the importance of better understanding the drivers of demand for Helmeted Hornbill products, especially to consumer states so appropriate mitigation measures can be planned for was emphasised.

- In March, Mandai Nature and the HHWG started an internship-based project with the National University of Singapore with the aim of develop guidelines/best practices for hornbill guardian programmes that may be shared with other conservation practitioners working across the range of the species.
- Mandai Nature is part of the specialist panel for reviewing Singapore's Endangered Species Act, which is the policy governing wildlife import export regulations for the country and gives effect to CITES.

Network:

- ASAP conducted two consultative meetings with the 14 participants from the ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme.
- In March, Mandai Nature and ASTSG started an internship-based project with the National University of Singapore with the aim of expanding the ASTSG's network by engaging our existing members in a questionnaire- and interview-based study that hopes to evaluate the actual level of membership engagement, understand our member's needs and expectations, as well as improve membership engagement and communication.
- In March, Mandai Nature and HHWG started an internship-based project with the National University of Singapore with the aim of expanding the HHWG's network by engaging our existing members in a questionnaire- and interview-based study that hopes to evaluate the actual level of membership engagement, understand our member's needs and expectations, as well as improve membership engagement and communication.

Communicate:

- A white paper titled 'Promoting the business of conservation tourism in Southeast Asia' was commissioned by Mandai Nature to facilitate networking and capacity building between ecotourism stakeholders at local, regional and global platforms.
- ASAP, Mandai Nature and Shoal interviewed in Nature Solutionaries Podcast "Why freshwater fish need as much or more attention than rhinos" with Veronika Perkova.
- ASAP released its 2021 Annual report in the ASAP quarterly newsletter in February and announced the successful recipients of ASAP Species Conservation Grants in the same newsletter.

- ASAP continues to run social media presence including the Species of the Week and targeted campaigns. In recognition of International Women’s Day, ASAP led a social media campaign celebrating the conservation achievements of women in Southeast Asia with an article on the ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme and an Interview with Mandai Nature CEO.
- ASAP-led article “Strengthening capacity for species conservation in South-east Asia: a provisional assessment of needs and opportunities for the Asian Species Action Partnership” published in the Oryx journal with co-authors from Wildlife Conservation Society and Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology.
- ASAP and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity produced a joint report “Halting species loss in ASEAN” which recommends key actions needed to end species extinctions in Southeast Asia.
- Mandai Nature with ASTSG have continued to maintain and update webpage and social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. A second newsletter issue was published in March. A second webinar in February entitled: “People: plague or remedy for the Asian songbirds? Tackling Asian songbird crisis through community engagement” was held.

Sponsors and partners





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