



**The IUCN Species
Survival Commission**

QUARTERLY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2022

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Cover Photo:

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



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Executive summary

Addressing the [Biodiversity Paradox](#) is a major priority for assuring the successful implementation of the Species Conservation Cycle (Assess-Plan-Act) around the globe. The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is actively pursuing multiple strategies to boost human, institutional and financial resources in regions where most species are found, but capacity to address conservation challenges is weaker. This Quarterly Report is a good reflection of these efforts, highlighting the process for the creation of the Young Professional Group, the establishment of the first three National Species Specialist Groups, and the achievements of the expanding network of Centers for Species Survival. Reactivation of travel to engage with partners, as well as intervention letters addressing conservation of the Loa frog (*Telmatobius dankoi*) in Chile, protection of the Lower Congo River from large hydro-electric dam developments, and control of the invasive American red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) in Colombia, are also featured in this issue.

Joining the SSC as a young professional may be challenging because Group Chairs typically invite people who are already established in their field and are recognised as conservation leaders globally, which may take a decade or two to achieve. Young professionals, on the other hand, may have not yet identified a specific field of specialization, so finding a group to join could be daunting. We are currently in the process of creating of a Young Professional Group, and look forward to them evolving into a Specialist Group or a Task Force in the near future.

Similarly, National Species Specialist Groups (NSSG) offer opportunities for emerging conservation leaders to join the SSC, as they may be already actively engaged in species conservation locally, without having yet joined international networks. But the main role for NSSG is to combine emerging talent with well-established SSC members to mobilise expert networks in support of species conservation nationally. NSSG are expected to play a key role in joining forces with IUCN Member organisations and national committees, government, academia, IUCN offices, zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens, Centers for Species Survival, and civil society at large in achieving the [Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#). Colombia, China and Madagascar are the first three countries to establish NSSG.

We close the Quarterly Report with an update from the Centers for Species Survival. First, we focus on a detailed report of the contributions of CSS New Mexico to the Species Conservation Cycle and then wrap it up with brief reports from Europe, North America, South America and Asia.

As always, we are deeply grateful to our sponsors and partners for their very generous support.

Resumen ejecutivo

Abordar la [Paradoja de la Biodiversidad](#) es una prioridad para asegurar la implementación exitosa del Ciclo de Conservación de Especies (Evaluar-Planificar-Actuar) en todo el mundo. La Comisión para la Supervivencia de las Especies (CSE) de la UICN está implementando múltiples estrategias para fortalecer los recursos humanos, institucionales y financieros en las regiones donde se encuentran la mayoría de las especies, pero la capacidad para abordar los desafíos de conservación es más débil. Este *Informe Trimestral* es un buen reflejo de estos esfuerzos, destacando el proceso de creación del Grupo de Jóvenes Profesionales, el establecimiento de los primeros tres Grupos Nacionales de Especialistas en Especies y los logros de la red en expansión de Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies. Reactivación de viajes para fortalecer alianzas, así como cartas de intervención que abordan la conservación de la rana Loa (*Telmatobius dankoi*) en Chile, la protección del río Congo Bajo de los grandes desarrollos de represas hidroeléctricas y el control del invasor cangrejo rojo americano (*Procambarus clarkii*) en Colombia, también aparecen en este número.

Unirse a la CSE como un joven profesional puede ser un desafío porque los presidentes de grupo generalmente invitan a personas que ya están establecidas en su campo y son reconocidas como líderes de conservación a nivel mundial, lo que puede llevar una o dos décadas lograr. Por otro lado, es posible que los jóvenes profesionales aún no hayan identificado un campo específico de especialización, por lo que encontrar un grupo al que unirse podría ser abrumador. Actualmente estamos en el proceso de creación de un Grupo de Jóvenes Profesionales, y esperamos que se conviertan en un Grupo de Especialistas o un Grupo de Trabajo en un futuro próximo.

De manera similar, los Grupos Nacionales de Especialistas en Especies (NSSG, por sus siglas en inglés) ofrecen oportunidades para que los líderes de conservación emergentes se unan a la CSE, dado que es posible que ya participen activamente en la conservación de especies a nivel local, sin haberse unido aún a redes internacionales. Pero el papel principal de los NSSG es combinar el talento emergente con miembros de la CSE bien establecidos para movilizar redes de expertos en apoyo de la conservación de especies a nivel nacional. Se espera que los NSSG desempeñen un papel clave al unir fuerzas con las organizaciones miembros de la UICN y los comités nacionales, el gobierno, el mundo académico, las oficinas de la UICN, los zoológicos, acuarios y jardines botánicos, los Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies y la sociedad civil en general para lograr el [Marco Global de Biodiversidad Post-2020](#). Colombia, China y Madagascar son los primeros tres países en establecer un NSSG.

Cerramos el *Informe Trimestral* con una actualización de los Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies. Primero, nos enfocamos en un informe detallado de las contribuciones del CSS New Mexico al Ciclo de Conservación de Especies y luego lo resumimos con breves informes de Europa, América del Norte, América del Sur y Asia.

Como siempre, estamos profundamente agradecidos a nuestros patrocinadores y socios por su generoso apoyo.

Résumé

S'attaquer au [paradoxe de la biodiversité](#) est une priorité majeure pour assurer la mise en œuvre réussie du cycle de conservation des espèces (évaluer-planifier-agir) dans le monde entier. La Commission de la Sauvegarde des Espèces (CSE) de l'UICN poursuit activement plusieurs stratégies pour accroître les ressources humaines, institutionnelles et financières dans les régions où se trouvent la plupart des espèces, mais la capacité à relever les défis de la conservation est plus faible. Ce rapport trimestriel reflète bien ces efforts, en soulignant le processus de création du Groupe des Jeunes Professionnels, la création des trois premiers groupes Nationaux de Spécialistes des Espèces et les réalisations du réseau en expansion des Centres pour la Survie des Espèces. La réactivation des voyages pour s'engager avec des partenaires, ainsi que des lettres d'intervention portant sur la conservation de la grenouille Loa (*Telmatobius dankoi*) au Chili, la protection du Bas-Congo contre les grands barrages hydroélectriques et le contrôle de l'écrevisse de marais américaine envahissante (*Procambarus clarkii*) en Colombie, sont également présentés dans ce numéro.

Rejoindre la CSE en tant que jeune professionnel peut être difficile car les présidents de groupe invitent généralement des personnes déjà établies dans leur domaine et reconnues comme des leaders de la conservation à l'échelle mondiale, ce qui peut prendre une ou deux décennies. En effet, les jeunes professionnels, quant à eux, n'ont peut-être pas encore identifié un domaine de spécialisation spécifique, et trouver un groupe à rejoindre peut donc être décourageant.. Nous sommes actuellement en train de créer un groupe de jeunes professionnels et nous espérons qu'ils évolueront en groupe de spécialistes ou en groupe de travail dans un proche avenir.

De même, les groupes nationaux de spécialistes des espèces (GNSE) offrent aux leaders émergents de la conservation la possibilité de rejoindre le CSE, car ils peuvent déjà être activement engagés dans la conservation des espèces au niveau local, sans avoir encore rejoint les réseaux internationaux. Mais le rôle principal du GNSE est de combiner des talents émergents avec des membres bien établis du CSE pour mobiliser des réseaux d'experts en faveur de la conservation des espèces à l'échelle nationale. Le GNSE devrait jouer un rôle clé en unissant ses forces avec les organisations membres et les comités nationaux de l'UICN, le gouvernement, les universités, les bureaux de l'UICN, les zoos, les aquariums et les jardins botaniques, les centres pour la survie des espèces et la société civile dans son ensemble pour réaliser le e [Cadre mondial pour la biodiversité post-2020](#). La Colombie, la Chine et le Madagascar sont les trois premiers pays à établir le GNSEz.

Nous clôturons le rapport trimestriel avec une mise à jour des Centres pour la Survie de Espèces. Tout d'abord, nous nous concentrons sur un rapport détaillé des contributions de CSE New Mexico au cycle de conservation des espèces, puis nous concluons par le brefs rapports d'Europe, d'Amérique du Nord, d'Amérique du Sud et d'Asie.

Comme toujours, nous sommes profondément reconnaissants à nos partenaires pour leur très généreux soutien.

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 Kusriani, MK; Gabriela Lichtenstein, GL)

CONFERENCES

- *Integration of species and ecosystem red lists for improved evidence-based conservation decisions*, Asia Nature Forum (AsiaNat) – 3. Beijing, 25 July 2022, online conference. (JPR)
- *Lista Roja de Especies Amenazadas de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza*, Taller de biología, pesquería y conservación de tiburones, IVIC and Insopesca. Playa Grande Yachting Club, Venezuela, 28 July 2022. (JPR)
- *Zoo and Aquarium Australasia Conference*. Melbourne, Australia, 8-11 August 2022. (KM)
- *Reversing the Red: A shared vision for Species Survival*, Mandai Wildlife Group. Singapore, 25 August 2022. (KM, JPR)
- *IUCN SSC, National Parks Singapore and Mandai Nature Engagement*. Singapore Botanical Gardens, Singapore, 26 August 2022. (KM, JPR)
- *Mobilising National SSC Networks in Singapore*. Singapore Zoo, Singapore, 26 August 2022. (KM, JPR)
- *Mobilising National SSC Networks in New Zealand*. Wellington Zoo, Wellington, New Zealand, 29 August 2022. (KM, JPR)

- *Engagement between IUCN SSC, Department of Conservation, and Zoos in New Zealand.* Wellington Zoo, Wellington, New Zealand, 30 August 2022. (KM, JPR)
- *Mobilising National SSC Networks in Australia.* Taronga Zoo, Sydney, Australia, 1 September 2022. (KM, JPR)
- *Mobilising National SSC Networks in Indonesia.* Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia, 8 September 2022. (MK, JPR).
- *Reverse the Red,* International Conference on Wildlife Conservation (Government of Indonesia and the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, in cooperation with the European Commission). Jakarta, Indonesia (hybrid event), 13 September 2022. (JPR)
- *Generación de datos sobre biodiversidad venezolana amenazada y su aplicación para informar políticas públicas,* Unidos por la Biodiversidad Latinoamericana, Cumbre Científica, 77 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77). Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, hybrid event, 14 September 2022. (JPR)
- *Movilizando redes nacionales en España,* IUCN Species Survival Commission. Caracas, Venezuela, virtual conference, 14 September 2022. (JPR, NDA, EY, MR)
- *From global priorities to local action in parrot conservation,* X International Parrot Convention of Tenerife. Canary Islands, 26-29 September 2022. (JPR)
- *Global Botanic Gardens Congress,* Melbourne, Australia, 25-29 September 2022. (KM)
- *Reverse the Red: mobilising national networks to catalyse species conservation, Science Summit,* 77 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77). New York, USA, online event, 20 September 20, 2022 (NDA, JPR)
- *Global Biodiversity Day: discussion panel, Science Summit,* 77 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77). New York, USA, online event, 20 September 21, 2022 (GL, JPR)

MEETINGS

- *SSC Webinar: Mobilising National Networks in Singapore.* 7 July 2022, online meeting. (AR, EY, KM, MK, NDA, JPR)
- *KBA Committee Meeting.* Cambridge, UK, 12-13 July 2022, online meeting. (JPR)
- *IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress.* Kigali, Rwanda, July 18–23rd (R), SB)
- *World Association of Zoos and Aquariums Global Council Strategic Planning Meeting.* Denver, USA, 19-21 July 2022, online event (KM)
- *International ornithological congress.* 14-20 August 2022, online event (SB)
- *Sumatran Rhino Alliance visit to the implementing partners of the Indonesian Government's Sumatran Rhino Emergency Action Plan.* Jakarta, Indonesia, 5-7 September 2022. (JPR)
- *IUCN Patrons of Nature meeting,* New York, USA, 21 September 2022. (NDA, JPR)

WORKSHOPS

- *Panel discussion of experts and strategic analysis of the incorporation process of international initiatives AICOMs and SICOMs as OMEC and/or Habitat Banks.* 26 August 2022, online event. (JN)
- *African Biodiversity Challenge workshop.* Accra, Ghana, 9-16 July 2022. (SB)

INTERVENTION LETTERS & STATEMENTS

- ***An urgent call to reactivate the work for the restoration and protection of the habitat of the Loa frog (*Telmatobius dankoi*) in Chile.*** The Loa frog is an endemic species that lives exclusively in a small wetland near the city of Calama in Chile. *Telmatobius dankoi* is categorized as Critically Endangered according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. In June 2019, its habitat, a small wetland, completely dried up, before which a team made up of members of the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, in coordination with the Ministry of Environment carried out a rescue plan to prevent its extinction. It was possible to relocate 62 individuals to another nearby wetland and the last 14 individuals were transferred to the National Zoo of the Metropolitan Park. Subsequent monitoring has not shown the survival of individuals in the relocation site, but fortunately, the National Zoo has been successful in its reproduction, recently achieving the birth of more than 600 tadpoles. Three years have passed since the beginning of this emergency and we must admit that there does not seem to be enough progress in the restoration and protection of the Loa frog habitat.

The SSC Chair sent a letter to the Ministry of Environment of Chile, on July 19, 2022, urging action to reactivate collaborative work between the different relevant actors, under the necessary leadership of the Ministry, to advance with a concrete solution and ensure the long-term survival of the Loa frog. The Chilean members of the Group of Specialists in Amphibians and the Group of Specialists in Translocation for Conservation (both from SSC), are available and willing to support these efforts.

- ***Protecting the Lower Congo River from large hydro-electric dam developments.*** At the most recent World Conservation Congress in September 2021, IUCN Members adopted the [Resolution 134 - Protecting the Lower Congo River from large hydro-electric dam developments](#). As a result, IUCN Director General, Bruno Oberle, and IUCN SSC Chair, on 5 August 2022, sent a letter to H.E. Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo offering IUCN support in making well-informed decisions regarding development and conservation plans on the Lower Congo River that are sustainable and provide the country, its economy and its people with resilient long-term benefits. A [dossier](#) with more detailed information was also provided, on the largely overlooked freshwater biodiversity crisis, IUCN's position on dams, information on the socio-economic and environmental costs of dams, and cheaper and more resilient renewable energy investment options.

- **Urgent declaration of the American red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) as an invasive species in Colombia.** The American red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) is one of the species with the greatest invasive potential on a global scale, about which the IUCN SSC expresses its concern about the impact that it may have as an exotic species on Colombian biodiversity. In a letter sent on September 16th, addressed to María Susana Muhamad González, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, signed by Jon Paul Rodríguez, Chair of the SSC, Piero Genovesi, Chair of the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group; José F. González -Maya and Cristina López-Gallego, Co-Chairs of the recently established IUCN SSC Colombia Species Specialist Group, highlighted the urgency of the official declaration of this species as “invasive” by the Colombian authorities. *Procambarus clarkii* is technically considered as such on all continents except Australia and Antarctica. It is listed in the IUCN Global Invasive Species Database as extremely harmful to native biodiversity; in fact, it is implicated in one confirmed extinction, and globally threatens at least two Critically Endangered species, six Endangered species, and two Vulnerable species, according to information from the IUCN Red List. The official declaration of *P. clarkii* as an invasive species in Colombia will make it possible to regulate its introduction into the natural environment, limit its expansion, strengthen the management that the regional environmental authorities are already carrying out, and facilitate its control and reduce its impact on agricultural activities such as fishing and cattle ranching. The IUCN Species Survival Commission emphasized its willingness to discuss this issue further and provide additional scientific advice or assistance to the Government of Colombia.

SSC Chair's Office

The SSC Chair's Office supports the mission of SSC by empowering and accompanying the network, providing leadership, boosting impact, helping build capacity, keeping efforts on track, and building relationships and partnerships.

During this quarter the office team had to say goodbye to our Strategy and Operations Manager, Orlando Salamanca, who will keep professionally growing up in other fields. We are very proud of you, Orlando!

To follow up on his path on SSC DATA and support the results optimization of the Network, we welcomed Levi Mendoza.

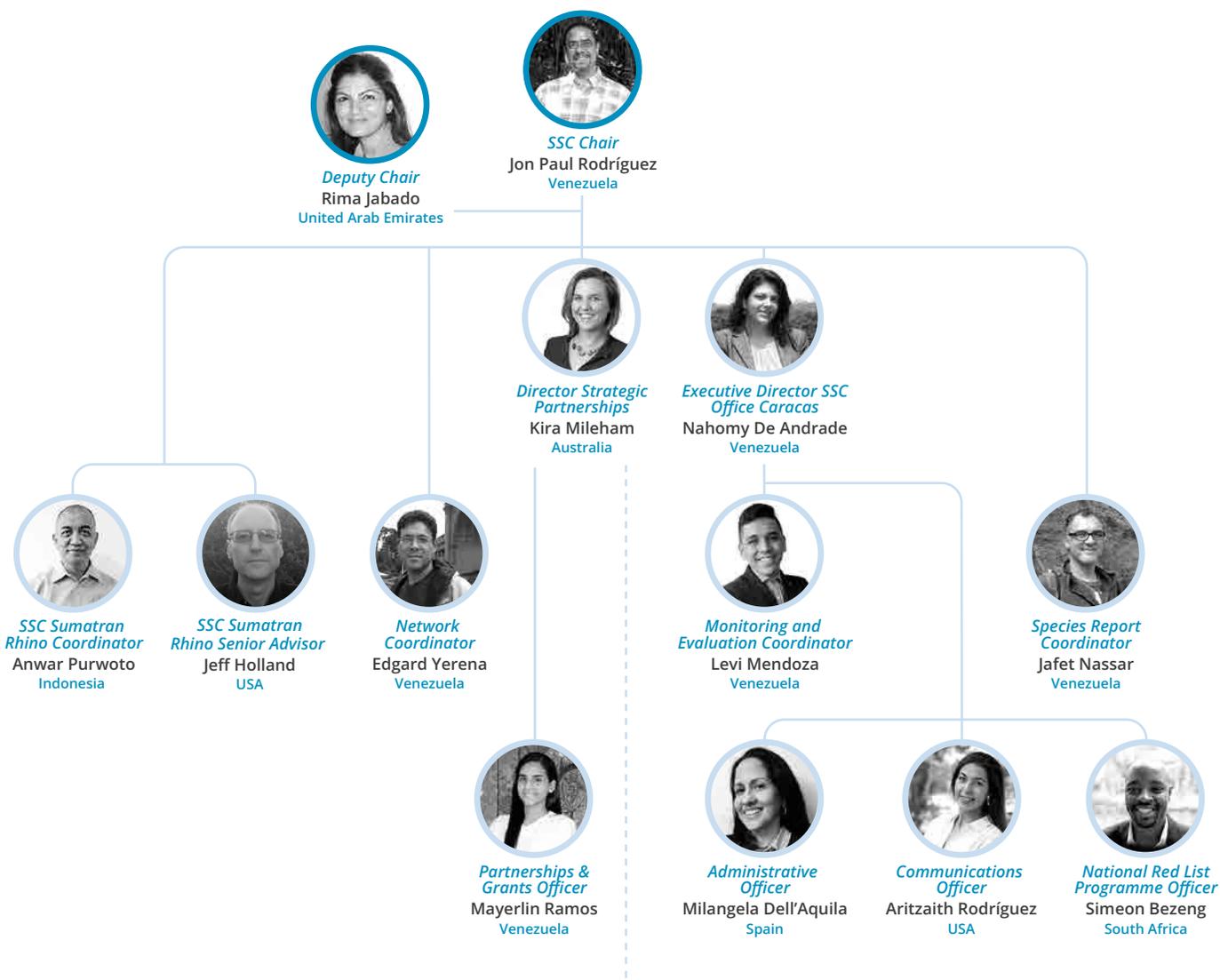


Levi Mendoza

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

Levi Mendoza holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela, a master's degree in public management from Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración, and additional courses in data visualization tools.

As the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, he is responsible for supporting, planning and follow-up of activities carried out to achieve SSC goals, turning data into useful information for decision-making and identifying areas for improvement.



Centers for Species Survival

EUROPE



CSS - Portugal:
Oceanario 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 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 - Singapore:
Mandai Nature
2 Species Survival Officers

OCEANIA



CSS - Australasia:
Zoo Aquarium Association
3 Species Survival Officers



Mobilising national networks for species conservation

*We are all familiar with IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, which are mainly focused on specific **taxonomic** groups of biodiversity, on **geographical** regions, or on **disciplinary** transversal subjects pertaining to biodiversity conservation. But now, as part of the *Reverse the Red* movement, SSC wants to more effectively also support countries in delivering the *CBD Post-2020 targets* by establishing and coordinating partner-based, paid staff teams focused on catalysing partnerships with National Species Specialist Groups, government agencies and civil society. In order to do so, SSC aims to help countries to deepen their conservation successes by bringing together IUCN tools and SSC members in delivering conservation achievements at the national level. To this end, a new kind of SSC Specialist Group has been formed: National Species Specialist Groups (NSSG).*

These new groups are part of the SSC structure to organise species experts at the national level, coordinate expertise across taxonomic and disciplinary groups, support governments and facilitate science-based decision-making and the development of policies that will contribute towards halting the loss of species at a national level. NSSGs include experts working on all biodiversity: mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, freshwater fishes, marine fishes, plants, fungi, and invertebrates from the marine, freshwater and terrestrial realms, and disciplinary experts working across taxonomic groups.

How do they work?

NSSGs should coordinate their activities, as much as possible, with the respective IUCN National Committee, national biodiversity authorities, and of course, with other disciplinary, geographical or taxonomic SSC Groups with presence in the country.

Their membership is intended for national species experts from all biodiversity groups, realms and themes, being already SSC members or not; becoming part of a NSSG means becoming a member of SSC.

NSSG's activities are oriented toward implementing the Species Conservation Cycle: Assess-Plan-Act, and an emphasis on "action" is expected.

You may read the NSSG's Terms of References [here](#). NSSG's leadership is expected to have the same structure and function as in any other SSC group and a balanced and representative membership within the country. We enthusiastically invite any SSC member or group of members, to take the lead and propose the creation of a NSSG for their own country. Guidelines on how to present a NSSG are found [here](#). In the proposal, a rationale is to be provided, detailing: the key species conservation issues facing the country; how the activities of the NSSG would address existing gaps and work in a complimentary manner with existing structures, stakeholders, and processes; a general view on the current status of species data and to what extent IUCN knowledge products are being implemented in that country; what might be the key activities/outputs that the group will undertake; a list of the core group of relevant experts willing to serve; how the group will be organised, and how this new group would interact and work synergistically with other existing SSC groups present in the country.

We encourage NSSG to seek and find local or national institutional sources for support or a host institution that might help to facilitate the functioning of the group.

At this date, SSC has already approved and created the following NSSGs: Colombia Species Specialist Group, led by Cristina Lopez-Gallego & José Gonzalez-Maya; China Species Specialist Group, led by Xie Yan; Madagascar Species Specialist Group, led by Mijoro Rakotoarinivo and Jonah Henri Ratsimbazafy.

If you would like to start drafting a proposal for NSSG in your country, please contact the SSC Chair's Office Network Coordinator, [Edgard Yerena](#).

Engaging with SSC Members at National Level

Since June 2022 the SSC had led a series of webinars and in-person meetings, as part of the SSC Chair's Office priorities for 2021-2025, to expand SSC's in implementation of the Species Conservation Cycle and consolidate the Centers for Species Survival (CSS) model, geographically, taxonomically, and disciplinary to strengthen capacity at the national level. Both the online and in-person meetings formats were supported by the SSC Regional Vice-Chairs, active Centers for Species Survival, as well as current and potential partners. These events were also an opportunity

to meet and discuss conservation actions and the role of the respective IUCN National and Regional Committees and national biodiversity authorities in the planning and implementation of conservation actions.



Webinars to mobilise national networks

The SSC Chair's Office in coordination with the Centers for Species Survival invited 1,240 SSC members, achieving interaction with more than 500 from 6 countries: Argentina, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Singapore, Brazil, and Spain. The intention of these webinars was to have a conversation with members on how to best expand the SSC network to increase the species conservation impact within their country, introduce the partnership with the Centers for Species Survival in each region, and explore further the creation of the National Species Specialist Group.

We had the pleasure to have the participation of the SSC Regional Vice-Chair for Meso and South America, Gabriela Lichtenstein; for China, Yan Xie; for West Europe, Jean-Christophe Vié; for South and East Asia, Mirza Kusriani and for Oceania, Nunia Thomas. Their contribution to the webinars was key to facilitating efficient engagement and communication between members, IUCN members, and national and regional SSC initiatives. They provided an overview of SSC's work in the region and how the link with the new Specialist Groups can increase the impact in those countries and interconnect initiatives with other national organisations, and government agencies, among others.

These events also have a space to showcase the new work and team of the Centers for Species Survival. CSS brings valuable and mutually-beneficial partnerships that significantly expand the capacity of our staff and facilities

and extend the reach of our collective work around the world. Together CSSs increase our joint capacity through training, hosting, or supporting the implementation of projects, technical support, and networking with key stakeholders to catalyse priority assessment-plan-action efforts across various geographic scales.

SSC will be organising future webinars with the SSC members based in Ireland, Colombia, South Africa and Mozambique by the end of the year. If you are interested in supporting the organisation of these events please contact [Kira Mileham](#) or [Mayerlin Ramos](#).

In-person meetings

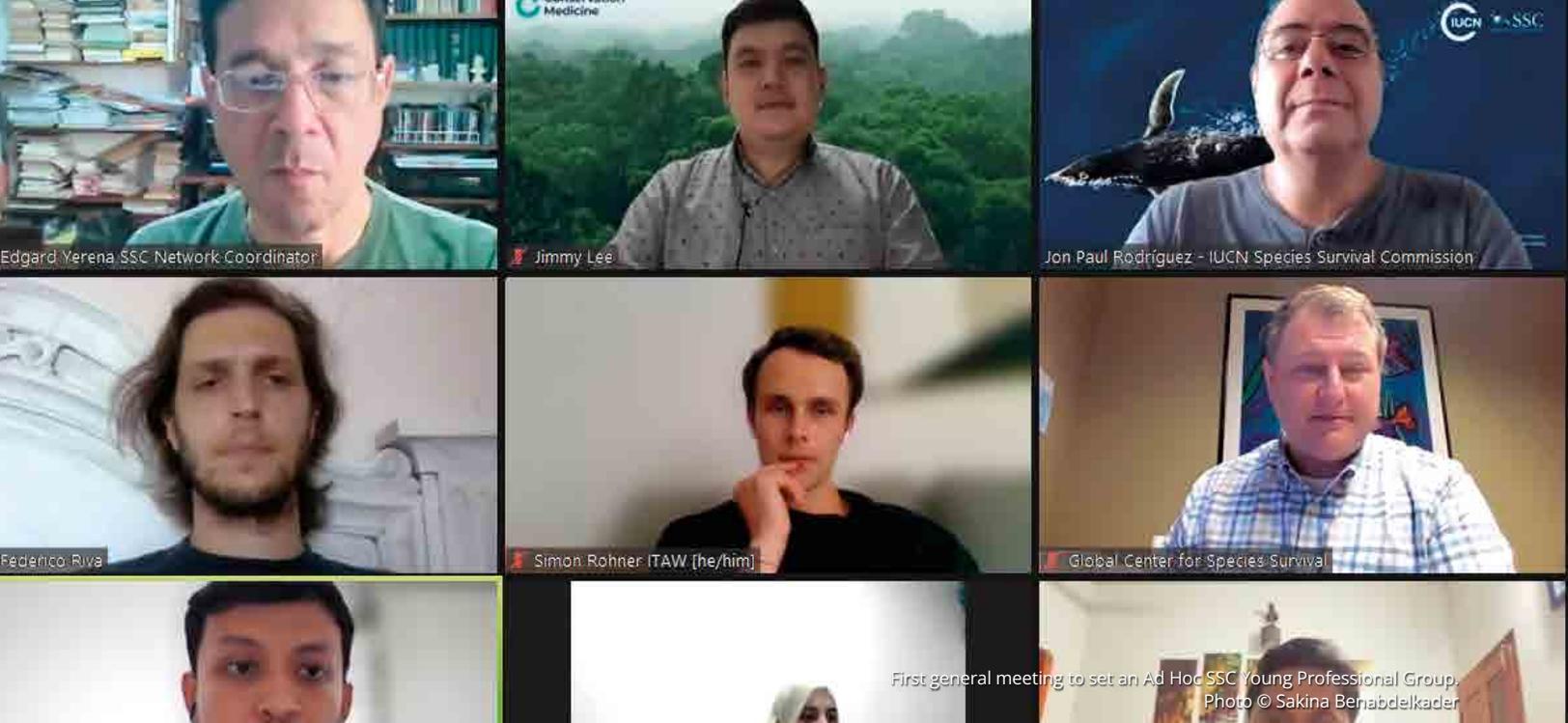
The SSC Chair's Office believes it is increasingly valuable to connect in person with SSC members, especially in countries with a diverse range of species and potential partners. With the support of SSC Regional Vice-Chairs and the Centers for Species Survival, the Chair of the Species Survival Commission, Jon Paul Rodríguez, and the Director of Strategic Partnerships Kira Mileham were able to coordinate the first three in-person meetings with the members in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and Singapore.

The Oceania region is geographically one of IUCN's largest regional programmes, covering over 100 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean, and also contains a wide variety of ecosystems, endemism and species diversity. These meetings help the SSC Chair's Office strengthen species management and conservation capacity and jointly address conservation efforts with local experts and key stakeholders. The engagement in New Zealand was hosted by [Wellington Zoo](#) and was attended by 28 members. While the engagement in Australia was hosted by [Taronga Conservation Society Australia](#) and the [Zoo and Aquarium Association](#), it was attended by 67 members.

Asia region contains the greatest wealth in natural forests, mountains, wetlands, marine habitats and other ecosystems. The meeting in Indonesia was coordinated by Mirza Kusri, SSC Regional Vice-chair South and East Asia and hosted by [Fakultas Kehutanan & Lingkungan, IPB University](#) and 52 participants. In Singapore, 38 members attended the event.

These events were a great opportunity to network with our SSC Chair's Office, around 180 SSC members, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens and government agencies who discussed priorities and how we can work closely on species conservation in countries so important for biodiversity.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Centers for Species Survival please visit our website [here](#) or about the Regional Vice-chairs that corresponds to your region [here](#).



On the path to formalising the SSC Young Professional Group

Sakina Benabdelkader and Jimmy Lee were designated as IUCN SSC Young Professional focal points on December 23, 2021, following an open call made by the SSC Chair. Both have worked with the IUCN strategy team to develop the IUCN Youth Strategy and have attended their weekly meetings to incorporate youth perspectives. The Youth Strategy 2022-2030 was finalized, published, and shared with an ad hoc SSC Young Professional Group assembled in June 2022.

	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
1 IUCN structure and clarity	Develop a governance structure for the SSC, including a steering committee and a working group.	Establish a steering committee and a working group.	Develop a governance structure for the SSC, including a steering committee and a working group.
2 IUCN systems and effectiveness	Review the current SSC systems and processes for membership, engagement and communication.	Develop a membership strategy, a communication strategy and a working group.	Develop a membership strategy, a communication strategy and a working group.
3 Communication and outreach	Develop a communication strategy and a working group.	Develop a communication strategy and a working group.	Develop a communication strategy and a working group.

Picture 1: Weekly meeting with the Youth Strategy Drafting team (Photo: Sakina Benabdelkader)

Sakina and Jimmy have also worked closely with the IUCN SSC Chair and office on the group's proposed plans and direction. They proposed a number of strategies to engage more young SSC professional members, including possibly automatic membership for all IUCN young members, networking within the Commission, and engaging local youth groups. Among the proposals is also mentioned establishing working groups with regional coordinators to oversee projects within each region, as well as working closely with the IUCN Secretariat and SSC Steering Committee on a set timeline to achieve the project's goals. Several projects were included in the strategies to be proposed to members, to name a few: capacity-building initiatives, youth networking and exchange programmes, project pathway definition, and an education and awareness campaign.

Mind map – Youth Strategy

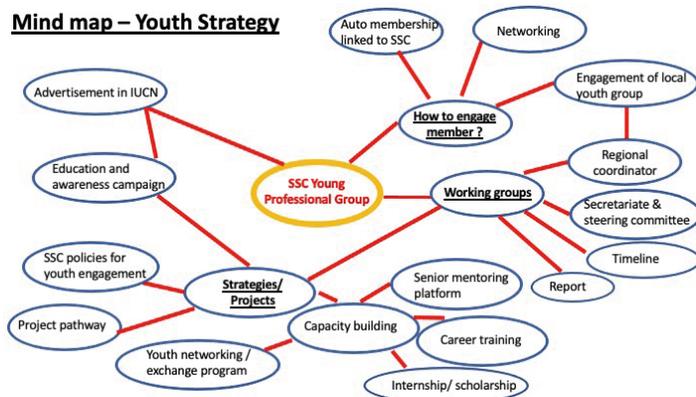


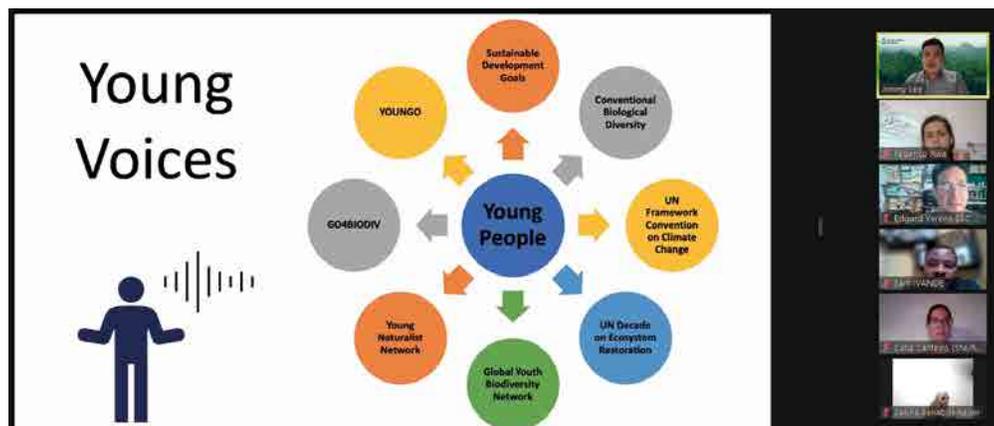
Diagram 1: An elaborated mind map of the proposed strategies and projects to the group members (Credit: Jimmy Lee)



Picture 2: Meeting with IUCN SSC Chair and team (Photo: Sakina Benabelkader)

The first ad hoc SSC Young Professional Groups (YPG) general meeting was held online on July 6 and 7, 2022. Sakina and Jimmy presented the ad hoc Young Professional Group's trajectory, proposed strategies, and projects to the members. The group currently has 95 members from Asia (50), America (16), Europe (7), Africa (21) and Oceania (1). **For the near future, the goal is to recruit at least 50 members from each of the aforementioned regions, appoint a regional coordinator, and set a number of proposed projects. Once done, the YPG will propose the SSC Chair to become a formal SSC thematic group or task force.**

If you are interested in joining the YPG please contact [Sakina Benabelkader](#) and [Jimmy Lee](#).



Picture 3: First general meeting for Ad Hoc SSC Young Professional Group (Photo: Sakina Benabelkader)



SPECIES
CONSERVATION
CYCLE



Clay Meredith and Tim Lyons conducting demographic surveys for Mesa Verde cactus (*Sclerocactus mesae-verdae*) in southwestern Colorado, in 2021. Photo © Anna Walker

Assess-Plan-Act: How the CSS New Mexico is contributing to the Species Conservation Cycle

With a growing number of species threatened with extinction due to habitat loss, climate change, and invasive species, biodiversity conservation is a daunting task. The IUCN Species Survival Commission's Assess-Plan-Act Species Conservation Cycle (APA Cycle) simplifies the steps needed to effectively conserve species.

Anna Walker

*Species Survival Officer for Invertebrate
Pollinators CSS New Mexico*

Botanic gardens, zoos, and aquaria are well poised to facilitate the APA cycle for species conservation not least because they have the capacity and expertise to carry out *ex situ* conservation actions. For many species, conservation recovery would not be possible without the establishment of captive populations to bolster genetic diversity and safeguard the species against continued threats in the wild. The ABQ BioPark is one such facility, working through the APA cycle to conserve species and grow its capacity for *ex situ* rearing of threatened species.

Since 2018, with funding from the New Mexico BioPark Society, the ABQ BioPark, a zoo, botanic garden, and aquarium, has hosted the Center for Species Survival New Mexico (CSS New Mexico).

This Center has been working in partnership with the IUCN SSC to facilitate the conservation efforts of SSC Specialist Groups. In line with the species in living collections at the ABQ BioPark, the center focuses on three main groups of organisms, medicinal plants, freshwater fishes, and invertebrate pollinators. Initially, work at the CSS New Mexico primarily involved leading IUCN Red List assessment projects. The team has contributed to Red List assessments for over 2,000 species and worked on projects all over the world. Over time, work at the Center has grown to encompass planning and action for threatened species as well.



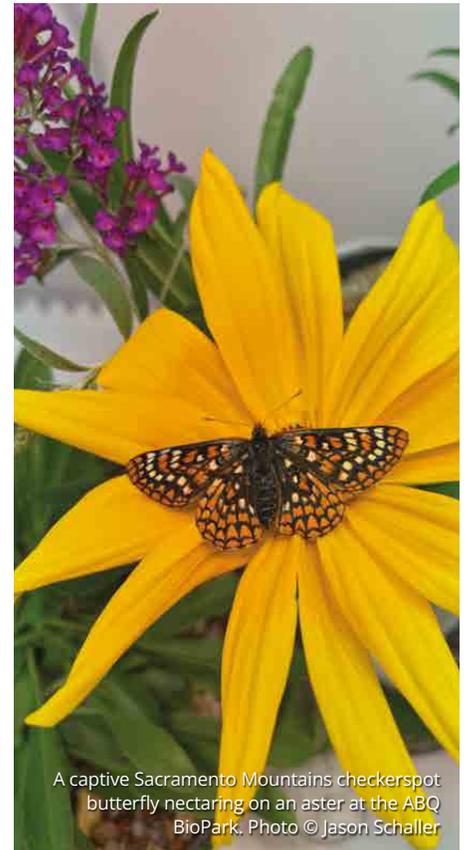
A tank of Critically Endangered Butterfly splitfins (*Ameca splendens*) at the ABQ BioPark's Aquatic Conservation Facility. Photo © Anna Walker

In 2019, Tim Lyons, the Species Survival Officer for Freshwater Fishes, led a comprehensive Red List assessment of Mexico's freshwater fish species. As a result of this work, the BioPark's Aquatic Conservation Facility (ACF) became home to nine species of Goodeid, several of which are threatened. Also known as splitfins, these small-bodied fishes are largely endemic to the Central Mexican Plateau, where most species have suffered from competition with invasive species and habitat loss. One of the species housed at the ACF, the Tequila splitfin (*Zoogoneticus tequila*), was once extinct in the wild, and continues to rely on reintroduction efforts to bolster population numbers. Thanks to the dedicated staff at the ACF, the facility now provides an extra safeguard for this species. Upcoming plans to develop an integrated conservation strategy for Mexican Goodeids will further position the BioPark to have a meaningful impact on their success in the wild.

In the realm of flora, the Species Survival Officer for medicinal plants, Clay Meredith, has built numerous partnerships with local tribal and federal wildlife agencies and nonprofits to safeguard the diversity of plants here in the state of New Mexico and beyond. In a growing partnership with the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in southwestern Colorado, the CSS New Mexico helped develop demography plots to monitor two plant species, the rare and declining Mesa Verde cactus (*Sclerocactus mesae-verdae*) and the range restricted endemic Sleeping Ute milkvetch (*Astragalus tortipes*). In addition to annual support for monitoring efforts, a long-term agreement with the Tribe for seed banking rare species is now in place. This year, the first known collections of Sleeping Ute milkvetch seed was added to the collection ensuring that this rare species, which occurs on a total of just over 50 acres, will remain in *ex situ* collections in case of future population declines. Seed banking efforts at the BioPark have expanded

substantially in recent years, and seed collections for numerous other threatened plants in New Mexico are on the horizon.

In addition to *ex situ* conservation actions for plants, the CSS New Mexico is also involved with *in situ* habitat restoration efforts for a plant that supports a rare pollinator in the Sacramento Mountains of Southern New Mexico. The Sacramento Mountain checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas anicia cloudcrofti*) is found only in high-altitude meadows of these mountains, where its larva feed almost exclusively on New Mexico beardtongue (*Penstemon neomexicanus*). Due to threats such as climate change and habitat loss, this butterfly has disappeared from all but one meadow site. At this last remaining site, the habitat has been severely degraded in large part because localized populations of the New Mexico beardtongue are declining due to prolonged drought and overgrazing by feral horses and other ungulates. The CSS New Mexico recently partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and the Institute for Applied Ecology to bolster habitat restoration efforts for this plant. Through the generous support of New Mexico BioPark Society members, the CSS New Mexico raised funds to buy fencing materials that have been placed around patches of New Mexico beardtongue in the field, to keep the hungry ungulates at bay.



A captive Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly nectaring on an aster at the ABQ BioPark. Photo © Jason Schaller

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has proposed a rule to list the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot as an Endangered species, which would grant it certain protections under the Endangered species Act (ESA). To support conservation efforts for this butterfly, USFWS asked the ABQ BioPark to start a captive population of this soon to be listed subspecies. In July of 2022 team members from the ABQ BioPark and the CSS New Mexico, joined the USFWS in the field and captured four adult butterflies- two females and two males- and brought them to the ABQ BioPark to start a captive population. Assuming the butterflies have not already undergone detrimental levels of inbreeding, the sub-species will be reared in captivity at the BioPark, for eventual reintroduction in the wild once the habitat has been restored. Anna Walker, the Species Survival Officer for Invertebrate Pollinators at the CSS New Mexico, has also worked to write the Red List assessment for this subspecies, and the team is involved in collaborative planning meetings involving numerous stakeholders to determine how best to protect the species.

As more species lose their natural habitats to growing threats from climate change and habitat loss, *ex situ* collections are going to be increasingly important refuges for plants and animals. This is one of the many reasons botanic gardens, zoos and aquariums are an integral component of many species' conservation efforts.



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 the Species Conservation Cycle: assess-plan-act with a geographic, disciplinary or taxonomic focus.

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. **The following is a summary of the progress and outcomes achieved by some of the Centers for the period of July to September 2022:**

EUROPE

CSS - Macaronesia: *Loro Parque Fundacion*

During these last couple of months a Conservation Officer was hired, Marta Canchal, to support the development of strategic documents to establish the center's work plan. Marta Canchal is participating in two relevant trainings, "Red List assessment" and "CPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and steps". The following are some of the activities developed during the last quarter, based on the Species Conservation Cycle.

Assess:

- Gap analysis for Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde to create separated data sets for each archipelago. The goal is to compile the information provided by the Red List and the governmental lists in order to find gaps and differences regarding the conservation status given to the different species by both lists.
- Red List assessment training.

Plan:

- CPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and steps training- Online version.

Network:

- The Center participated in the SSC webinar "Mobilizing national networks in Spain" to present the proposal for the new IUCN SSC National Species Specialist Group. This online event was held on September 14th. The Center has received a positive response from the IUCN National Committee in Spain. To continue with the process to establish this new group, the team will start contacting the SSC members based in the country and the region.

Communicate:

- The Canary Islands analysis document is in the process of being translated into English.

NORTH AMERICA

Global CSS - United States: *Indianapolis Zoo*

The Global Center for Species Survival team continues to support, connect and communicate the work of more than 10,500 conservationists joined together in the 167 Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Conservation Committees of the IUCN SSC. In the last quarter, the Global Center team added two new members and welcomed another to our U.S. office. Sam Ivande has been our Bird Conservation Coordinator since January and moved to Indianapolis, Indiana in September. Our two new team members are Justin Birkhoff, our Mammal Conservation Coordinator, and Laura Perry, our Behavior Change Coordinator. Here are some other updates from the Global Center for the period of June through September 2022.

Assess:

- Continued to assist Specialist Groups with several Red List assessment processes, for example for fungi, plants, scorpions, fireflies and freshwater species.
- Our Plants and Fungi Conservation Coordinator Cátia Canteiro supported the Plant Conservation Committee on a review of the Red List plant growth form categories.

Plan:

- Global Center staff supported a webinar series on Conservation Planning led by the Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG). These webinars were recorded and shared on the Global Center's [YouTube playlist](#).

Act:

- Global Center coordinators supported several funding proposals for SSC Internal and EDGE Grants, as well as other funding sources, by various Specialist Groups and Conservation Committees.
- Our Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator Sérgio Henriques engaged with the CITES and wildlife trafficking team at the European Commission and the French CITES Scientific Authority on the Inclusion of *Caribena versicolor* in CITES Appendix III.

Network:

- Cátia Canteiro supported the organization of a symposium on fungi on ecosystem restoration organized by the Fungal Conservation Committee and Serralves Foundation, Portugal.
- Our Conservation Coordinators continue to support specialist groups with membership renewing and SSC Data reporting.

- Our Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator Julia Geschke is working directly with IUCN SSC staff on the development of a new One Stop Shop website for members. The Global Center team is creating new content for this website.
- Kelly Griese, Monni Böhm & Bill Street attended the Association of Zoos and Aquariums conference in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.
- GCSS coordinators supported the proposals of several new specialist groups, including Brazil Fungal Specialist Group and Colombia Fungal Specialist Group, while supporting potentially new Specialist Groups like the Parasite Specialist Group, the Termite Specialist Group, the Water bears Specialist Group and the Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group. The Dung Beetle Specialist Group has been proposed and officially accepted into the SSC network.
- Sergio Henriques co-led a workshop on CITES and the “Illegal wildlife trade of Spiders” at the European Arachnological Conference.

Communicate:

- In partnership with other authors, Cátia Canteiro published a review on the current status of fungi in the Red List for the special issue on [Diversity](#). This paper includes a [graphical abstract](#) produced by our Public Relations Specialist Kelly Griese.



Photo: Fungi Graphic – Remarkable fungal species assessed in the IUCN Red List: (a) *Lepraria lanata* Tønsberg assessed as EN (photo by James Lendemer); (b) *Fomitiporia nubicola* Alves-Silva, Bittencourt & Drechsler-Santos assessed as VU (photo by G. Alves-Silva); (c) *Cortinarius crypticus* (E. Horak) Soop & B. Oertel assessed as DD (photo by Ross Beever, Manaaki Whenua); (d) *Clavaria zollingeri* Lév. assessed as VU (photo by Michael Krikorev); (e) *Suillus luteus* (L.) Roussel assessed as LC (photo by Michael Krikorev); (f) *Hypocreopsis amplexans* T.W. May & P.R. Johnst. assessed as CR (photo by Tom May); (g) *Rubroboletus dupainii* (Boud.) Kuan Zhao & Zhu L. Yang assessed as NT (photo by Vladimír Kunca); (h) *Phallus aureolatus* L. Trierveiler-Pereira & A.A.R. de Meijer assessed as VU (photo by J.M. Baltazar); (i) *Mobergia caliculiformis* (W.A. Weber) H. Mayrhofer & Sheard assessed as EN (photo by Frank Bungartz).

- In partnership with TIRLA, Monni Böhm led a paper on catalyzing Red List capacity for under-represented taxon group via engaging with academia and students, in a special issue of [Diversity](#). This paper also included contributions from Cátia Canteiro, Greg Mueller (the chair of the Fungi Conservation Committee), and Sérgio Henriques.
- Monni Böhm presented a plenary talk about priorities for conservation assessment, planning and action for Molluscs at the World Malacological Congress in München, Germany.
- The Global Center supported communications about the IUCN Red List update in July with blog posts on the migratory monarch and sturgeons.

SOUTH AMERICA

CSS - Brazil: *Parque das Aves*



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:

- Together with the Chico Mendes Institute for Conservation and Biodiversity's (ICMBio) National Fauna Red List coordination team, we conducted tutoring and levelling sessions on the method of applying IUCN Red List categories and criteria for researchers from different taxonomic groups that contribute to the national assessment.
- Collaboration with the [Ministry of the Environment](#), ICMBio, Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro ([JBRJ](#)), and WWF in the organization of a training course in the IUCN Red List methodology that will take place in October. This training is aimed at Brazilian eight states that plan to develop their state red lists. This is made possible thanks to the National Strategy Project for the Conservation of Endangered Species, financed by the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund - ([GEF Pro-Espécies](#)).

Plan:

- The virtual “Planning Workshop for the Integrated Conservation of the Genus *Copiapoa*” is being developed over 9 sessions distributed across four weeks, starting on August the 31st and ending on October the 5th. The workshop’s goal is to create an Action Plan for the conservation of the cactus genus *Copiapoa*, which is made up of 32 species and 7 subspecies endemic to Chile. The plan will be published by the IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plant Specialist Group (CSSG) and submitted to the Chilean Ministry of Environment to be evaluated and later published as a Recovery, Conservation, and Management Plan (commonly referred to as [RECOGE Plans](#), for their acronym in Spanish) - the official National Actions Plan for Chile. This workshop is convened by the [Chilean Ministry of the Environment](#), the [IUCN SSC CSSG](#), [Chester Zoo](#), and the IUCN SSC [Conservation Planning Specialist Group](#) | Center for Species Survival Brazil (CPSG | CSS Brazil), and co-organised with the [Chilean Ministry of Agriculture](#), the [Forestry Institute](#) (INFOR), the [National Forest Corporation](#) (CONAF), the Agricultural Research Institute (INIA), the University of Concepción, and the [Institute of Ecology & Biodiversity](#) (IEB). Facilitation and workshop process design has been undertaken by members of the IUCN SSC CPSG | CSS Brazil. This workshop is financed by Chester Zoo, the IUCN SSC Internal Grants, and the British Cactus and Succulent Society. For more information, please visit www.plancopiapoa.org
- In partnership with the National Center for Bird Conservation and Research (CEMAVE/ICMBio), we facilitated the “Workshop for Population Viability Analysis for Lear’s Macaw (*Anodorynchus leari*)”, held in São Paulo, Brazil. The event had 21 participants from Brazil, Portugal, and Spain, putting together different scientific expertise related to the species and its threats as well as the experience of local stakeholders. The workshop was focused on the construction of a population model for the species, with biological and threat aspects, in order to support an assessment of its viability (PVA). This PVA will be key to the assessment of the future of the native population in face of current and planned threats in the species range and will certainly help to guide further management decisions. The event was organized by Qualis Environmental Consultancy, the IUCN SSC CPSG | CSS Brazil, CEMAVE/ICMBio and supported by Voltalia and Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (MZUSP).

Act:

Through the Center for Conservation of Atlantic Rainforest Birds | Instituto Claravis our host institution, Parque das Aves, is committed to the execution of actions linked to the Atlantic Forests Birds conservation plans facilitated by CSS Brazil:

- Three aviaries were constructed by [SAVE Brasil](#) to continue work with model species for the Alagoas Antwren (*Myrmotherula snowi*). As of the end of September, three individuals of two model species of antbirds had been captured under license, which will help us develop *ex situ* methods and improve the chances of saving this Critically Endangered species from extinction. Further captures are planned before the end of the year.
- The five Northeastern Spot-winged Wood quails (*Odontophorus capueira plumbeicollis*) sent by Aquasis to Parque das Aves, one of the priority birds from the Galliformes workshop, are settling in well to their new home. They have started to vocalize at night - a promising sign for *ex situ* reproduction efforts.

- Three more Black-fronted Piping-guans (*Pipile jacutinga*) were sent from Parque das Aves for release into the wild as part of the effort by SAVE Brasil and partners to restore the species to an area of the Atlantic Rainforest in São Paulo state.

Network:

- We provided guidance on the Red List process, its requirements, steps, and methodology, for two additional Brazilian states that intend to elaborate State Red Lists for their territories.

CSS - Argentina: *Fundación TEMAIKÈN*



The activities of the Center for Species Survival - Argentina have been focused on increasing the work with local experts and researchers to work with relevant endemic species in the country. The center is also increasing staff capacity throughout the [Species Conservation Cycle](#) through participation and facilitation of training and development of conservation plans.

Assess:

- Fundación TEMAIKÈN, researchers and NGOs linked to work with Teyú Cuaré endemic flora (Misiones province, Argentina), began to project studies on the modeling of niches of an endemic plant species of the Cerrado. These studies will give us important information that will allow us to evaluate these plant species on the red list criteria. (KSR5)
- Anti-predator trials were carried out on 13 yellow cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*) at the TEMAIKÈN Species Recovery Center (CRET) in order to detect whether the animals were behaviorally suitable for reinsertion into their habitat, which will take place in early October. (KSR5).

Plan:

- Participate in the development of the training course “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. (KSR8).

Act:

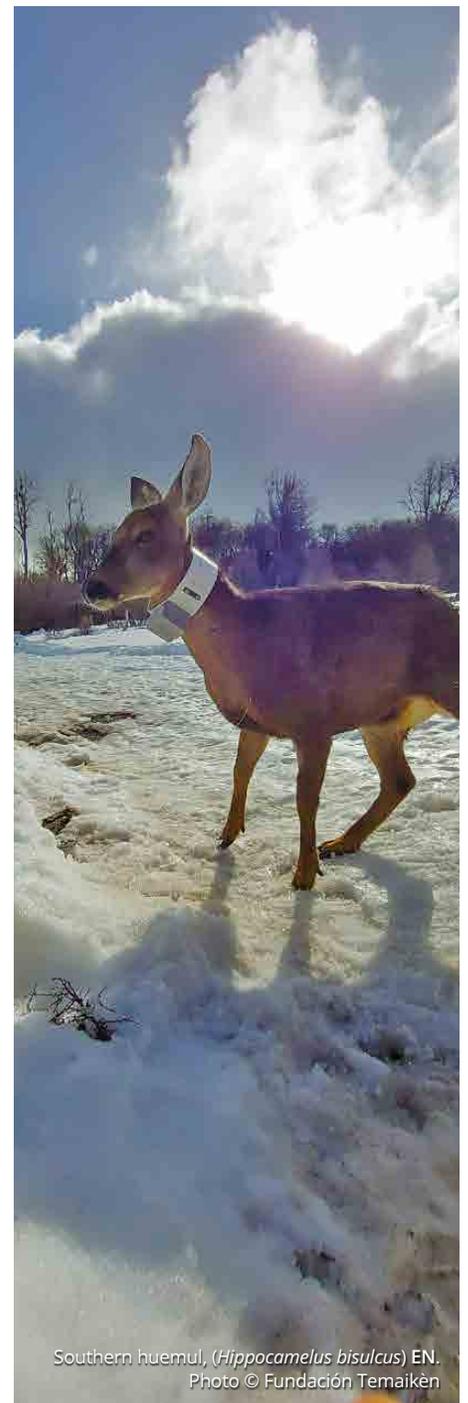
- Fundación Temaikèn together with Fundación Shoonem carried out the foundation of a Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*) conservation breeding station, located in Alto Río Senguer, Chubut, Argentina.

Network:

- A new member of the CSS team started the Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops course.
- Coordinate the panel “*Ex-situ* conservation as a strategy to “REVERSE THE RED”: Experiences, achievements and next steps” in the Science Summit at United Nations General Assembly 77 (UNGA77) and participation of some members of CSS Argentina as speakers.
- The CSS team started the IUCN Red List Assessor Training Course.
- Development of a proposal to present the initiative of the Species Survival Centers in the ALPZA academy. This is a comprehensive training program exclusively for ALPZA members.
- Within the framework of search, selection and management of projects with allies of state agencies and non-governmental organisations. We began to carry out actions with Huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*) with Fundación Shoonem. On the other hand, we began to articulate with NGOs and authorities to be part of the conservation project of the Patagonia Frog (*Atelognathus patagonicus*).

Communicate:

- On August 5th we shared content of the environmental calendar on social networks for the huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*) international day.
- The CSS section was created on the [website](#) of Fundación Temaikèn. (KSR12).



ASIA

CSS - Southeast Asia: Mandai Nature

The Center 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. Mandai Nature also supports the IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group and IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group.

For the period of June to September 2022, we would like to share the following updates based on the [Species Conservation Cycle](#).

Assess:

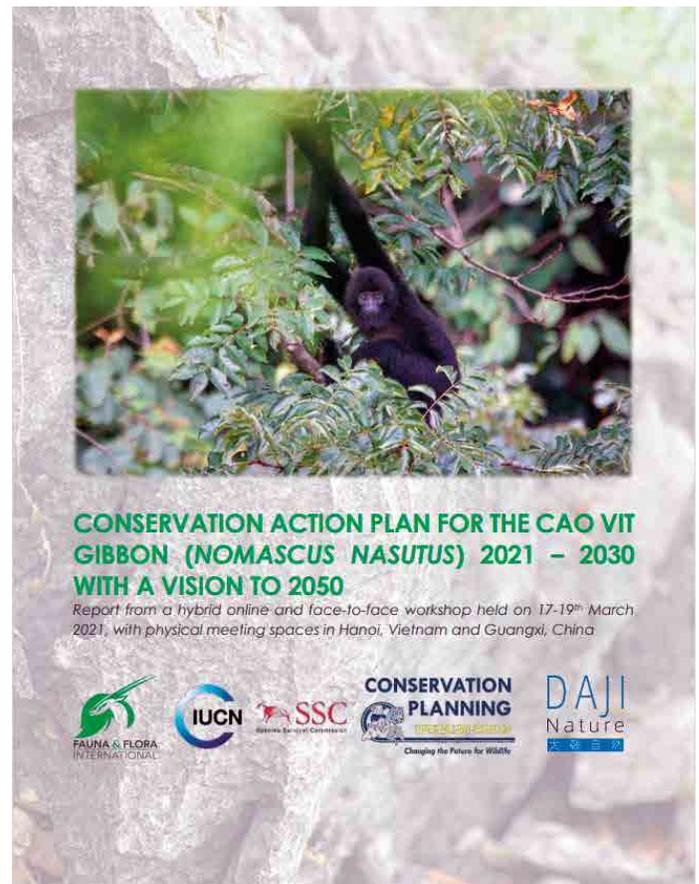
- Mandai Nature, together with Mandai Wildlife Group, is assessing the status of several native biodiversity within Mandai Wildlife Reserve, the precinct home to Singapore's zoological parks. The aim is to develop species management and conservation plans for identified species.

Plan:

- The [Conservation Action Plan for the Cao Vit Gibbon \(*Nomascus nasutus*\)](#) has been published on IUCN SSC CPSG's website. The plan was drafted following a workshop in March 2021 organised by FFI Vietnam in partnership with IUCN SSC CPSG Southeast Asia Resource Center and Daji Nature which included multi-level government representatives, protected area managers, international primate experts and conservation NGO representatives.

Act:

- Mandai Nature has continued its support for 40 *in-situ* conservation projects across Southeast Asia for this reporting period.



- ASAP launched the third round of the ASAP Species Conservation Grants and are in the process of reviewing submitted proposals for support. A new round of the ASAP Species Rapid Action Fund was also launched in September.
- ASAP launched Phase 2 of its Women in Conservation Leadership programme in June with the *ASAP Visible Leadership Programme for Women in Southeast Asian Conservation* which will run over 10 months.
- Mandai Nature, together with the IUCN SSC Helmeted Hornbill Working Group (HHWG), delivered an Intervention at the CITES 74th Standing Committee Meeting that commended the efforts by the range, transit, and consumer states on reducing the poaching and trafficking of the parts of the Critically Endangered Helmeted Hornbill, but also called attention to concerns around the low response by governments on reporting progress on the action plan, and urged consumer states to urgently facilitate and/or undertake studies to understand the drivers of consumer demand for Helmeted Hornbill casques.
- Mandai Nature is part of the specialist panel for reviewing Singapore's Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is the policy governing wildlife import-export regulations for the country and gives effect to CITES. In July, the amended ESA was accepted in Parliament and Mandai Nature will continue engagements with the local NGO Coalition and Nparks to include ESA and Wildlife Act offences as Serious Offences under the Organised Crime Act.
- Mandai Nature and Mandai Wildlife Group participated in a Pangolin Husbandry Workshop in Sabah, Malaysia in August. This workshop, aimed at sharing the best practices of pangolin care, was organised by LEAP (Land Empowerment Animals People) under its Pangolin Rescue, Rehabilitation & Release programme in conjunction with Sabah Wildlife Department and Elisa Panjang (Pangolin Specialist Group member).



Network:

- In August, Mandai Nature hosted an in-person engagement for IUCN SSC Chair Professor Jon Paul Rodriguez and Director of Partnerships Dr Kira Mileham to meet with SSC members based in Singapore. The

engagement saw 34 members attending and followed from the first online discussion organised by IUCN SSC for SSC members based in Singapore.

- Mandai Nature initiated and co-convened two symposia at the 28th International Ornithological Congress (IOC) 2022:
 - » Mandai Nature and IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group co-convened the symposium “*Contrasting the challenges and opportunities for Hornbill conservation biology in Africa and Asia*” where Mandai Nature and Mandai Wildlife Group co-presented on “*The Third Realm – the role of ex situ conservation and Hornbills in the One-Plan Approach*”.
 - » Mandai Nature, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia and BirdLife International Asia co-convened the symposium “*Potential solutions to addressing the Southeast Asian Bird Trade Crisis*” where Mandai Nature and BirdLife International Asia co-presented on “*Trade in the City – Understanding the drivers of demand behind the Singaporean bird trade*”.
- ASAP Partnership welcomed 7 new partners, bringing the total number of partners to 220, 61% of which are based in Southeast Asia.

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 [International Orangutan Day](#) and [World Tiger Day](#) to spotlight our conservation partners’ ongoing work in the field to protect the Sumatran Orangutan and Malayan Tiger respectively.
- ASAP continues to run its social media presence on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, as well as producing quarterly newsletters to engage with ASAP Partners and to raise the profile of the conservation needs of ASAP species and the work of ASAP Partners. ASAP celebrated World Saola Day and World Ranger Day by featuring the conservation efforts of ASAP partners’ Saola Foundation and EcosystemImpact Foundation. ASAP also took part in Champions of the Endangered campaign organised by Synchronicity Earth and the Ellen Fund. As part of this campaign, we featured four ASAP Partners and conservation champions: Satucita Foundation, Tebat Rasau, SwaraOwa and WRC Jogja.



Lady's Slipper Orchid, (*Cypripedium calceolus*) LC.
Photo © Leif Bersweden

SSC Partners





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