

**The IUCN Species
Survival Commission**

QUARTERLY REPORT
MARCH 2023

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Cover Photo:

White-bellied Pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*) EN.
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IUCN Species Survival Commission



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Executive summary

After an update of recent conferences, meetings and workshops attended by the SSC Chair's office team, this *Quarterly Report* begins with the successful outcome of an intervention letter. Virtually every trimester, the SSC Chair and SSC Leaders, sometimes jointly with the IUCN Director General, send intervention letters to governments or companies to request actions in favor of species or ecosystems facing a specific threat. We do our best to track the impact of the letter and in some cases, our intervention, in combination with the interventions of others, leads to a positive outcome. Here, you will read about the declaration of the American red swamp crayfish, *Procambarus clarkii*, as an invasive species in Colombia. The reason that this is important is that under Colombian law, it is a prerequisite to the prohibition of trade, aquaculture, and consumption, and local authorities now have a new tool to manage the invasion of *Procambarus clarkii*.

On page 7 of the [first SSC Quarterly Report in 2017](#), just a few months after the election of Jon Paul Rodríguez as SSC Chair, the first priority identified by the SSC Chair's team was increasing diversity of our membership, as "regional, gender and age diversity across the SSC will enrich perspectives and increase our efficacy in addressing global conservation challenges." Now, we look back at the last six and a half years and ask ourselves if diversity has improved. Though much more can still be done, figures suggest positive changes regarding gender balance and age distribution, but geographical representation continues to be a substantial weakness. A recent publication of the [IUCN SSC Best Practices Guidelines. Marine Specialist Groups: experience and examples](#) offers insights and ideas on how to continue diversifying our leadership and membership.

To facilitate the work of SSC Groups, in this *Quarterly Report* we present the SSC One Stop Shop, an online resource on the same platform of SSC DATA, that consolidates guidelines, terms of references, best practices, manuals, training, onboarding materials, and databases. The site will also include a members' forum where SSC members can post questions and answers, capitalizing on the distributed wealth of knowledge of our network. In early 2023, Lila García joined the SSC DATA Unit as Species Report Officer, as the third member of the team composed of Levi Mendoza (who joined in September 2022) and Jafet Nassar. Jafet has been at the Unit since the beginning, and he will now shift functions to focus primarily on the *Species Report*.

Balancing the contribution of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation interventions continues to be one of our priorities under the One Plan Approach. Pangolins are among those deeply mysterious groups of species that field biologists rarely observe, yet are prevalent in the illegal wildlife trade. A workshop organized by the Vienna Zoo and hosted by the Babanango Private Game Reserve brings together a wide range of stakeholders, to precisely address this challenging conservation issue.

With the creation of two new Centers for Species Survival (CSS), Center for Species Survival: Freshwater at Shedd Aquarium and, Center for Species Survival: Trees at The Morton Arboretum, both in Chicago, USA, we have reached a total of 12 CSS in eight countries, with a combined contribution of 30 staff members to the wider SSC Chair's Office team. These partnerships have been a fantastic example of synergistic engagement of organizations within and outside IUCN, in pursuit of assessment, planning and action. We envision them to be key players in the future of SSC and the success of our network.

Resumen ejecutivo

Después de una actualización de las conferencias, reuniones y talleres recientes a los que asistió el equipo de la CSE, este *Informe Trimestral* comienza con el resultado exitoso de una carta de intervención. Prácticamente todos los trimestres, el Presidente y los líderes de la CSE, a veces con el aval del Director General de la UICN, envían cartas a gobiernos o empresas para solicitar acciones a favor de especies o ecosistemas que enfrentan una amenaza específica. Hacemos todo lo posible para rastrear el impacto de la carta y, en algunos casos, nuestra intervención, en combinación con las intervenciones de otros, conduce a un resultado positivo. En esta edición leerá sobre la declaración del cangrejo de río americano, *Procambarus clarkii*, como especie invasora en Colombia. De acuerdo con la legislación colombiana, este tipo de declaraciones es un requisito previo para la prohibición del comercio, la acuicultura y el consumo, y las autoridades locales ahora cuentan con una nueva herramienta para gestionar la invasión de *Procambarus clarkii*.

En la página 7 del primer *Informe trimestral de la CSE para el 2017*, solo unos meses después de la elección de Jon Paul Rodríguez como presidente de la Comisión, el primer punto de acción identificado por el equipo fue aumentar la diversidad de nuestra membresía, en “región, género y edad; dado que la diversidad en toda la CSE enriquecerá las perspectivas y aumentará nuestra eficacia para abordar los desafíos de conservación global”. Hoy, miramos hacia atrás a los últimos seis años y medio y nos preguntamos si la diversidad ha mejorado. Aunque aún se puede hacer mucho más, las cifras sugieren cambios positivos con respecto al equilibrio de género y la distribución por edades, sin embargo la representación geográfica sigue siendo una debilidad sustancial. En una publicación reciente sobre las Directrices para Mejores Prácticas de Grupos de especialistas marinos: experiencia y ejemplos (*IUCN SSC Best Practices Guidelines. Marine Specialist Groups: experience and examples*) se ofrece información e ideas sobre cómo continuar diversificando nuestro liderazgo y membresía.

Para facilitar el trabajo de los Grupos de la CSE, en este *Informe Trimestral* presentamos *SSC One Stop Shop*, un recurso en línea en la misma plataforma de SSC DATA, que consolida lineamientos,

términos de referencia, mejores prácticas, manuales, capacitación, materiales de incorporación y bases de datos. El sitio también incluirá un foro donde los miembros de la CSE podrán publicar preguntas y respuestas, aprovechando la riqueza en conocimiento distribuida en toda nuestra red. A principios de 2023, Lila García se incorporó a la Unidad de Datos de la CSE como Oficial de Reporte de Especies, siendo la tercera integrante del equipo integrado por Levi Mendoza (quien se incorporó en septiembre de 2022) y Jafet Nassar. Jafet ha estado en la Unidad desde el principio y ahora cambiará sus funciones para enfocarse principalmente en el Informe de Especies.

Equilibrar la contribución de las intervenciones de conservación *in-situ* y *ex-situ* sigue siendo una de nuestras prioridades bajo el enfoque de un solo plan. Los pangolines se encuentran entre esos grupos de especies profundamente misteriosas que los biólogos de campo rara vez observan, pero que prevalecen en el comercio ilegal de vida silvestre. Un taller organizado por el Zoológico de Viena y auspiciado por la Reserva de Caza Privada de Babanango reúne a una amplia gama de partes interesadas para abordar con precisión este desafiante problema de conservación.

Con la creación de dos nuevos *Centers for Species Survival (CSS)*, *Center for Species Survival: Freshwater en Shedd Aquarium* y *Center for Species Survival: Trees en The Morton Arboretum*, ambos en Chicago, EE. UU., hemos alcanzado un total de 12 Centros en ocho países, con una contribución combinada de 30 miembros de personal al equipo más amplio de la Oficina del Presidente de la CSE. Estas asociaciones han sido un ejemplo fantástico de compromiso sinérgico de organizaciones dentro y fuera de la UICN, en busca de evaluación, planificación y acción. Los visualizamos como actores clave en el futuro de la CSE y el éxito de nuestra red.

Résumé

Après une mise à jour des conférences, réunions et ateliers récents auxquels l'équipe du bureau du président de la CSE a participé, ce *Rapport Trimestriel* commence par le succès d'une lettre d'intervention. Pratiquement tous les trimestres, le président et les dirigeants du CSE, parfois conjointement avec le directeur général de l'UICN, envoient des lettres d'intervention aux gouvernements ou aux entreprises pour demander des actions en faveur d'espèces ou d'écosystèmes confrontés à une menace spécifique. Nous faisons de notre mieux pour suivre l'impact de la lettre et dans certains cas, notre intervention, en combinaison avec les interventions des autres, conduit à un résultat positif. Ici, vous lirez sur la déclaration de l'écrevisse rouge américaine, *Procambarus clarkii*, comme espèce envahissante en Colombie. La raison pour laquelle cela est important est qu'en vertu de la loi colombienne, c'est une condition préalable à l'interdiction du commerce, de l'aquaculture et de la consommation, et les autorités locales disposent désormais d'un nouvel outil pour gérer l'invasion de *Procambarus clarkii*.

À la page 7 du [premier Rapport Trimestriel de la CSE en 2017](#), quelques mois seulement après l'élection de Jon Paul Rodríguez au poste de président de la CSE, la première priorité identifiée par l'équipe du président de la CSE était d'accroître la diversité de nos membres, en tant que « régions, sexes et âges ». La diversité au sein de la CSE enrichira les perspectives et augmentera notre efficacité pour relever les défis mondiaux de la conservation. Maintenant, nous regardons les six dernières années et demie et nous nous demandons si la diversité s'est améliorée. Bien qu'il reste encore beaucoup à faire, les chiffres suggèrent des changements positifs concernant l'équilibre entre les sexes et la répartition par âge, mais la représentation géographique continue d'être une faiblesse importante. Une publication récente des lignes directrices sur les meilleures pratiques de la CSE de l'UICN. Groupes de spécialistes maritimes : expériences et exemples ([IUCN SSC Best Practices Guidelines. Marine Specialist Groups: experience and examples](#)) offrent des perspectives et des idées sur la manière de continuer à diversifier notre leadership et nos membres.

Pour faciliter le travail des groupes CSE, dans ce *Rapport Trimestriel*, nous présentons le *SSC One Stop Shop*, une ressource en ligne sur la même plate-forme de SSC DATA, qui consolide les lignes directrices, les termes de référence, les meilleures pratiques, les manuels, la formation, le matériel d'intégration et bases de données. Le site comprendra également un forum des membres où les membres de la CSE pourront poster des questions et des réponses, capitalisant sur la richesse distribuée des connaissances de notre réseau. Début 2023, Lila García a rejoint l'unité des données de la CSE en tant que responsable du rapport sur les espèces, en tant que troisième membre de l'équipe composée de Levi Mendoza (qui a rejoint en septembre 2022) et Jafet Nassar. Jafet fait partie de l'unité depuis le début, et il va maintenant changer de fonctions pour se concentrer principalement sur le rapport sur les espèces.

Équilibrer la contribution des interventions de conservation *in-situ* et *ex-situ* continue d'être l'une de nos priorités dans le cadre de l'approche One Plan. Les pangolins font partie de ces groupes d'espèces profondément mystérieux que les biologistes de terrain observent rarement, mais qui sont répandus dans le commerce illégal d'espèces sauvages. Un atelier organisé par le zoo de Vienne et hébergé par la réserve privée de Babanango rassemble un large éventail de parties prenantes, pour aborder précisément ce problème de conservation difficile.

Avec la création de deux nouveaux *Centers for Species Survival (CSS)*, *Center for Species Survival: Freshwater at Shedd Aquarium* et *Center for Species Survival: Trees at The Morton Arboretum*, tous deux à Chicago, aux États-Unis, nous avons atteint un total de 12 Centres dans huit pays, avec une contribution combinée de 30 membres du personnel à l'équipe élargie du Bureau du Président de la CSE. Ces partenariats ont été un exemple fantastique d'engagement synergique d'organisations à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur de l'UICN, dans la poursuite de l'évaluation, de la planification et de l'action. Nous les envisageons comme des acteurs clés de l'avenir de CSE et du succès de notre réseau.

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; Justin Birkhoff, JB)

CONFERENCES

- *IUCN Science Colloquium - Session 2: Current developments in the application of IUCN standards for measuring biodiversity and conservation.* IUCN Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland. 30 March 2023, virtual (JPR).
- *Potential links between academic institutions and IUCN.* Newcastle University, United Kingdom. 28 March 2023, virtual (JPR).
- *We know how to do conservation – we just need to do more of it! 11th Asian Elephant Specialist Group Members meeting.* New Delhi and Corbett National Park, India. 14-17 March 2023 (JPR).
- *“Saving Species as a Pretend Extrovert” British and Irish Zoo Association (BIAZA) International Women’s Day Conference.* Paradise Wildlife Park, Broxbourne, United Kingdom, 8 March 2023, virtual (KM).

- *International Marine Protected Areas Congress. Vancouver, Canada. 3-9 February 2023 (RJ).*
- *We know how to do conservation – we just need to do more of it! 3rd Asian Rhino Range Countries Meeting. Chitwan National Park, Nepal. 3 February 2023. (JPR).*

MEETINGS

- *IUCN Science Colloquium - Session 3: Emerging possibilities for IUCN engagement in measuring biodiversity and conservation. IUCN Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland, 31 March 2023, virtual (JPR, RJ, NDA).*
- *IUCN Science Colloquium - Session 2: Current developments in the application of IUCN standards for measuring biodiversity and conservation. IUCN Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland, 30 March 2023, virtual (KM, JPR).*
- *IUCN Science Colloquium - Session 1: Demand for measuring biodiversity and conservation. IUCN Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland. 29 March 2023, virtual (KM, NDA, JPR, RJ).*
- *KBA Committee Meeting. 27-28 March 2023, virtual (JPR).*
- *CMS Avian Working Group Meeting. Bonn, Germany. 28 March 2023, virtual (SB).*
- *IUCN South Africa National Committee Meeting. South Africa, 24 March 2023, virtual (SB).*
- *BIODEV2030 end of first phase meeting. 22 March 2023, virtual (SB).*
- *11th Asian Elephant Specialist Group Members meeting. New Delhi and Corbett National Park, India. 14-17 March 2023. (KM, JB, JPR).*
- *BirdLife South Africa Staff Meeting. Wakkerstroom, South Africa. 14-16 March 2023 (SB).*
- *Kenyan National Species Specialist Group Meeting. Nairobi, Kenya. 10 March 2023. Virtual (SB).*
- *IUCN Red List Committee Meeting. Gland, Switzerland. 9 March 2023, virtual (SB, JPR).*
- *CMS Sharks Memorandum of Understanding Meeting of Signatories (MOS4). Bonn, Germany, 28 February - 1 March 2023 (RJ).*
- *World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Council Meeting. 28 February 2023, virtual (KM).*
- *International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) partner visit. Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, USA. 21 February 2023 (JPR).*
- *Asian Rhino Range Countries Meeting. Chitwan National Park, Nepal, 3 February 2023 (JPR).*
- *108th Meeting of the IUCN Council, Part II. Abu Dhabi, UAE. 17-19 January 2023. (JPR, KM, NDA).*
- *IUCN All Commissions Meeting. Abu Dhabi, UAE. 14-15 January 2023 (RJ, KM, NDA).*

WORKSHOPS

- *Inauguration of Ghana's National Coordination Group and capacity building workshop on KBA.* 24 March 2023, virtual (SB).
- *KBA training and assessment workshop.* Limbe, Cameroon. 20-24 February 2023, in person (SB).
- *Mission to Impact Training Workshops: Building Your Organisation's Conservation Strategy Virtual.* Australia, 20 January, 3 & 17 February 2023 (KM).



American red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) LC.
Photo © CORPOBOYACA

Procambarus clarkii is now declared as Invasive Species in Colombia

Ada Acevedo-Alonso

IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group; Biologist CORPOBOYACA

*In September 2022 the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) sent a letter to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, requesting an urgent declaration of the American red swamp crayfish, *Procambarus clarkii*, as an “invasive” species. Signed by Jon Paul Rodríguez, Chair of SSC, Piero Genovesi, Chair of the SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group; José F. González-Maya and Cristina López-Gallego, Co-Chairs SSC Colombia Species Specialist Group, the letter expresses concern about the impact that *P. clarkii* may have as an exotic species on Colombian biodiversity.*

This species was introduced in 1985 for aquaculture in the department of Valle del Cauca, but two years later was accidentally released into the Palmira River. In the 2000s the red swamp crayfish was a common pet in some aquariums, and due to its trade and reputation as a valuable

food, arrived illegally in Cundinamarca (2004) and Boyacá (2008). Today, the *P. clarkii* illegal trade has increased its dispersion at a greater rate than its natural capacity. The species is highly distributed in natural lakes, creeks, rivers, and streams, and in crop water reservoirs, especially in the Cundinamarca-Boyacá plateau.

A species listed as extremely harmful to native biodiversity

The red swamp crayfish is regarded as a keystone species. It is immersed in various parts of the food web, so the negative impacts of its invasion can change the ecosystem and its function. In Colombia, it poses a threat to the high freshwater biodiversity including fishes, frogs, crabs, and other macroinvertebrates. Particularly, it is a direct threat to the endemic freshwater crabs *Hypolobocera dentata*, *Hypolobocera cajambrensis* and *Neostrengeria macropa*, and if left unmanaged can affect another 13 endemic freshwater crab species of the genera *Hypolobocera*, *Neostrengeria* and *Phallangothelphusa*. Also, it can disturb the structure of the diverse freshwater ecosystems, rural pipes, or dams. Additionally, *Procambarus clarkii* is recognized as a vector of some pathogens, including *Paragonimus* sp., for now, the only one reported for Colombian crayfish populations which can become a public health problem.

Colombia faces a high risk of losing freshwater biodiversity if left unmanaged. For the last few years, local authorities have been looking for national regulations of *Procambarus clarkii*, and recently came together to request such measures from the Environmental ministry. Fortunately, thanks to their work and the collaboration of SSC, last 24 January [the Colombian Environment Ministry declared *Procambarus clarkii* as an invasive species](#) and gave some regulations over its management. Thanks to this declaration, trade, aquaculture, and consumption are completely forbidden, and local authorities have a new tool to manage the invasion of *Procambarus clarkii*.





Photo © IUCN SSC

SSC Membership Diversity 2017 vs. 2023

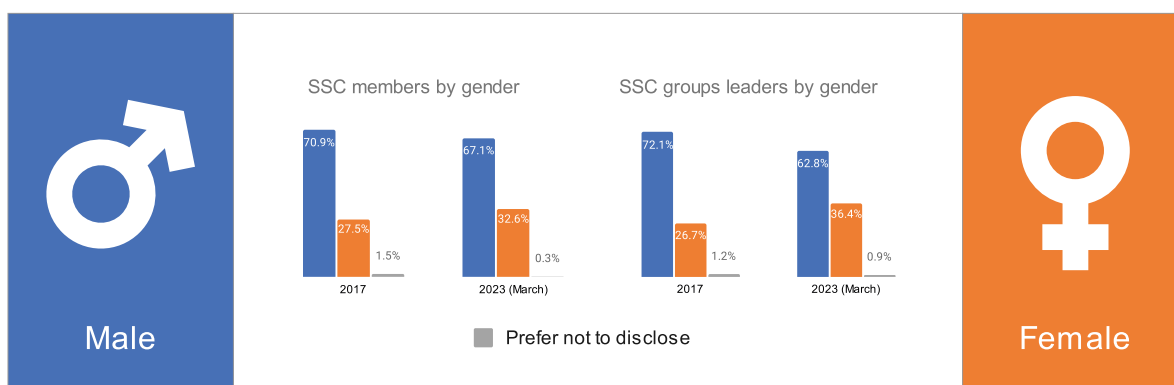
It's been six and a half years since Jon Paul Rodríguez became Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Below, we explore changes in indicators of membership diversity since 2017.

2017 was a year of transition for the SSC Chair's Office, having its first non North American or European Chair and moving headquarters from Bath, England, to its current location in Caracas, Venezuela. At that time, the SSC network comprised 7,496 registered members distributed in 149 Specialist Groups, Task Forces, Stand-alone Red List Authorities and Committees. Our membership has increased by 14.6% and is composed of 8,588 experts with representation in almost every country of the world. These members are organized in 178 SSC groups, as follows: 148 Specialist Groups, 7 Task Forces, 15 Stand-alone Red List Authorities, and 8 Conservation Committees. This represents an increase of 19.5% in the number of groups since 2017.

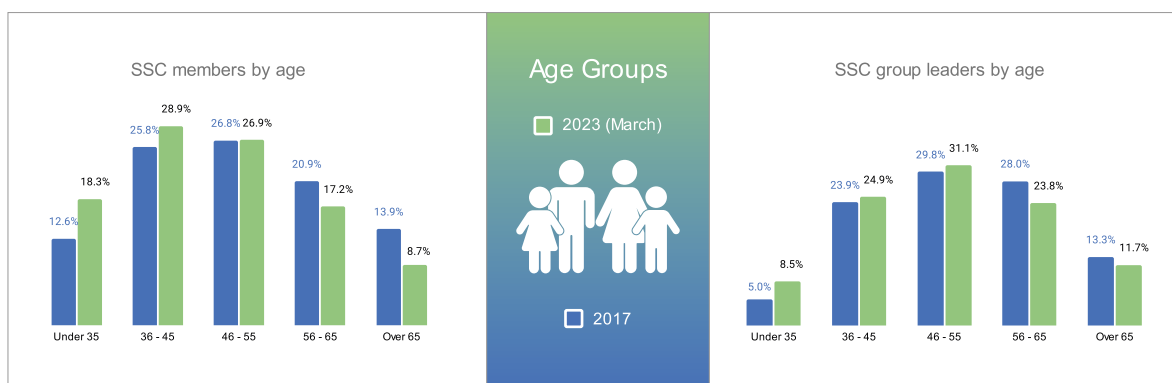


An important innovation in 2022 was the creation of [National Species Specialist Groups](#). These groups aim to coordinate multiple taxonomic expertise within countries, support governments and inform science-based decision-making. Two important roles are to provide an SSC platform for emerging conservation talent and engage in the development of policies for halting species loss, in response to the [Abu Dhabi Call for Global Species Conservation Action](#) and under the framework of [Reverse the Red](#). Four National Species Specialist Groups have been created so far: Colombia, China, Madagascar and Indonesia, and there is work in progress to develop them in Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Singapore and Spain, among others.

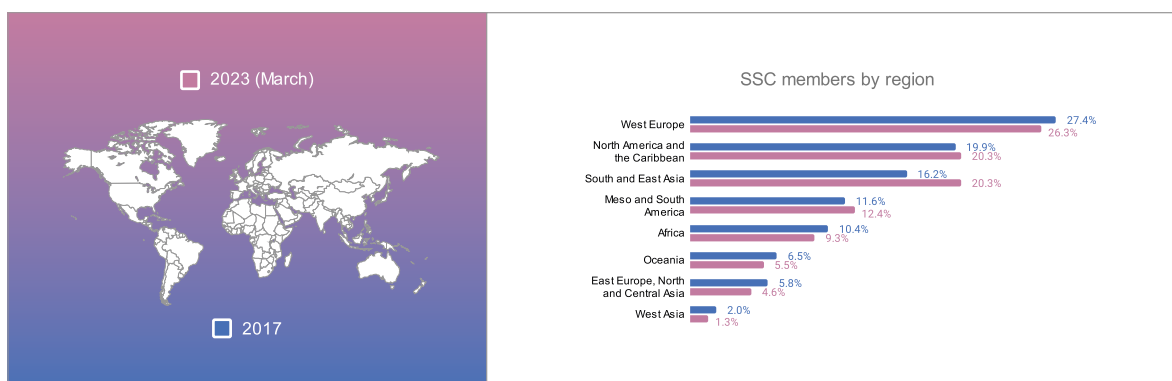
Improving gender balance has been a priority since the beginning. There has been progress, but there is still room for improvement. The proportion of women increased both in our membership as a whole (around 5%) and among the group of SSC Leaders (i.e., Chairs, Co-chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators or Programme Officers), with almost 10% more women in leadership positions for a total of 36.4% by March 2023.



When we look at the distribution of our membership by age we can see a shift to younger age classes both within all SSC members and among SSC Leaders (which include almost 500 people). In both figures below, the green bars (2023) are taller or the same size as the blue bars (2017) for the three lower age classes, and smaller for the two higher age classes. The largest increase is for people under 35, which now represent 18.3% of SSC members, and totals over 1,550 people, in contrast to 940 in 2017 (67.2% growth).

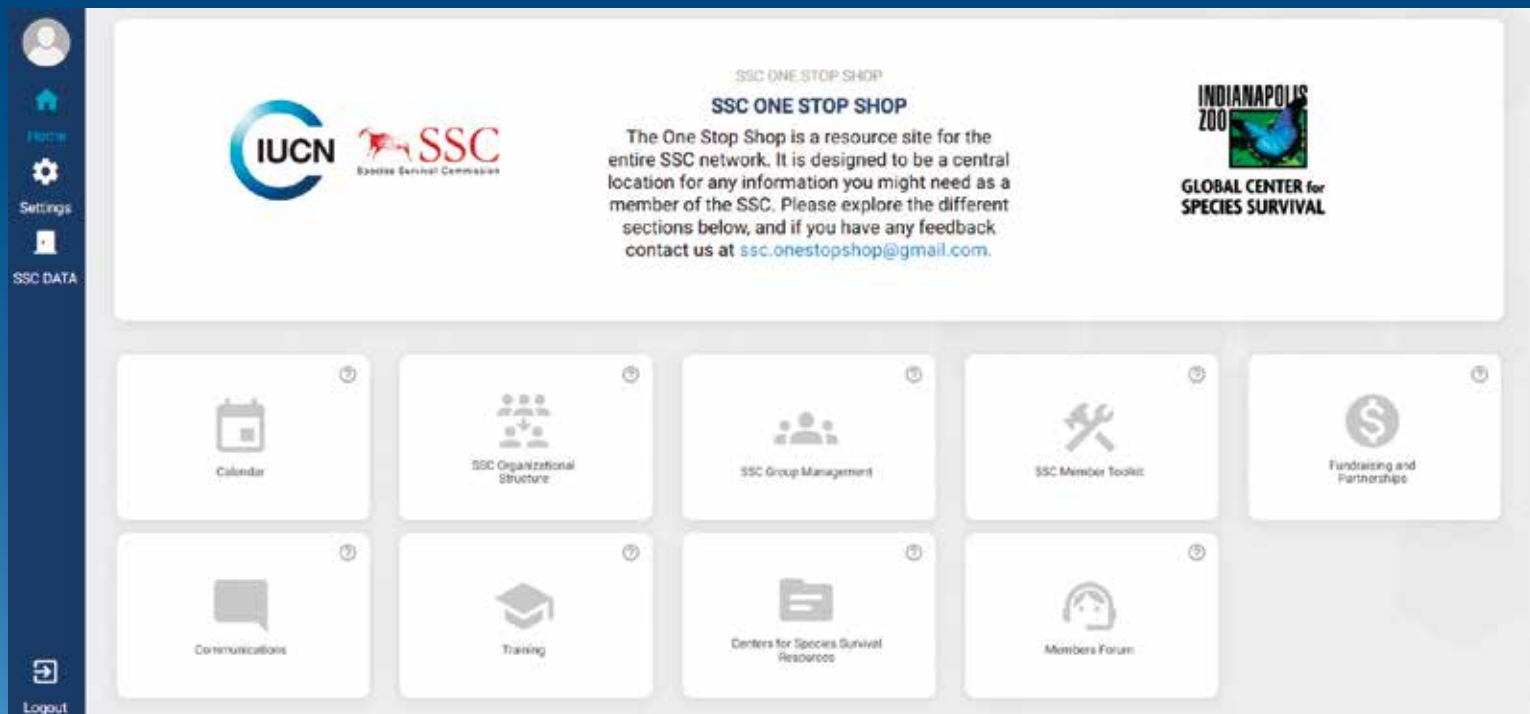


Regionally, we see small proportional growth in North America and the Caribbean, and Meso and South America, while the largest increase took place in South and East Asia. West Europe, although it declined slightly, continues to concentrate the largest proportion of SSC members. Africa, Oceania, East Europe, North and Central Asia, and West Asia are all proportionally smaller in 2023 than in 2017.



There is still work to do in terms of membership diversity and balance in SSC. We invite our Leaders to keep this in mind when recruiting new members, and also to implement best practices in diversity, equity and inclusion. In this sense, we invite all SSC members to review, use and apply the excellent document developed by the SSC Marine Conservation Committee: [IUCN SSC Best Practices Guidelines](#). [Marine Specialist Groups: experience and examples](#).

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the SSC Chair's Office itself has also changed a lot since 2017 when it was composed of five staff members. Now our office counts on twelve staff working in different areas (network, monitoring and evaluation, partnerships, communication and administration) to better support the SSC network, plus a group of 30 staff located around the world in 12 Centers for Species Survival in 8 countries. A game changer model that has tripled our capacity to respond to the needs of the network and provide them better support for assessment, planning and action.



SSC One Stop Shop platform.
Photo © IUCN SSC

SSC One Stop Shop

The SSC One Stop Shop is the new resource site developed by the SSC Chair's Office in partnership with the Global Center for Species Survival

Following hundreds of conversations with Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Red List Authorities, the SSC Chair's Office and the Global Center for Species Survival (GCSS) created a site to better serve the Network's needs. The One Stop will launch in April 2023.

The platform will consolidate, in one location, all the resources that an SSC member might need to perform their daily activities as a part of the Species Survival Commission. In this sense, resources such as guidelines, terms of references, best practices, manuals, training, onboarding materials, and databases on different topics have been gathered from diverse places. This will allow SSC members to access these materials in a centralized location rather than in different places as they had previously.

The site will also include a members' forum where you can post questions and answers. This functionality will promote interaction, encourage engagement, and improve communication among members, who will have the option of seeking assistance and providing support within

the SSC network. You may have questions others can answer, or perhaps your expertise will be of help to fellow members.

As a result of this process, the SSC Chair's Office and the GCSS were also able to detect some needs or gaps regarding the materials available and new resources have been created, for example, information about how the SSC is organized and operates, best practices of fundraising, information on transitioning specialist group leadership, social media strategies, and more.

Benefits

- One centralized location for all the resources that are offered to the SSC network.
- Resources to quickly onboard new leaders, members, or Centers for Species Survival.
- Information about upcoming events, grant opportunities, and access to useful training.
- A way to promote interaction between SSC members through the members' forum.
- Better organization of the resources offered to the SSC network through the creation of sections, categories, and subcategories within the platform will also help users to find the information more easily.
- Opportunity to review, update, refresh and create new resources for SSC members, incorporating new formats such as short videos, tutorials and infographics, among others.

Sections within the One Stop Shop

The site is composed of nine sections or modules as described below. It's important to highlight that the platform is flexible in terms of its structure, so we should be able to add, edit and/or remove sections, articles, categories, subcategories, etc., as required.



Calendar:

A frequently updated calendar that provides members with a quick view of events and happenings in conservation. This may include webinars, meetings, conferences, trainings, grant deadlines, and more. The calendar provides information about the events and an option to sync them with your personal calendar.



SSC Organizational Structure:

Organizational chart of SSC and Centers for Species Survival, including names, positions, contact information, etc.



SSC Group Management:

Resources for Chairs and other group leaders to provide them with the information and training to start or effectively run their Specialist Group, RLA, or Task Force.



SSC Member Toolkit:

Content that is specific to the work output of the Specialist Groups such as the Assess to Plan process, best practices of moving from planning to action, the World Conservation Congress motions and resolutions process, intervention letter examples, publishing opportunities, and more.



Fundraising and Partnerships:

Resources to enhance the ability of leaders and members to raise funds and build capacity for their Specialist Groups: partnership how-to documents, successful and unsuccessful grant examples, training on grant-writing, training on fundraising, and a full grant database.



Communications:

Focus on the development of communication skills among SSC members, including best practices for websites, social media, and different written forms of communication.



Training:

Includes all the training programs available to SSC members and other useful tools and strategies.



Centers for Species Survival Resources:

Onboarding resources for Centers for Species Survival, communication toolkits, and other materials of interest for these groups.



Members' Forum:

Forum for SSC members to communicate across the network by asking questions and providing answers. There will also be a Frequently Asked Questions section.

The One Stop Shop will be integrated with the SSC Data System, so SSC Data users can log in with the same credentials they already have and will be able to easily navigate between both platforms.

The SSC Chair's Office and GCSS teams will be the administrators of the site and will be able to respond to any requests or concerns regarding the site through the following email: ssc.onestopshop@gmail.com.

New Faces in the SSC DATA Unit

The SSC DATA Unit is already in its sixth year of life and, as time goes by, new actors take over the scene to help achieve all the goals of this important unit of the SSC Chair's Office.



Levi Mendoza

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

levi.mendoza@ssc.iucn.org

Levi Mendoza joined the team in September 2022, to cover Orlando's duties and to start new ones as Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Universidad Simón Bolívar, Venezuela, a Master's Degree in Public Management from Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA), and additional courses in data visualization tools. In his new position as part of the SSC Chair's Office, Levi is responsible for supporting, planning, and conducting follow-up activities carried out to achieve the SSC goals, turning data into useful information for decision-making, and managing all the requests related to the SSC DATA System. Do not hesitate in contacting Levi in any related to SSC DATA.



Lila García Riveiro

Species Report Officer

lila.garciariveiro@ssc.iucn.org

In early 2023, Lila García Riveiro became part of the SSC DATA Unit as Species Report Officer, to join efforts with Jafet Nassar in the process of preparing the Annual Species Report. Lila is a biologist from Universidad Central de Venezuela, specialized in shark ecology and

nature conservation. She has been involved with the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) as a member of the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Thematic Group. As the Species Report Officer, Lila will manage and support the preparation and publication process of the stand-alone reports of all the SSC Groups. Be ready to exchange many email messages with Lila!



Jafet M. Nassar

Species Report Coordinator

jafet.nassar@ssc.iucn.org

Jafet M. Nassar, co-founder of the SSC DATA Unit with Orlando Salamanca, continues with us as Species Report Coordinator, directing the publication of the Species Report and providing support to the Unit and the SSC leaders in all the SSC DATA matters. Jafet is passing all the lessons learned throughout these years at the SSC DATA Unit to Lila and Levi, to help consolidate an effective team at the service of the SSC Network.

Please, remember that the SSC DATA Unit is always available to help the SSC Network with any request related to the SSC DATA System, the annual reporting process, the Species Strategic Plan or any data-related matter.

To contact the SSC DATA Unit, please email us to:

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lila.garciariveiro@ssc.iucn.org or sscdata@ssc.iucn.org.

Acknowledgements for the reporting process

The SSC Chair's Office and the SSC DATA Unit would like to acknowledge the SSC group leaders for their valuable contribution to the process of tracking the progress of the SSC Network in pursuing the targets of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan.

Submitting the annual reports on time is key to speeding up the process of preparing the annual stand-alone reports and the Species Report. For this reason, we encourage all SSC group leaders to complete the 2022 reporting process as soon as possible.

SSC DATA Reporting Process



We extend our thanks to the first SSC groups that submitted their 2022 reports before March:

IUCN SSC Afrotheria Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Bird Red List Authority
IUCN SSC Brazil Plant Red List Authority
IUCN SSC Bryophyte Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Chytrid, Zygomycete, Downy Mildew and Myxomycete Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Crane Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Eastern African Plant Red List Authority
IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Green Status of Species Task Force
IUCN SSC Hawaiian Islands Plant Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee
IUCN SSC Marine Fishes Red List Authority
IUCN SSC Monitor Lizard Specialist Group
IUCN SSC New Caledonia Plant Red List Authority
IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force
IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Skink Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Snake and Lizard Red List Authority
IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Standards and Petitions Committee
IUCN SSC Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Swan Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Turkey Plant Red List Authority
IUCN SSC Viper Specialist Group
IUCN SSC/CEESP Oil Crops Task Force
IUCN WCPA-SSC Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force



White-bellied Pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*) EN.
Photo © Hugues Akpona

Pangolin workshop: connecting *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation

Stephan Hering Hagenbeck, Anton Weissenbacher, Vienna Zoo, Austria

Zoo and aquarium professionals

The importance of collective efforts of zoo and aquarium professionals and experts from IUCN groups to address complex conservation actions for particular species are fundamental when tackling the global species decline in a world facing a massive loss of species diversity. The One Plan approach brings in-situ and ex-situ experts together to work on integrated conservation planning for a species. In an attempt to establish new partnerships and enable exchange between specialists with different conservation approaches, the Vienna Zoo (Tiergarten Schönbrunn) initiated a conservation workshop for in situ and ex-situ partners working with highly threatened pangolin species, the most trafficked mammals in the world.

All eight pangolin species (Pholidota: Manidae), four native to Asia and four to Africa, are threatened with extinction by overexploitation for local and international use. All pangolin species are listed in Appendix II of CITES including an international commercial trade ban for wild pangolins and the requirement for permits for legal international trade. Despite those efforts, populations have decreased severely in the past decade and it remains essential to revitalize global conservation efforts.

During a three-days workshop, organized by the Vienna Zoo in February 2023 and kindly hosted by the Babanango Private Game Reserve (KZN, South Africa), a network of international *ex-situ* and *in-situ* pangolin specialists from 11 nations shared expert knowledge on the biology, husbandry and veterinary treatment of pangolins in general and African Pangolin species in particular. The goal of the workshop was to take the first steps towards a One Plan Approach and connect specialists for all pangolin species to eventually develop conservation strategies inside and outside the species' natural range. Leading zoos with specialised knowledge on pangolin *ex-situ* husbandry, sustainable management and breeding of different pangolin species strongly supported the joint meeting. The workshop highly benefited from the attendance of members of the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group (PSG) together with several *in-situ* experts from various African pangolin range countries.

PSG is a voluntary network of experts from around the world including field biologists, social scientists, zoologists, veterinarians, ecologists and geneticists, all of whom are actively involved in pangolin research and conservation. Re-established in 2012 in recognition of the widespread threats to pangolins globally, PSG works as an advisory body to IUCN and global pangolin conservation stakeholders to address the lack of understanding of these species and their conservation needs.

In the first step, the workshop participants presented, in the form of brief talks, information about their own *in-* and/or *ex-situ* conservation approach and its potential impact. The presentations included *in-situ* efforts ranging from Nigeria, Central and Southern Africa to Vietnam and successful *ex-situ* approaches from Taipei, USA, Singapore, Germany and the Czech Republic. A special highlight was surely the first birth of a pangolin in a European zoo, Zoo Praha, in the Czech Republic (**Photo 1**), which happened just a week before the workshop started. The whole workshop team engaged in vivid and valuable husbandry recommendations at this early life stage.

Photo 1



Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) **CR**.
Photo © Miroslav Bobek

During the workshop, the participants identified the following four main threats for wild African pangolin species:

1. Large-scale illegal trafficking of the animals and parts of the animals, due to high demand for nearly all of their body parts, especially from Southeast Asia.
2. Local hunting of the African pangolin for bush meat, traditional medicine and as fashion accessories, all over the African continent.
3. Game fences, especially in southern Africa, the electrified ground lines often cause fatal injuries not only for pangolins but also for a number of other small mammals and reptiles.
4. Road kills; as all African pangolin species are nocturnal, it is not unlikely, that pangolins are hit by cars at night and heavily injured.

Additionally a lack of *ex-situ* facilities in African range countries (e.g., rescue centers, sanctuaries, zoological facilities) with additional know-how and support to improve husbandry and management of pangolins were highlighted at the workshop.

The participants developed strategies and identified common goals, to improve the cooperation and know-how transfer. It was obvious that the excellent work being done in the numerous *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation projects calls for joint initiatives and strategies for the threatened pangolins. During a wrap-up workshop at the end of the meeting, it was agreed that collaboration between *ex-situ* and *in-situ* pangolin specialists is to the benefit of the species and fruitful for both sides. In particular, it was agreed to concentrate on future cooperation on the following topics:

1. Prioritizing action by setting up regional conservation planning.
2. Physical exchanges and capacity building of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* Pangolin experts.
3. Develop a feasibility assessment for breeding programs.
4. Building partnerships and networks between *in-situ* and *ex-situ* experts and organize workshops to exchange know-how, gather knowledge on the biology of the species and develop research strategies.
5. Create best practice projects (that benefit both parties) together.
6. Develop a common pangolin release project in southern Africa (South Africa or Namibia) in a controlled setting, advised by *ex-situ* and *in-situ* experts to collect scientific data and gather additional knowledge on the species.
7. Develop training programs to facilitate the handling and captive management of pangolins to improve *ex-situ* husbandry and management of pangolins, especially in their range countries in Africa.

All 22 participants (**Photo 2**) from the zoos at Leipzig, Prague, Taipei, Singapore, Chicago and Vienna, as well as members of SSC and working groups from South Africa, Namibia, Cameroon and Nigeria, acknowledged the great expertise within *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation work and were convinced that according to the One Plan Approach, closer cooperation would be beneficial for sustainable and success-oriented conservation of the species. *"The workshop did show that there are a lot of undiscovered opportunities for new partnerships and collaborative work for all stakeholders – no matter where we are from or which "camp" we belong to (ex-situ or in-situ)"* said Ade Kurniawan from Zoo Singapore. Maja Gudehus from the ex-situ Pangolin Specialist Group added: *"The Babanango Pangolin In-Situ – Ex-Situ Workshop is a great step towards such integrated conservation planning for pangolins and the first ever held on the African continent including all four African species."*

Photo 2



Summarizing, PGS members concluded: *"Historically, rescue and rehabilitation efforts for pangolins have been the leading action for pangolin conservation - clearly highlighting the importance of ex-situ interventions for these eight species. Despite this pioneering work, there has been a widespread lack of understanding of other ex-situ approaches to species conservation, and how these tie together with in-situ initiatives under the One Plan Approach. This lack of understanding has perhaps been underscored by the checkered history of pangolins in long-term zoological collections and the lack of engagement by these institutions in in-situ pangolin initiatives. The Babanango In-Situ – Ex-Situ Pangolin Conservation Workshop organized by the Vienna Zoo allayed many misconceptions and truly opened the door for integrated pangolin conservation planning and action under the One Plan approach. Participants became more aware of the interconnectedness and opportunity for synergistic in and ex-situ interventions to underscore successful pangolin conservation. And gained trust in each other which can only happen in face-to-face meetings. We look forward to further building upon this base and establishing a One Plan strategic approach to achieving the PSG's long term Vision for pangolins!"*

Following the workshop, the participants are framing a Memorandum of Understanding between the *in-situ* and the *ex-situ* pangolin specialists to establish a foundation for future work. Additionally common future projects are currently discussed.

Workshop participants: Helena Atkinson and Kelsey Prediger (IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group South Africa); Maja Gudehus (Ex-situ IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group); Matthew Shirley (IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group); Nicci Wright (African pangolin working group); Olajumoke Morenikeji (Pangolin Conservation Guild of Nigeria); Agro Prince Pascal (Forest division, Navrango Forest); Chris Galliers (Conservation Outcomes); JJ van Altena (Global Supplies); Jörg Junhold and Johannes Pfeleiderer (Zoo Leipzig); Ade Kurniawan (Zoo Singapore); Hsuan-Yi Lo, Chi Shang Lee and Ssu-Hsien Wang (Taipei Zoo); Mark Wanner, Jennifer Watts and Sathya Chinnadurai (Brookfield Zoo); Pavel Brandl (Zoo Prague), Stewart Muir (Newquay Zoo); Anton Weissenbacher and Stephan Hering-Hagenbeck (Vienna Zoo) – Workshop initiator Organization: Barbara Weisser, Hellmuth Weisser and Andrew Baxter (Babanango Game Reserve); Stephanie Reitz (Vienna Zoo).



Dr. Silvia Alvarez-Clare with *Quercus brandegeei* EN.
Photo © The Morton Arboretum

New Centers for Species Survival:

"Collaboration is critical for the conservation of our planet's biodiversity"

Last 8 March, Shedd Aquarium and The Morton Arboretum were named Centers for Species Survival. These new designations elevate the role of the Chicago region as an international leader in biodiversity conservation

Of the twelve Centers recognised globally by the IUCN SSC, Shedd Aquarium has been designated as the first dedicated Center for Species Survival: Freshwater and The Morton Arboretum as the first Center for Species Survival: Trees.

The two Centers will allow the aquarium and the arboretum to advance their ongoing efforts to assess aquatic species and trees in biodiversity hotspots, plan science-driven conservation strategies and help the public act for nature.



THE
CHAMPION
of TREES



“Shedd’s deep understanding of freshwater conservation and The Morton Arboretum’s demonstrated success leading the conservation of trees will allow our global network to expand our shared impact to new geographic areas and add new species of animals, fungi and plants to assess, plan and act,” said Prof. Jon Paul Rodríguez, SSC Chair. “Collaboration is critical for the conservation of our planet’s biodiversity.”

Center for Species Survival: Freshwater

Shedd’s collaborative work will focus on critical watersheds in Central America, where aquatic wildlife populations are at risk of extinction. Leveraging the aquarium’s existing portfolio of freshwater research, one attention area for the Shedd will be on freshwater mussels – animals that face the highest level of threat on the planet. Shedd will replicate its ongoing freshwater mussels research, currently conducted throughout the Midwest, and scale it across key areas of Central America – including El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala. Shedd’s work will also be expanded to include complementary surveying of freshwater fishes via a partnership with Chicago’s Field Museum.



Center for Species Survival: Trees

Work at the Arboretum’s Center will elevate the importance of trees and plants while developing strategies and policies aimed at mitigating and reversing the global biodiversity crisis. The Center will also place a special emphasis on educating and inspiring the next generation of tree champions through outreach programs in Chicago and beyond.

Both Centers have been funded through support from the Walder Foundation – a private family foundation that champions Chicago’s contributions to environmental sustainability.



Read the full press release here: [Shedd Aquarium and The Morton Arboretum named new Centers for Species Survival.](#)



IUCN SSC Centers for Species Survival

During the last quarter January - March, the Centers for Species Survival (CSS) have continued contributing to the SSC Network in the implementation of the Species Conservation Cycle. Below are detailed activities of some Centers to increase the possibilities for training in key tools, updating red lists, communicating efforts and project implementation.

EUROPE

CSS - Portugal: Oceanario de Lisboa

The Center for Species Survival at Oceanário de Lisboa mainly focuses on the Assess step of the Assess-Plan-Act Species Conservation Cycle, targeting marine species.

Since late 2021, the team has over 1,040 marine fish species nationally for the 'Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal'. To achieve this goal, the team was reinforced with two more Species Survival Officers: Sara Carvalho and Gustavo Franco. CSS - Portugal: Oceanário de Lisboa now counts with five Species Survival officers -- below are some of our recent achievements and activities:

Assess:

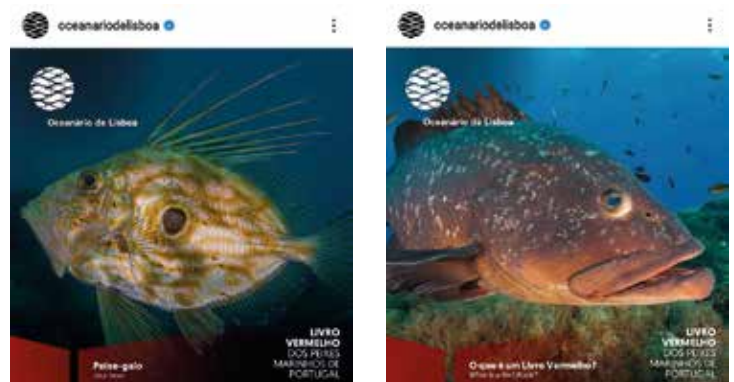
- The team has continued to prepare draft assessments for the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal, resulting in over 370 draft assessments completed since the beginning of the project.
- Seven assessment workshops for the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal were held, two remote and five in-person, resulting in the assessment of a total of 300 bony fish species, which represents c. 25% of the total 1044 marine fish species in Portugal, with the contribution of 21 researchers from nine scientific institutions of Portugal mainland, Azores and Madeira.

Network:

- In September 2022, a Marine Species Survival Officer supported the Marine Biodiversity Unit in a workshop organized by IUCN, Galapagos Conservancy, *Conservando Galápagos*, at the Galápagos National Park Directorate assessing 104 endemic marine species to that archipelago.
- A visit was held to the Portuguese research vessel Mário Ruivo from the Portuguese Institute of the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), to strengthen contact for future collaborations.

Communicate:

- Since the beginning of the Red Book project, the CSS team has developed a social media strategy to educate the public about the marine fish species inhabiting Portuguese waters and the importance of Red Books through Oceanário de Lisboa's social networks.



CSS - Macaronesia: *Loro Parque Fundacion*

During the first months of the year, the Center was focused on collecting all the data, analyzing and creating documents to inform about the status of the biodiversity in the different regions of Spain. Among the activities developed and achieved during the last quarterly based on the Species Conservation Cycle are:

Assess:

- Analyze the status of Biodiversity in Spain with the collaboration of the IUCN Spanish Committee. The document compares the given threatened status by the Red List and the government/regional lists. 611 species (193 Critically Endangered and 418 Endangered) were compared, obtaining a 65,8% of discordance between both data. The document also illustrates the distribution of Critically Endangered species in Spain that allow us to highlight areas that need more attention and protection. In line with this, a comparison has been made between the areas protected in Spain and the areas designated as KBAs. An overlap of 64,4% was obtained when comparing both types of areas.

Network:

- Presentation of the project “Status of Biodiversity in Spain” at the Iberian Association of Zoos and Aquariums annual conference in Poema del Mar (Gran Canaria. 3 March 2023). Some institutions were very interested in the project and they are willing to participate once they have more information about it and the results of their region.

Communicate:

- Participate in Reverse the Red day with two publications in Loro Parque Foundation social networks.



NORTH AMERICA

Global CSS - United States: *Indianapolis Zoo*

The Global Center for Species Survival team supports, connects and communicates the work of thousands of conservationists joined together in the more than 170 Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Conservation Committees of the SSC. Here are updates from the Global Center for the period of January through March 2023.

Assess:

- Conducted reviews for swallowtails, select Philippine beetles and Mid-Atlantic island invertebrates.
- Trained network members and students in the Philippines and North America in producing species maps for Red List assessments.
- Supported the Red Listing of cave-dwelling invertebrates via engagement with relevant specialist groups, including capacity building and facilitation of technical issues.
- Supported the Red Listing of South Korean invertebrates – as part of an IUCN workshop and ongoing collaboration in the country – by engaging relevant Specialist Groups, offering and arranging for virtual review workshops involving local experts, and suggesting priority species lists.
- Supported the Red Listing of EDGE Spiders for all Mesothelae (a completely distinct and basal group of spiders), currently comprising 174 species. 2996 unique records were compiled by group members, encompassing 100% of the group range in collaboration with range-country colleagues.
- Supported a paper on the status of giant millipedes and Enariid beetles from Madagascar, which is based on the assessment of 167 species and analysis of the assessments of Malagasy millipedes.
- Under the supervision of our Reptile & Amphibian Conservation Coordinator, we have an intern working on a climate change vulnerability assessment for Brazilian lizards.
- We are working with the Fungal Conservation Committee to organise Red Listing workshops during the two major mycological conferences in 2023.

Plan:

- The Global Center is a contributing partner in the new FUNACTION project and helped secure funding from Biodiversa. This Europe-based project focuses on developing knowledge and strategies to inform conservation priorities and measures related to aquatic fungal biodiversity. The project includes members from Estonia, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal and the United States. Both our Plants & Fungi and Freshwater Conservation Coordinators are supporting the project.



- Led a discussion of Stakeholder Analysis process for Japanese eel intervention.
- In partnership with the Vulture Specialist Group, we continue to support the development of Vulture SAFE and poisoning training across the Kenya/Tanzania landscape.
- Several of the Global Center conservation coordinators participated in the Durrell Training Course: Planning and Managing Effective Conservation Projects.
- We are assisting the Government of Mexico in the creation of a conservation action plan to protect and restore populations of some of the nation's most remarkable invertebrate species.
- Hosted a major conservation partners meeting in support of Indiana's State Wildlife Action Plan. Through this alliance, we will envision and plan the next 10 years of conservation action in Indiana.



- We are supporting the Swan Specialist Group's planned review of Bewick's Swan Conservation Action Plan.
- We are supporting the development of a behavior change intervention to reduce lemurs being used for bushmeat in Madagascar.

- We are working with the Andean Bear SAFE to support plans for range-wide mapping and stakeholder involvement in conservation planning.

Act:

- Supported the creation and development of the Behavior Change Task Force, which is a cross-cutting commission.
- We are working with zoos in the Midwestern United States on increasing the capacity of the current network to house invertebrate seizures from the illegal wildlife trade.
- We are working with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and other key stakeholders (such as land trusts) on the monitoring and protection of invertebrates in Indiana.
- We are working with the Plant Conservation Committee and relevant stakeholders to discuss the illegal trade of succulents and what could be done by the IUCN SSC.
- Formalized a new partnership with the [Indiana Plant Conservation Alliance](#). Our Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator and the Zoo's horticulture team aim to propagate priority species for *ex-situ* conservation. We have started by planting seeds from *Penstemon deamii*, with plans to grow more species in the future.
- As an investment in the future of our world's wildlife, the Indianapolis Zoological Society created the \$1 Million Saving a Species Challenge. The goal of this award is to support the creation and implementation of a conservation action plan that increases the odds of the survival of one species. The Global Center team developed the structure of the award and application process, and we will be responsible for reviewing pre-applications. Additionally, our communications team at the Indianapolis Zoo is creating an informational website (launching in April) about the award and will be responsible for communicating this opportunity to the IUCN SSC network and the wider conservation community.



Network:

- We met with all freshwater-relevant Specialist Groups to discuss ideas for the upcoming release of the Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment dataset: questions to ask from the data and outputs/outcomes to create.
- We met with all invertebrate Specialist Group leaders to discuss needs, priorities and paths forward.
- Organized a KBA webinar series which included four webinars: What are KBAs, how are they used and why should IUCN SSC members engage with them?; KBA criteria for identifying sites contributing significantly to

the global persistence of biodiversity; Monitoring the status of Key Biodiversity Areas; The relevance of the IUCN Red List on the KBA identification process: Mozambique example. These sessions attracted a total of nearly 1,000 participants from 96 different nations. These sessions were recorded and shared on a [YouTube playlist](#).



Photo © Indianapolis Zoo

- Partnered with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group on a pair of meetings designed to introduce and start discussions with Specialist Groups on the subject of *ex-situ* conservation focal points for the IUCN SSC network.



Photo © Indianapolis Zoo

- Our Freshwater Conservation Coordinator attended the UN Water Conference in New York. This is a kick-off meeting for Status of Insects, International Research Coordination Network (New York).
- Our Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator attended the conference “Avoiding plant blindness in conservation and 30x30 commitments: Measures of plant biodiversity, bioresource, the need for plant-based prioritization in policy and practice.”
- We supported proposals of new Specialist Groups for Marine Stars, Parasites, and Bolivia Plants. And we also supported the proposal for a new Ukrainian Plant Red List Authority.
- Our Mammal Conservation Coordinator and Behavior Change Coordinator attended and presented at the Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Conference in Oxford. They implemented a networking session and LRP to deliver a behaviour change training session with Diogo Veríssimo, Chair of the new IUCN SSC Behavior Change Task Force.

- We organized and hosted protected areas for invertebrates workshop with multiple IUCN SSC leaders.
- Our Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator has taken on a leadership position with the Indiana Academy of Science. In that role, he helped organize the academy's annual meeting, which included presentations by several members of the Global Center team. They discussed everything from the creation of the Centers for Species Survival to how to accelerate Red Listing with academia's support.
- We are supporting new Specialist Groups (Termites and Tardigrades) and assisting others with their focal person for sustainable use, and *ex-situ* (like the Horseshoe Crab Specialist Group).
- We met with leaders from all bird Specialist Groups and facilitated a webinar delivered by BirdLife focused on Specialist Group engagement with the Red List process for birds.



- The new One-Stop-Shop IUCN SSC resource site will launch in April for the entire network to use. This website is a collaborative project between the IUCN SSC and the Global Center team.

Communicate:

- Our team supports Specialist Groups with their reporting of data to IUCN SSC.
- Since the start of the new year, we have published four blog posts: [The Fungus Among Us – Cordyceps Fact vs. Fiction](#); [World Wetlands Day – Restoring Earth's Wetlands](#); [Winter Herping – Searching for Indiana's Salamanders](#); and [Weird and Wonderful – Conserving the Tree of Life](#). These blogs are aimed at a more general audience, though we don't skimp on conservation science!
- We are in the process of creating a new conservation podcast, "Protect Species Podcast." We have recorded several test episodes and will soon present these episodes to a focus group. One of our guests is Greg Mueller from the Fungal Conservation Committee, and we have discussed future interview opportunities with additional members of the IUCN SSC network.



- Our Public Relations Specialist has created social media campaigns to promote webinars, meetings, species holidays, new publications and more in alignment with IUCN SSC communications goals.
- We have grown our total social media audience from 1,440 followers in December 2022 to 1,823 (as of March 15, 2023). Additionally, we have attracted influential followers, such as Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, IPBES, BirdLife International, Save Our Seas, TRAFFIC, and Shedd Aquarium. Our monthly impressions regularly top 50,000, and we receive an average of 3,000 Twitter profile visits per month. Instagram is our fastest-growing social media platform.

SOUTH AMERICA

CSS - Brazil: *Parque das Aves*

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

Our recent activities:

Assess:

- We supported the Brazilian National Red List, coordinated and executed by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation - [ICMBio](#) National Red List, by delivering assessments' consistency check of 23 species (nine dragonflies, two butterflies, four moths, and eight freshwater fishes).

Plan:

- Since 2021, we have coordinated, together with the Refauna group and ICMBio, a Conservation Translocation National Task Force, with the participation of several institutions, aiming to improve conservation translocation activities in Brazil, through the development and dissemination of guidelines, the proposal of new policies, as well as capacity building and training within researchers, conservationists and governmental public officers in charge of issuing translocation licenses.

The first product of this Task Force is the document entitled "Recommendations on translocation for conservation of fauna in Brazil". This document is currently available for public consultation and contributions until April 14th through an online form available [HERE](#) (only in Portuguese).

- From February 28th to March 3rd, CPSG/CSS Brazil co-organized and facilitated a strategic planning workshop using the Theory of Change approach for the Institute for the Conservation of Wild Animals – ICAS. The plan outlines the direction of travel and the institute’s priority actions on conservation, communication, and education for the next three years (2023-2025). ICAS’ mission is to “Promote more harmonious coexistence between people and biodiversity”, with a focus on two iconic species of Brazilian fauna, the giant armadillo and the giant anteater, working through the projects “Tatu Canastra, Canastras & Colméias” and “Bandeiras e Rodovias. The workshop design was built in collaboration with the Community Engagement sector of Chester Zoo and received funding from Houston Zoo.



ICAS workshop participants
Photo © ICAS

- On February 6, CSS Brazil had a face-to-face meeting with the director and representatives of the Brazilian National Center for Research and Conservation of Birds (CEMAVE/ICMBio) to discuss their identified bird conservation priorities in Brazil and how the CSS Brazil can collaborate in the planning for their conservation using Conservation Planning Specialist Group tools and processes for the next three years as part of the [cooperation agreement](#) (in Portuguese) signed with the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation - ICMBio.

Communicate:

- We elaborated the document *Operational manual for planning and executing state processes for assessing the risk of extinction of fauna and flora species*. This document was funded by GEF Pró-Espécies, as part of the strategy for incentivizing the elaboration of State Red Lists.
- From February 6 to 10, CSS Brazil's officers, Fabiana Lopes Rocha (Species Survival Head Officer), Eugenia Cordero Schmidt (Species Survival Officer / Communication focal point), and Rosana Subirá (Species Survival Officer / Red List Focal Point) had a face-to-face meeting in Paraíba, Brazil. CSS Brazil updated and established the work plan during this meeting according to the 2021-2025 [IUCN Species Strategic Plan](#). The CSS



CSS Brazil officers together
Photo © CSS Brazil

Brazil Work Plan will help in the fulfilment of nine IUCN SSC Key Species Results (KSR) and will help to deliver five [IUCN Resolutions](#). CSS Brazil seeks to meet its 25 targets through strategic collaborations with NGOs, IUCN Specialist Groups, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, universities, and government agencies such as Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation - [ICMBio](#) and Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden Research Institute - [CNCFloraJBRJ](#).

- The workshop report “Evaluation of the harpy eagle translocation in the southern region of Brazil” is now officially published as a product of the Birds of the Atlantic Forest National Action Plan by the Brazilian National Center for Research and Conservation of Birds ([CEMAVE/ICMBio](#)). The report can be downloaded [HERE](#) (available only in Portuguese).

CSS - Argentina: *Fundación TEMAikén*

The Center for Survival Species: Argentina (CSS-ARG) is an alliance between the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Fundación TEMAikén. Recently the CSS-ARG established a relationship with CSS Brazil to coordinate training with the CSS Argentina staff. This collaboration will increase the installed capacity of Argentina and the entire region.

Assess:

- The Officer of the CSS Argentina successfully coursed the Online ECA (*Ex-situ* Conservation Assessment) course, dictated by CPSG. (KSR6).

Plan:

- We participated in the first virtual workshop “Evaluation of population management for the conservation of the red howler monkey (*Alouatta guairiba*) in the province of Misiones, Argentina”.
- At the end of April 2023, we will be co-facilitating the second in-person part of the workshop “Evaluation of population management for the conservation of the red howler monkey (*Alouatta guairiba*) in the province of Misiones, Argentina” which will be led by CSS Brazil.
- The Center began to plan under the CPSG methodology the Delta Program of our Host institution Fundación TEMAikén. The Delta is one of the most important wetlands in Argentina with a great diversity of associated natural and cultural values, being a young and dynamic environment that grows year after year. It provides environmental services and benefits such as climate regulation, protection from floods and droughts, and is a livelihood for the local population.

Act:

- We participated in the species conservation planning clinic dictated by CPSG, a forum that helps to solve conservation planning issues and questions. (KSR10)

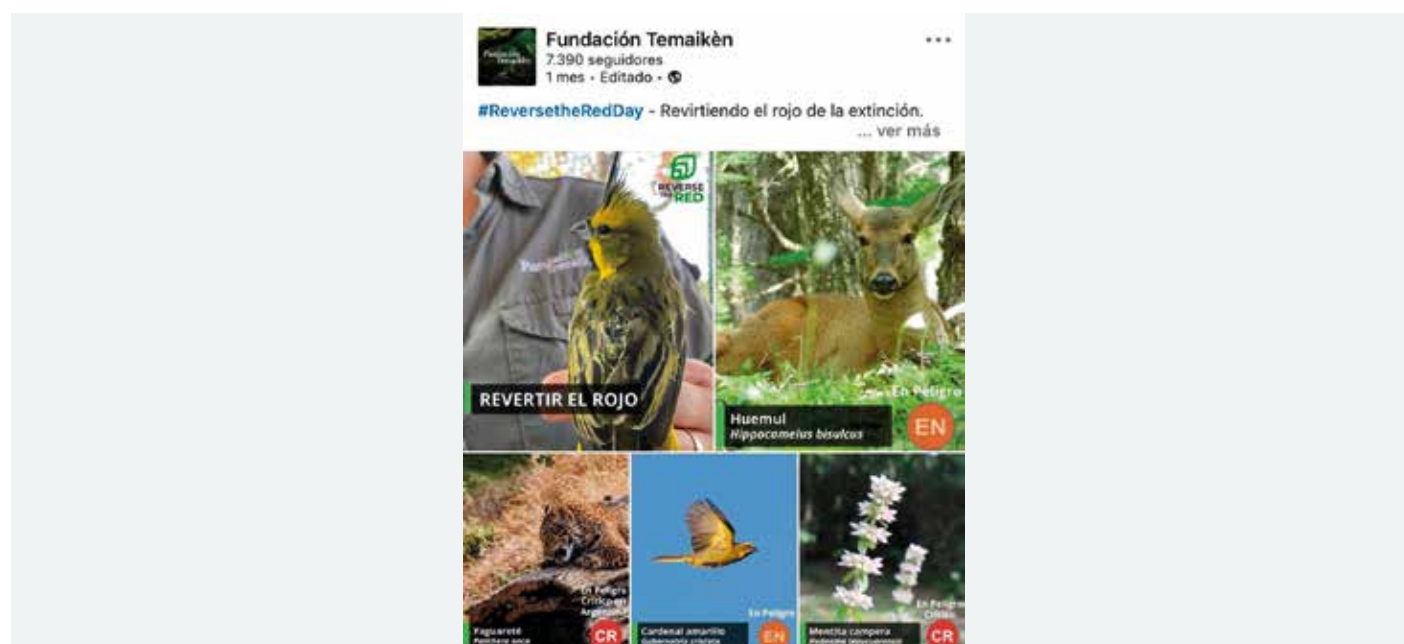
- Within the framework of the signing of the agreement between the National Parks Administration and Fundación Temaikèn for the Conservation of the Patagonian frog (*Atelognathus patagonicus*), the CSS Argentina will be contributing to the *ex-situ* breeding plan for the Patagonian frog. The species is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It became extinct from its main habitat, Laguna Blanca National Park, due to the introduction of invasive fish. (KSR10).

Network:

- We started working together with CSS Brazil in training workshops and future actions.
- The Center will be participating in the CCS Annual meeting to be held April 12-15, 2023. We will also be moderating the session “What does this mean to your organization - engaging your leaders and wider teams”.
- The CSS Argentina will participate in the VII National Congress for the Conservation of Biodiversity, April 25-28, 2023 in Puerto Iguazú, Misiones, Argentina. A poster dedicated to the actions and progress of the Center will be presented. The congress aims to generate an inclusive space to discuss relevant issues related to the knowledge, use, management and conservation of biodiversity in Argentina and Latin America.

Communicate:

- CSS Argentina participated in the publishing of Reverse the Red Day (February 7th). The importance of this initiative and the role of the CSS were highlighted in the publications.
- Content of conservation actions was shared with the Reverse the Red initiative on the Temaikèn Foundation Social Networks.
- Content was shared in Press Publications where the Reverse the Red initiative was told and CSS Argentina was named: [INFOBAE](#), [LIMITE INFORMATIVO](#), [INFOBAE](#), [NOTIFE](#), [EL DESTAPE](#).



ASIA

CSS - Southeast Asia: *Mandai Nature*

The IUCN SSC Centre for Species Survival: Southeast Asia (CSS SEA) is based in Singapore and hosted by Mandai Nature, the conservation arm of Mandai Wildlife Group. It was established in 2022 with the aim of catalysing assessment, planning and action for priority species in the region. Here are some updates from CSS SEA in the period of January to March 2023:

Asses:

- Mandai Nature participated in the Vietnam Red Data Book assessment for primates, which took place in Hanoi from 9–10 January 2023. Updates to the status and taxonomy as well as recommendations for protection were provided for all 24 primate species of Vietnam.

Plan:

- On 8–9 March 2023, Mandai Nature facilitated and participated in a Sabah Hornbill Action Plan Workshop conducted by the Sabah Wildlife Department with the support of various government, non-government and conservation organisations. 60 participants in the workshop shared key information and identified threats faced by the eight species of hornbills in Sabah, as well as the relevant conservation actions required to ensure their long-term survival. The Sabah Hornbill Action Plan is targeted to be published in 2024 and will serve as a tool for identifying and prioritising measures to restore hornbill populations in Sabah for the next ten years.

Act:

- Mandai Nature and the IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership have continued its support for 40 *in-situ* conservation projects across Singapore and Southeast Asia for this reporting period.
- In January, our conservation partner Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia collected 54 Southern River Terrapin eggs laid at the Koh Kong Reptile Conservation Centre, marking the third consecutive year that the species has laid eggs under human care.

Network:

- On 12 January, Mandai Nature had the exceptional opportunity to share with the Regent and Crown Prince of Pahang the work that we and the IUCN SSC Centre for Species Survival: Southeast Asia are doing. This meeting culminated in a follow-up discussion in the city of Kuantan, Pahang on 19–20 February, where we further explored the potential areas of collaboration between Singapore and Malaysia.



- Mandai Nature was one of the key supporters of the World Wildlife Day Regional Youth Symposium organised by National Parks Board Youth Stewards for Nature. Mandai Nature also conducted a workshop on 5 March as part of the symposium's programme line up where participants had the opportunity to gain insights into how conservation assessment and planning is carried out by the IUCN SSC Centre for Species Survival: Southeast Asia. 40 young conservationists took part in this workshop and learned about the principles behind facilitating conservation planning exercises for Southeast Asia's threatened species.

Communicate:

- Mandai Nature continues to use social media channels such as Facebook and LinkedIn to bring attention to conservation efforts for threatened species in the region. These included posts on [National Bird Day](#) and [Love Hornbills Day](#) to spotlight our conservation partners' ongoing work in the field in tackling the illegal songbird trade in the region and our contributions to developing a strategy for hornbill conservation, as members of the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group.
- Mandai Nature and ASAP participated in the joint social media campaign for the inaugural [Reverse the Red day](#) on 7 February, with a post highlighting our contributions in the areas of assessment, planning and action for threatened species in Southeast Asia.



Giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) VU.
Photo © Fabiana Lopes Rocha

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