



The IUCN Species Survival Commission
QUARTERLY REPORT / SEPTEMBER 2025

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Cover Photo:

Southern giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa*) in desert of Namibia VU.
Photo © Michael Brown

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IUCN Species Survival Commission



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Executive Summary

The September 2025 quarterly report for the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is the 35th issue in a series launched in March 2017. These documents have provided the space for timely advances of the work and evolution of the Chair's Office and the Commission in general. If one reviews the collection, you will find articles from the network and beyond, as well as thought-provoking pieces that raise controversial issues or spark a discussion. Our quarterly reports tell the story of SSC between 2017 and 2025, a story with numerous stakeholders. As the outgoing SSC Chair's Office team, we express our deep gratitude to all SSC members and leaders, to our supportive and devoted Steering Committee, our profoundly committed partners, donor organizations, and Centers for Species Survival, the other six IUCN Commissions, and our colleagues at the Secretariat, who support us in so many fundamental ways. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you all. Much success to the next Chair's Office team, which will take over around 15 October 2025. We look forward to an SSC that will continue to grow and expand, especially in those regions, taxonomic groups and disciplines, where the network is still underrepresented.

Highlights during the last three months include significant progress in expanding the global SSC network, strengthening partnerships, and advancing key conservation initiatives. The report emphasizes SSC's commitment to leveraging a diverse community of experts to drive effective, science-based action.

A central theme is the remarkable growth and diversification of the SSC network. Since 2017, the total membership has increased by over 50% to 11,388 experts, while the number of specialist groups has grown by more than 39% to 208. The network has become more inclusive, with a notable increase in younger members and women in leadership positions. Regional representation has also shifted, with South and East Asia now the second-largest constituency. A major innovation is the creation of National Species Specialist Groups (NSSG), with 12 currently established, designed to foster local action and empower emerging talent.

The report also underscores the power of partnerships. The SSC continues to strengthen its collaborative ethos, working with organizations like the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) to integrate *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation efforts. A key example is the "Reverse the Red" movement, now in its fifth year, which has successfully mobilized a global coalition to shift the narrative from biodiversity loss to species recovery. The movement is celebrating its progress and inviting more groups to join its initiatives.

Key scientific and policy achievements from this quarter include a pivotal taxonomic review by the Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group, which concluded that giraffes are four distinct species, not one. This finding will inform species-specific conservation strategies and elevate the urgency for more

threatened taxa. Additionally, a global workshop for migratory freshwater fish led to the identification of species for potential listing under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). In a notable intervention, the Bear Specialist Group provided recommendations to the Romanian government on mitigating human-bear conflicts through non-lethal measures and public education. The SSC is also enhancing its digital platforms to allow members to more easily showcase their conservation work.

Resumen ejecutivo

El informe trimestral de septiembre de 2025 de la Comisión para la Supervivencia de Especies (CSE) de la UICN es el número 35 de una serie iniciada en marzo de 2017. Estos documentos han proporcionado un espacio para dar a conocer oportunamente los avances en la labor y la evolución de la Oficina del Presidente y de la Comisión en general. Si se revisa la colección, se encontrarán artículos de la red y de otras fuentes, así como piezas que invitan a la reflexión, plantean temas controversiales o suscitan debate. Nuestros informes trimestrales cuentan la historia de la CSE entre 2017 y 2025, una historia con numerosas partes interesadas. Como equipo saliente de la Oficina del Presidente de la CSE, expresamos nuestro profundo agradecimiento a todos los miembros y líderes de la CSE, a nuestro Comité Directivo, que nos ha brindado su apoyo y dedicación, a nuestros socios profundamente comprometidos, a las organizaciones donantes y a los Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies, así como a las otras seis Comisiones de la UICN y a nuestros colegas de la Secretaría, que nos han apoyado de diversas maneras fundamentales. Ha sido un honor y un placer trabajar con todos ustedes. Deseamos mucho éxito al próximo equipo de la Oficina del Presidente, que asumirá el cargo alrededor del 15 de octubre de 2025. Esperamos que la CSE siga creciendo y expandiéndose, especialmente en aquellas regiones, grupos taxonómicos y disciplinas en las que la red aún está subrepresentada.

Entre los aspectos más destacados de los últimos tres meses se incluyen avances significativos en la expansión de la red global de la CSE, el fortalecimiento de las alianzas y el avance de iniciativas clave de conservación. El informe hace hincapié en el compromiso de la CSE de aprovechar una comunidad diversa de expertos para impulsar acciones eficaces y basadas en la ciencia.

Un tema central es el notable crecimiento y diversificación de la red de la CSE. Desde 2017, el número total de miembros ha aumentado en más de un 50%, hasta alcanzar los 11,388 expertos, mientras que el número de grupos de especialistas ha crecido en más de un 39%, hasta alcanzar los 208. La red se ha vuelto más inclusiva, con un notable aumento de miembros más jóvenes y mujeres en puestos de liderazgo. La representación regional también ha cambiado, y el sur y el este de Asia son ahora la segunda circunscripción más grande. Una innovación importante es la creación de Grupos Nacionales de Especialistas en Especies (NSSG, por sus siglas en inglés), de los que actualmente hay 12 establecidos, diseñados para fomentar la acción local y empoderar a los talentos emergentes.

El informe también subraya el poder de las asociaciones. La CSE sigue reforzando su espíritu de colaboración, trabajando con organizaciones como la Asociación Mundial de Zoológicos y Acuarios (WAZA, por sus siglas en inglés) para integrar los esfuerzos de conservación *in situ* y *ex situ*. Un ejemplo clave es el movimiento «Reverse the Red», que ya cumple cinco años y ha logrado movilizar una coalición mundial para cambiar el discurso de la pérdida de biodiversidad al de la recuperación de especies. El movimiento celebra sus avances e invita a más grupos a unirse a sus iniciativas.

Entre los principales logros científicos y políticos de este trimestre se encuentra una revisión taxonómica fundamental realizada por el Grupo de Especialistas en Jirafas y Okapis, que concluyó que las jirafas son cuatro especies distintas, y no una sola. Este hallazgo servirá de base para las estrategias de conservación específicas de cada especie y aumentará la urgencia de proteger a los taxones más amenazados. Además, un taller global sobre peces migratorios de agua dulce permitió identificar especies que podrían incluirse en la Convención sobre las Especies Migratorias (CMS). En una intervención notable, el Grupo de Especialistas en Osos proporcionó recomendaciones al Gobierno rumano sobre la mitigación de los conflictos entre humanos y osos mediante medidas no letales y la educación pública. La CSE también está mejorando sus plataformas digitales para que sus miembros puedan mostrar más fácilmente su labor de conservación.

Résumé

Le rapport trimestriel de septembre 2025 de la Commission de la Sauvegarde des Espèces (CSE) de l'UICN est le 35e numéro d'une série lancée en mars 2017. Ces documents ont permis de rendre compte en temps utile des progrès réalisés et de l'évolution du bureau du président et de la commission en général. Si vous consultez la collection, vous trouverez des articles provenant du réseau et d'ailleurs, ainsi que des articles qui suscitent la réflexion, soulèvent des questions controversées ou déclenchent des discussions. Nos rapports trimestriels racontent l'histoire de la CSE entre 2017 et 2025, une histoire qui implique de nombreux acteurs. En tant qu'équipe sortante du Bureau du Président de la CSE, nous exprimons notre profonde gratitude à tous les membres et dirigeants de la CSE, à notre Comité directeur qui nous a apporté son soutien et son dévouement, à nos partenaires profondément engagés, aux organisations donatrices et aux Centres pour la survie des espèces, aux six autres commissions de l'UICN et à nos collègues du Secrétariat, qui nous ont apporté un soutien fondamental à bien des égards. Ce fut un honneur et un plaisir de travailler avec vous tous. Nous souhaitons beaucoup de succès à la prochaine équipe du Bureau du Président, qui prendra la relève vers le 15 octobre 2025. Nous nous réjouissons à l'idée que la CSE continue de croître et de s'étendre, en particulier dans les régions, les groupes taxonomiques et les disciplines où le réseau est encore sous-représenté.

Au cours des trois derniers mois, les faits marquants ont été notamment les progrès significatifs réalisés dans l'expansion du réseau mondial de la CSE, le renforcement des partenariats et l'avancement d'initiatives clés en matière de conservation. Le rapport souligne l'engagement de la CSE à tirer parti d'une communauté diversifiée d'experts pour mener des actions efficaces et fondées sur la science.

L'un des thèmes centraux est la croissance et la diversification remarquables du réseau de la CSE. Depuis 2017, le nombre total de membres a augmenté de plus de 50 % pour atteindre 11 388 experts, tandis que le nombre de groupes de spécialistes a augmenté de plus de 39 % pour atteindre 208. Le réseau est devenu plus inclusif, avec une augmentation notable du nombre de jeunes membres et de femmes occupant des postes de direction. La représentation régionale a également changé, l'Asie du Sud et de l'Est étant désormais la deuxième circonscription en importance. Une innovation majeure est la création de groupes nationaux de spécialistes des espèces (NSSG), dont 12 sont actuellement établis, destinés à encourager l'action locale et à donner les moyens d'agir aux talents émergents.

Le rapport souligne également le pouvoir des partenariats. La CSE continue de renforcer son esprit de collaboration, en travaillant avec des organisations telles que l'Association mondiale des zoos et aquariums (WAZA) afin d'intégrer les efforts de conservation in situ et ex situ. Un exemple clé est le mouvement « Reverse the Red », qui en est maintenant à sa cinquième année et qui a réussi à

mobiliser une coalition mondiale pour faire passer le discours de la perte de biodiversité à celui du rétablissement des espèces. Le mouvement célèbre ses progrès et invite davantage de groupes à se joindre à ses initiatives.

Parmi les principales réalisations scientifiques et politiques de ce trimestre, citons une révision taxonomique cruciale menée par le Groupe de spécialistes des girafes et des okapis, qui a conclu que les girafes constituent quatre espèces distinctes, et non une seule. Cette conclusion permettra d'élaborer des stratégies de conservation spécifiques à chaque espèce et de souligner l'urgence d'agir pour les taxons les plus menacés. En outre, un atelier mondial sur les poissons migrateurs d'eau douce a permis d'identifier les espèces susceptibles d'être inscrites à la Convention sur les espèces migratrices (CMS). Dans le cadre d'une intervention remarquable, le Groupe de spécialistes des ours a formulé des recommandations à l'intention du gouvernement roumain afin d'atténuer les conflits entre les humains et les ours grâce à des mesures non létales et à l'éducation du public. La CSE améliore également ses plateformes numériques afin de permettre à ses membres de présenter plus facilement leurs travaux de conservation.

Recent activities

July - September 2025



CONFERENCES

Where the SSC chair's office team attended and delivered a lecture.



MEETINGS

Where the SSC chair's office team participated without making a presentation.



INTERVENTIONS

Letters sent to Governments or Companies to propose actions for species and habitats under threat.



Conferences, meetings and Intervention letters

(Jon Paul Rodríguez, JPR; Rima Jabado, RJ; Kira Mileham, KM; Nahomy De Andrade, NDA; Edgard Yerena, EY; Levi Mendoza, LM; Jafet Nassar, JN; Liliana Medina-Toro, LMT; Mayerlin Ramos, MR; Milangela Dell'Aquila, MDA; Lila García, LG, Nicole Duplaix, ND)

Conferences

- El multifacético Murciélago Cardonero (*Leptonycteris curasoae*): amante de flores, viajero, sex symbol perfumado y hospedero de parásitos mortales. *XVI Taller Nacional del Programa para la Conservación de los Murciélagos de Argentina (PCMA)*, Taji Viejo, Tucumán, Argentina, 15 August 2025. (JN)
- Inaugural conference of the *Scientific Conference “LV Anniversary of the Ecology Center of IVIC”*, Centro de Ecología, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Altos de Pipe, Caracas, Venezuela. 15 September 2025. (JN)
- Effect of cave closure with iron wires on the entry and exit of bats on the island of Bonaire. *Scientific Conference “LV Anniversary of the Ecology Center of IVIC”*, Centro de Ecología, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Altos de Pipe, Caracas, Venezuela. 15 September 2025. (JN)
- *Ex situ* management as a tool in support of the conservation of threatened species. *Scientific Conference “LV Anniversary of the Ecology Center of IVIC”*, Centro de Ecología, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Altos de Pipe, Caracas, Venezuela. 16 September 2025. (JPR)

Meetings

- *Q&A with SSC Chair and team*, on-line meeting with SSC Leaders. Caracas, Venezuela, 30 July 2025. (JPR, RJ, KM, NDA, EY, LM, JN, LMT, MR, MDA, LG, ND)
- *Partnership coordination meeting: IUCN Species Survival Commission and Global Center for Species Survival*, Indianapolis Zoo, USA, 11-12 August 2025. (JPR)
- *Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation*, Washington, DC, USA, 8-10 September 2025. (JPR)

Intervention letters

SSC Bear Specialist Group Recommendations for Mitigating Human-Bear Conflicts on the Transfăgărașan National Road, Romania.

On 26 July 2025, the SSC Bear Specialist Group (BSG) addressed a letter to Diana Buzoianu, Romania's Minister of Environment, regarding a human fatality caused by a bear on the Transfăgărașan National Road, one of Romania's most iconic and high-traffic tourist destinations in the Carpathian region. The problem centers on escalating human-bear conflicts, exemplified by this recent tragedy, where an Italian tourist was killed by a female brown bear with cubs, leading to the bear's subsequent killing by authorities. This event, witnessed by bystanders who sent letters expressing strong negative perceptions of the Romanian Gendarmerie's intervention—describing it as mishandled and contributing to broader mistrust—highlights deeper issues: intentional feeding of bears to boost

tourism and hunting has created food-conditioned and human-habituated bears that fearlessly approach people, increasing local bear densities and incidents in this popular area. The key request is for the Romanian government to implement evidence-based, low-cost measures to prevent future conflicts and improve human safety, bear conservation, and public perceptions: (1) install bear-proof waste disposal systems in parking areas and tourist spots to limit access to human food; (2) boost Gendarmerie patrols during peak tourist months to enforce penalties against intentional feeding; (3) use non-lethal deterrence techniques like hazing, rubber bullets, and pepper spray as short-term tools; and (4) enhance transparent public communication to curb misinformation and panic. The BSG extends an offer to share its international credibility as a resource for authorities, invites collaboration through consultation to jointly develop and advance solutions, and stands ready to support timely, thoughtful actions rooted in scientific knowledge and proven experience. This partnership can help safeguard humans and wildlife from harm, foster positive public perceptions, and enable a coordinated, sustained effort to address and reverse bear habituation.



Photo © IUCN

Species Journey at WCC

Liliana Medina-Toro and Nahomy De Andrade

IUCN Species Survival Commission

Species are protagonists when nature comes into the conversation. Whether your perception of human relatedness with nature identifies you as part of nature or as a different entity, species play a significant role for human wellbeing. In this sense, to expose the work developed on species conservation is key to acknowledging interlinkages of human and biodiversity, and halt species extinctions.

To acknowledge the need of thinking and talking about species as different kinds of organisms (animals, fungi, plants, and microbes), their contributions to human wellbeing, and the impact of human actions on them is vital to continue working towards our vision “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Roadmap for Species Conservation

It has been a long work raising international awareness about the importance of species conservation. During the last 9-years we witnessed key achievements that acknowledge the evolution of the work developed within the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SCC) and outside our Groups. These milestones are guiding the roadmap for species conservation:

2017 - Established in the IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2017-2020, the Species Conservation Cycle represents the conceptual framework for the Network's activities. Its main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components (Assess, Plan, Act) that are linked to each other.

2019 - The Abu Dhabi Call for Global Species Conservation Action

2022 - After a four-year process of consultation and negotiations, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2023 - The Global Species Action Plan (GSAP) was developed to support implementation of the GBF by setting out the key strategic interventions and actions required to achieve successful outcomes for the conservation and sustainable use of species for each of the GBF Targets.

2024 - The Saving Species Sustains Life's declaration was launched at the 5th SSC Leaders' Meeting. Conservationists reaffirmed the critical link between biodiversity and human well-being, calling for collective action. With the support of global communities and leaders, the declaration states it is possible to halt extinctions, reverse declines, and create a sustainable future.

Raise the voice for Species Conservation

The Species Journey is aligned with the GSAP's strategic intervention "Communicate the value of species and the importance of their conservation and sustainable use to all audiences" through the promotion of the initiatives developed at the IUCN Congress on species conservation.

Our objectives

- Raise species into conversations as a key indicator for land and marine conservation.
- Highlight species contribution to human wellbeing and its influence on human connectedness to nature.
- Support the visibility of initiatives from Specialist Groups, partners, donors, allies, and friends.
- Celebrate the achievements in species conservation.

Be part of the Species Journey

More than 50 sessions will be part of the Species Journey. Just as a preamble, we would like to highlight a few of them (all sessions are shown in local time):

Forum sessions

- Shaping resilience, scaling impact - Oct, 9, 11:30 - Hall 4A: Forum - Session Room 1.
- New technologies to accelerate the transformative impact of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - Oct, 9, 16:00 - Hall 4C: Forum - Session Room 3.
- Lost from Nature, Saving Extinct in the Wild Species - Oct, 10, 16:00 - CR A-A-Session Room 7.
- Saving Fungi: Conservation Strategies for Earth's Hidden Kingdom - Oct, 11, 08:30 - CR B: Forum - Session Room 11.
- Empowering countries to meet their GBF targets - the Global Amphibian Coalition case study - Oct, 11, 16:30 - Virtual Channel 2.
- What is the road towards a standardized, accessible, inclusive assessment approach for conserving genetic diversity? - Oct, 12, 11:30 - Forum - Arena.

Pavilion Sessions

- Scaling up Inclusive Species Conservation in a Changing World: Celebrating Successes and Exploring Opportunities - Oct, 9, 12:00 - IUCN Africa Pavilion.
- Commissions support to national governments - Oct, 9, 18:00 - IUCN Commissions Knowledge Hub.
- Towards integrated conservation actions for freshwater and tree species - Oct, 11, 19:00 - Reverse the Red Pavilion.
- Global Tree Assessment - identification of conservation priorities of trees in the Americas - Oct, 13, 11:00 - IUCN Americas Pavillion.
- Overcoming the biodiversity paradox - Oct, 13, 14:00 - IUCN Commissions Knowledge Hub.

Stay tuned and help us spread the word on the Species Journey before and during Congress.

You can also find information about all the Species Journey [here](#).



SSC members by Environment Agency.
Photo © Abu Dhabi (EAD)

State of the SSC Network

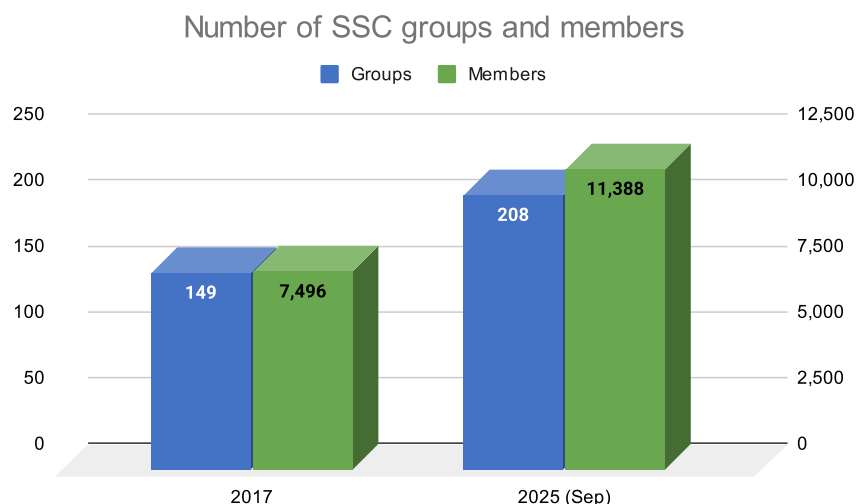
A look at the diversity of SSC membership and its evolution in the last nine years

Nahomy De Andrade, Milangela Dell'Aquila and Edgard Yerena

IUCN Species Survival Commission

As we approach the end of the quadrennium and nine years under the leadership of Jon Paul Rodríguez, it's a fitting moment to reflect on the remarkable transformation of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The growth we've witnessed since 2017 is a testament to the collective dedication and passion of our global conservation community. Below, we explore the changes in our membership diversity and how it has evolved since 2017.

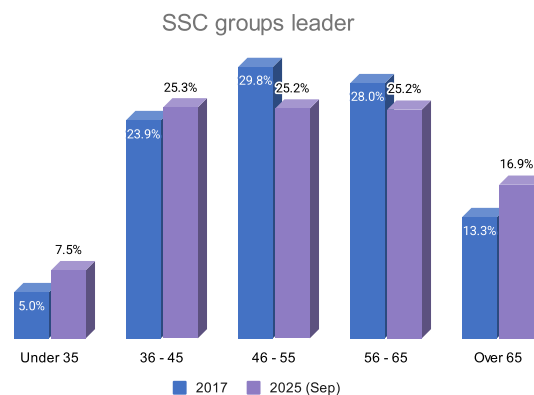
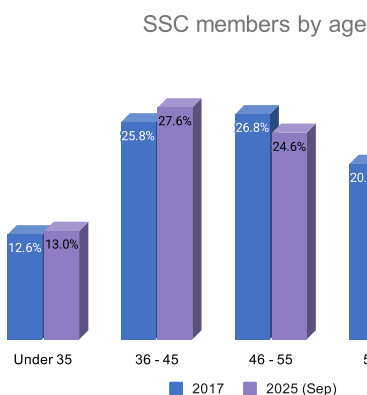
In 2017, a year of significant transition, the SSC network had 7,496 registered members across 149 Specialist Groups, Task Forces, Stand-alone Red List Authorities and Committees. Today, our network is more expansive than ever before. We have grown to 11,388 experts, organized in 208 SSC groups, as follows: 171 Specialist Groups, 13 Task Forces, 15 Stand-alone Red List Authorities, 7 Conservation Committees, and 2 action partnerships. This represents a substantial increase of over 50% in membership and more than a 39% increase in the number of groups since 2017. These numbers reflect not just growth, but a profound expansion of our global reach and expertise that has now representation in almost every country of the world.



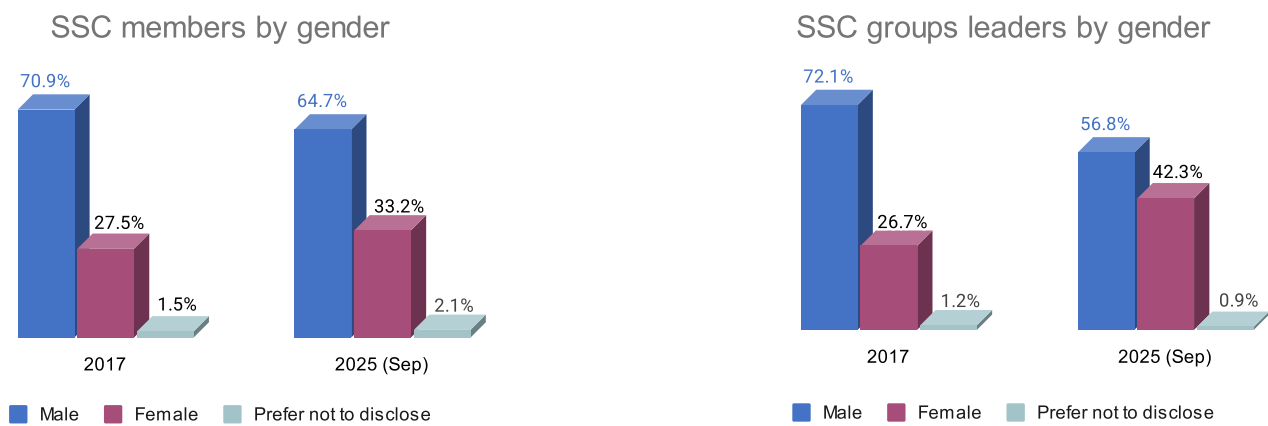
A pivotal innovation since 2022 has been the creation of National Species Specialist Groups (NSSG), a new model for enhancing SSC's impact at the country level. These groups are designed to bring together the critical mass of SSC expertise within a nation, fostering collaboration and directly influencing evidence-based conservation policy. NSSGs play a vital role by driving local action, empowering emerging talent (offering a more accessible entry point for young professionals), and fostering inclusivity by operating in native languages.

Since its creation, the NSSG network has expanded rapidly. Currently, there are 12 established groups, including Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, and Venezuela, and there is work in progress to develop them in Sudan, Pacific Islands, Brazil, Ireland and Argentina.

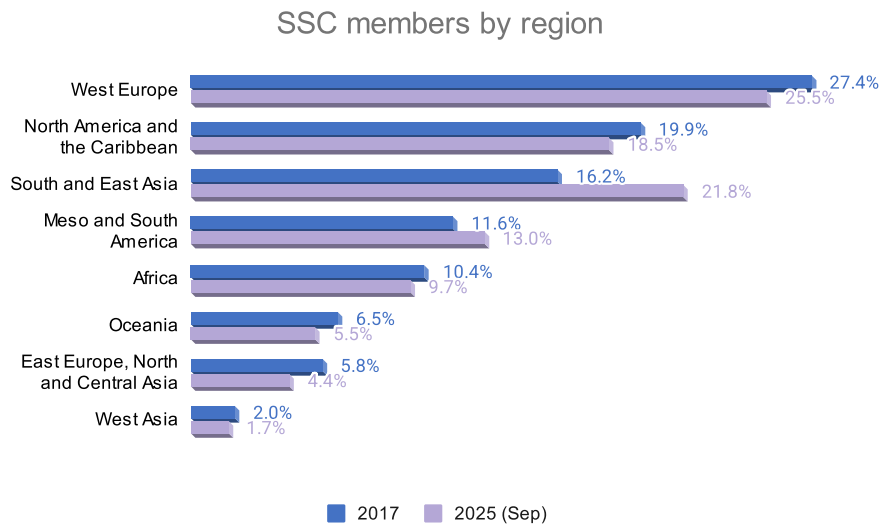
When we look at the distribution of our membership by age we can see a slight shift to younger age classes both within all SSC members and among SSC Leaders (which include +500 people). In both figures below, the purple bars (2025) are taller or the same size as the blue bars (2017) for the two lower age classes.



Improving gender balance has been also 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 (Chairs, Co-chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators or Programme Officers), with more than 15% women in leadership positions for a total of 42.3% by September 2025.



The SSC network has shifted its regional balance too. The most notable change is the significant proportional increase in South and East Asia, which grew from 16.2% to 21.8%, becoming the second-largest regional group. While West Europe saw a slight proportional decline, it remains the largest constituency, while Meso and South America, experienced small proportional increases. North America and the Caribbean, Africa, Oceania, East Europe, North and Central Asia, and West Asia are all slightly smaller in 2025 than in 2017.



The SSC Chair’s Office team has also grown significantly since 2017. What began with five staff members has evolved into a dedicated team of twelve professionals covering key areas like network support, monitoring and evaluation, partnerships, communication, and administration. This growth is just part of the story. A true game-

changer has been the development of our global partnership model. We now have 32 Centers for Species Survival (CSS) in 21 countries. These centers employ nearly 70 staff members and contribute more than US\$5 million annually in in-kind support. This remarkable expansion has tripled our capacity to respond to the needs of the network, providing enhanced support for assessment, planning, and action.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion remain crucial to the strength and effectiveness of the SSC. While we have made significant progress, there is still important work to be done in balancing our membership. SSC leaders play a fundamental role in shaping the future of the SSC. We encourage you to use the start of the new quadrennium as a fresh opportunity to prioritize diversity in your strategic efforts. Thank you to all the Chairs who have already been working actively to make this happen, your efforts are vital to our success.



A herd of northern giraffe in Uganda's Kidepo Valley National Park.
Photo © Michael Brown

Rethinking the Giraffe: Four Species, Not One

Michael Brown

Co-Chair, Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group

For more than a century, scientists have debated how many giraffe species occur across Africa. Different researchers proposed taxonomic schemes ranging from one to eleven species. Now, after a comprehensive review by the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group (GOSG), that simple picture has been replaced with something much richer: giraffes are not one species at all, but four. This conclusion comes from the most thorough taxonomic review ever carried out for giraffes, drawing on decades of work by geneticists, morphologists, and field ecologists. Recognizing multiple species has far-reaching consequences for conservation, policy, and the survival of some of Africa's most iconic animals.

The Process: A Collaborative Review

In late 2024, the GOSG convened a Taxonomic Task Force to answer a deceptively simple question: how many species of giraffe are there? The group brought together experts from across disciplines to weigh the evidence. Reviewing taxonomic evidence is not unique to giraffes, and the GOSG Taxonomic Task Force adapted taxonomic decision-making processes from the Canid Specialist Group and Felid Specialist Group. Rather than relying on one type of data, the task force used an **integrative approach**. They examined:

- **Genetics:** Giraffes are among the most genetically well-studied large mammals in Africa. Multiple independent

studies of both mitochondrial and nuclear DNA show deep, long-standing separation among lineages. These genetic differences are as strong as—or stronger than—those that distinguish many other well-accepted mammal species.

- **Morphology:** Researchers also looked at skull and bone shape, especially ossicones, which vary subtly between populations. While not always obvious to the casual observer, these differences add another layer of evidence.
- **Biogeography:** Finally, the task force considered Africa's geography. Major rivers, rift valleys, deserts, and woodlands have long separated giraffe populations, creating natural barriers that limited interbreeding and encouraged independent evolutionary paths.

To bring all this evidence together, the team applied a “**traffic light**” system. Each proposed taxon was scored green (strong evidence), yellow (mixed), or red (weak). Four lineages consistently scored green across multiple categories, while others showed some distinct features but not enough to be recognized as full species.

The Outcomes: Four Distinct Species

The review supports four species of giraffe:

- **Northern giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)** – Found in scattered populations from Niger across parts of Central and East Africa.
- **Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*)** – Live mainly in northern Kenya, with small populations in Ethiopia and Somalia.
- **Masai giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi*)** – Ranging across Tanzania, southern Kenya, and Zambia.
- **Southern giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa*)** – The most widespread, occurring in Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and most of southern Africa.

The Implications: Why It Matters

Why does it matter whether giraffes are one species or four? Because conservation depends on accurate taxonomy. When all giraffes were treated as a single species, with more than 100,000 individuals, they seemed relatively secure, with a Red List Assessment of Vulnerable. But when you divide that number across four species, a different picture emerges. Some species—like the southern giraffe—still have healthy numbers. Others, like the northern giraffe, are among the most endangered large mammals in Africa, with fewer than 10,000 left in the wild. Without recognizing these as separate species, the narrative of urgency for their conservation status could be diluted with the abundance trends of other taxa.

In practice, this means:

- **Conservation Planning:** Species-specific strategies can now be designed to address the unique threats each giraffe faces, from poaching to habitat loss to conflict.

- **Policy and Protection:** International agreements and legal protections often apply at the species level. Recognizing four species can help ensure the most threatened giraffes receive the strongest safeguards.
- **Awareness and Funding:** Conservation resources are limited. Species recognition can elevate visibility and channel funding where it is most needed.

The Next Steps: From Taxonomy to Action

The taxonomy review is not the end of the story. Each of the four species will now be reassessed for the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**. That process will require updated population surveys, threat assessments, and expert consultations across Africa. The Red List reassessments will take time, but they are critical for shaping conservation priorities in the years ahead.

The GOSG also plans to keep its **Taxonomic Task Force as a standing group**, ensuring that new discoveries—whether from genomic data, morphology, or field studies—can be reviewed quickly and transparently. Taxonomy is not static. As methods evolve and new data emerge, so too will our understanding of giraffe diversity change.

A Living Science

At its core, taxonomy is about understanding life's diversity and how species evolve. For giraffes, that understanding has shifted dramatically in the past decade. What once looked like a single, uniform species is now recognized as four lineages that have been evolving independently for hundreds of thousands of years. This is more than an academic distinction. It's a reminder that conservation must be as diverse as the animals it seeks to protect. By recognizing giraffes for what science suggests they truly are—four species with different stories and challenges—we give them a better chance to survive and thrive in the wild.



Global Workshop at Lake Tahoe

Advances Protection of Migratory Freshwater Fish and Launches Key Conservation Initiatives

Monika Böhm

Global Center for Species Survival

Leading scientists, conservationists, and policy experts from five continents, including members of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Freshwater Fish Specialist Group, SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee and the SSC Global Center for Species Survival hosted by the Indianapolis Zoo, convened at the University of Nevada, Reno at Lake Tahoe for a high-level meeting to advance international efforts to protect migratory freshwater fish and the ecosystems they depend on.

The *Migratory Fish and Global Swimways Workshop* was held from July 15–17 at the University of Nevada, Reno at Lake Tahoe, and produced a set of tangible outcomes that will directly inform global conservation efforts—including preparations for the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Brazil in 2026.

Freshwater migratory fishes are in trouble and highly threatened, mainly due to loss in freshwater (especially river) connectivity: globally, only 37% of rivers longer than 1,000 km remain free-flowing, and key biodiversity hotspots such as the Amazon, Mekong, and Congo basins are subject to hydropower expansion. The CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats – however, the number

of freshwater fishes listed on the CMS appendices is still very low compared to other species such as birds or mammals.

Outputs from the Lake Tahoe workshop are hopefully going to change this. One key achievement of the meeting included the identification of migratory freshwater fish species that meet the criteria for CMS listing. Sharing these lists can help parties to the Convention propose additional species for listing on the CMS appendices. Additionally, participants at the meeting identified globally significant migration corridors for threatened and culturally significant fish species, such as the Mekong, Danube, Amazon and the Mississippi and committed to contribute a chapter on freshwater fish to the *UN Atlas of Animal Migration*, a global initiative mapping the world's most important migratory routes; and highlighted the importance of IUCN Green Status assessments to support migratory fish conservation, with a commitment to produce such assessments for a select number of species in the coming year.

Participants also worked on and further committed to several coordinated outputs: a report to CMS and COP15; a peer-reviewed scientific paper on freshwater fish migrations; a public-facing global database of migratory freshwater fish; an analysis of challenges and opportunities in engaging with international policy frameworks; and a suite of educational and outreach materials designed to raise awareness of freshwater biodiversity.

In addition to several attendees being members of SSC groups, the workshop brought together experts from the UN CMS Secretariat, World Wildlife Fund, the Global Center for Species Survival, Shedd Aquarium, Cornell University, University of Tennessee, the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, alongside faculty and students from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Tahoe Institute for Global Sustainability and PlusFish Philanthropy made this important meeting possible.

SSC DATA

SSC DATA and Contribution for Nature platforms work together to showcase your conservation work

Levi Mendoza, Jafet Nassar and Lila García

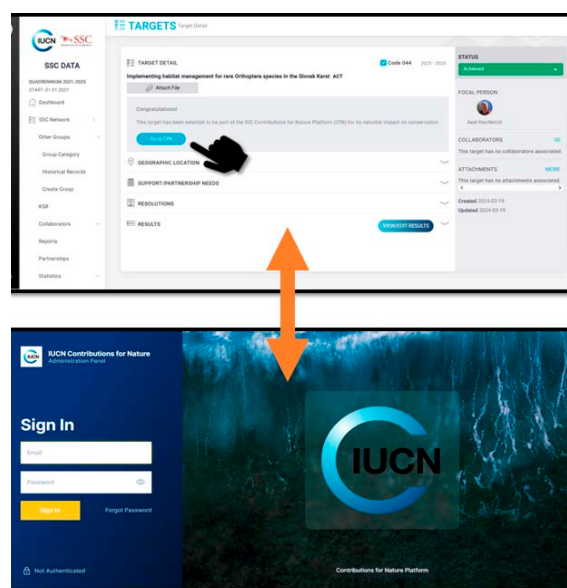
IUCN Species Survival Commission

The IUCN Contributions for Nature Platform (CfN) is a digital tool developed by the IUCN to track and showcase conservation and restoration efforts worldwide. You, as a member of the SSC Network, have access to this platform to document the actions conducted by your SSC Group. In that way, you will be part of the global statistics of contributions to global biodiversity and climate goals.

Now, the IUCN Secretariat and the Species Survival Commission are joining efforts to generate a function hosted in SSC DATA that allows sharing conservation actions related to targets under the ACT component. This innovation will allow the CfN platform to provide worldwide visibility to your conservation work.

The new development in the SSC DATA system will be under a testing period between August and September of this year. Several SSC Groups are helping us in this process. If you want to contribute as a tester group, please contact us to sscdata@ssc.iucn.org

We plan to launch this data sharing function during the celebration of the WCC 2025, in Abu Dhabi; just in time to make it available to all the SSC members for the 2026-2029 quadrennium.





SSC partners
Photo © Lilia García / SSC

The Power of Partnerships: Collaboration Ethos of SSC

Kira Mileham, Mayerlin Ramos and Jon Paul Rodríguez

IUCN Species Survival Commission

As a network of volunteers, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) represents more than 11,500 experts from over 180 countries and more than 200 groups, who contribute their time, knowledge, and passion to the mission of conserving species. This is simultaneously SSC's greatest strength and one of its greatest challenges. To truly leverage such a vast network, SSC must provide resources, platforms, and institutional support. Partnerships have transformed the efforts of our volunteer experts into scalable, measurable, collective impact for species. It is within this context that SSC has embraced a robust ethos of partnership — one built on conviction, integrity, shared purpose, and mutual benefits.

A Legacy of Partnership: From Foundations to a Global Network

SSC has, since its inception in 1949, recognised the power of collaboration to drive conservation forward. From the earliest years, SSC Specialist Groups formed enduring alliances with NGOs, academic institutions, government agencies, zoos, aquariums, and botanical gardens, allowing experts across partnerships to combine taxonomic knowledge with practical conservation tools and actions.

Over time, these informal collaborations evolved into more structured partnerships, particularly during the expansion of Red List assessments in the 1980s and 1990s, when relationships with BirdLife International, Conservation International, and the Zoological Society of London helped pioneer methods for evaluating extinction risk. This alliance grew into today's [Red List Partnership](#), which continues to drive and govern The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, supporting the assessment of tens of thousands of species, turning data into decisions that shape conservation priorities worldwide. Similarly, the [Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership](#) has allowed us to expand

beyond species to sites, creating a globally recognised standard for identifying and conserving the places most critical to life on Earth.

While these global partnerships established the foundations for identifying species and places most in need of protection, groups like the Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), through its science-based methods, facilitation expertise, and tools for designing effective and collaborative conservation plans, continuously promote partnerships and tools for effective species recovery.

Some partnerships endure not only because of their outputs, but because of the relationships of trust and shared vision behind them. SSC's long-standing collaboration with the *Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi* is one such example. For nearly two decades, their steadfast support has powered many key SSC efforts, from the SSC Leader's Meetings to critical support for the SSC Chair's Office, support to the IUCN Programme, many species and thematic action plans, to the focused support of flagship initiatives such as the Global Reintroduction Perspectives.

Our collaboration with the *World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)*, and with many of the world's leading zoos and aquariums, has also proven invaluable. These relationships continue to evolve to unite our complementary strengths across *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation expertise and efforts. Many partnerships have provided longstanding support to the SSC Chair's Office or Specialist Groups through shared expertise, funding, institutional hosting, program officer or other staff support, journal editorial hubs, workshop convening, joint field work, policy interventions, and so much more.

The launch of the *Centers for Species Survival* model in 2015 marked a new chapter — one which was built on a scalable model for long-term institutional hosts around the world to become homes and operational bases for SSC's expert networks. SSC modelled this strategy on a suite of effective partnerships across the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) Community – with Chester Zoo, Bristol Zoo and the Zoological Society of London.

Moving beyond Program Officer or Specialist Group hosting, each Center for Species Survival represents a long-term commitment by a host institution to hire full-time staff who work hand in hand with SSC Specialist Groups to accelerate impact across shared priorities in assessment, planning, action, networking and communication. These Centers are not symbolic affiliations but functionally integrated partnerships rooted in mutual goals: to accelerate conservation action and enable science to inform decision-making at every level.

The first Centers for Species Survival were established between 2015 and 2018, codesigned with and hosted by The Deep Aquarium – UK, Oceanario de Lisboa – Portugal, New Mexico Biopark Society – USA, Georgia Aquarium – USA and Parque das Aves – Brazil. In 2019 the model scaled with the establishment of the Global Center for Species Survival, created together with the Indianapolis Zoological Society – USA. This Global Center mobilises a team of nine staff providing broad support across all taxonomic SSC Groups. The CSS partnership model has continued to grow at a rapid but manageable pace. We have now welcomed 32 CSS partnerships across 21 countries, who collectively will employ almost 70 staff, with an estimated in-kind contribution of more than US\$ 5 million annually.



This timeline reflects dates when MoUs were signed

SSC is also driving international partnership networks for more effective support of species recovery at the national level towards achieving global species goals. In 2020, we convened and, along with WAZA, co-lead *Reverse the Red*, a movement and partnership platform designed to unite governments, NGOs, zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens and communities under a shared rallying call: to make conservation work and scale solutions for species and ecosystems. Reverse the Red has begun to shift the narrative—from despair about biodiversity loss to confidence that, with data, expertise, and collaborative action, we can indeed reverse biodiversity decline.

For Our Volunteer Groups: Catalysing Capacity, Building Momentum

Whether through the Center for Species Survival model, or other forms of partnerships, strategic alliances provide volunteer SSC groups with more than just logistical support. They unlock technical capacity, offer administrative stability, and expand access to field data, training opportunities, and communication platforms. Whether with academic and NGO partners, zoos and aquariums, corporate partners, or governments, partnerships enable SSC groups to focus on what they do best: *applying expertise to accelerate species conservation*.

Partnerships also empower SSC Groups to act at scale. By linking SSC expertise with implementation-oriented institutions, our volunteers can see their scientific assessments and recovery plans transformed into policy decisions, national action plans, and community-led conservation projects. This is not a dilution of scientific focus, it is the collaborative application of science to measurable, on the ground action for species.

For Our Partners: Access to the World's Leading Species Expertise

Our partners – from host institutions of Centers for Species Survival to universities, NGOs, government agencies, and private sector actors – benefit from affiliation with the world's most comprehensive and authoritative species expert network.

Whether advising on species reintroduction protocols, developing multi-stakeholder recovery plans under CPSG's One Plan Approach, or contributing to national biodiversity strategies or global policy platforms, SSC's evidence-based guidance strengthens credibility and effectiveness. Our IUCN Red List assessments and CPSG action plans are the gold standard and often underpin funding decisions, policies, and regulatory frameworks. For many partners, the SSC brand – backed by over six decades of conservation science and global convening power – enhances visibility, legitimacy, and access to global forums.

Partnerships with Integrity: A Matter of Principle

In an era where institutional alliances are frequently transactional, the SSC holds itself to a higher standard. We partner with integrity. This means aligning with organisations whose values, practices, and priorities reflect our own: commitment to evidence, transparency, equity, and a long-term vision for species survival.

We do not enter partnerships lightly. Each is carefully structured and managed to ensure mutual benefit, shared governance, aligned workplans and clarity of roles. We actively safeguard against conflicts of interest, and we are committed to upholding the independence and objectivity of SSC's scientific outputs.

Conclusion: Together for Species

SSC is deeply grateful to the many, varied committed partners that unite with us, across the network, in our shared mission of species survival.

Looking forward, our vision is not simply to expand the number of SSC partnerships, but to deepen their quality and enhance and measure their collective impact. The challenges facing species are too urgent and complex for siloed solutions. By investing in meaningful collaborations – whether through data platforms, institutional alliances, or bold movements like Reverse the Red –we will continue to transform the dedication of our network into the outcomes that matter most: healthier populations of species and thriving ecosystems worldwide.

The SSC partners because we must. Because the scale of the biodiversity crisis demands collaboration that is intelligent, principled, and purposeful. Because partnerships elevate the voices of our volunteers, provide practical support for scientific action, and extend the reach of our collective expertise. And because only together can we achieve what none of us can accomplish alone: a world where all species flourish.



The Decades-Long Conservation Trail: WAZA and IUCN SSC's Shared Path

Rosa Pons
WAZA

Kira Mileham
IUCN Species Survival Commission

For 90 years, WAZA has advanced species conservation. Since 1948, our journey with IUCN has united in situ and ex situ expertise, forging a shared trail to reverse biodiversity loss.

Setting the Scene - Two Valleys, One Summit

Ninety years ago, in 1935, the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG, now WAZA) began its journey. In 1948, WAZA became a founding member of IUCN. Two organisations set out from different valleys: IUCN focusing on protecting nature in the wild (*in situ*), WAZA working with animals under human care (*ex situ*). Slowly, they drew closer, linking their trails to tackle the steep climb ahead.

Their shared destination: reversing biodiversity loss by uniting global policy, field action, and leveraging the expertise of zoos and aquariums.

Trailhead - The Early Steps (1948–1960s)

In the early years, progress along the trail was slow. Zoos were rarely seen as conservation allies, their role often confined to display, not species recovery. IUCN recognised the need for a bridge and, in 1963, formed the Zoo Liaison Committee to connect zoos with wildlife departments, share breeding information, and strengthen conservation objectives. Although the committee folded a decade later, the path it began laid the groundwork for future collaboration.

First Waypoint - Building Trust (1970s–1980s)

By the mid-1970s, the conservation landscape was changing. In 1980, IUCN adopted its first policy on keeping wild animals in captivity, recognising the conservation value of scientifically managed zoos and recommending coordinated captive-breeding programmes for species survival.

That same year saw the creation of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG, now the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, CPSG), linking IUCN's species work directly to the *ex situ* expertise of WAZA's members. Through this collaboration came the conceptual frameworks and practical guidance for conservation-directed regional zoo collection planning, science-based *ex situ* population management and large-scale *ex situ* data sharing.

Species recoveries soon illustrated the power of this alliance. The Arabian oryx, once extinct in the wild, was bred in zoos and returned to Oman in the 1980s with CBSG guidance. Between 1984 and 2001, 146 captive-born golden lion tamarins were reintroduced to the wild in Brazil through one of the most internationally collaborative reintroduction programmes in history, involving 41 zoos across three continents.

Crossing the Gorge - From Parallel Paths to Collaboration (1990s)

By the 1990s, the two trails were converging. In 1993, WAZA and CBSG launched the *World Zoo Conservation Strategy*, the first comprehensive blueprint defining the global zoo and aquarium community's role in nature conservation.

Reintroduction projects, such as the return of Przewalski's horse (*Takhi*) to Mongolia after extinction in the wild, cemented the link. Today, more than 500 roam free, their conservation status improving from Extinct in the Wild to Endangered. These successes showed that *in situ* and *ex situ* collaboration could overcome the steepest conservation challenges.

Major Trail Junction - The MoU Era (2003 Onwards)

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CPSG and WAZA in 2003 formalised this partnership, creating a broader, better-marked route for cooperation. Joint actions included expanded integration with the IUCN Red List, application of reintroduction guidelines, and capacity building for zoos and aquariums worldwide.

From here, WAZA and SSC began walking side by side more deliberately, aligning their steps to strengthen the connection between field conservation and species management in human care.

A major milestone was the 2011 launch, by CPSG, of the [One Plan Approach](#) concept calling for the integration of

in situ and *ex situ* efforts in all species conservation planning. This drew attention to, and promoted world-wide, the vital role of zoos and aquariums in safeguarding biodiversity.

In 2014, through a partnership with WAZA Member, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), the SSC Chair's Office created a new full-time staff position focused on strengthening partnerships between the SSC and accredited zoos, aquariums and botanic gardens globally. This initiative sought to foster skill sharing between Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs) of WAZA, and WAZA Member Associations, with SSC Specialist Groups. The role also worked to establish institutional partnerships between SSC Groups and leading zoos and aquariums. These efforts grew into a much broader strategy, including an updated MoU with a vision to increase SSC's vocal support for the conservation roles of zoos and aquariums, to increase WAZA member participation in IUCN, and to strengthen collaboration across all levels of our shared conservation efforts. This collaboration has been further reinforced through reciprocal representation in each other's councils since 2016, ensuring shared priorities are reflected at the highest level of decision-making.

The High Pass - One Plan Approach & Species Recovery (2020–Present)

The trail reached one of its highest points in 2020, when at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, SSC and WAZA joined together to launch Reverse the Red, a partnership movement to drive optimism and action in reversing the species extinction risk showcased by the IUCN Red List. The same Congress also saw the adoption of *Resolution WCC-2020-Res-079*, urging the application of the One Plan Approach.

In 2023, the *SSC Position Statement on the Roles of Botanic Gardens, Aquariums and Zoos in Species Conservation* further affirmed *ex situ* institutions as essential, if often under-valued, conservation allies.

Also in 2023, IUCN introduced a new modified membership dues structure for 'venue-based organisations' to enable IUCN Membership to be more accessible for conservation-focused accredited zoos, aquariums and botanic gardens in recognition of the importance of these Members to the wider IUCN community.

By 2024, integration deepened with the addition of Species360's ZIMS data to the IUCN Red List offering -, for the first time, a unified view of populations in the wild and in human care. This reinforced the link between *in situ* and *ex situ* work, advancing progress towards species recovery.

The Summit View - Lessons from the Trail

After decades of shared steps, two lessons stand out.

- **Collaboration multiplies impact** – neither path alone could have achieved these recoveries.

- **Shared frameworks accelerate action** – alignment between *in situ* and *ex situ* efforts creates a stronger, faster route to species recovery.

The Future Path - Walking Together to 2030

Ahead lies the steepest climb yet. Climate change, habitat loss, and emerging diseases demand urgent, united action. Target 4 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework calls for halting human-induced extinctions, recovering and conserving species, protecting genetic diversity, and managing human-wildlife conflict by 2030.

To succeed, we must fully integrate *in situ* and *ex situ* strategies, applying every available tool, skill, and resource.

For nine decades, WAZA and IUCN have advanced together toward a thriving planet, taking important steps alongside governments, conservationists, and communities. Greater collective action is urgently needed, and we invite you to join us, so that together we can reach the summit of a sustainable future.



Reverse the Red: Five Years of Momentum, and a Future of Possibility

Megan Joyce

Reverse the Red

Kira Mileham

IUCN Species Survival Commission

Five years ago, while the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was being developed, the conservation community faced a sobering reality: despite decades of hard work, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets had not been met, and the world remained on a path of accelerating biodiversity loss. Species, in particular, were failing to receive the attention, government support or resourcing necessary to begin to reverse trajectories of decline and begin driving species recovery. It was in this landscape that the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) asked: How can we mobilise more effectively in support of national efforts? Could we build a movement that replaces despair with determination, and fragmentation with collaboration and focus?

That question gave rise to *Reverse the Red*. Formally convened in 2019 by Co-Chairs SSC and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), Reverse the Red is guided by an Executive Committee of partners including Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Re:wild, Toronto Zoo, Zoological Society of London, and others with the support of a small, but effective staff team. Together, this coalition works to coordinate, accelerate, and amplify species recovery efforts across the globe.

A Movement of Milestones

The past five years have seen remarkable growth:

- **The World Species Congress (2024):** In its inaugural year, more than 10,000 conservationists from 203 countries and territories came together for a 24-hour global event—the first ever forum dedicated entirely to species recovery. From government leaders to Indigenous custodians, scientists to storytellers, the Congress

delivered “24 hours of hope,” proving that when diverse voices unite, solutions emerge and optimism thrives.

“When government leaders, scientific experts, Indigenous custodians, storytellers and communities unite, magic happens; hope and success stories abound and a thriving future for wildlife and wild places comes within reach.”

– Kira Mileham, SSC.

- **The Species Pledge:** Already gathered more than 5,000 from organisations committed to reversing declines for species. This pledge signals a groundswell of commitment to halting extinctions and recovering species populations.
- **Accelerator Awards:** At the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress, awards will be granted to nine projects pioneering innovative, scalable species recovery solutions.
- **Coalition Action:** From the creation of the IUCN SSC’s Centers for Species Survival and National Species Specialist Groups, to WAZA’s *Reverse the Red Guide* helping zoos and aquariums embed recovery into their mission, Reverse the Red is mobilising capacity and momentum to deliver species-focused results. We are also beginning to form civil society networks supported by Reverse the Red in coordination and strategy drafting for species recovery in areas including the Pacific Islands, Indonesia and Colombia.

As SSC Chair Jon Paul Rodríguez reflected after the Species Congress, *“The future is bright and filled with possibility because of focused, strategic, evidence-based efforts we see around the world. The World Species Congress helps us realise this future.”*

Why Reverse the Red, and why now?

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species reminds us that many species remain at risk of extinction. Yet evidence also shows that recovery is possible when science, strategy, and solidarity come together. The gaps Reverse the Red seeks to close are clear:

- The need to better connect local, national, and global levels of action;
- The need for measurable, recovery-focused species strategies – by project, by taxa and by country;
- The need to restore belief (even amongst conservationists) that conservation can—and does—work.

Reverse the Red provides the global movement to fill those gaps and change our shared trajectory for impact.

SSC’s Role and the Road Ahead

SSC is uniquely positioned to continue to help drive Reverse the Red forward. With more than 11,500 volunteer

experts across over 200 Groups, SSC provides the backbone of scientific assessments, planning, and action that underpin effective recovery. Beyond data and strategy, SSC brings unparalleled credibility and a global reputation for mobilising collective action. Particular possibility for SSC to drive impact as part of the Reverse the Red movement lies in:

- Embedding Specialist Group expertise and identified priorities in national biodiversity planning and policy;
- Supporting country-led recovery networks where they exist or helping to establish them where they don't;
- Amplifying and sharing success stories to learn from and inspire one another and to change the narrative to one of hope;
- Working together to scale resources needed to drive action at scale;
- Continuing to innovate, adapt, and forge new partnerships for impact.

How SSC Groups Can Get Involved

Reverse the Red is *your* movement. SSC Groups can:

- Participate annually in Reverse the Red Day, / February, and share recovery success stories for global amplification;
- Make a *Species Pledge* as an SSC Group, or by encouraging your group members or partners to contribute;
- Once you've made a species pledge, keep an eye out for opportunities for support for your work through the Reverse the Red *Accelerator Award*;
- Connect your Group's priorities with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
- Seek support to engage in national species network building, support or recovery planning;
- Work with the Reverse the Red partners to communicate and upskill best practices in species recovery through national and global networks;

Join Us in Abu Dhabi

This October, Reverse the Red will host a dynamic pavilion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. It will be a hub for connection, lesson sharing and action. Come and find us—let's shape the next chapter of species recovery together.

Or, if you can't be there in person, reach out to the SSC Chair's Office or Reverse the Red Team to connect your Group with the Species Pledge, Accelerator Award, storytelling support, or national engagement opportunities.

As Jared Lipworth of HHMI Tangled Bank Studios said at the World Species Congress: *"Thank you for being part of this great story—the one where we change the course of history for the benefit of all living things."*

SSC Partners





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