

## Species Survival Commission (SSC) Report 2017–2020

Chair: Jon Paul Rodríguez

### 1. Message from the Chair

The best part of chairing the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is to report on the outstanding work of our members, and the extraordinary variety of species that we study. They range from micrometers in length of a chytrid fungus to a 25-meter-long blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – spanning about eight orders of magnitude! Though if one recognises clonal organisms as single organism, a colony of the humongous fungus (*Armillaria ostoyae*) occupied 8.9 km<sup>2</sup> and weighed 605 tons – four times heavier than a blue whale!

By 31 July 2020, our network comprised 9,702 members in 174 nations. SSC experts are organised into 164 groups, spanning taxonomy and disciplines. A back of the envelope estimate of their volunteer contribution to IUCN is USD 67 million per year. The operating costs of SSC are around USD 1.5 million per year, of which CHF 235,000 (USD 257,000) are from the Commission Operating Funds, while the remainder is contributed by our allies and supporters. In other words, we rely on the massive contribution of time volunteered by SSC members, and direct financial contributions from over 30 organisations. We are deeply grateful to all, but would like to express special thanks to the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) and Al Ain Zoo, the three top contributors to the SSC Chair's office. During the 2017–2020 quadrennium, EAD also generously supported the implementation of the 2017–2020 IUCN Species Conservation Strategy, while GWC was our fiscal sponsor and administrator of grants and funds.

As you will see throughout this report, a key principle that we follow is to share the administrative load of supporting the network with partners and allies. We pursue sustainable, decentralised growth, so that we are able to respond to increasing demands from our network, while dividing the responsibility with others. The expansion of the [Chair's office team](#) to its current 18 members in seven countries was possible because seven of them were hired through partnerships. Future growth of conservation hubs will follow the same model. Creation of a team of network coordinators at the Global Center for Species Survival in Indianapolis Zoo comes without any direct expenditure to SSC. Our team aspires to continue expanding our reach in a way that supports the network today while allowing future SSC Chairs to do so without the burden of raising the resources required.

During the next quadrennium, we aspire to continue improving diversity of SSC members in terms of taxonomy, geography, gender, age and expertise. We propose to empower the network to engage with planning and action at the national level, actively pursuing alliances with IUCN Members, Secretariat, governments, academia, natural history museums, zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens. We aim to expand our communications, so that species conservation is on the radar screen of the public throughout the world. Our major focus will be to catalyse conservation action so that we can reverse the trend of biodiversity decline, as reflected in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

## 2. Overview of SSC

### 2.1. Mission, vision and goal

In the intersessional period of 2017–2020, the Species Survival Commission continued to play a leading role in enabling IUCN to be the world’s most authoritative voice on behalf of global biodiversity conservation and the sustainability of natural resource use. In particular, SSC and its worldwide network are uniquely placed to enable IUCN to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity of biodiversity, and to ensure that the use of species is both equitable and sustainable, through:

- providing knowledge on status and trends of species;
- undertaking analyses of threats;
- developing policies and guidelines;
- facilitating conservation planning;
- catalysing action on the ground and in the water; and
- providing advice on ways to reconcile biodiversity conservation with economic development and societal changes.

We do this to achieve the vision of “A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to prevent the loss of diversity of life on earth.”

The overriding goal of SSC is: *ensure that the species extinction crisis and massive loss of biodiversity are universally adopted as a shared responsibility, and addressed by all sectors of society taking conservation action, and avoiding negative impacts worldwide.*

### 2.2. Objectives

For the intersessional period 2017–2020, working in collaboration with Members, National and Regional Committees, other Commissions and the Secretariat, SSC pursued the following key objectives in helping to deliver IUCN’s “One Programme” commitment:

*a. Assessing and monitoring the status of biodiversity, especially at the species level*

To assess and monitor trends in the status of biodiversity, especially at the species level, and to inform the world of the measures needed to improve the health of the biosphere.

*b. Analysing and communicating the threats to biodiversity, especially at the species level*

To analyse and communicate the threats to biodiversity at the species level, and disseminate information on appropriate conservation actions widely and effectively at global, regional, national and local levels.

*c. Developing policies and guidelines to advance nature conservation*

To develop evidence-based and scientifically-supported policies to guide the conservation community on the most critical issues facing the world’s wild species, and to provide advice to influence and shape decisions made by governments, international agreements and institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the corporate sector that may affect species.

*d. Facilitating conservation planning for species*

To provide leadership in scaling up multi-stakeholder species conservation planning and priority setting in order to: i) support efforts to conserve and restore populations of species under threat; and ii) to halt species extinctions by 2020.

*e. Stimulating, facilitating, supporting and engaging in conservation action for species*  
To stimulate, promote and support conservation actions for halting biodiversity decline, preventing species' extinctions, and restoring and conserving intact habitats and ecosystems, both on the ground and in the water.

*f. Reconciling biodiversity conservation with economic development and societal changes*  
To explore options, and provide guidance, on ways to reconcile the needs of nature conservation with the needs of people, particularly those of poor communities that live with wild species, with a view to seeing this reflected in biologically sustainable trade, use and consumption practices.

*g. Convening expertise for species conservation*  
To provide a forum for gathering and integrating the knowledge and experience of the world's leading experts on species conservation science and management, and promoting the active involvement of subsequent generations of species conservationists through the transfer of knowledge and capacity building.

### 3. Structure / Governance

IUCN SSC Chair is Dr Jon Paul Rodríguez since his election at the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i. Deputy Chair is Ms Domitilla Raimondo, from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), appointed by IUCN Council following Dr Rodríguez's recommendation.

#### SSC Steering Committee

IUCN Council appointed the SSC Steering Committee on February 2017. By August 2020, the Steering Committee comprised 24 people, with at least two members from each of the eight IUCN Statutory Regions, including one Regional Vice-Chair for each region. The SSC Steering Committee is joined by institutional observers and representatives from IUCN Secretariat, as non-voting members.

Chair & Deputy Chair	Country
Jon Paul Rodríguez	Venezuela
Domitilla Raimondo	South Africa
Steering Committee members	Country
Luigi Boitani (Regional Vice-Chair for West Europe)	Italy
Onnie Byers	USA
Claudio Campagna	Argentina
Topiltzin Contreras MacBeath	México
Ehab Eid (Regional Vice-Chair for West Asia)	Jordan

Dmitry Geltman (Regional Vice-Chair for East Europe, North and Central Asia)	Russian Federation
Piero Genovesi	Italy
Brahim Haddane	Morocco
Ian Harrison	USA
Axel Hochkirch	Germany
Mike Hoffmann	South Africa
Jonathan Hutton	Switzerland
Olga Krever	Russian Federation
Mirza Kusri (Regional Vice-Chair for South and East Asia)	Indonesia
Frédéric Launay	Abu Dhabi, UAE
Gabriela Lichtenstein (Regional Vice-Chair for Meso and South America)	Argentina
Vivek Menon	India
Russell Mittermeier	USA
Gregory Mueller (Regional Vice-Chair for North America and the Caribbean)	USA
Nunia Thomas (Regional Vice-Chair for Oceania)	Fiji
Pricelia Tumenta (Regional Vice-Chair for Africa)	Cameroon
Amanda Vincent	Canada
Yan Xie	China

Institutional observers	Organisation
Elizabeth Bennett	Wildlife Conservation Society
Steven Broad	TRAFFIC
Stuart Butchart	BirdLife International
Mike Hoffmann	Zoological Society of London
Wes Sechrest	Global Wildlife Conservation
Will Turner	Conservation International
Jean-Christophe Vié	Fondation Franklinia
Theo Pagel	World Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Representatives of the IUCN Secretariat	
Jane Smart	IUCN Global Species Programme
Richard Jenkins	IUCN Global Species Programme
Thomas Brooks	IUCN Science and Knowledge Unit

#### 4. Membership demographics

The Commission membership increased 25%, from **7,496 in 2017 to 9,702 in 2020**, and members are now present in 174 nations. This growth is part of the efforts to build a diverse network that includes experts from all regions of the world.

In 2017, our members were distributed in 151 specialist groups, Red List Authorities, task forces and committees. By 2020, the number increased 9%, reaching **164 groups**.

## Geographic distribution

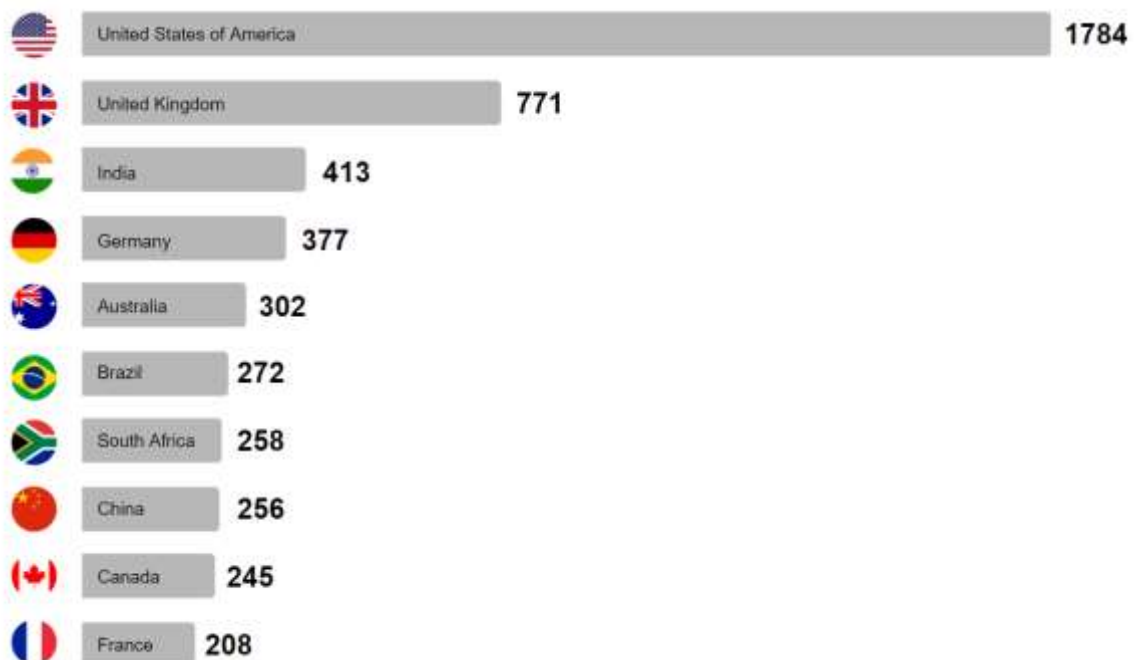
The members are distributed across IUCN's eight statutory regions, though 50% are based in West Europe, and North America and the Caribbean. The lowest numbers are in West Asia (1%), and East Europe, North and Central Asia (6%).



Geographic distribution of SSC membership: Africa 10%; East Europe, North and Central Asia 6%; Meso and South America 11%; North America and the Caribbean 22%; Oceania 5%; South and East Asia 17%; West Asia 1%; West Europe 28%. (Source: IUCN Global Report, June 2020)

## Top 10 countries with SSC members

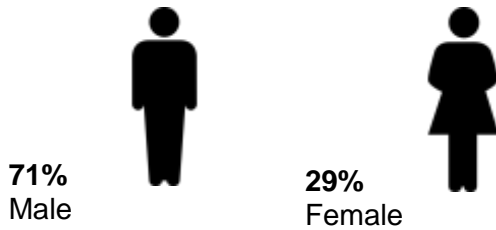
Fifty percent (4,886) of our members are based in ten countries in seven regions. United States of America (19%) and the United Kingdom (8%) are the two countries with most SSC members.



(Source: IUCN Union Portal, June 2020)

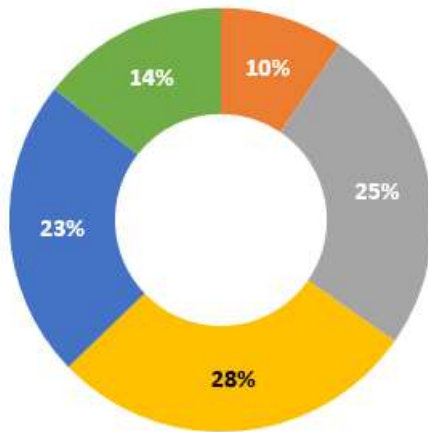
### Gender and age distribution

SSC considers that gender parity and age distribution are important indicators of the diversity of our network. The Commission has the priority to increase involvement of women and youth in the SSC leadership and membership. In 2020, 29% of our members were women while 71% were men.



(Source: IUCN Union Portal, June 2020)

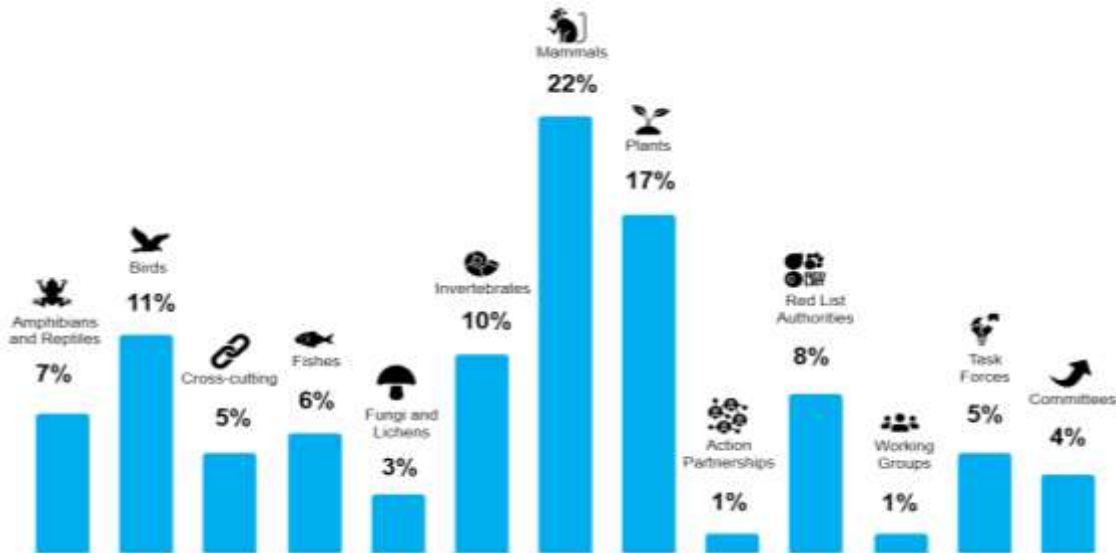
The Commission has a relatively balanced age distribution, although SSC leadership could still look to improve engagement of youth, 35 years old and younger.



Age groups. (Source: IUCN Union Portal, June 2020)

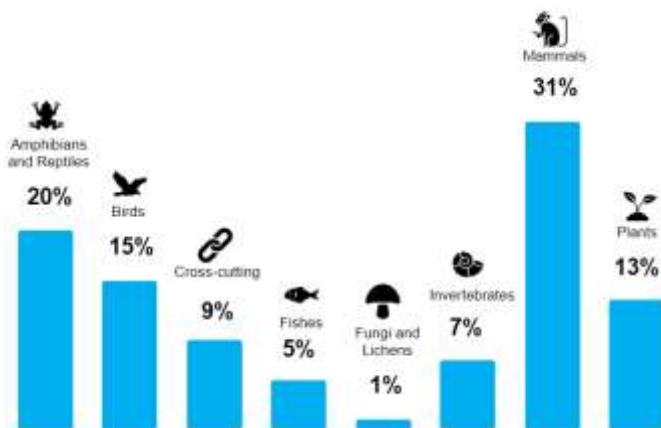
### SSC group categories

SSC specialist groups may be organised by taxon or by discipline (cross-cutting), while there are also other types of groups that deliver specific functions or time-bound tasks: stand-alone Red List Authorities (RLA), task forces, committees, working groups and action partnerships. The distribution of these groups is presented below.



Distribution of SSC groups according to their type. (Source: IUCN Union Portal, June 2020)

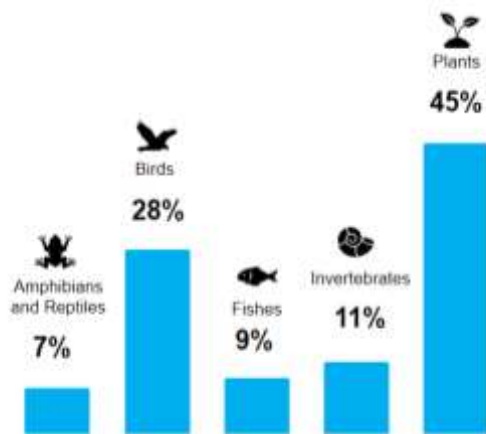
In addition, the chart below shows the proportion of members in taxonomic and cross-cutting specialist groups. Around 50% of the members belong to specialist groups focused on mammals, amphibians and reptiles, while less than 1% belong to specialist groups focused on fungi and lichens.



Proportion of members per type of SSC specialist group. (Source: IUCN Union Portal, June 2020)



The distribution of stand-alone Red List Authorities is different to that of specialist groups, where most members are in groups focused on plants.



Proportion of members per type of SSC stand-alone RLA. (Source: IUCN Union Portal, June 2020)

## 5. Priorities and achievements

### 5.1. Capacity building

A key element of expanding the impact of SSC is strengthening local capacity for carrying out and using IUCN knowledge products, conservation planning and implementing conservation action. During the 2017–2020 quadrennium we have achieved:

- The SSC Chair's office has partnerships in place with five organisations, who hired nine Red List officers and have contributed ~3,300 species assessments. All staff will become Red List trainers, learn conservation planning and other IUCN knowledge products. Their investment is equivalent to 1,440 person/hour \*Red List officer\* year. They are:
  - **The Deep Aquarium**, Robert Bullock. Rob serves as SSC Red Listing Partnership Officer, overseeing the work of other Red List officers. In the last three and a half years, he has contributed to 1,800 species assessments, largely marine bony fishes but some freshwater fishes, elasmobranchs, marine reptiles and marine mammals.
  - **Georgia Aquarium**, Katelyn Herman, focused on sharks. Since July 2017, ~500 species contributions. Specialised in mapping.
  - **Oceanário de Lisboa**, Catarina Fonseca, working on marine fishes and corals. ~350 species assessed since July 2018.
  - **Albuquerque BioPark**, hired three officers. Since July 2018, Tim Lyons, supporting the assessment of freshwater fish, ~400 contributions, and Clayton Meredith, working with medicinal plants, ~250 contributions. Anna Walker recently joined the team working with pollinators.
  - **Parque das Aves**, has established a team of three: Fabiana Lopes Rocha, Rosana Subirá (part-time) and Eugenia Cordero (part-time). They are working on both Red List assessments and conservation planning, with a focus on Brazilian species, contributing endemic species assessments to the global Red List. This is a three-way partnership, also including the Conservation Planning Specialist Group.
- Establish a new SSC Species Conservation Planning Structure. The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group was re-named as the Conservation Planning Specialist Group. This group has supported and guided species conservation planning through training courses and new planning tools.

## 5.2. Conservation action

There is clear interest among the SSC community to catalyse conservation actions that improve the status of threatened species.

### Species Recovery Request for Proposals

This is the third year of this grant programme developed between National Geographic Society (NGS) and SSC, aimed at priorities identified in SSC action plans. Early 2019, Fondation Segré joined the alliance, further strengthening the capacity to fund proposals.

	Applications submitted	Proposals funded	Funds allocated	SSC Members
1st round - April 2018	161	20	\$662,795	12
2nd round - July 2018	62	9	\$340,906	3
3rd round - October 2018	61	11	\$375,455	8
4th round - January 2019	40	14	\$512,118	9
5th round - April 2019	50	19	\$684,758	4
6th round - October 2019	91	17	\$640,616	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>\$3,216,648</b>	<b>44</b>

Summary of results: Recovery of species on the brink of extinction. (Source: National Geographic Society)

Six application rounds have been carried out, with USD 3,216,648 disbursed in support of 90 conservation projects, selected among 465 proposals received (20% acceptance rate). Roughly half of the approved projects were from SSC members. Primates, amphibians, vultures, bats, crocodiles, birds, and freshwater fishes are some of the taxa covered by the different award-winning projects.

### Sumatran Rhino Rescue

This is a multi-partner initiative in which SSC works with the Indonesian Government, national and international organisations to save this species. With a 30 million dollar budget for five years, the partnership has expanded the *ex situ* sanctuary in Way Kambas, southern Sumatra, and is planning to build a new one in northern Sumatra. Primary achievements to date include:

- Successfully rescued a healthy female rhino – Pahu – that was relocated to a secure facility in Kalimantan.
- Completed an expansion of the Way Kambas Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, providing space for five additional rhinos, and resources approved to build a new Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in northern Sumatra.
- Created the first-ever 3D scan of a Sumatran rhino, at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park. The scan is used as an education and outreach tool to raise public awareness of the species.
- Established the Sumatran Rhino Husbandry and Propagation Expert Advisory Board to guide the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan adopted by the Indonesian Government.

## 5.3. Bolster work at national scales

Recognising that conservation action is primarily carried out at the national level (or below, for example, by local communities), we have achieved:

- The identification of four priority mega-biodiverse African countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon and Kenya) to develop national capacity to undertake national Red List of Species, Red List of Ecosystems and the identification of Key Biodiversity

Areas (KBAs). In addition, ongoing support is provided to Malawi, Mozambique, Tunisia and Zimbabwe to develop a national Red List and identify KBAs.

- Through this national Red List and Key Biodiversity Areas initiative, a successful capacity-building grant (USD 20,000) through the CBD Bio-Bridge scheme was secured.
- A capacity-building workshop was organised where 20 species experts in Kenya were trained to apply the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and Key Biodiversity Areas standards.
- A Franklania Foundation grant was received to carry out Red List assessments and implement conservation actions for threatened tree species in Gabon.
- Ongoing support was provided to Comoros, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Tunisia to establish Key Biodiversity Areas National Coordination Groups.
- Through the National Red List Alliance initiative, many African countries including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tunisia and Zimbabwe come together quarterly to exchange experiences and lessons learnt on national Red Listing and Key Biodiversity Areas identification.
- Ongoing funding negotiations are in place with the French Development Agency to support Key Biodiversity Areas Identification in Cameroon and Gabon.
- Working together with colleagues from EAD, the IUCN Secretariat, SSC and Provita, completed the Abu Dhabi Red List of Species and are working on the Abu Dhabi Red List of Ecosystems.
- Conceptualised Reverse the Red, an initiative that aims to launch a movement to actively engage the SSC network in implementing the Species Conservation Cycle (assess, plan, act, network and communicate) at the national level. This collaborative effort will develop, implement and advance IUCN's Programme of work, strengthening the links between specialist groups and IUCN Members around the world, with greater focus on the geographic distribution and with special attention on governmental Members.

#### **5.4. Intervention letters**

High-level interventions address conservation issues of serious concern, through letters to governments or companies, which highlight threats to species or habitats and, using expert advice, propose suitable action to influence decision-making and help to avoid or reduce any adverse impacts on biodiversity. Each letter provides the background and technical information, and a thorough review process led by the SSC Chair's office, engaging the appropriate specialist groups, experts across the network, the IUCN regional offices and IUCN programmes. During 2017–2020, 26 intervention letters were delivered. For more information on the letters and their outcomes, please consult our December 2020 [Quarterly Report](#).

#### **5.5. Barometer of Life**

SSC plays a key role in providing the scientific knowledge that underpins the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. IUCN aims to complete 160,000 global assessments or reassessments of species for the Red List by 2020. Working together with the Red List Committee, Global Species Programme and IUCN Members, SSC will continue pushing forward to fulfil successfully this goal. By June 2020, the Red List reached 120,372 assessments published.

## 6. Network

**Growing the network.** Taking into consideration that disciplinary, regional, gender and age diversity across the SSC enriches the perspectives of our membership and increase our efficacy in addressing global conservation challenges, we achieved the following milestones:

- Establishment of 12 new specialist groups: Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, Hornbill Specialist Group (2017), Seed Conservation Specialist Group (2017), Colombia Plant Specialist Group (2017), Skink Specialist Group (2018), Firefly Specialist Group (2018), Hoverfly Specialist Group (2018), Ladybird Specialist Group (2018), Mayfly, Stonefly and Caddisfly Specialist Group (2018), Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group (2018), Macaronesian Island Plant Specialist Group (2018), Sonoran Desert Plant Specialist Group (2019), and Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group (2019).
- Establishment of three stand-alone Red List Authorities (RLA): Indonesian Plant Stand-alone RLA (2017), Plants of Turkey Red List Authority (2019), and West Africa Plant Red List Authority (2019).
- Establishment of three task forces: Oil Palm Task Force (2017, jointly with the Commission on Ecosystem Management and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, Post-2020 Biodiversity Target Task Force (2017), Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force (2019).
- Establishment of an Action Partnership: Asian Species Action Partnership (2017).
- Creation of a new Conservation Committee: Fungal Conservation Committee.

**SSC Internal Grants.** Early 2019 the SSC Chair's office launched a grant opportunity for funding small requests within the IUCN SSC network: **the SSC Internal Grant**, thanks to the generous support of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi. This funding mechanism has three main goals:

- Support SSC groups in achieving their targets as established in their respective SSC Data and our [Species Strategic Plan 2017–2020](#), in alignment with our strategic framework: the Species Conservation Cycle.
- Encourage all SSC Groups to carry out their annual planning process using the SSC Data file, the monitoring and evaluation tool developed by the SSC Chair's office. Having delivered their SSC Data is a requirement for accepting proposals from SSC groups.
- Motivate the SSC network to get more familiar with our strategic framework: the Species Conservation Cycle, and their components: Network–Assess–Plan–Act–Communicate.

So far, there have been three application cycles resulting in 43 proposals funded and more than USD 130,000 allocated in activities such communication, training workshops, Red List assessments, among others.

**The Fourth IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting.** This meeting was held from 6-9 October 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Hosted, once again, by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, the meeting gathered over 350 experts from around the world, leaders in species conservation from IUCN SSC, IUCN Secretariat, other IUCN Commissions, UAE-based conservationists, SSC partners, and members of academia, along with other experts from the field.

The meeting entailed four productive and intense days of networking, articulation, learning from past experiences, improving skills, and exploring how best to measure the effectiveness of SSC actions on biodiversity conservation, to improve and guide our future work in the context of the IUCN Programme, the post-2020 global biodiversity targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**SSC Data.** We developed a new monitoring tool called SSC Data to effectively understand the conservation impact of the activities carried out by our SSC network. SSC Data has

allowed us to learn what our SSC groups are doing, what targets they are pursuing, what are their needs, and what they achieve each year. This tool allows us to analyse and generate a variety of products and opportunities to improve our performance as a volunteer network. Some of the products and benefits we have obtained through SSC Data are:

- Single and compiled SSC annual reports (reports are available in the [SSC Specialist Groups Directory](#))
- Updated version of the [2017–2020 Species Strategic Plan](#)
- [Quarterly Report](#) analyses (main trends and results of the network)
- Special reports to IUCN Secretariat, e.g., trends and results on publications, communications, or actions on the ground
- Strategically targeted support to SSC groups through the [SSC Internal Grants](#)

**Annual catch-up calls with all SSC groups.** During the implementation of SSC Data the Chair's office actively sought to conduct person-to-person catch-up calls to go deeper into the matters of every SSC group. Most of the leaders of the SSC group agreed to such calls and for the 2019 SSC Data report 51% of the groups responded positively and had a person-to-person call.

**Virtual Q&A sessions.** As a recommendation resulting from the SSC Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi, the SSC Chair held two (January 10 and May 8, 2020) two-hour Questions & Answers virtual sessions with SSC leaders (Chairs, RLA Coordinator), programme officers and partner representatives. These were a big success with close to 100 participants each. The sessions' themes related to specialist group composition for the next quadrennium, respectful behavior and fair/equitable interactions within the groups, technical matters related to red listing (e.g. Rapid Least Concern tool), establishment of an SSC Bird Conservation Committee and other conservation committees, conservation of inconspicuous organisms (e.g. fungi, lichens, bryophytes), SSC Internal Grant process, leadership renewal for the next quadrennium, updated results of SSC Data and improvements, 2021–2024 Species Strategic Plan, Congress updates, main changes to SSC' Terms of References and by-laws and support to new groups and leaders.

## 7. Strategic partnerships

During 2017–2020, we made an even stronger emphasis on developing partnerships with a broader set of organizations to help them achieve and improve their conservation goals, while moving forward with SSC goals, producing mutual benefits:

- Creating a global leading conservation hub.
- Increasing skills, productivity and effectiveness.
- Accessing new audiences and partners.
- Strengthening brand and reputation.
- Sharing resources, risk and investment.
- Creating opportunities for the people behind organisations.

### **First Global Center for Species Survival (GCSS)**

The formal announcement took place on 7 October 2019, during the SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi, where the official agreement was signed by the Acting Director General of IUCN, Grethel Aguilar, SSC Chair, Jon Paul Rodríguez, and the President of Indianapolis Zoo, Rob Shumaker.

Opening in 2020, this partnership aims to catalyse conservation action across the SSC network. Its main goal will be to enhance the scope and capacity for species conservation globally, supporting the efforts of more than 9,000 SSC experts working to save threatened species worldwide.

GCSS will employ a team of nine staff based at Indianapolis Zoo: one Centre Director, one Behavior Change Manager and seven Network Coordinators who will be taxonomically focused across freshwater, marine, plants and fungi, invertebrates, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, and birds. Along with being home to the team's offices, this partnership will offer training and meeting spaces, as well as enhancements in communication, with a media facility to produce conservation success stories. Indianapolis Zoo and SSC already hired the seven Network Coordinators, who begun working in early 2021. The Centre Director, and Behavior Change Manager are expected to be hired later in 2021 or 2022.

### **'Reverse the Red' Pavilion for the World Conservation Congress**

'Reverse the Red' aims to ignite optimism and collaborative action to guarantee the survival of all species we share this planet with, and the ecosystems they live in. 'Reverse the Red' means to reverse the declining trajectory of species and ecosystems in the Red List and to empower communities around the world to make this happen.

The first step in the development of the 'Reverse the Red' Alliance, which includes more than 30 partners from the conservation world, is convening the 'Reverse the Red' Pavilion during the World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

The 'Reverse the Red' Pavilion will run over six days with each day being designed, planned and executed in agreement with the partners. Diverse interest groups will be encouraged to participate in a wide range of events, from high-level dialogues on earth optimism to highlighting species conservation action on the ground. The pavilion may also provide a platform for making important announcements such as the launch of new projects, partnerships and publications.

Among the lead partners on the Pavilion and the wider 'Reverse the Red' Alliance are the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Toyota, Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Tangled Bank Studios, San Diego Zoo Global, Smithsonian's Earth Optimism, On the Edge Conservation and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. This initiative is growing and evolving rapidly, and is open for others to join.

### **SSC Partner models**

During the quadrennium, the SSC Chair's office developed solid relationships with generous partners, which allowed us to focus on supporting the SSC Network's efforts toward the achievement of our mandate to *"stimulate, promote and support conservation actions for halting biodiversity decline, preventing species' extinctions, and restoring and conserving intact habitats and ecosystems, both on the ground and in the water"*. These contributions have translated in different models of support, as follows:

- Donors

Those partners who contribute with us financially through an annual amount of money that allow the Chair's office to support their daily activities: team member salaries, office expenses, travel and consultant honoraria, among others. The SSC Chair's office is deeply thankful for the financial contribution of our 34 partners during the quadrennium: Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi, Global Wildlife Conservation, Al Ain Zoo, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Chicago Zoological Society, San Diego Zoo Global, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Woodland Park Zoo, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Georgia Aquarium, The Deep Aquarium, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Beauval Nature, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Zoo Copenhagen, Detroit Zoological Society, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Seaworld, Saint Louis Zoo, Indianapolis Zoo, Chester Zoo, British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Albuquerque Biopark, Milwaukee County Zoo, Oregon Zoo, Santa Barbara Zoo, Smithsonian National Zoo, Zoo Leipzig, Honolulu Zoo, Oklahoma City Zoo, WWF UK, and Zoological Society of London.

- In-kind contributors

This is a network of mutually-beneficial partnerships with the SSC Chair's office that have significantly expanded our staff capacity and facilities which scale-up the scope of our work worldwide. These organisations (mentioned above) hired Species Survival Officers on their staff, but dedicated to supporting specialist groups in assessments, planning and mobilising action to save species; actions that increase and contribute to SSC outcomes.

- Allies

This group of partners work with the SSC Chair's office on different priority conservation initiatives. They help us strengthen capacity to assess-plan-act as well as to keep supporting our network in achieving their goals within the 2017–2020 IUCN Species Strategic Plan.

## **Communication**

This is a new area of work in this quadrennium. The communications of the SSC Chair's office aim to:

- Recognise the work, publications, activities and impacts of SSC Groups and our partners and allies on conservation;
- Empower our network to communicate their actions on the Assess-Plan-Act cycle; and
- Inspire other conservation organisations and possible partners around how the network is an example of creating impact.

SSC communications are implemented in collaboration with the IUCN Global Species Programme and Global Communications Unit, as well as with partners, such as the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Sumatran Rhino Alliance.

## Communication channels

- Social media

We created [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) SSC accounts.



By December 2019, we had 2,602 followers on our Facebook page; 51% male and 48% female, most from the United States (12%), United Kingdom (9%), India (8%), Mexico (5%), and Italy (4%).

On Twitter, the growth has been steady since 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, when we published our first tweet. By the end of the year, we had 1,076 total followers; 45% male and 55% female.

- IUCN SSC website

Early 2020, jointly with the Commission Support Unit, we restructured the SSC pages of the IUCN website. The new structure counts with a [home page](#) that highlights the most recent call made by the Union to scale up massively species conservation action, offer direct access to the SSC Directory, and mention activities carried out with partners.

- Press releases

During 2019, six press releases were published: 'Sumatran Rhino Rescue as a programme to save this Critically Endangered species' (May 2019); 'Jon Paul Rodríguez received Whitley Gold Award 2019' (June 2019); 'Rescue of the last Loa Water Frogs from dry habitat in Chile' (August 2019); 'SSC Leaders' Meeting' (September 2019); and 'Global Center for Species Survival' (October 2019).

- Reports

Through the **SSC Quarterly Reports**, the office summarises its main activities and offers a space for SSC groups to share their achievements and to reflect and discuss conservation issues. Our audience are SSC members, IUCN Secretariat, the broader IUCN community, and partners. This [resource](#) can be found on the SSC pages at the IUCN website.





**SSC-EAD Partnership Reports.** Here, we report on the results of a four-year Memorandum of Agreement signed by EAD, SSC, and Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC), concerning support for the office of the SSC Chair with a view to helping to implement key aspects of the 2017–2020 IUCN Species Strategic Plan.

Each [annual report](#) shows a brief summary of the highlights of the work carried out by the SSC Chair's office, followed by key achievements of the SSC network in the context of the agreement.

**Leaders' Meeting Report.** The Fourth IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to our network to strengthen collaborations and teamwork for improving the status of species worldwide. This [report](#) gathers all the minutes of the plenary and parallel sessions held during four days, featuring the decisions taken to promote further conservation projects.

**Species Annual Report.** In these [reports](#), we summarise the work of each group of the network – the specialist groups, Red List Authorities, task forces, and conservation committees –, identify priorities and examine their major needs, by implementing SSC Data.

- [Guidelines](#)

[Guidelines for species conservation planning: version 1.0 \(2017\)](#). These Guidelines were developed by members of the former IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-Committee (SCPSC) through the years 2015–2017. The objective was to build on and revise the 2008 Strategic Planning for Species Conservation: A Handbook using the diverse experiences of SCPSC members and others in planning for species conservation over the years.

[Guidelines for invasive species planning and management on islands \(2018\)](#). These Guidelines are designed to assist anyone planning and programming the management of invasive species on islands, with the aim of reducing their negative impacts over rich and fragile natural heritage, communities and livelihoods. The Guidelines have also been published in [French](#) and [Spanish](#).



[Guidelines for the management of confiscated, live organisms \(2019\)](#). These confiscations may be parts of non-living specimens in the form of artefacts, food or medicinal products but, in many cases, they involve live individuals. With increasingly frequent confiscations and often high numbers of individuals involved, it is important that best practice management approaches are followed to maximise the conservation role and the individual welfare of these plants and animals. These Guidelines aim to provide guidance on this best practice. The Guidelines have also been published in [Chinese](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

[\*\*Directrices de la CSE de UICN para evaluar la vulnerabilidad de las especies al cambio climático \(2020\)\*\*](#). Predicting climate change impacts on biodiversity is a major scientific challenge. A range of methods have been developed for climate change vulnerability assessment (CCVA) of species and a large and burgeoning scientific literature is emerging on this subject. Our motivation for preparing this document is to ease the challenge that conservation practitioners face in interpreting and using the complex and often inconsistent CCVA literature.

- [Position statements](#)

[\*\*IUCN SSC Position Statement on the Culling of the Mauritius Fruit Bat \*Pteropus niger\* \(2018\)\*\*](#). As a globally threatened and endemic species, the decision for mass culls is of great concern to the IUCN SSC and conservation organisations worldwide since a reduction in population increases the bat's risk of extinction.

### **Communications in partnership**

In September 2018, a partnership was launched to save the Sumatran rhinoceros from extinction. Two press releases were delivered, one about the alliance and the second related to the capture of a female rhino. We also collaborated with National Geographic Society to promote the Species Recovery RFP through webinars, social media and the Species bulletin, among others.

## **8. Finances**

During the last two years, the SSC Chair's office team have developed a system to track the finances that has allowed us to improve the decision-making processes, increase efficiency in resource utilisation, as well as, continue supporting conservation projects and initiatives of the SSC Network.

All the figures and results shown in this section correspond to a cut made on June 30th 2020.

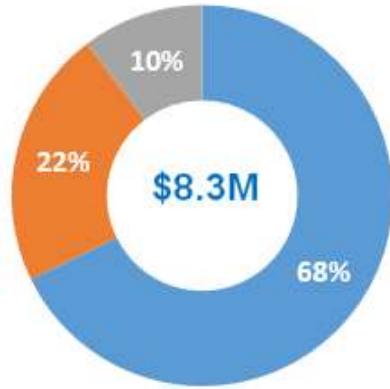
### **Funding sources**

Since 2016, the Commission has counted with a diverse portfolio of funding, approximately 36 organisations around the world, most of them zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens that represent a growing component of our support to cover annual operations, projects and grants. The Commission also receives an annual allocation from IUCN Headquarters to cover most of the SSC Chair's office' annual operations. The total received is USD 8,383,521.63 (as shown in the SSC Consolidated Financial Statement further below). All these contributions are categorised in three types of sources: Grants<sup>1</sup> (68%), Fundraising<sup>2</sup> (22%) and IUCN Commission Operation Funds (10%).

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<sup>1</sup> Grants are funds that must be allocated on specific SSC projects or SSC groups.

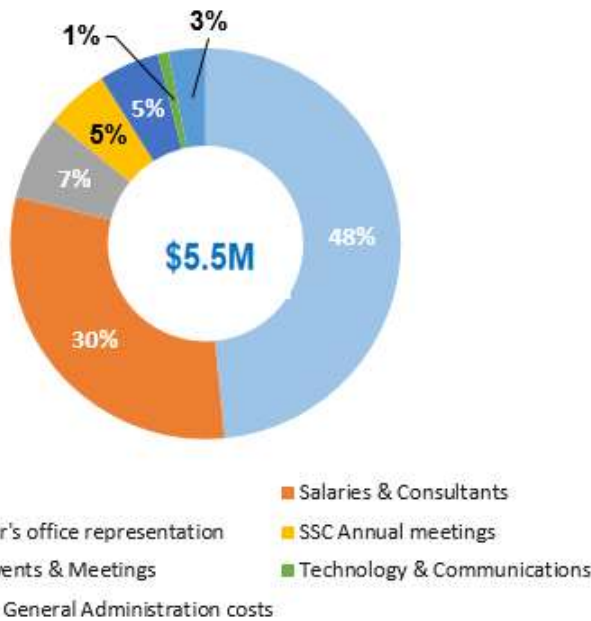
<sup>2</sup> Fundraising includes money raised to cover the SSC Chair's office general operations.



■ Grants ■ Fundraising ■ IUCN SSC Commission Operation Fund (COF)  
SSC funding sources 2016–2020. (Source: SSC Financial Statements)

### Expenses

Over the last four years, 48% of the Commission’s spending has been directed to grants to support conservation projects and activities of the SSC groups worldwide. While 31% has been used for salaries and consultants for the SSC Chair’s office, the remaining 21% has covered activities related to, among others, office and administrative costs, technology and communications, and annual meetings<sup>3</sup>.



■ Grants ■ Salaries & Consultants ■ SSC Chair's office representation ■ SSC Annual meetings ■ Other events & Meetings ■ Technology & Communications ■ Office & General Administration costs  
SSC Expenses 2016–2020. (Source: SSC Financial Statements)

<sup>3</sup> Annual meetings include: Steering Committee, Committees and Red List meetings.

**2016-2020 SSC Consolidated Financial Statement**

	(USD)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,383,521.63</b>
Grants	5,713,389.49
Fundraising	1,837,669.34
IUCN SSC Commission Operation Fund (COF)	832,462.80
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,537,456.44</b>
Grants	2,648,169.98
Salaries and consultants	1,697,034.40
SSC Chair's office representation	397,394.27
SSC annual meetings	293,910.34
Other events and meetings	285,882.69
Technology and communications	41,213.03
Office and general administration costs	173,851.73
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>2,846,065.18</b>

Based on the funding sources, these results can be divided and analysed in Commission Operation Fund (COF) and non-COF contributions and expenses, as well as balance per fund up to June, as shown in the below tables.

**2016–2020 SSC Financial Statement COF**

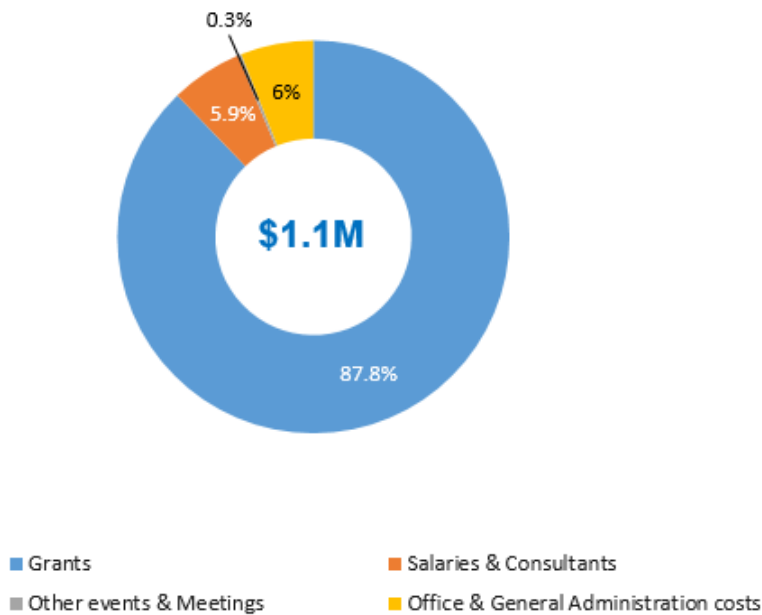
	(USD)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>832,462.80</b>
IUCN SSC Commission Operation Fund (COF)	832,462.80
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>799,471.44</b>
Salaries and consultants	228,633.66
SSC Chair's office representation	201,733.12
SSC annual meetings	246,355.18
Technology and communications	23,577.31
Office and general administration costs	99,172.17
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>32,991.35</b>

**2016–2020 SSC Financial Statement non-COF**

	(USD)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,449,335.94</b>
Grants	3,611,666.60
Fundraising	1,837,669.34
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,595,488.91</b>
Grants	1,644,724.79
Salaries and consultants	1,401,242.46
SSC Chair's office representation	195,661.15
SSC annual meetings	47,555.16
Other events and meetings	282,100.00
Technology and communications	17,635.71
Office and general administration costs	6,569.64
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>1,853,847.03</b>

### Sumatran Rhino Project

As a part of the responsibilities within the Alliance, the SSC Chair’s office along with GWC manages the Sumatran Rhino Partnership Fund, where the contributions from the major partners are received, together with donations made by individuals through different mechanisms. So far, this fund has received USD 2,101,722.89 in contributions. These allocations have allowed the Alliance to cover grants to carry out the project in Indonesia (87.8%), salaries and consultants (5.9%), office costs (6%) and meetings (0.3%), as is shown in the chart and table below.



	(USD)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,101,722.89</b>
Grants	2,101,722.89
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,142,496.09</b>
Grants	1,003,445.19
Salaries and consultants	67,158.28
Other events and meetings	3,782.69
Office and general administration costs	68,109.93
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>959,226.80</b>

The SSC Chair’s office is extremely grateful to its long list of partners who provide us invaluable support in different ways. Your contributions allow us to focus on supporting the SSC network’s efforts toward the achievement of our vision “A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to prevent the loss of diversity of life on earth”. We are committed to continue working hard, with your help, towards the ambitious task of saving species around the world.