

Species Survival Commission (SSC) Report 2021–2025

Chair: Jon Paul Rodríguez

1. Message from the Chair

It has been an absolutely fantastic nine years. For someone inspired and driven by nature conservation, I cannot imagine a more fulfilling role than Chairing the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Our world record network mobilises knowledge and expertise over almost all of the world's countries, relevant to millions of species of animals, fungi and plants. Since my election in November 2016, I have seen this network grow, diversify, professionalise and become more accountable to our members, IUCN Members, Council, National and Regional Committees, partner organisations and the public at large. The combined content of our [Quarterly Reports](#), [Annual Reports](#) and [SSC Data](#) provide an exhaustive account of the goals and achievements of specialist groups, task forces, red list authorities, conservation committees, action partnerships, centers for species survival, IUCN Secretariat and joint work with other Commissions.

As you will read in these pages, we have expanded the taxonomic and geographic reach of SSC Groups, we have reduced the mean age of our members and launched a deeply engaged young professional movement, we have improved the gender balance of our membership, but especially of our leadership, we have consolidated the Species Conservation Cycle as our unified conceptual framework, and doubled the number of targets focussed on conservation action. We also leave a fiscally solvent SSC, with sufficient financial resources already secured to assure a smooth transition to the next Chair and team.

Naturally, this was all possible due to teamwork. In addition to a world class membership, I have had the privilege of a committed, devoted and happy team, who have been the driving force of all our achievements. Current Chair's office team members are: Rima Jabado (Deputy Chair, since 2022), Nahomy De Andrade (Executive Director, since 2021, previously Partnerships and Grants Officer 2018–2019 and Coordinator 2019–2021), Kira Mileham (Director of Strategic Partnerships, since 2016), Jafet Nassar (Annual Report Coordinator, since 2017), Edgard Yerena (Network Coordinator, since 2018), Mayerlin Ramos (Partnerships and Grants Coordinator, since 2023, previously Administrative Officer 2018–2021 and Partnerships and Grants Officer 2021–2023), Milangela Dell'Aquila (Administrative Officer, since 2022), Levi Mendoza (Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, since 2022), Lila Garcia (Species Report Officer, since 2023), Nicole Duplaix (Mammal Network Advisor, since 2023), Liliana Medina Toro (Communications Officer, since 2024), Anwar Purwoto (SSC Sumatran Rhino Coordinator, since 2019) and Jeff Holland (SSC Sumatran Rhino Senior Advisor, since 2020). Previous team members were: Domitilla Raimondo (Deputy Chair 2016–2021), Vivek Menon (Deputy Chair 2021–2021), Bibiana Sucre (Executive Director of the Chair's Office 2016–2021), Rachel Hoffmann (Director of Oversight and Conservation Outcomes 2016–2019), Orlando Salamanca (Operations and Strategy Manager 2017–2022), Rob Bullock (Marine Red List Officer 2016–2020), Simeon Bezeng (National Red List Programme Officer 2017–2024), Ludwig Laborda (Administrative Officer 2017–2018), and Aritzaith Rodríguez (Communications Coordinator 2023–2024, previously Officer 2018–2023).

I am deeply grateful to all SSC members, partners and my team for making SSC such a thriving, prestigious and influential scientific enterprise, and to the Members of the Union for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role for two deeply gratifying terms. We are especially indebted to the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi for their sustained core and programmatic support to SSC during these two quadrennia (and they have also agreed to take this support forward until 2028,) and to Re:wild, who as our fiscal sponsor provided banking, accounting and contracting services at zero overhead cost to SSC, while also contributing financially to the SSC Chair's Office.

2. Overview of SSC

2.1. Mission and vision and goal

In the intersessional period of 2021–2025, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) enabled 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;
- developing policies and guidelines;
- facilitating conservation planning; and
- catalysing action on the ground and in the water

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

2.2. Objectives

For the intersessional period 2021–2025, SSC, working in collaboration with IUCN Members, National and Regional Committees, other Commissions and the Secretariat, pursued the following key objectives in helping to deliver IUCN’s “One Programme” commitment:

- Network:** Enhance and support the SSC network and its alliances to deliver the IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
- Assess:** Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.
- Plan:** Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies and policies.
- Act:** Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.
- Communicate:** Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance the impact of IUCN’s Species theme.

3. Structure/Governance

IUCN SSC Chair is Dr Jon Paul Rodríguez since his re-election at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France in 2021. Deputy Chair is Dr Rima Jabado, Chair of the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group, who has spent over 20 years developing and working on conservation initiatives globally. She was appointed by the IUCN Council following Dr Rodríguez’s recommendation.

SSC Steering Committee

The IUCN Council appointed the SSC Steering Committee in October 2021, with the addition of one further member in March 2025. This advisory board is composed of 26 people, 15 men and 11 women, representing a balance of regional and thematic perspectives. The SSC Steering Committee is joined by Institutional Observers and representatives from the IUCN Secretariat, as non-voting members.

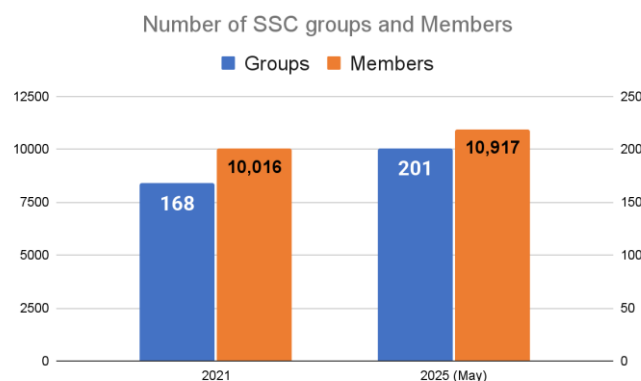
Chair and Deputy Chair	Country
Jon Paul Rodríguez	Venezuela
Rima Jabado	United Arab Emirates
Steering Committee Members	Country
Ian Harrison (Co-Chair, Freshwater Conservation Committee)	USA
Topiltzin Contreras MacBeath	Mexico

(Co-Chair, Freshwater Conservation Committee)	
Gregory Mueller (Chair, Fungi Conservation Committee)	USA
Axel Hochkirch (Co-Chair, Invertebrate Conservation Committee)	Germany
Vicky Wilkins (since March 2025) (Co-Chair, Invertebrate Conservation Committee)	United Kingdom
Amanda Vincent (Chair, Marine Conservation Committee)	Canada
Domitilla Raimondo (Co-Chair, Plant Conservation Committee)	South Africa
Paul Smith (Co-Chair, Plant Conservation Committee)	United Kingdom
Luigi Boitani (Chair, Red List Committee)	Italy
Mike Hoffmann	United Kingdom
Vivek Menon	India
Russell Mittermeier	USA
Piero Genovesi	Italy
Axel Moehrensclager	Canada
Dilys Roe	United Kingdom
Onnie Byers	USA
Asha de Vos	Sri Lanka
Tomas Diagne	Senegal
Mirza Kusriani (Regional Vice-Chair for South and East Asia)	Indonesia
Nunia Thomas (Regional Vice-Chair for Oceania)	Fiji
Ehab Eid (Regional Vice-Chair for West Asia)	Jordan
Gabriela Lichtenstein (Regional Vice-Chair for Meso and South America)	Argentina
Yan Xie (Regional Vice-Chair for China)	China
Jean-Christophe Vie (Regional Vice-Chair for West Europe)	Switzerland
Institutional observers	Organisation
Stuart Butchart	BirdLife International

Salim Javed	Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
Rob Shumaker	Indianapolis Zoo
Barney Long	Re:wild
Wes Sechrest	Re:wild
Richard Scobey	TRAFFIC
Elizabeth Bennett	Wildlife Conservation Society
Martín Zordan	World Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Representatives of the IUCN Secretariat	
Ana Nieto	IUCN Species Conservation Action
Dao Nguyen	IUCN Species Conservation Action
Richard Jenkins	Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge Unit
Thomas Brooks	IUCN Science and Knowledge Unit

4. Membership demographics

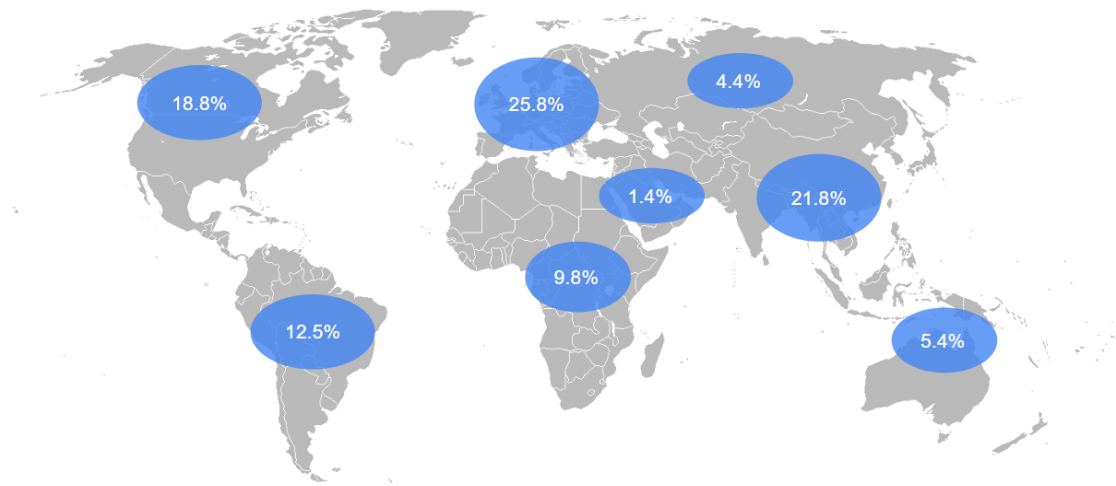
The Commission closed 2021 with 10,016 members located in 175 different countries around the world. By 2025, this number reached 10,917, representing a 9% increase over 2021. Members are now present in 186 nations or territories.



By 2021, our members were distributed in 168 Specialist groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces and Committees. By 2025, the number increased 20%, reaching 201 groups. This growth is part of the efforts to build a diverse network that includes experts from all regions of the world.

Geographic distribution

The members are distributed across the eight IUCN's statutory regions, though nearly 50% are based in West Europe, South and East Asia. The lowest numbers are still in West Asia (1%), and East Europe, North and Central Asia (4%).

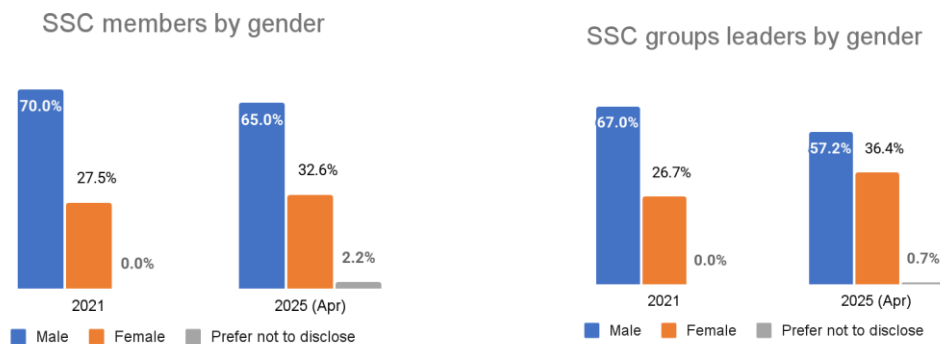


Geographic distribution of SSC membership: 10% Africa; 4% East Europe, North and Central Asia; 13% Meso and South America; 19% North America and the Caribbean; 5% Oceania; 22% South and East Asia; 1% West Asia; 26% West Europe.

Source: IUCN Global Report, May 2025

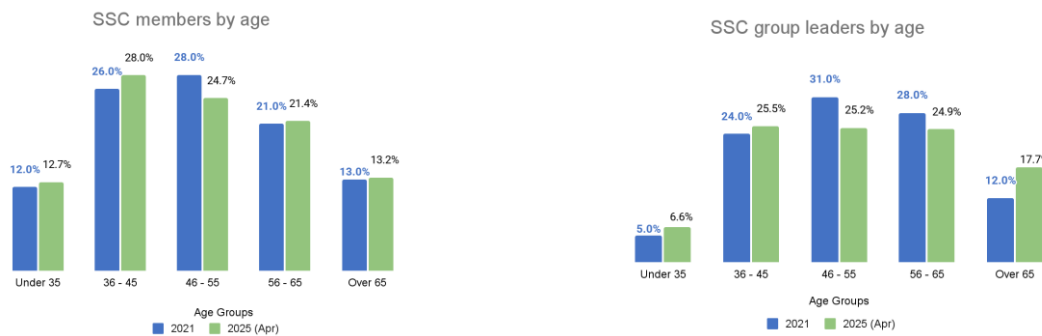
Gender and Age distribution

Improving gender balance has been a priority since the beginning. There has been progress, but there is still room for improvement. The proportion of women increased both in our membership as a whole (+5%) and among the group of SSC Leaders (i.e. Chairs, Co-chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators or Programme Officers), with almost 10% more women in leadership positions for a total of 36.4% by April 2025.



Source: IUCN Commission Membership System, May 2025

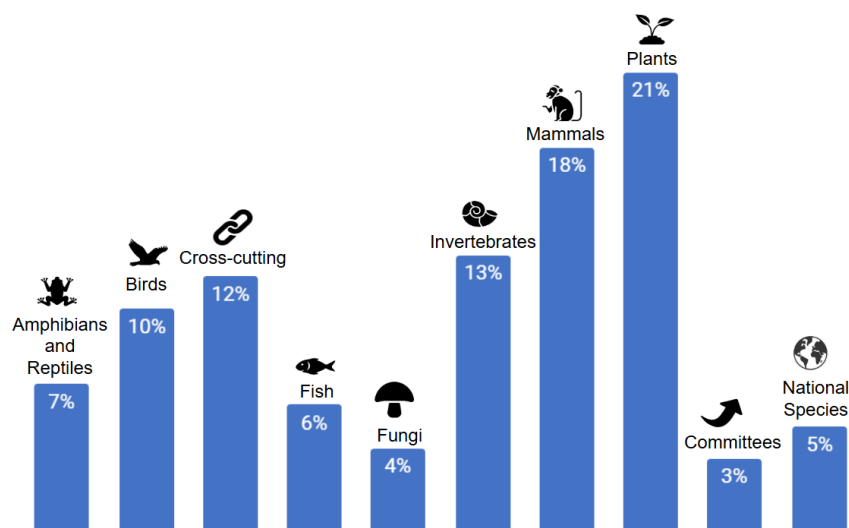
Looking at the distribution of our membership by age we can see a shift to younger age classes both across all SSC members and among SSC Leaders (which include almost 500 people). In both figures below, the green bars (2025) are taller or the same size as the blue bars (2021) for the two lower age classes.



Source: IUCN Commission Membership System, May 2025

SSC group categories

SSC Specialist Groups may be organised by taxon, location 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, Task Forces, Committees and Action Partnerships. The distribution of these groups is presented below:



Distribution of SSC Groups according to their type

Source: IUCN Commission Membership System, May 2025

5. Network

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

- Establishment of **22 new Specialist Groups**: Australia Plant Specialist Group (2025), Earthworm Specialist Group (2025), Ecuador Plant Specialist Group (2025), Gekkota Lizard Specialist Group (2025), Woodlouse Specialist Group (2025), Sponge Specialist Group (2024), Wild Parrot Specialist Group (2024), Wild Tulip Specialist Group (2024), Anoline Lizard Specialist Group (2024), Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group (2023), Brazil Fungal Specialist Group (2023), Marine Star Specialist Group (2023), Seaweed Specialist Group (2023), Animal Biobanking for Conservation Specialist Group (2022), Colombia Fungal Specialist Group (2022), Dung Beetle Specialist Group (2022), Parasite Specialist Group (2022), Sea Cucumber Specialist Group (2022), Ant Specialist Group (2021), Mite Specialist

Group (2021), Dove and Pigeon Specialist Group (2021), Global Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Sampling Protocols (2021).

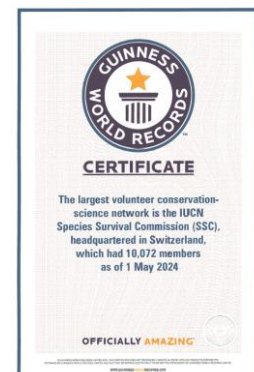
- Establishment of **12 new National Species Specialist Groups**: Jordan Species Specialist Group (2025), Venezuela Biodiversity Specialist Group (2025), Australia Species Specialist Group (2025), Nigeria Species Specialist Group (2024), South Africa Species Specialist Group (2024), Spain Species Specialist Group (2024), Kenya Species Specialist Group (2023), Singapore Species Specialist Group (2023), Indonesia Species Specialist Group (2022), China Species Specialist Group (2022), Colombia Species Specialist Group (2022), Madagascar Species Specialist Group (2022).
- Establishment of **two Stand-alone Red List Authorities (RLA)**: Marine Invertebrates Red List Authority (2022), Croaker and Drum Fishes Red List Authority (2021).
- Establishment of **eight Task Forces**: Conservation of Animal Cultures Task Force (2025), Task Force on Dams 2021–2025 (2024, jointly with the World Commission on Protected Areas), Mass Animal Aggregations Task Force (2024), Behaviour Change Task Force (2023), Succulent Plant Illegal Trade Task Force (2023), Young Professional Task Force (2023), Biodiversity and Family Planning (Res072) Task Force (2021), Systemic Pesticides Task Force (2021).

An important innovation in our network was introduced in 2022 through the [National Species Specialist Groups](#). These groups aim to coordinate multiple taxonomic expertise within countries, support governments and inform science-based decision-making. Two important roles are to provide an SSC platform for emerging conservation talent and engage in the development of policies for halting species loss, in response to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

SSC Restructuring. In 2024, the SSC Steering Committee discussed restructuring of the Conservation Committees. The basic principle was to make sure that all SSC Groups had representation and support via a Conservation Committee and at least one Coordinator, with the exception of disciplinary groups, that for now we agreed could manage with their existing internal capacity and engage support of the other Centers for Species Survival. It was agreed the following structure:

- Freshwater Conservation Committee
- Marine Conservation Committee
- Fungal Conservation Committee
- Plant Conservation Committee
- Invertebrate Conservation Committee
- Vertebrate Conservation Committee (new)
- National Species Conservation Committee (new)

Mobilising a Network and achieving a Guinness World Records title. In 2024 SSC achieved an historical milestone being recognised as the largest volunteer conservation-science network. This prestigious recognition was possible thanks to the dedication of thousands of volunteer experts from nearly every country in the world.



The Fifth IUCN Species Survival Commission Leaders' Meeting. Hosted by Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), from 25 to 28 October 2024, this meeting brought together more than 300 conservation experts, especially SSC Chairs, but also IUCN Secretariat representatives, UAE-based conservationists and SSC partners.

An ambitious agenda was developed to strengthen and empower our network, with more than 120 sessions planned, in a programme designed to guide attendees through the Assess-Plan-Act cycle, the heart of the Species Survival Commission activities. This particular edition emphasised the interconnected triple crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, and human well-being, having as a main outcome a powerful and succinct declaration which states that “Saving Species Sustains Life”. This [declaration](#) points out that species conservation underlies achieving the Sustainable

Development Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, emphasising its critical importance to protecting and restoring nature.

SSC DATA. The SSC DATA System has served as the platform 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 their needs are, and what they achieve each year. One of the most recent developments launched is the [SSC DATA Interactive Dashboard](#). This is a public access site that summarises information about SSC contributions during the quadrennium. Users are able to have interactive visualisation of data, generate interactive graphs to visualise the information and be able to download the raw database.

6. Priorities and achievements

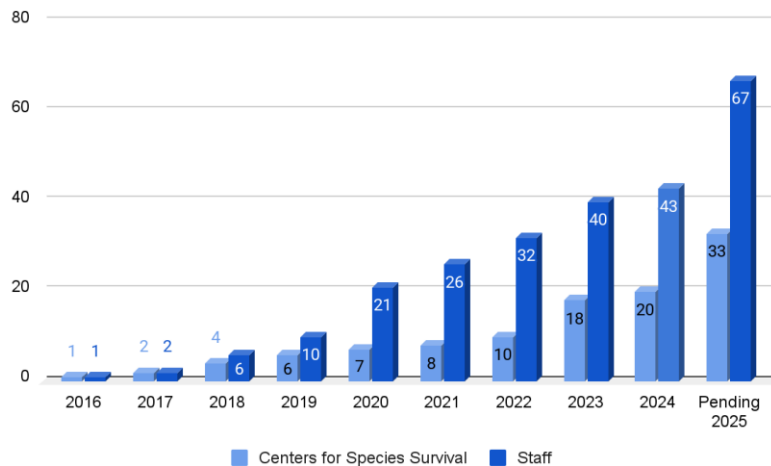
6.1. Capacity building

Centers for Species Survival

The Centers for Species Survival (CSS) model has continued to make significant progress in its role to support species conservation globally through effective collaboration and capacity building working with SSC Groups and other conservation stakeholders. By May 2025, **23** CSSs were operating in **16** countries.



Discussions are underway with a further 10 organisations interested in becoming Centers for Species Survival. This means that by the end of the quadrennium, the network of CSSs will include **67 staff working across 33 Centers in 18 countries, representing an in-kind value of ~US\$5 million annually, all with long-term outlook.**



SSC Network Funding Support

Thanks to the ongoing partnerships with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, On the EDGE and the Red List Unit, the SSC Chair's Office has been able to provide direct financial support to the SSC network.

- **Conservation Grant programmes**

Through different grant programmes implemented by the Chair's Office a total amount of US\$ 789,269 has been allocated during this quadrennium. Through these funding opportunities, Specialist Groups can implement their activities/projects and achieve targets across the Species Conservation Cycle.

- **SSC Internal Grants:** the SSC Chair's Office launched 11 rounds of this grant programme since 2021 (January and June each year) with 126 projects awarded.
- **SSC EDGE Internal Grants:** created to support projects related to SSC Groups and evolutionarily distinct species and lineages, during this quadrennium, this programme awarded 32 projects.
- **SSC Internship Grants:** the SSC Chair's Office launched for the first time the Internship Grants programme in June 2023 with 10 out of 22 applications selected.
- **SSC Red List Grants:** the SSC Chair's Office launched for the first time the Red List Grants programme in June 2024 with nine proposals selected.

IUCN SSC Conservation Grant programs 2021-2025				
Year	SSC Internal Grants	SSC EDGE Internal Grants	SSC Internship Grants	SSC Red List Grants
2021	\$73,307.21	\$73,420.00		
2022	\$73,221.00	\$79,036.00		
2023	\$102,253.03	\$89,079.50	\$35,465.35	
2024	\$111,280.58	\$51,738.50		\$41,862.98
2025	\$58,605.28			
Total	\$418,667.10	\$293,274.00	\$35,465.35	\$41,862.98

- **Cross-cutting Support**

Since 2021, a total amount of US\$ 458,000 contributed to implementing key activities of the following Specialist Groups: Invasive Species, Sustainable Use and Livelihoods, Conservation Planning, the Asian Species Action Partnership and the IUCN SSC Key Biodiversity Area Standards and Appeals Committee.

- **IUCN Red List Unit**

With the purpose of assisting in delivering the Barometer of Life through capacity-building, Red List species assessments and supporting the IUCN Red List website/database, the Red List Unit was granted a total of US\$ 917,828 during this quadrennium.

- **Flagship conservation initiatives**

Biodiversity Assessment for Spatial Prioritization in Africa (BASPA): this US\$ 130,922 grant contributed to building the technical capacity of conservation practitioners to develop national Red Lists (species and ecosystems) and identify Key Biodiversity Areas in several African countries.

- **Funding for publications – SSC-Oryx Publication Fund**

In December 2021, SSC established a partnership with Oryx to encourage SSC members to write and submit their research to the Conservation News section of the journal, to share recent information of general conservation interest in their field of work. This is the summary of the IUCN SSC contributions under the partnership, up to May 2025:

- Articles
 - Published: 30
 - In press: 10
 - Under review: 18
- Conservation News published: 68 in total
 - 2022: 8
 - 2023: 24
 - 2024: 29
 - 2025 to date: 7
- Special sections and editorials: 2
 - 57-5 (September 2023) [Assessment, planning, action](#)
 - 58-6 (November 2024) [Species survival](#)

Thanks to the high participation of the groups, and the results, in June 2025 this partnership was undergoing a renewal for 11 open-access articles with an allocation of US\$ 20,000.

6.2. Conservation actions

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

Main highlights from the SSC network

Since 2017, the SSC community has expressed a growing interest in catalysing conservation actions to improve the status of threatened species. Throughout the previous and current quadrennium, we have observed an increase in the number of activities conducted by SSC Groups under the Act component, including conservation interventions, legislation and policy advice on species protection, and technical orientation on conservation actions, doubling in number. The following figures represent main achievements reported by SSC Groups in 2021–2025 under the Act component through the SSC DATA System:

- 3,847 Threatened species benefiting from in-situ or ex-situ conservation actions
- 1,297 Technical consultations provided to support conservation actions
- 533 Actions addressing major threats of species
- 136 Conservation translocations conducted
- 201 Areas under management for species

Sumatran Rhino Rescue

This is a multi-partner initiative in which SSC works with the Indonesian Government, national and international organisations to collaboratively save this species. With a budget of US\$ 30 million for five years, primary achievements to date include:

- Adding the new male baby rhino called Indra, which was born on 25 November 2023, there are currently ten rhinos in Way Kambas Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS). It means that the Way Kambas SRS is now fully occupied. Therefore, the management of Way Kambas SRS is planning to build another ring of rhino sanctuary.
- Learning from the experience and based on the current condition of ten rhinos in Way Kambas SRS, the management of Way Kambas SRS developed a road map with the target to have sixteen new baby rhinos by 2025.
- Due to several obstacles, the construction of the new SRS in East Aceh has been delayed. However, it was expected the new SRS in East Aceh could be completed by the end of 2024.

- The female rhino called Pari is still roaming in the wild in East Kalimantan forest and the Indonesia Government is planning to capture the rhino in 2025.

6.3. Bolstering work at national scales

The SSC Chair's Office continues its work supporting the establishment of National Species Specialists Groups (NSSGs), including organising and hosting stakeholder consultation meetings and providing guidance to organisations and individuals keen to prepare proposals. During this quadrennium, ten NSSGs have been established around the world, with discussions underway to create others.



We hope to work together with these centres and the SSC network to mobilise stronger, more collaborative species conservation networks in their regions, ideally in partnership with National Species Specialist Groups, relevant government agencies and other partners.

6.4. 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 and national offices and IUCN programmes. **During 2021–2025, 50 intervention letters were delivered:**

2025

- Letter of concern addressed to the Minister of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment of South Africa stressing the need for conservation measures to protect the Critically Endangered African Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*), as classified by the IUCN. March 2025
- Request addressed to the National Parks and Wildlife Service of South Australia, regarding the draft Biodiversity Bill 2025 to include fungi in the new legislation, and expressing concerns over the incomplete treatment of fungi, which are erroneously classified as 'plants'. February 2025
- Concerns addressed to the Director of Environmental Planning and Protection and the Executive Director of The Bahamas National Trust, regarding the proposed Tradewinds Bahamas Holdings Ltd resort development on High Cay, off the southeast coast of San Salvador Island and its impacts on iguanas. January 2525
- Request addressed to the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs to act on the pressing issue of lead ammunition use. February 2025

- Request to CITES Secretary-General to follow up on CITES' 2023 efforts to ensure Mexico fulfils its commitments regarding the conservation of the totoaba and vaquita in the Upper Gulf of California. January 2025

2024

- Request the Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Department for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, to address bureaucratic barriers hindering animal transfers between British zoos and EU counterparts. January 2024
- Concern about lithium mining by MAX Power Mining Corp in Cochise County, Arizona, USA, addressed to the National Director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. This area is critical habitat for several globally endemic and threatened tiger beetle subspecies. May 2024
- Concern expressed to President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique over imminent threats to the Inhambane Seascape. This vital natural asset, recognised as a 'Hope Spot' according to Mission Blue, and home to the last viable Dugong population in East Africa, faces severe risks due to the allocation of 70% of the coastline for heavy sands prospecting and mining, as well as plans for seismic testing and fossil fuel extraction near protected areas. May 2024
- Request to the Asian Development Bank to pause decision-making on the Samarkand 1 & 2 projects, involving new transmission lines in Uzbekistan. This pause aims to allow time to gather and discuss critical information to ensure the long-term protection of the Great Bustard, Little Bustard and Asian Houbara Bustard. September 2024
- Concern over the energy infrastructure project under consideration by the World Bank in Azerbaijan, as it is proposed in the 'Draft Environmental and Social Scoping Report' for the Azerbaijan Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Project. The Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*) and the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) are particularly threatened by the current configuration of this project. October 2024
- Concern about the proposed Saguaro Liquid Natural Gas project near Puerto Libertad on the Sonoran coast of the Gulf of California, due to its potential environmental impacts, an area known for its rich biodiversity, hosting more than 30 species of cetaceans, including the fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*). November 2024
- Request to elevate the status of fungi within conservation discourse by integrating them into communications and actions. November 2024

To read the intervention letters corresponding to 2023, 2022 and 2021, please refer to our website: [SSC Intervention letters](#)

6.5. Barometer of Life

Red List Partnership, IUCN Secretariat and SSC Network delivered key indicators through the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™; the last Red List updated was released in April, 2025:

- The IUCN Red List now includes 169,470 species.
- 47,187 species are threatened with extinction.

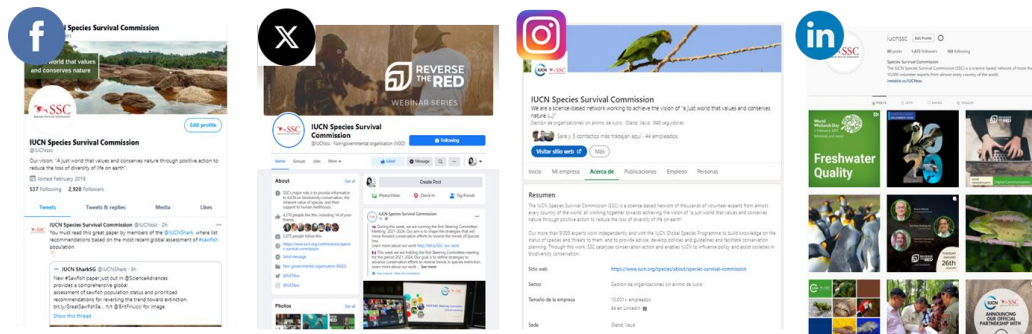
By 2024, the first Barometer of Life target of assessing at least 160,000 species was achieved and it represents an incredible milestone for this powerful conservation tool.

7. Communication

SSC communications are implemented in collaboration with the Global Communications Unit, as well as with our network of Specialists Groups and Centers for Species Survival.

Communication channels

- Social media
[Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



Facebook continues to be our social media with the most followers; by May 2025 we had 11,389 followers – 52% male and 48% female, most from the United States (11%), United Kingdom (7%), India (7%), Mexico (3%) and Philippines (3%). LinkedIn is in second place with 9,622, followed by X with 8,079 followers and Instagram with 6,995.

- 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 on and discuss conservation issues. Our audience is SSC members, the IUCN Secretariat, the broader IUCN community, and partners. This [resource](#) can be found on the SSC pages of the IUCN website.



Leaders' Meeting Report. The Fifth 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 the 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, Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Task Forces and Conservation Committees, identify priorities and examine their major needs, by implementing SSC DATA.

- Position Statements

IUCN Species Survival Commission Position Statement on the Role of Botanic Gardens, Aquariums, and Zoos in Species Conservation

Between 2021–2023 the SSC Chair's Office led, with the support of Kris Vehrs, former Executive Director of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a deeply collaborative process to produce the [IUCN Species Survival Commission Position Statement on the Role of Botanic Gardens, Aquariums, and Zoos in Species Conservation](#). This document was produced with input from groups of experts from across the species conservation sector and an exhaustive public consultation process.

SSC Statement on shark control programmes and shark culls

In 2023, SSC outlined its position about existing shark control programmes and culls and provided context to allow managers and governments to make informed decisions when faced with delicate situations. We strongly encourage non-lethal approaches as a response and management option. Read more about it [here](#).

IUCN Species Survival Commission Statement on the Conservation of Saola

In 2021, SSC released a Position Statement on the critical need for greater search efforts for Saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), calling to bring expertise, funding and innovation together to save one of the world's rarest species. Read the Position Statement [here](#).

8. Finances

The SSC Chair's Office developed solid relationships with generous partners who have allowed us to focus on supporting the SSC network's efforts toward the achievement of our mandate, allowing us to continue supporting conservation projects and initiatives of the SSC network. These contributions have translated into different models of funding, as follows:

- **Commission Operation Fund (COF):** statutory contribution to the work of the Commission. The COF is intended primarily to support Commission governance and management.
- **Restricted donations:** administered by SSC for specific projects or activities of the Commission and our partnerships. In 2025: EAD grant, Reverse the Red, On the Edge, Sumatran Rhino Survival Alliance, George Rabb Internship Fund.
- **Unrestricted donations:** annual or multi-annual contributions to SSC that provide general support to our work.

All the figures and results shown in this section correspond to a balance from 2022 (after the World Conservation Congress in Marseille) to April 30, 2025.

2022–2025 SSC Consolidated Financial Statement

Description	2022-April 2025 Total (USD)
INCOME	7,143,667.9
Restricted	3,832,243.4
Unrestricted	2,425,469.9
IUCN SSC Commission Operation Fund (COF)	885,954.6
EXPENSES	7,270,942.4
Salaries & Consultants	1,690,786.0
SSC Chair's office representation	353,009.0
SSC Annual meetings	310,537.4
Other meetings	7,379.7
Technology & Communications	227,857.0
Species Strategic Plan: SSC Network support	1,465,124.7
Red List Unit	802,073.9
Flagship Conservation Initiatives	1,357,032.4
Office & General Administration costs	1,057,142.3
BALANCE	(127,274.5)

These results can be split and analysed based on the funding sources in COF and Fundraising (unrestricted funds), and Grants (restricted funds), as well as a balance per fund up to April, as they are shown in the following sections.

2022–2025 SSC Financial Statement – COF and Fundraising (unrestricted)

Description	2022-April 2025 Total (USD)
INCOME	3,311,424.5
IUCN SSC Commission Operation Fund (COF)	885,954.6
Unrestricted	2,425,469.9
EXPENSES	3,142,949.4
Salaries & Consultants	1,690,786.0
SSC Chair's office representation costs	353,009.0
SSC Annual meetings	310,537.4
Other meetings	7,379.7
Technology & Communications	227,857.0
Office & General Administration costs	553,380.4
BALANCE	168,475.1

2022–2025 SSC Financial Statement – Grants (restricted)

Description	2022-April 2025 Total (USD)
INCOME	3,832,243.4
Restricted	3,832,243.4
EXPENSES	4,127,993.0
Species Strategic Plan: SSC Network support	1,465,124.7
SSC Internal grants	343,036.7
SSC EDGE Internal grants	277,676.5
SSC Cross cutting grants	326,000.0
Publication opportunities	78,609.2
SSC General Fund grant	200,000.0
Other grants	239,802.3
Red List Unit	802,073.9
Flagship Conservation Initiatives	1,357,032.4
Biodiversity Assessment for Spatial Prioritization in Africa	130,921.7
Sumatran Rhino Project fund	519,394.8
Reverse the Red	706,715.9
Office & General Administration costs	15,935.5
BALANCE	(295,749.6)