



**The IUCN Species  
Survival Commission**

QUARTERLY REPORT  
**JUNE 2023**

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**Cover Photo:**

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) LC.  
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# Executive summary

The second quarter of 2023 closed with numerous activities to report. For the first time since the Covid pandemic, our Steering Committee met in person on 18-20 April at Indianapolis Zoo, hosted by the Global Center for Species Survival and with additional financial support from American Humane. It was a fantastic experience, which included planting a tree on the bank of the White River to remember our visit! The week before the Steering Committee met (12-14 April), the Global Center for Species Survival also hosted the first in-person summit of SSC Centers for Species Survival from around the world. The number of Centers continues to grow, so this was an excellent opportunity to share lessons learned and help guide members as they expand their reach and support to the network of SSC Groups. Their most recent activities update can be found in the final section of this *Quarterly Report*.

James Stevens and Alexandra Zimmermann report on the International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence held in Oxford, UK, in March. A very successful event that highlights the consolidation of the [SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group](#). Over 500 participants from 70 countries represented non-profit, government, academic, and donor organizations. A major achievement was celebrated, as they officially launched the [IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence](#).

As part of our continuing efforts to improve the tools and support to the SSC Network, we inform on 1) improvement of stand-alone reports and 2) launching of [One Stop Shop](#). During the annual reporting process using SSC DATA, as soon as each group concludes uploading the information, we initiate the online publication of their report. The first reports are published as early as the first or second quarter of each year. Working together with SSC Group Leaders, stand-alone reports have an improved design, with a cover and general information on SSC. One Stop Shop is a new, online resource produced in collaboration with the Global Center for Species Survival. At a single location, SSC Groups can find guidelines, terms of reference, best practices, manuals, training, onboarding materials, and databases on a variety of topics.

David Garshelis and Claudio Groff, from the [SSC Bear Specialist Group](#), present a very interesting article on the recovery of brown bears in Italy and the challenges that arise due to the increased frequency of encounters between bears and people.

In *Who shapes the SSC?* we hear from Nicole Duplaix, who has been involved with SSC for over 50 years. Nicole co-chairs the [SSC Otter Specialist Group](#) and recently joined the Chair's office team as a volunteer, focusing on the establishment of the SSC Mammal Conservation Committee.

# Resumen ejecutivo

El segundo trimestre de 2023 cerró con numerosas actividades para informar. Por primera vez desde que inició la pandemia del Covid, nuestro Comité Directivo se reunió en persona del 18 al 20 de abril en el Zoológico de Indianápolis, organizado por el *Global Center for Species Survival* y con apoyo financiero adicional de *American Humane*. ¡Fue una experiencia fantástica, que incluyó plantar un árbol en la orilla del río Blanco para recordar nuestra visita! La semana anterior a la reunión del Comité Directivo (del 12 al 14 de abril), el *Global Center for Species Survival* también organizó la primera cumbre en persona de los *Centers for Species Survival* (Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies) de la CSE de todo el mundo. La cantidad de Centros continúa creciendo, por lo que ésta fue una excelente oportunidad para compartir las lecciones aprendidas y ayudar a guiar a los miembros a medida que amplían su alcance y apoyo a la red de Grupos CSE. Sus actividades más recientes se pueden encontrar en la sección final de este Informe Trimestral.

James Stevens y Alexandra Zimmermann reportan sobre la Conferencia internacional sobre conflicto y coexistencia entre seres humanos y vida silvestre celebrada en Oxford, Reino Unido, en marzo. Un evento muy exitoso que destaca la consolidación del [Grupo Especialista en Conflicto y Convivencia Humano-Fauna Silvestre de la CSE](#). Más de 500 participantes de 70 países representaron a organizaciones sin fines de lucro, gubernamentales, académicas y donantes. Se celebró un logro importante, ya que lanzaron oficialmente las [Directrices de la UICN CSE sobre conflictos y coexistencia entre seres humanos y vida silvestre](#) (disponible en inglés).

Como parte de nuestros esfuerzos continuos para mejorar las herramientas y el apoyo a la Red CSE, informamos sobre 1) la mejora de los informes individuales y 2) el lanzamiento del [One Stop Shop](#). Durante el proceso de reporte anual usando SSC DATA, tan pronto como cada Grupo termina de cargar la información, iniciamos la publicación en línea de su informe. Los primeros informes se han publicado ya en el primer o segundo trimestre de cada año. Trabajando junto con los líderes de los Grupos de la CSE, los informes individuales tienen un diseño mejorado, con una portada e información general sobre la CSE. *One Stop Shop* es un nuevo recurso en línea producido en colaboración con el *Global Center for Species Survival*. En una sola ubicación, los Grupos CSE pueden encontrar pautas, términos de referencia, mejores prácticas, manuales, capacitación, materiales de incorporación y bases de datos sobre una variedad de temas.

David Garshelis y Claudio Groff, del [Grupo de Especialista en Osos de la CSE](#), presentan un artículo muy interesante sobre la recuperación de los osos pardos en Italia y los desafíos que surgen debido a la mayor frecuencia de encuentros entre osos y personas.

En *Who shapes the SSC?* hablamos con Nicole Duplaix, quien ha estado involucrada con la CSE por más de 50 años. Nicole co-preside el [Grupo de Especialistas en Nutrias de la CSE](#) y recientemente se unió al equipo de la oficina del Presidente como voluntaria, enfocándose en el establecimiento del Comité de Conservación de Mamíferos de la CSE.

## Résumé

Le deuxième trimestre de 2023 s'est terminé avec de nombreuses activités à signaler. Pour la première fois depuis la pandémie de Covid, notre Comité de Pilotage se réunira en personne du 18 au 20 avril au Zoo d'Indianapolis, organisé par le *Global Center for Species Survival* et avec l'aide financière complémentaire d'American Humane. Ce fut une expérience fantastique, y compris la plantation d'un arbre sur les rives de la rivière White pour se souvenir de notre visite! La semaine précédant la réunion du Comité Pilotage (du 12 au 14 avril), le *Global Center for Species Survival* a également accueilli le premier sommet en personne des Centres CSE du monde entier. Le nombre de centres continue de croître, ce fut donc une excellente occasion de partager les leçons apprises et d'aider à guider les membres alors qu'ils élargissent leur portée et leur soutien au réseau du groupe CSE. Ses activités les plus récentes sont présentées dans la dernière section de ce rapport trimestriel.

Rapport de James Stevens et Alexandra Zimmermann sur la Conférence Internationale sur les conflits entre l'homme et la faune sauvage et la coexistence à Oxford, au Royaume-Uni, en Mars. Un événement très réussi qui met en lumière la consolidation du [Groupe de Spécialistes du CSE sur les conflits entre l'homme et la faune sauvage et la coexistence](#). Plus de 500 participants de 70 pays représentaient des organisations à but non lucratif, des gouvernements, des universités et des bailleurs de fonds.. Une réalisation majeure a été célébrée lors du lancement officiel des lignes directrices de la CSE de l'UICN sur les conflits entre l'homme et la faune sauvage et la coexistence ([disponibles en anglais](#)).

Dans le cadre de nos efforts continus pour améliorer les outils et le soutien au réseau CSE, nous avons signalé 1) l'amélioration des rapports individuels et 2) le lancement du [One Stop Shop](#). Au cours du processus de rapport annuel utilisant SSC DATA, dès que chaque groupe a fini de télécharger les informations, nous commençons à publier son rapport en ligne. Les premiers rapports ont déjà été publiés dès le premier ou deuxième trimestre de chaque année. En collaboration avec les chefs de groupe CSE, les rapports individuels ont une conception améliorée, avec une page de couverture et des informations générales sur le CSE. One Stop Shop est une nouvelle ressource en ligne produite en collaboration avec le *Global Center for Species Survival*. En un seul endroit, les groupes CSE peuvent trouver des directives, des termes de référence, des

meilleures pratiques, des manuels, des formations, du matériel d'intégration et des bases de données sur une variété de sujets.

David Garshelis et Claudio Groff, du [CSE Groupe de spécialistes sur les ours](#), présentent un article très intéressant sur le rétablissement des ours bruns en Italie et les défis qui se posent en raison de la fréquence accrue des rencontres entre les ours et les humains.

Dans Qui façonne la CSE ? Nous discutons avec Nicole Duplaix, qui est impliquée au sein du CSE depuis plus de 50 ans. Nicole co-préside le [groupe de spécialistes de la loutre de la CSE](#) et a récemment rejoint l'équipe du bureau du président en tant que bénévole, en se concentrant sur la création du comité de conservation des mammifères de la CSE.

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# Recent activities



## CONFERENCES

Where the SSC chair's office attended or offered a lecture.



## MEETINGS

Where the SSC chair's office participated.



## INTERVENTIONS

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



## WORKSHOPS

Organised by the SSC chair's office or where the SSC chair's office participated.





## Conferences and meetings

(Jon Paul Rodríguez, JPR; Rima Jabado, RJ; Kira Mileham, KM; Nahomy De Andrade, NDA; Edgard Yerena, EY; Levi Mendoza, LM; Jafet Nassar, JN; Aritzaith Rodríguez, AR; Mayerlin Ramos, MR; Milangela Dell'Aquila, MDA; Simeon Bezeng, SB; Nicole Duplaix, ND)

### CONFERENCES

- *What is the IUCN Species Survival Commission?* IUCN Biodiversity Assessment & Knowledge Team, Cambridge, UK. 15 June 2023, virtual (JPR).
- *Speaker at Recovering nature: building on the work of Georgina Mace to ensure a biodiverse and liveable future.* The Royal Society, London, UK. 13 June 2023, virtual (JPR).
- *Situación de la Comisión para la Supervivencia de las Especies de UICN en 2023.* El ABC de la UICN: Comisión para la Supervivencia de Especies. Quito, Ecuador. 7 June 2023, virtual (JPR).

- *Street Whale Conference*. Kribi, Cameroon. 5–11 June 2023 (RJ).
- BirdLife South Africa's Learn About Bird Conference. Wilderness, Western Cape, South Africa. 24-26 May 2023 (SB).
- Panelist at *Shedd Immersion*. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois, USA. 16 May 2023 (JPR).
- *Partnering with the IUCN Species Survival Commission*. Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA. 15 May 2023 (JPR).
- *We know how to do conservation – we just need to do more of it!* Opportunities and Challenges Facing International Conservation. Shelton Auditorium, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. 17 April 2023 (JPR, RJ).

## MEETINGS

- *IUCN Species Survival Commission and Global Center for Species Survival Business Planning*. Indianapolis Zoo, Indiana, USA. 26-28 June 2023 (JPR, NDA).
- *SSC Steering Committee meeting follow-up*. Caracas, Venezuela. 20 June 2023, virtual (JPR, RJ, KM, NDA, EY, LM, JN, AR, MR, MDA, SB, ND).
- IUCN Global Group. London. UK. 20 June 2023, virtual (JPR).
- *CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna Animals Committee*. Geneva, Switzerland. 19–23 June 2023 (RJ).
- *Benefits Sharing and Biodiversity Discovery*. San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, San Diego, California, USA. 12-14 June 2023 (JPR).
- Commission Chair's meeting. Nyon, Switzerland. 20 May 2023 (JPR, NDA).
- 109<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IUCN Council. IUCN HQ, Gland, Switzerland. 23-25 May 2023 (JPR, NDA).
- SSC Steering Committee meeting. Indianapolis Zoo, Indiana, USA, 18-20 April 2023, hybrid meeting (JPR, RJ, KM, NDA, EY, LM, JN, AR, MR, MDA, SB, ND).
- *Opportunities and Challenges Facing International Conservation*. Shelton Auditorium, Butler University, Indianapolis, USA. 17 April 2023 (JPR, RJ, KM, NDA, AR, EY, MDA, ND).
- IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival meeting. Indianapolis Zoo, Indiana, USA. 12-14 April 2023, hybrid meeting (JPR, RJ, KM, NDA, AR, MR, ND, LM).

## INTERVENTION LETTERS AND STATEMENTS

- **Urgent request to Argentina’s Minister of Environment to update and improve the National Guanaco Management Plan, June 5, 2023.** The SSC Chair sent a letter to the Minister of Environment of Argentina, recalling that the National Guanaco Management Plan of Argentina has been the subject of international concern as expressed by the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, 2020) [Rec-097-ES](#) requesting the suspension of said plan to undergo a review process. SSC acknowledges that the Ministry’s Biodiversity Directorate reviewed the National Guanaco Management Plan, but that said process was interrupted. In the opinion of the experts of the IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group, the current plan does not guarantee the conservation of the species or its habitat. In this regard, the SSC reiterates its offer of help to conclude the review process of said management and to be satisfactorily modified.



IUCN SSC Steering Committee Meeting,  
Photo © Milangela Dell'Aquila

## IUCN SSC Steering Committee meets in person after three years of online meetings

*From 18 to 20 April 2023, the Global Center for Species Survival hosted the first in-person SSC Steering Committee Meeting after three years of virtual sessions due to the Covid pandemic. This was possible thanks to the generous support of the Indianapolis Zoo and American Humane.*

More than 30 global experts that are part of the [SSC Steering Committee](#) came together to discuss the network's priorities for the second half of the current quadrennium. They covered a range of topics, including progress on the 2020 Marseille Resolutions and Recommendations, preparing motions for the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress, and reviewing SSC DATA results in the context of the Species Strategic Plan 2021-2025. Additionally, they discussed the importance of diversity within the SSC membership and planning for the Commission's leadership transition.

The meeting also included updates on various disciplinary issues such as reintroduction of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

*"I am deeply grateful to Indianapolis Zoo and American Humane for their financial support of the SSC Steering Committee meeting, and to our colleagues at the Global Center for Species Survival for their exquisite and professional hosting of the event. I personally want to thank my team for developing and managing the content of the sessions, and for anticipating the requirements of participants. Finally, the dedication of Steering Committee members, who contribute with their time and intellect, two very valuable resources, is outstanding. Many thanks to all!"*

**Jon Paul Rodríguez, Chair of SSC.**



For the Species Survival Commission, it is crucial to hold this meeting every year to assess the effectiveness of species conservation initiatives within the network and beyond; identify areas of improvement, and determine the main topics that will require our attention in the coming years.

During the meeting, several action points were outlined, including engagement with the SSC Young Professionals Group, making contributions to the Convention on Migratory Species and other International Conventions, further collaborating with the Reverse the Red Initiative, and actively participating in CITES and IPBES.



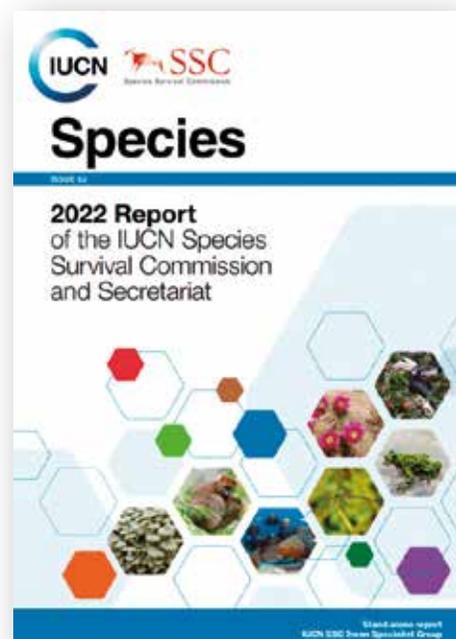
Photo © IUCN SSC

## 2022 IUCN SSC stand-alone reports have a new look

*The IUCN SSC stand-alone reports will have a new look and structure starting with the 2022 Species Report and throughout the rest of the quadrennium. This new format will improve their ability to inform the public about the annual progress of the SSC groups.*

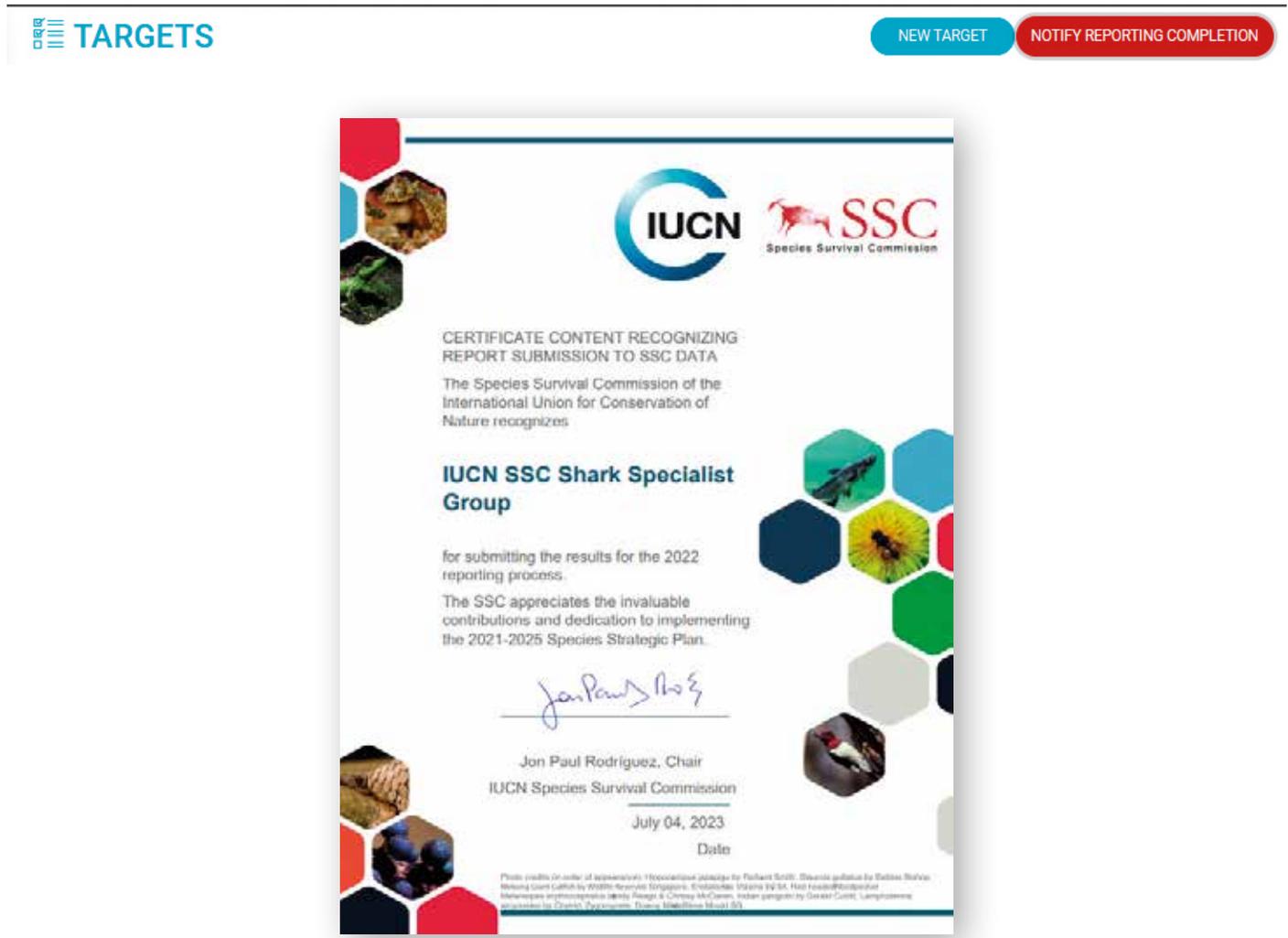
In early 2023, the SSC Chair's Office team collaborated with the Global Center for Species Survival Coordinators to enhance the annual stand-alone reports. The goal was to make these reports more informative for the public and facilitate the groups' progress tracking.

Stand-alone reports now have a distinctive front cover, followed by an introductory page about the SSC and the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan. The next page provides a detailed description of the report's structure, including each section and an example of how to cite the report. The subsequent pages correspond to the contents that we have used in the previous years, with a few improvements, like the inclusion of the Program Officer's information and a straightforward connection between the targets for the quadrennium and the results generated each year.

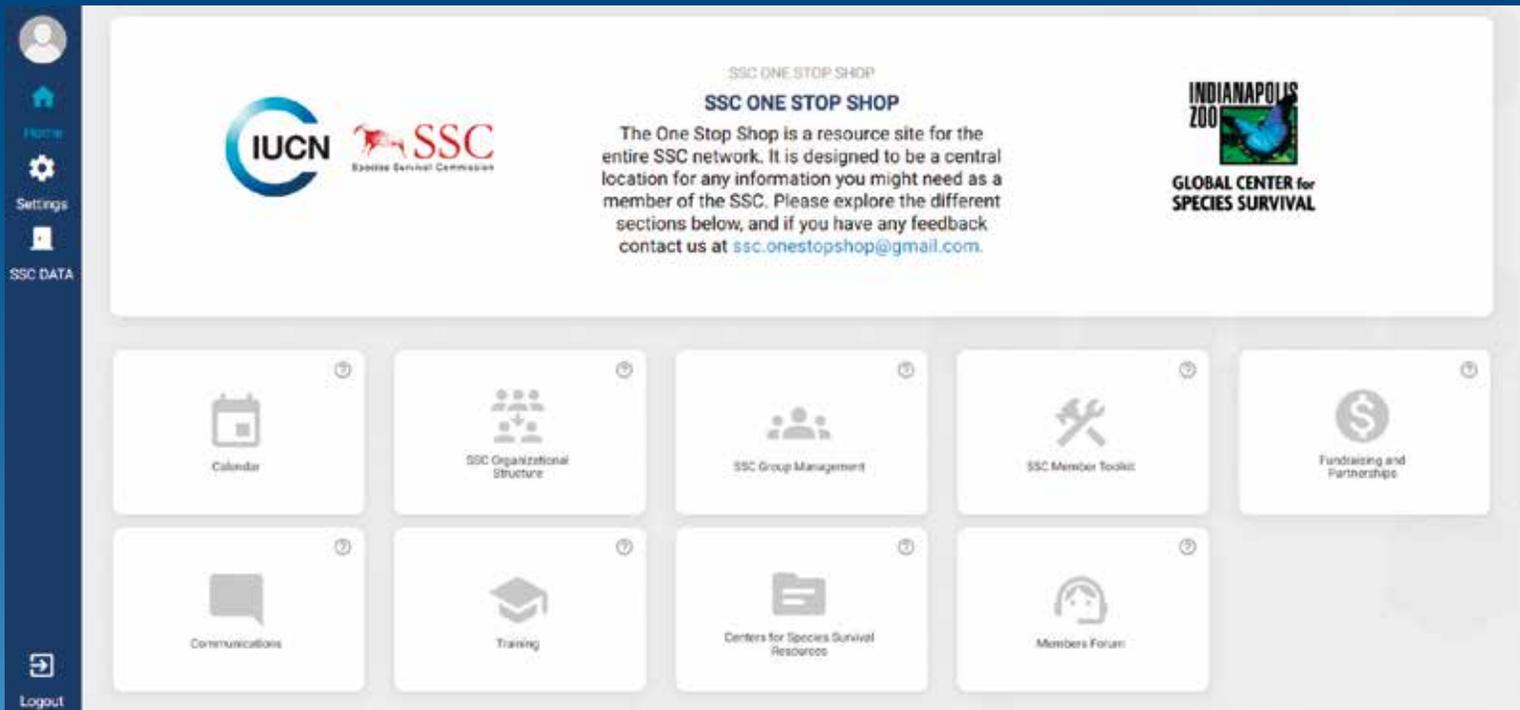


The first 2022 stand-alone reports have been published already. The SSC DATA Unit is compiling the reports promptly upon the completion of each SSC group's yearly submissions. Once a stand-alone report is finalized, the group is provided with a PDF version, and the report is made available on the [SSC website](#).

Additionally, to help speed up the reporting process, we have recently introduced a new feature in SSC DATA, known as the 'Notify Reporting Completion' button. This feature enables leaders to confirm the submission process's completion each year. Once this notification has been received, the SSC DATA System will send to the Group leaders a certificate acknowledging report submission.



We invite the leaders of the SSC network to take advantage of the new features of the stand-alone report to communicate the annual progress of their groups with partners, collaborators, and sponsors. We also aim to address the needs of the network and provide them better support for assessment, planning and action.



SSC One Stop Shop platform.  
Photo © IUCN SSC

## SSC One Stop Shop

*The SSC One Stop Shop is a resource site that consolidates all the resources that an SSC member might need to perform their daily activities as a part of the Species Survival Commission. In this platform, you will find resources such as guidelines, terms of reference, best practices, manuals, training, onboarding materials, and databases on different topics that have been put together for easy access.*

### **Are you an SSC member? Join us!**

The One Stop Shop is integrated with the SSC DATA System, so SSC DATA users can log in with the same credentials they already have, and then click on the icon placed on the top of the left bar "OSS".

For those SSC members that are not SSC DATA users, we invite you to register using the following link: <https://www.iucnsscddata.org>. Once you complete this process we will receive a notification to accept your request and give you access to the site.

We encourage you to be part of this site and explore and enjoy its benefits.



# International Conference and IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence

*In March 2023, the International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence was held in Oxford, UK. Organised by the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group (HWCCSG), and co-hosted with the GEF-funded and World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program, and the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit of Oxford University.*

**James Stevens**

*Programme Officer, HWCCSG*

**Alexandra Zimmermann**

*Chair, HWCCSG*

The Conference was a highly interdisciplinary, international, and multisectoral event, with very substantial SSC presence and participation. It was attended by more than 500 delegates, from 70 countries and six continents and brought together participants from non-profit, government, academic, and donor backgrounds to provide a forum for exchanging knowledge and interdisciplinary discussions across sectors and fostering collaborations. The programme consisted of 48 sessions of scientific presentations, panel debates, keynotes and interactive discussions from diverse fields such as ecology, animal behaviour, psychology, policy, conflict

analysis, mediation and peacebuilding, resource mobilisation and anthropology. All keynotes, symposia, speed talks and major panel sessions were recorded and have been compiled in a [video library](#) for catch-up viewing, sharing and as a resource.

The conference was led by HWCCSG Chair Alexandra Zimmermann, and the HWCCSG Members, Programme Officer James Stevens and Policy Officer Luna Milatović, together organised the event and moderated many of the sessions in the conference programme. For example, this included several high-level panel discussions with a focus on specific regions, e.g. John Linnell moderated the session on [the future for large carnivores in Europe](#) while Silvio Marchini and Rogerio de Paula organised a session on [collaborating for coexistence across Latin America](#). Meanwhile the Chair and Policy Officer ran a session following the successful inclusion of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on the [development of the adopted indicator](#).



HWCCSG Chair Alexandra Zimmermann.  
Photo © HWCC

Also, government delegates from France, Namibia, Brazil, the USA and India participated in the panel discussion, offering insights from governments' perspectives. Kate Hill organised a session on learning from failures, where delegates were encouraged to share examples and consider how understanding them may lead to better policies and practices. Jenny Glikman organised a session on monitoring and evaluation of interventions on both ecological and human dimensions parameters. Although sessions were typically topic-focused, on the final day, Greta Iori and Brian McQuinn moderated a major panel discussion on the [future of people and elephants in Africa and Asia](#) together with many joint HWCCSG/AsESG/AfESG Members. Kim Wolfenden and Simon Pooley moderated sessions with a marine and [reptile](#) focus, and Programme Officer James Stevens organised a session on the [FAO/IUCN Case Studies](#) coexistence. All HWCCSG Members were actively involved in the programme organisation and content, alongside more than 200 other delegates who gave talks and participated in panel discussions. Several also provided short training courses in the days before the conference, including conservation planning, mapping HWC, social marketing, insurance scheme development, and social research. The voluntary time and dedication of the HWCCSG Members to this first-of-its-kind event was phenomenal and exemplary and ensured its great success.

The SSC Chair, Jon Paul Rodríguez, sent a video message for the conference's [opening session](#) and the Regional Vice Chair for Meso and South America, Gabriela Lichtenstein, gave a [keynote presentation](#) on a sustainable use perspective. They were joined by a dozen other high-profile speakers presenting keynotes and video messages, including CBD Executive Secretary, David Cooper and CITES Secretary General Ivonne Higuero. The Convention on Migratory Species was also represented, as were over 40 governments and around 20 funding and donor organisations.

Human-wildlife conflict is a common interest and concern for many IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, and many of them were represented and actively involved in the conference, running sessions and giving talks. To help further facilitate collaborations between SSC groups, Sugoto Roy and Rachel Hoffmann organised a special SSC networking meeting during the conference, focussing on common interests in the HWC topic area. This included presentations from the Asian Elephant, Cat, Canid, Crocodile, Otter, Primate, Sustainable Use and Livelihoods, Sustainable Use and Management of Ecosystems (CEM), and Translocation Specialist Groups, who shared their work, interests and priorities, explored new areas of work on the topic that could be undertaken and identified where opportunities for collaboration existed across the groups.

At the conference, the HWCCSG launched and presented the new [IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence](#). These global Guidelines provide global, authoritative and impartial guidance to understanding and resolving human-wildlife conflict. They highlight essential foundations and principles for good practice, with clear guidance on how best to tackle conflicts and enable coexistence with wildlife. They have been developed for use by conservation practitioners, community leaders, decision-makers, researchers, government officers, and others. Focussing on approaches and tools for analysis and decision-making, they are not limited to any particular species nor region of the world. They can be used by any individual, organisation, community or government trying to manage human-wildlife conflict and achieve coexistence. The Guidelines aim to improve the management of human-wildlife conflict globally, supporting efforts to be pursued through well-informed, holistic and collaborative processes that take into account underlying social, cultural and economic contexts.



Photo © HWCC



Trentino bear habitat, with city of Trentino, Italy, in background  
Photo © Claudio Groff

# The tenuous coexistence between people and a rapidly recovering bear population

**David Garshelis**

*Co-chair IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group*

**Claudio Groff**

*IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group*

*Provincia Autonoma di Trento – Wildlife Service*

*Less than 500 years ago, brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) still ranged across most of continental Europe. But their range shrank precipitously with habitat loss and intentional extermination. By 1900, only two small breeding populations remained in the Alps, one in France and one in Italy. The French population disappeared, whereas a small number of bears persisted in the Italian province of Trentino (central Alps). In 1969, at least eight bears lived there. By the late 1990s, the population had dwindled to three or four bears, and was on the verge of extirpation. To save this population, 10 bears from Slovenia were released in Trentino during 1999–2002.*

Before the reintroduction, a feasibility study and a survey of public attitudes were conducted, and a management plan created, with the input of local government and stakeholders. The basic goal was to grow the population to at least 40–60 bears (considered to be the minimum viable

population), and ultimately connect this small population with the larger population in the Dinaric region to the east. Each year since 2002, population size has been estimated using genetic samples from hair traps and scats. Reproduction has been ascertained from sighting data, and radio-collared bears have provided information about mortality. In the early years of demographic monitoring, virtually every bear was known, but that has become more difficult as the population has grown. Ten years post-release, the population was 43–48. Now there are more than 100 bears, and still growing numerically and expanding geographically.

Early on it was recognized that conflicts with people would arise as the population grew. In particular, these bears kill cows, donkeys, sheep and poultry, and damage crops and beehives. Claims for compensation for bear damage have risen steadily: in 2021, over 300 cases were filed amounting to over €170,000. Preventative measures, namely electric fencing and livestock guarding dogs, are heavily subsidized by the government, and now cost over €160,000 annually. The Wildlife Department meets regularly with local stakeholders to discuss better ways of mitigating bear damage.

Specific “problem bears” have been identified, especially those known to have exhibited bold behaviour around people or entered human settlements. Almost all of them are fitted with radio-collars so they can be monitored more closely. Some have been subjected to aversive conditioning, using rubber bullets or trained bear dogs, to try to alter their behaviour with respect to people.



Female brown bear with cub in Trentino, Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) LC.  
Photo © Massimo Papi, Forest and Wildlife Department, Provincia Autonoma di Trento

Local people regularly report close encounters with bears. These were not unexpected as Trentino has the highest human density of all bear-occupied areas in Europe (80 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>). An “emergency team” investigates these human–bear encounters to better understand the circumstances and how the bears behaved. These data are useful in guiding human behaviour and in documenting which individual bears may pose a threat to people. In most close encounters, bears simply moved away. In some, they bluff-charged, meaning that the bear rushed towards the person, but turned away. Typically, these were cases where neither the person or bear knew of each other’s presence until they were close, and the bear responded defensively. In seven cases, all since 2014, a bear made contact with a person, resulting in injuries, and most recently, one fatality.

A notable case is female bear JJ4, born in 2006. In June 2020, a father and adult son were hiking, and encountered this bear when they crested a hill; she charged them, injuring both. She had previously been involved in several reported bluff charges. Following the attack, the President of the Province issued an emergency order to remove JJ4 from the population by killing her, to protect public safety. The IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group wrote a letter supporting this action. However, animal rights organizations brought the case to court and managed to have the order overturned. She was left in the wild, and fitted with a GPS radio-collar. People in Trentino can follow the movements of such radio-collared bears with an online app as a way of reducing encounters, especially of females with cubs.

In early April 2023, a 26-year-old man jogging along a path on the mountain above his village unsuspectingly found himself close to JJ4, now 17 years old and with three yearling offspring. She attacked and killed him – the first human fatality by a bear in Italy in more than a century. She was identified by DNA at the scene. Authorities decided to capture and then kill her, as mandated in the management plan; but again, a court overturned this action, and, at least at this time, ordered that she remain in permanent captivity. The Wildlife Department has argued that this is not a long-term practical solution for bears that may pose a danger to public safety, as there are likely to be a growing number of them, and limited space to house them.

Some are now calling for a significant reduction in the size of this population; others are emphasizing more safety precautions for people. For the first time in Italy (and most of Europe) there are serious considerations about setting a maximum threshold for the bear population as one means of controlling conflicts. Bear spray (capsaicin), which is commonly used to prevent these sorts of dangerous encounters between brown (grizzly) bears and people in North America is not legal in Italy, although the Trentino government has been lobbying to change that restriction, at least in this autonomous province.

Attacks on people sharply erode public confidence in the bear management program, and increase temptations for individuals to take matters in their own hands by illegally killing bears. Thus, the Trentino bear population, which has served as an exemplary model of recovery of a nearly-extirpated population, is now at a crucial juncture, testing the limits of coexistence between people and bears.

# Who shapes the SSC?

## Nicole Duplaix

*Otter Specialist Group Co-Chair*

*For over 52 years, Nicole Duplaix has had a successful career supporting the SSC Network and working towards otter conservation worldwide. Her expertise and professionalism have been invaluable to the IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group. Recently, she offered herself as a special advisor for the SSC Chair's Office. In this edition of Who Shapes the SSC, we interviewed Nicole to learn more about her experience as an SSC leader and her vision in this new role.*



Nicole Duplaix at work in Pantanal, Brazil.  
Photo © Nicole Duplaix

## *How would you describe your experience working in otters conservation within SSC during the last decades, both as part of this huge network of volunteers and as a Specialist Group leader?*

I have been working with the SSC since 1971 (Steering Committee 1971-1982), as the international studbooks coordinator. I came to the SSC in 1971 via the London Zoo. This soon led to other responsibilities as Chair of the Otter Specialist Group (1974-1983; 2004-present), as co-founder of TRAFFIC in 1973 and as its director in the USA (1978-1981).

In those early days, the SSC Steering Committee had about 30 members and only a handful of Specialist Groups, mainly charismatic mammals and reptiles. We met two or three times a year.

The Red List was in loose-leaf binders.

So much has changed and for the better! Being a Specialist Group Chair now, particularly with many species, is nearly a full-time job requiring a large support team. You need to become familiar with how the IUCN and the SSC work, their structures and expectations. Species research is only a part of the Specialist Group's responsibilities. In the age of multimedia, global conventions, and increasing threats, the vision has broadened. Each group needs its global conservation strategy to guide its future with a solid team of members with different skill sets to implement it. Hosting meetings in key conservation areas and training new members to launch local programs with local communities has proved successful. Much work remains!

## *What's your vision for the SSC network?*

The SSC is faced with a daunting task. The SSC with its more than 9,000 *volunteer* experts seems almost a contradiction in terms. And yet it works. The sheer energy of enthusiasm and the level of commitment of each SSC member makes it all come together. The global accomplishments of these Groups and the SSC as a whole are visible and verifiable. Of course, we need to do more and better.

When viewed separately, some Specialist Groups (SGs) both old and new need help. The Task Forces, Committees and Centers for Species Survival are here to help and collaborate. Bridging SGs like Conservation Planning (CPSG) help develop new skills and action. I encourage the new and small SGs to reach out and participate, to collaborate with other SGs and Task Forces. We have such a vast pool of knowledge and experience available to help all the SGs prosper.

## *Based on your professional experience, what will you bring to the SSC Chair's Office?*

At this early stage, my contribution is listening, observing and learning. If I bring anything to the Chair's Office it is a very long association with the SSC – the memory bank of how it got to where it is today, including the hiccups along the way. Developing the Mammal Conservation Committee is just beginning and will require many conversations and much advice. I am enthusiastic and ready.



## The SSC Chair's Office held the first Center for Species Survival (CSS) Summit

*Species conservation teams from 16 countries and 17 organisations convened on 12-14 April for the first IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) **Center for Species Survival (CSS) Summit**. These Centers are hosted within leading conservation organisations, most of whom are members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), who employ staff teams working in partnership with the SSC's global network on priority species conservation assessment, planning and action.*

The meeting was convened by the SSC Chair's Office and hosted by the Global Center for Species Survival at the Indianapolis Zoo.

*"Centers for Species Survival, working together with SSC Specialist Groups, are bringing much-needed capacity, expertise, and connection to species survival efforts around the world," according to **Dr Kira Mileham, SSC Strategic Partnership Director**. "It is exciting to see these teams come together in-person for the first time to share ideas and experiences and scale up joint priorities. We know how to save species, we just need to do more of it, and in a more coordinated way. This is what these partnerships and efforts are all about."*

The focus of this meeting was to strengthen the vision and priorities of the Center for Species Survival network, and to identify further opportunities for collaboration, capacity and synergy across the global conservation community. Topics included: effectively engaging with the SSC global network of volunteer species expert groups, building capacity along the Species Conservation Cycle (Assess, Plan, Act, Network and Communicate), collaborative fundraising, engaging communities and behaviour change, working with governments and supporting the Global Biodiversity Framework in connection with the [Reverse the Red](#) movement.

Sessions were based on examples and experiences from the work carried out by the different CSSs, according to their scope, followed by interactive workshops and discussions. The results were productive and energetic, highlighting the importance of the vision of the Centers and organisations, the relationships with governments, communities and local indigenous populations.

The rest of the sessions were around discussions on how their work can be used to reduce extinction risk, measure impact, and create national networks to support conservation. In addition, the need to coordinate existing actions, align efforts towards common targets and lead processes such as assessment, conservation planning and action was also discussed. In terms of fundraising, the need to refine a collaborative fundraising strategy and priorities, including the identification of funding needs and donor opportunities to be pursued for the coming years, was emphasized.

The meeting included a space to plant a tree in the gardens around the Global Center for Species Survival building for the meeting.

## Brief history of the Centers for Species Survival

The SSC Chair's Office has been working through a focused effort for more than a decade to strengthen relationships between the zoo, aquarium and botanical garden communities and the SSC Network. Simultaneously, the SSC Network's diverse volunteer



expert groups function most effectively when partnered with dedicated staff teams and institutional capacity. In response to these needs, the SSC Chair's Office established the Centers for Species Survival partnership model which has been gaining momentum globally. This model aims to help address the biodiversity crisis and paradox and reverse the threat to species globally through strategic species assessments, conservation planning and action. These partnerships have grown from one staff member to teams within 13 partner organisations in 8 countries across 5 continents, working with the purpose of building scientific capacity and impactful species conservation action in parts of the world where it is most needed.

The SSC is eager to continue expanding both the network and the impact of these partnerships around the world.

Below is a brief history of how this CSS Network has evolved over the past 14 years.

## 2009 Exploring Partnerships and Program Officers



- SSC Chair's Office – Simon Stuart, Rachel Hoffmann and Jeremy Harris led SSC Network Support and Partnerships.
- Explored stronger relationships with Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs).
- Built model for zoo-based Program Officers working with SSC Specialist Groups through partnerships, for example with Chester Zoo and Zoological Society of London

## 2014 Director of Strategic Partnerships



- SSC Chair's Office and EAZA partnered to create a new SSC role focused on strengthening zoo and aquarium partnerships. Dr. Kira Mileham commenced in the role.
- Surveyed Specialist Groups' partnership needs and engagement with the zoo, aquarium and botanic garden community.
- Began 3 years of intense liaison with +250 zoos, aquariums and botanic gardens from +30 countries.
- Extended zoo-based Program Officers for Specialist Groups in partnership with Bristol Zoo, Marwell Wildlife Park, Honolulu Zoo, Montgomery Botanic Garden and Arizona Desert Botanic Gardens.

## 2015 Zoo and Aquaria Advisory and Adoption of Assess - Plan - Act



- The SSC Chair's Office began annual WAZA and AZA conference presentations, joined as an advisor to the WAZA, BIAZA and AZA Conservation Committees.
- SSC Leaders Meeting intense interviews with +100 SGs.
- Began long-term plan for IUCN SSC Position Statement on the role of Zoos, Aquariums and Botanic Gardens.
- Adopted the SSC's Cat Specialist Group's model of Assess-Plan-Act to help frame and articulate opportunities for partnerships.

## 2016 First Partnership Hub and SSC Chair Transition



- Established the first Red List Hub at The Deep Aquarium for marine IUCN Red List assessments and growing the partnership model globally.
- SSC Chair Transition to Prof. Jon Paul Rodríguez and Venezuelan SSC Chair's Office.

## 2017



- Partnered with Georgia Aquarium as a Shark IUCN Red List Hub.
- Worked to add captive animal data to IUCN Red List and raise awareness of the need to prioritise Extinct in the Wild Species.
- SSC Director of Partnerships officially invited to become an advisor to WAZA Global Council.

## 2018



- Partnership launched with Oceanario de Lisboa: Marine Hub focused on IUCN Red List assessments.
- Partnership launched with Albuquerque Biopark as first Species Survival Hub, first multi-person team and first botanic garden CSS across APA.
- Nahomy De Andrade commenced as SSC Grants and Partnership Officer.

## 2019



- Transitioned language to Centers for Species Survival.
- Partnership launched with Parque das Aves: CSS Brazil as the first CSS with pre-existing relationship with the SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) as a CPSG Regional Resource Center.
- Partnership launched with Paradise Wildlife Park: CSS UK.
- IUCN SSC, WAZA and other partners introduced the Reverse the Red movement with CSSs as key partners.
- Introduced the conceptualised partnership with Indianapolis Zoo: Global CSS as a 7+ staff team working in partnership with all SSC taxonomic Specialist Groups.

## 2020



- Partnership launched with Temaikén CSS: Argentina.
- SSC Strategic Partnership Director joined ZAA Wildlife Conservation Committee as advisor.

# 2021



- The Global Center for Species Survival at Indianapolis Zoo officially launched.
- Partnership launched with Loro Parque: CSS Macaronesia.
- Mayerlin Ramos succeeds Nahomy De Andrade as SSC Grants and Partnership Officer.

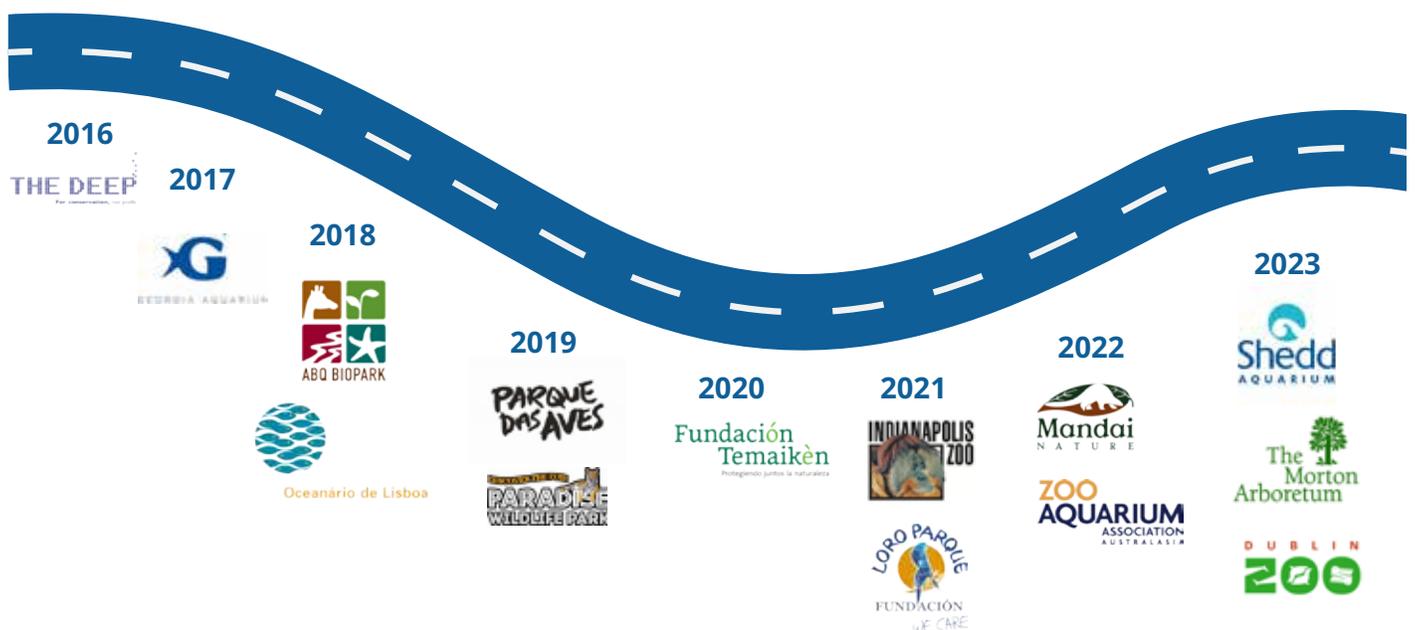
# 2022



- Partnership relaunched with Georgia Aquarium: CSS Marine.
- Partnership launched with Mandai Nature: CSS Southeast Asia.
- Partnership launched with Zoo and Aquarium Association of Australasia (ZAA): CSS Australasia.
- Work underway to strengthen the relationship between all CSSs and CPSG on conservation planning.
- Moved to an application process for new organisations to propose the establishment of a new CSS partnership.
- Integrating continuity between CSS teams on target setting and impact reporting.

# 2023

- Partnership launched with Shedd Aquarium: CSS Freshwater.
- Partnership launched with Morton Arboretum: CSS Global Trees.
- First in-person CSS Global Meeting.





## IUCN SSC Centers for Species Survival

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

# EUROPE

## CSS - Portugal: *Oceanario de Lisboa*

The Center for Species Survival at Oceanário de Lisboa focuses on the Assess component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Since late 2021, the team has been assessing species of marine fishes at a national scale for the 'Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal'.

### Assess:

- The team has continued to prepare draft assessments for the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal, resulting in over 485 draft assessments completed since the beginning of the project. Until now, 7 assessment workshops were held, where 21 researchers from 9 national institutions from mainland Portugal, the Azores and Madeira, assessed 300 species.

### Network:

- In April, Nuria Baylina and Catarina Fonseca represented the CSS Portugal: Oceanário de Lisboa in the first CSS meeting, in Indianapolis, sharing the experience acquired contributing to Red List assessments since 2018 and in the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal.

### Communicate:

- The CSS team has developed a social media strategy to educate the public about the marine fish species inhabiting Portuguese waters and the importance of Red Books through Oceanário de Lisboa's social networks, sharing some curiosities on the species and reporting on project progress.
- In June, the CSS's team presented the role of the Centers for Species Survival Network, what it means to be a CSS and how a Red Book is developed to the remaining Biology team from Oceanário de Lisboa.

## CSS - Macaronesia: *Loro Parque Fundacion*

Upon gathering and analyzing the data, a total of 18 reports regarding the biodiversity status across various regions in Spain were produced. The [dossiers](#) with the information from their specific region were sent to the institutions that were willing to collaborate with our project and present the information on 22 May 2023 (on the framework of the International Day for Biological Diversity) to the press and general public. Some of them had to back out due to political reasons because of elections in Spain. We had the presentation of the project in 5 different regions of our country (Canary Islands, Andalusia, Basque Country, Aragon and Cantabria). The project had considerable repercussions in regional and local media (radio, TV channels, online press, and newspapers).

## Assess:

- Create 18 documents containing the analysis of the status of Biodiversity in Spain with the collaboration of the IUCN Spanish Committee.

## Network:

- Improve connection network with local and regional zoos and aquariums: Presentation of the project "Status of the Biodiversity in Spain" in 5 different regions in Spain (22<sup>nd</sup> of May).

## Communicate:

- Media coverage of the project: Gap analysis: Status of the Biodiversity in Spain 2023.

# NORTH AMERICA

## Global CSS - United States: *Indianapolis Zoo*

The Global Center for Species Survival team supports, connects and communicates the work of thousands of conservationists joined together in the more than 170 Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Conservation Committees of the IUCN SSC.

In the last quarter, the Global Center for Species Survival team launched the [Saving Species Challenge](#) – a \$1 million grant from the Indianapolis Zoo. This process involved creating a webpage, writing an extensive FAQ, holding nine informational webinars, recruiting and supporting applicants, and reviewing more than 170 pre-applications.



**SAVING SPECIES CHALLENGE**

The Indianapolis Zoo Saving Species Challenge is a grant that will award \$1 million to one organization anywhere in the world that can develop and execute a plan that will lead to the improvement of an animal species' status on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.

Join us via Zoom to learn more about the Saving Species Challenge. Indianapolis Zoo staff will be available to answer questions related to applying for the grant.

May 2, 2023  
1 pm UTC, 9 am EDT

[bit.ly/GlobalCenterEvents](https://bit.ly/GlobalCenterEvents)

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO

Saving Species Challenge webinars  
Photo © Indianapolis Zoo

The Global Center also hosted the IUCN SSC Centers for Species Survival and the IUCN SSC Steering Committee meetings in person in Indianapolis, plus an MBZ meeting and a panel discussion at Butler University. These events were a massive undertaking, with our team working 14-hour days for two straight weeks to produce the highest quality experience for our guests.

Here are some other updates from the Global Center for the period of April through June 2023.

### Assess:

- Global Center Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator Sérgio Henriques worked with the Invertebrate Conservation Committee towards the Red Listing of Madagascar fauna, endemic arachnids of the Mid Atlantic Islands, spiders from South Africa, South Korea, and Southeast Asia.
- Freshwater & Marine Conservation Coordinator Monni Böhm supported Red List assessments for several species of Philippine beetles and swallowtails and attended two European Red List of Moths workshops.
- Monni also attended several meetings and contributed to the revision of the Threat Classification Scheme with CMP as part of the Red List Technical Working Group.
- Global Center Behavior Change Coordinator Laura Perry travelled to Kenya to work with vulture conservationists with SAFE and the Specialist Group on training aiming to reduce wildlife mortality resulting from retaliatory poisoning of carcasses. The next step will be designing surveys to understand poisoning behaviour.



- In partnership with the Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group, Laura travelled to the island for meetings with their education and community teams. She is assessing their schooling program and Newcastle disease chicken vaccine campaign.
- Global Center Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator Sérgio Henriques published a conservation tool article "The genome sequence of the Autumn Spider, *Metellina segmentata*" (Clerck, 1757).

## Plan:

- Global Center Plants & Fungi Conservation Coordinator Cátia Canteiro and Behavior Change Coordinator Laura Perry worked with the Fungal Conservation Committee, NatureServe and partners from the Biodiversity Heritage Program interested in fungal conservation to identify challenges and opportunities to include more fungal species in their conservation work.
- Our Conservation Coordinators worked with multiple Specialist Groups towards planning Focal Persons, engaging them in Conservation Planning Specialist Group training, and submitting their preliminary plans towards the Saving a Species Challenge.
- Sérgio supported the State Wildlife Action Plan.

## Act:

- Sérgio worked with the CITES terrestrial invertebrates' non-detrimental findings (NDFs).
- Supported land management to benefit invertebrates in several local land trusts and park and recreation sites.

## Network:

- In partnership with KBA, we continued a webinar series about Key Biodiversity Areas. The most recent sessions focused on monitoring the status of KBAs and the relevance of the IUCN Red List on the KBA identification process.
- Cátia supported the creation of a Fungal Use Group (FUse) within the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group.
- Monni supported the creation of the Marine Star Specialist Group, plus organized initial scoping meetings for a Sponge Specialist Group and Marine Decapod Specialist Group.
- Monni continues to work with FCC and collaborators inside and outside the SSC on coordinating several outputs from the upcoming Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment.
- Mammal Conservation Coordinator Justin Birkhoff worked with the Sloth Bear SAFE program to develop their action plan.
- Justin also attended virtual meetings for the submission of the African Elephant SAFE to AZA for consideration.
- Laura and Justin attended the Pathways 2023 Conference in Colorado. The conference focused on managing wildlife in an era of mutualism. While there, they also met with the African Elephant Specialist Group.
- Bird Conservation Coordinator Sam Iwande travelled to France to participate in the EAZA Parrot TAG Regional Collection and *ex-situ* conservation planning workshop.

- Sam helped to organize initial scoping meetings for a Parrot Specialist Group.
- Sam facilitated and supported meetings between the SSC Chair's office and the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute for the creation of a Center for Species Survival in Nigeria.

## Communicate:

- As part of the Indianapolis Zoo's new entry experience, the Global Center opened for public observation on May 27, 2023. Zoo visitors can see the Conservation Coordinators working, watch videos about global conservation projects supported by the Zoo, learn about the Zoo's partnership with IUCN SSC, catch up on the latest conservation news headlines, and be immersed in a 360-degree audiovisual experience featuring Our Living Planet's beautiful biodiversity.
- Sam and Monni were interviewed by journalists with local news outlets about the Global Center and talked about our partnership with IUCN SSC.
- Cátia supported the Plant Conservation Committee with the development of a possible public campaign on the risks of buying plants illegally or from unknown provenance, to be implemented through Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
- Monni attended the Regional Aquatics Workshop (RAW) to promote the upcoming AZA North American Freshwater Mussel SAFE program amongst AZA members.
- Monni co-authored an [Oryx news piece](#) about the re-established Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority.
- Supported several Specialist Groups with SSC Data reporting.
- Sérgio was interviewed by NPR for an upcoming long-form news report about fireflies. It will focus on the threats facing fireflies and provide ideas to the public for supporting firefly conservation.



# SOUTH AMERICA

## CSS - Brazil: *Parque das Aves*

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

### Plan:

- As part of the objectives outlined in the National Action Plan for the Conservation of Primates in Argentina, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina collaborated with the Ministry of Ecology and the Missionary Institute of Biodiversity to organize the workshop “Evaluation of population management for the conservation of *Alouatta guariba* in the province of Misiones, Argentina”, held from April 24 to 26. The IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group designed and facilitated the workshop, in collaboration with the Center for Species Survival Brazil (CSS Brazil) and CSS Argentina, and the National Center for Research and Conservation of Brazilian Primates (CPB/ICMBio).

The workshop addressed the urgent situation faced by the Brown Howler Monkey, a Critically Endangered species, endemic to the Atlantic Forest of Brazil and Argentina. In Argentina, there are fewer than 50 known individuals in the wild, and their main threats are yellow fever and habitat loss. Throughout the event, participants discussed the risks, benefits, requirements, and challenges associated with four types of population management strategies: reintroduction, reinforcement, rescue, and *ex-situ* management.



Fabiana Rocha, Bugio Argentina  
Photo © Parque das Aves



Brown howler monkey (*Alouatta guariba*) VU.  
Photo © Mariano Paired

*“The Brown Howler monkey in Argentina is at a critical point where it could disappear if something is not done now. CPSG’s planning experience and the knowledge and willingness to work of the participants allowed us to discuss and agree on the types of population management necessary to save this species”,* said **Luciana Oklander** (UNAM-CONICET-Argentina), the workshop coordinator.



Brown howler monkey ( *Alouatta guariba* ) VU.  
Photo © Julio Cesar Bicca Marques

The workshop brought together an array of stakeholders, including government representatives at the local, provincial, and national levels, experts from Argentina and Brazil, the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group (PSG), NGOs, park rangers, security forces, and secretaries of health and climate change. This diverse participation created a dynamic and inclusive environment for collaboration.

Furthermore, the workshop showcased a desirable network structure by marking the first formal collaboration between two Centers for Species Survival, both of which are members of WAZA. The Centers worked together with local experts and governments of two countries and received crucial support from SSC (represented by CPSG and PSG), besides, the workshop was partially funded by SSC Chairs’ office. The collective effort demonstrated the importance of these partnerships and highlighted a comprehensive approach to species conservation.



Guaribaworkshop  
Photo © Parque das Aves

The workshop’s significance was acknowledged by the House of Representatives of the Province of Misiones, which expressed legislative interest in the matter.

## Act:

- The first two Blue-eyed Ground Doves (CR) to be reared in human care were successfully raised from the egg stage, marking an important step forward in the integrated conservation program for this species. The wild population was censused in January, with 15 individuals.

- Emergency meeting on Alagoas Antwren (CR) at SAVE Brasil headquarters in April 2023 to define actions for the 2023-24 breeding season, including reinforced anti-predator measures, and accelerated training with model species.
- First nest-building by the Northeastern Spot-winged Wood Quails in human care (endemic subspecies = CR on National Red List).
- Two more Black-fronted Piping-guans (EN) were sent by Parque das Aves for reintroduction by our partners, SAVE Brasil.

## Communicate:

- The document *Operational manual for planning and executing state processes for assessing the risk of extinction of fauna and flora species*, developed by CSS Brazil officer in partnership with the Chico Mendes Institute for Conservation and Biodiversity (ICMBio), and the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden (JBRJ), foreseen by the National Strategy for the Conservation of Endangered Species (GEF Pró-Espécies), coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment. This was possible thanks to the funding from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF) as part of the strategy for incentivizing the elaboration of State Red Lists, which is now available (only in Portuguese) ([HERE](#)).

To learn more about CSS Brazil, please visit: [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

Watch CSS Brazil institutional video: [Portuguese](#) | [English](#)

## CSS - Argentina: *Fundación TEMAikèn*

Based in Argentina for all of Latin America, the Center for Survival Species Argentina (CSS-ARG) is an alliance between the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Fundación TEMAikèn. Its mission is to strengthen biodiversity conservation strategies in Argentina and Latin America, doing so by connecting key actors to strengthen local and regional capacity and promoting evaluation, planning and implementation of conservation actions in the region.

In the past months, the Center began to facilitate meetings with conservation specialists of various species. This allowed us to generate valuable experience in order to strengthen the Plan component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Activities developed and achieved during the last quarter:

## Assess:

- The Center began planning the national meeting of the Argentine Aguará Guazú (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) Group 2023. This meeting aims to assess threats to the species at the national level and establish a governance structure for the group. (KSR5).



## Plan:

- We co-facilitated the second in-person part of the workshop “Evaluation of population management for the conservation of the red howler monkey (*Alouatta guairiba*) in the province of Misiones, Argentina” which was led by CSS Brazil. (KSR8)
- The Officer of the CSS Argentina facilitated the meeting for the conservation of the Yellow Cardinal, “Update on the knowledge and recovery process of yellow cardinals rescued from wildlife trafficking” May 29 and 30, 2023 San Luis, Argentina. In this meeting, the use of the Guidelines for reintroductions and other conservation translocations and the Guidelines for the management of confiscated live organisms were described. Using the case of the Yellow Cardinal Program of Fundación Teraikèn as an exemplary case of how to implement them. (KSR8).



## Act:

- The CSS participated in a meeting for the conservation of the Yellow Cardinal, “Update on the knowledge and recovery process of yellow cardinals rescued from wildlife trafficking” on May 29 and 30, 2023 San Luis, Argentina. This meeting had the purpose of unifying criteria at the national level when carrying out rehabilitation for a future translocation. (KSR10)
- In April the authorities of the Laguna Blanca National Park (Neuquén province) transferred 64 specimens of Patagonian frogs to the Fundación Teraikèn within the framework of the project: “Towards the return of the Patagonian frog (*Atelognathus patagonicus*) to the White Lagoon”. with the objective of establishing a survival colony for *ex-situ* breeding purposes, in Fundación Teraikèn. It is expected to develop a reproduction program that will allow the



formation of viable individuals that will allow translocations in the future when environmental threats have been mitigated. (KSR11).

### Network:

- We will work together with CSS Brazil and CPSG in a conservation planning mentoring program. (KSR2)
- The CSS Argentina participated in the VII National Congress for the Conservation of Biodiversity on April 25-28, 2023 Puerto Iguazú, Misiones, Argentina. The CSS presented a poster titled “*Ex-situ* conservation as a strategy to ‘Reverse the Red’: Experiences, achievements and next steps”. (KSR3)
- The Center participated in the CCS Annual Meeting held on April 12-15, 2023. We moderated the session “What does this mean to your organization - engaging your leaders and wider teams”. (KSR2).

### Communicate:

- Content of conservation actions was shared with the Reverse the Red initiative on Fundación Temaikén Social Networks —[Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) posts. (KSR 13)
- Content was shared in [Press Publications](#) where the Reverse the Red initiative was told and CSS Argentina was named. (KSR 13).

## ASIA

### CSS - Southeast Asia: Mandai Nature

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

### Plan:

- On 9 – 10 May 2023, Mandai Nature, the IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) jointly organised the Experts Regional Planning Workshop on the Development of the ASEAN Species Conservation Action Plan. More than 30 biodiversity experts representing ASEAN member states gathered at the Mandai Wildlife Reserve, Singapore, to develop a process aimed at conserving Critically Endangered Southeast Asian land and freshwater vertebrates, or ASAP species, in the ASEAN region.

### Act:

- Mandai Nature and the IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) has continued its support for more than 40 *in-situ* conservation projects across Singapore and Southeast Asia for this reporting period.

- On 22 May, our conservation partner Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia celebrated another conservation milestone with the release of 20 Critically Endangered Southern River Terrapins back to their natural habitat, the Sre Ambel river system in Koh Kong Province. Thanks to over two decades of efforts including the initiation of a nest protection programme, head-starting of young turtles, law and enforcement, research and monitoring, and community outreach, 167 turtles have been successfully released into the wild since 2015.
- In April, ASAP launched two new grants: the ASAP Species Continuation Grant and the ASAP Partner Networking Grant. The ASAP Species Continuation Grant aims to address the organisational needs or priorities of ASAP Partners who have previously been awarded ASAP grants and enable follow-up conservation activities for ASAP Species by these Partners. The ASAP Partner Networking Grant is designed to connect ASAP Partners working on ASAP Species by supporting activities that facilitate exchanges and collaboration.

## Network:

- On 13 – 16 March, nine programme participants from the ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme (WiCLP) gathered in Siem Reap, Cambodia, for a 3-day workshop, with support from Mandai Nature. The WiCLP is organised by ASAP and aims to empower female conservationists in Southeast Asia through targeted training to strengthen leadership skills. Since the programme was launched in 2021, participants have received 100 hours of online training across 18 months followed by the 3-day workshop as the final component. They received structured learning alongside peer-to-peer learning and networking on aspects such as project design, fundraising, communications and leadership.



*Participants reflecting on their leadership journey and applying tools learned during the programme.*

- On 27 – 28 May, Mandai Nature participated in the annual Festival of Biodiversity, organised by the National Parks Board, Singapore and Biodiversity Roundtable. Mandai Nature joined over 30 nature-related organisations which gathered to raise awareness about local biodiversity and conservation efforts through a line-up of interactive booths and workshops. We spotlighted some of the local wildlife found in the Mandai Wildlife Reserve and shared how Mandai Nature and Mandai Wildlife Group are working together to protect these species.



Annual Festival of Biodiversity  
Photo © Mandai Nature



Annual Festival of Biodiversity  
Photo © Mandai Nature

*Mandai Nature and Mandai Wildlife Group staff engaging with visitors at the Festival of Biodiversity.*

## Communicate:

- Mandai Nature continues to use social media channels such as Facebook and LinkedIn to bring attention to conservation efforts for threatened species in the region.
  - > On [World Biodiversity Day](#) (22 May), we highlighted this year's focus on putting goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework into action, and how we are contributing to the conservation of some of Southeast Asia's Critically Endangered species.
  - > On [World Bear Day](#) (23 March), we highlighted how our conservation partner Free the Bears has been contributing to the protection of bears by caring for bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Free the Bears runs two sanctuaries in Laos that house more than 100 Sun Bears and Moon Bears rescued from bear bile farms.
- The IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group (ASTSG) published the fourth issue of its newsletter "[Dawn Chorus](#)" in April, which included coverage on the successful uplisting for the Straw-headed Bulbul and White-rumped Shama at the CITES COP19 in November 2022.
- ASAP continues to raise the profile for ASAP species and partners on its social media platforms and website. To celebrate [World Frog Day](#) (20 March), ASAP published an interview with Benjamin Tapley from Zoological Society London and Luan Nguyen from Asian Turtle Programme on their work to save Critically Endangered Botsford's Leaf Litter Frog and Endangered Sterling's Toothed Toad (which was downlisted from CR to EN in 2020).



Yellow cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*) EN.  
Photo © Hector Bottai CC BY-SA 4.0

# SSC Partners





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