

**The IUCN Species
Survival Commission**

QUARTERLY REPORT
JUNE 2022

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Cover Photo:

Turquoise Dwarf Gecko (*Lygodactylus williamsi*) CR.
Photo © Frederik Linti, Zoo Schwerin



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IUCN Species Survival Commission



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Executive summary

This June 2022 issue of the *SSC Quarterly Report*, is a great example of how we work in partnerships between internal and external players within the framework of the Species Conservation Cycle: Assess, Plan, Act, Network and Communicate.

We open with a quick summary of recent conferences, events and interventions, characterised by a sustained increase of in-person meetings. IUCN Council met physically for the first time in May, after over two years of meeting online or in hybrid settings. In collaboration with the African Rhino Specialist Group, the SSC Chair sent a letter to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, expressing concern about the increasing poaching losses of rhinos in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa.

A major challenge for SSC is to scale-up capacity building for creating action plans for most species on the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. The Conservation Planning Specialist Group shares with us their recently developed webinar series entitled “Species Conservation Planning: Principles, processes, and steps.” Six webinars held about two weeks apart, introduce Specialist Group members to the basic knowledge needed to embark on development of an action plan. This is an important step toward the vision of the entire SSC network acquiring systematic planning skills.

Keeping the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species up to date is a major task that includes many players. Earlier in 2022, Luigi Boitaini, a veteran of the SSC, took over as Chair of the Red List Committee, which sets standards for scientific quality, develops guidelines on the application of these standards, ensures that evaluations of petitions against the listing of particular taxa are carried out professionally and impartially, and builds collaboration with other organisations working on biodiversity assessments. Luigi shares with us the challenges ahead, his vision for the renewal of the Red List Partnership, and for the Commission as a whole for the rest of the quadrennium.

Communicating information on the Red List to society at large is a very important activity, and many zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens integrate such information into their signage and engagement with the public. In this *Quarterly Report*, we hear about the Red List Centre at Zoo Schwerin, a fantastic new addition at the entrance of their zoo tour. Nine species from different parts of the world — 3 mammals, 2 snails, and one frog, bird, beetle and reptile — spanning the range of IUCN categories of risk, guide the visitors through the threats and conservation actions confronted by life on Earth.

Finally, we close the Quarterly Report with a succinct, yet deeply rich summary of the work of eight Centers for Species Survival (CSS) between March to June 2022. These are partnerships between

the SSC Chair's Office and leading species conservation organisations. They empower dedicated partner-based staff teams of at least one full-time staff member, to work closely with relevant SSC Groups in catalysing priority efforts for assess-plan-act at various geographic scales or taxonomic focuses. As you can see in their reports, they are very active and deeply engaged with our Network.

Resumen ejecutivo

La edición de junio de 2022 del Informe Trimestral de la CSE es un gran ejemplo de cómo trabajamos en alianzas entre actores internos y externos en el marco del Ciclo de Conservación de Especies: Evaluar, Planificar, Actuar, Trabajar en Red y Comunicar.

Abrimos con un breve resumen de las conferencias, eventos e intervenciones recientes, caracterizados por un aumento sostenido de las reuniones presenciales. El Consejo de la UICN se reunió presencialmente por primera vez en mayo, después de más de dos años de reuniones en línea o en entornos híbridos. En colaboración con el Grupo de Especialistas en rinocerontes africanos, el presidente de la CSE envió una carta a Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, expresando su preocupación por las crecientes pérdidas por caza furtiva de rinocerontes en el Parque Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, Sudáfrica.

Un desafío importante para la CSE es incrementar la capacidad para diseñar planes de acción para la mayoría de las especies en la Lista Roja de Especies Amenazadas de la UICN. El Grupo de Especialistas en Planificación de la Conservación comparte con nosotros su serie de seminarios web desarrollados y por llevar a cabo titulados “Planificación de la Conservación de Especies: Principios, procesos y pasos”. Seis seminarios web, realizados con aproximadamente dos semanas de diferencia, que presentan a los miembros del Grupo de Especialistas los conocimientos básicos necesarios para embarcarse en el desarrollo de un plan de acción. Este es un paso importante hacia la visión de que toda la red CSE adquiriera habilidades de planificación sistemática.

Mantener actualizada la Lista Roja de Especies Amenazadas de la UICN es una tarea importante que incluye a muchos actores. A principios de 2022, Luigi Boitaini, un veterano de la CSE, asumió como presidente del Comité de la Lista Roja, que establece estándares de calidad científica, desarrolla pautas sobre la aplicación de estos estándares, asegura que las evaluaciones de peticiones contra la inclusión de taxones particulares se lleven a cabo de manera profesional e imparcial, y fomenta la colaboración con otras organizaciones que trabajan en evaluaciones de la biodiversidad. Luigi comparte con nosotros los desafíos que tenemos por delante, su visión para la renovación de la asociación de la Lista Roja y para la Comisión en su conjunto por el resto del cuatrienio.

Comunicar información sobre la Lista Roja a la sociedad en general es una actividad muy importante, y muchos zoológicos, acuarios y jardines botánicos integran dicha información en su señalización y compromiso con el público. En este Informe trimestral, escuchamos sobre el Centro de la Lista Roja en el Zoológico de Schwerin, una nueva y fantástica adición a la entrada de su recorrido por el zoológico. Nueve especies de diferentes partes del mundo (3 mamíferos, 2 caracoles y una rana, ave, escarabajo y reptil) abarcan el rango de categorías de riesgo de la UICN, guían a los visitantes a través de las amenazas y acciones de conservación que enfrenta la vida en la tierra.

Finalmente, cerramos el Informe Trimestral con un resumen sucinto, pero profundamente rico, del trabajo de ocho Centros para la Supervivencia de Especies (CSS, por sus siglas en inglés) entre marzo y junio de 2022. Estas son asociaciones entre la Oficina del Presidente de la CSE y organizaciones líderes en conservación de especies. Empoderan equipos de personal dedicados basados en organizaciones socias de al menos un miembro del personal a tiempo completo, para trabajar en estrecha colaboración con los grupos CSE relevantes para catalizar los esfuerzos prioritarios para evaluar-planificar-actuar en varias escalas geográficas o enfoques taxonómicos. Como puede ver en sus informes, son muy activos y están profundamente comprometidos con nuestra Red.

Résumé

LCe numéro de juin 2022 du Rapport Trimestriel CSE, est un bel exemple de la manière dont nous travaillons en partenariat entre acteurs internes et externes dans le cadre du Cycle de Conservation des Espèces : Évaluer, Planifier, Agir, Réseauter et Communiquer.

Nous commençons par un bref résumé des conférences, événements et interventions récents, caractérisés par une augmentation soutenue des réunions en personne. Le Conseil de l’UICN s’est réuni physiquement pour la première fois en mai, après plus de deux ans de réunions en ligne ou dans des contextes hybrides. En collaboration avec le groupe de spécialistes des rhinocéros d’Afrique, le président du CSE a envoyé une lettre à Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, exprimant son inquiétude face à l’augmentation des pertes de rhinocéros dû au braconnage dans le parc Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, en Afrique du Sud.

Un défi majeur pour la CSE est d’intensifier le renforcement des capacités pour créer des plans d’action pour la plupart des espèces figurant sur la Liste rouge de l’UICN des espèces menacées. Le groupe de spécialistes de la planification de la conservation partage avec nous sa série de webinaires récemment développée intitulée “Planification de la conservation des espèces : principes, processus et étapes”. Six webinaires organisés à environ deux semaines d’intervalle présentent aux membres du groupe de spécialistes les connaissances de base nécessaires pour

se lancer dans l'élaboration d'un plan d'action. Il s'agit d'une étape importante vers la vision de l'ensemble du réseau CSE acquérant des compétences de planification systématique.

Tenir à jour la Liste rouge des espèces menacées de l'UICN est une tâche majeure qui implique de nombreux acteurs. Plus tôt en 2022, Luigi Boitaini, un vétéran de la CSE, a pris la présidence du Comité de la Liste rouge, qui établit des normes de qualité scientifique, élabore des lignes directrices sur l'application de ces normes, veille à ce que les évaluations des pétitions contre l'inscription de taxons particuliers soient menées de manière professionnelle et impartiale, et renforce la collaboration avec d'autres organisations travaillant sur les évaluations de la biodiversité. Luigi partage avec nous les défis à venir, sa vision pour le renouvellement du partenariat Liste rouge, et pour la Commission dans son ensemble pour le reste du quadriennat.

Communiquer des informations sur la Liste rouge à la société dans son ensemble est une activité très importante, et de nombreux zoos, aquariums et jardins botaniques intègrent ces informations dans leur signalisation et leur engagement auprès du public. Dans ce rapport trimestriel, nous entendons parler du centre de la liste rouge du zoo de Schwerin, un nouvel ajout fantastique à l'entrée de leur visite du zoo. Neuf espèces de différentes parties du monde — 3 mammifères, 2 escargots et une grenouille, un oiseau, un coléoptère et un reptile — couvrant l'éventail des catégories de risque de l'UICN, guident les visiteurs à travers les menaces et les actions de conservation auxquelles la vie sur Terre est confrontée.

Enfin, nous clôturons le rapport trimestriel par un résumé succinct mais profondément riche du travail de huit centres pour la survie des espèces (CSS pour son sigle en anglais) entre mars et juin 2022. Il s'agit de partenariats entre le bureau du président du CSE et les principales organisations de conservation des espèces. Ils permettent à des équipes de personnel dédiées basées sur des partenaires, composées d'au moins un membre du personnel à temps plein, de travailler en étroite collaboration avec les groupes CSE concernés pour catalyser les efforts prioritaires pour évaluer-planifier-agir à diverses échelles géographiques ou axes taxonomiques. Comme vous pouvez le voir dans leurs rapports, ils sont très actifs et profondément engagés avec notre réseau.

Recent activities



CONFERENCES

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



MEETINGS

Where the SSC chair's office participated.



INTERVENTIONS

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



WORKSHOPS

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





Group photo Council May 2022.
Photo © Sean Southey

Conferences and meetings

(Jon Paul Rodríguez, JPR; Rima Jabado, RJ; Kira Mileham, KM; Nahomy De Andrade, NDA; Edgard Yerena, EY; Orlando Salamanca, OS; Jafet Nassar, JN; Aritzaith Rodríguez, AR; Mayerlin Ramos, MR; Milangela Dell'Aquila, MDA; Simeon Bezeng, SB; Gabriela Lichtenstein, GL; Jean-Christophe Vié, JC)

CONFERENCES

- *SSC conservation action on the ground and SOS*, IUCN Species Conservation Action Team Retreat. Gland, Switzerland, 24 March 2022, online event. (JPR)
- *Comisión para la Supervivencia de las Especies de UICN a nivel nacional*, Hacia una Red de UICN en Chile. Santiago, Chile, 1 April 2022, online event. (JPR)
- *European Association of Zoos and Aquariums Directors Conference*, Zoo Beauval, France 5-8 April. (KM)
- *Experiencias reduciendo el tráfico ilícito de flora silvestre*, II Conferencia de Alto Nivel de las Américas sobre el Comercio Ilegal de Vida Silvestre. Bogotá, Colombia, 5 April 2022, online event. (JPR)
- *Movimiento global para revertir las tendencias negativas de las Listas Rojas de UICN para proteger especies y ecosistemas*, Biodiversidad Amenazada de las Islas Canarias. Tenerife, Spain, 20 May 2022, online conference. (JPR)
- *Diversità biologica e culturale (SDG 14 e 15)*, Corso Agenda 2030, Università Roma Tre. Rome, Italy, 16 May 2022, online event. (JPR)
- *National Biodiversity Conference Ireland*, Dublin, Ireland, 8 - 9 June, hybrid event participated online. (KM)

MEETINGS

- *WAZA Council Strategic Planning Meeting*, Zoo Beauval, France 2-4 April. (KM)
- *SSC Steering Committee Meeting*. Caracas, Venezuela, 5-7 April, online event. (JPR, RJ, KM, NDA, EY, OS, JN, AR, MR, MDA, SB)
- *IUCN Red List Committee 28a Meeting*. Cambridge, UK, 28 April, online event. (JPR, SB)
- *Commission Chairs and Executive Officers Meeting*. Gland, Switzerland, IUCN headquarters, 13-15 May 2022. (JPR, NDA)
- *Retreat and 107th Meeting of the IUCN Council (Part II)*. Gland, Switzerland, IUCN headquarters, 16-19 May 2022. (JPR, NDA)
- *European Union for Aquarium Curators: Future of Aquariums Debate*, 24 May, online event. (KM)
- *IUCN knowledge products as a template for a global dataset of biodiversity, Exploring Collaboration on Monitoring Biodiversity*, Vulcan and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. Seattle, USA, 31 May 2022, online event. (JPR, KM)
- *Thought Leaders Forum: Gene Drive Approaches for Conservation*, Wildlife Conservation Society, Boston University, Advanced Conservation, Strategies, and the Outreach Network for Gene Drive Research. Canalicchio, Italy, 8-9 June. (JPR)
- *Movilizando redes nacionales en Argentina*. Webinar. 10 June, online event. (JPR, NDA, EY, MR, AR, MDA, GL)
- *Reunión Miembros CSE Meso y Sudamérica*. Webinar. 22 June, online event. (JPR, NDA, EY, MR, MDA, GL)
- *Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation*, American Humane. Washington, DC, USA, 24 June. (JPR)
- *Mobilising national network United Kingdom*. Webinar. 29 June, online event. (JPR, NDA, KM, EY, MR, MDA, JCV)

WORKSHOPS

- *IUCN Red List assessment workshop*, National Museums of Kenya. Nairobi, Kenya, 13-16 June 2022. (SB)
- *IUCN SSC Kenyan National Species Specialist Group Establishment workshop*, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office. Nairobi, Kenya, 17 June 2022. (SB)
- *Priorities for ex-situ conservation of mammals in Australia Workshop*, Hidden Vale Wildlife Center and University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia 27 - 29 June. (KM)

INTERVENTION LETTERS & STATEMENTS

- **Concerns on the increasing poaching losses of rhinos in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa.** On 24 May 2022, the Species Survival Commission's Chair, Jon Paul Rodríguez, sent a letter of concern to Mr N. Dlulane, Acting CEO of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, which is responsible for the protected areas of the KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa. This letter called attention to the current losses of rhinos (both black and white) from poaching, especially in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP). This park is unique and iconic to African conservation as it is the oldest proclaimed game reserve in Africa and is the only source of all South Africa's black rhinos and almost all the world's white rhinos. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has a very proud conservation history. It also housed the Secretariat for the African Rhino Specialist Group for many years. Therefore the SSC Chair expressed his high concerns about the recent reports on rhinos losses but also the fact that the Provincial government has not realized the full report recommending how to address the issue. The SSC through the African Rhino Specialist Group stands ready to help where it can with regards to providing technical (and political if need be) support to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to help address the situation. The SSC Chair is looking forward to Mr Dlulane's reply.



New series of webinars for Specialist Groups

Activities that help us improve and grow as a network are always welcome. This is why we are pleased to share with our members and anyone else interested, a new series of webinars that are held by the SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG).

These new webinars are entitled 'Species Conservation Planning: Principles, processes, and steps' and are taking place from 13 June until 22 August 2022. In these interactive sessions, all attendees will be able to learn the fundamental principles of collaborative conservation planning for species, being a great opportunity for professional development.

This group of webinars will be specifically aimed at those Specialist Groups that are in the early stages of shifting from assessment to planning, and which would like to learn more about some of the options available. SSC Specialist Groups participating in this webinar series will be introduced to the principles of collaborative conservation planning. The participants will also learn about a range of planning tools available to meet various planning needs (including species-based planning), and know where to get more information and training.

How will they be managed?

There will be six sessions of two hours each. These sessions will follow this format:

- An opportunity to meet with other Specialist Group members who are at a similar stage of planning and assessing their species group.
- A 30-45 minutes presentation on the planning topic for the webinar.
- Discuss the planning topic for 45-60 minutes to deepen understanding and identify relevancy to individual planning contexts in your Specialist Group.

Members of CPSG will lead each webinar along with professionals who have experience in implementing the tools and processes presented.

What Species Conservation Planning topics will be covered in each webinar?

1: Principles of Species Conservation Planning

The first webinar was held on Monday 13 June and covered the seven CPSG principles of species conservation planning, which are illustrated with several case studies. This presentation explored some of the challenges associated with applying these principles (e.g., ensuring neutrality) and how we can put them into practice for the benefit of the species and the development of effective, implemented plans.

2: Species Conservation Planning Steps

The second webinar in this series was held on Monday 27 June and covered the generic, practical steps involved in developing a species conservation plan, with examples drawn from a range of taxonomic case studies. Through the CPSG, different planning tools and processes are available to meet different planning contexts, such as multi-species planning, *ex situ* assessment, or disease risk analysis. The last point explores the relevance of Population Viability Analysis (PVA) for species conservation planning and provides a guide to further exploration of the subject.

Learn more about these two topics here: [CPSG. \(2020\). Species Conservation Planning Principles & Steps, Ver. 1.0. IUCN/SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group: Apple Valley, MN.](#)

3: Assessing to Plan: Multi-species planning pathways

The third webinar in this series took place on Monday 11 July and explored the assessment-to-planning process designed to facilitate the transition from assessments to planning by identifying the best planning pathways for

species and species groups. Methods such as these are particularly useful in identifying more specious taxonomic groups of plants and animals. Members of the Specialist Group who have used the process and whose practical implications discussed this during the webinar.

Here are three recent A2P workshop reports to provide an idea of what the process can produce:

- [Planning Conservation Action for Kenya's Threatened Trees.](#)
- [Assessing to Plan: next steps towards conservation action for threatened snakes & lizards of Mainland South Asia](#)
- [Assessing To Plan: next steps towards conservation action for threatened fishes of the Sunda region](#)

4: *Ex situ* Conservation Assessment as part of the One Plan approach

On Monday 25 July was held the fourth webinar in the series: “*Ex situ* Conservation Assessment as part of the One Plan approach”. This refers to the fact that in 2014 the CPSG led the development of the IUCN SSC Guidelines on the use of *ex situ* management for species conservation. As part of a species’ conservation strategy, these guidelines outline a five-step process for assessing the potential role(s) of *ex situ* activities and their feasibility. The aim of this webinar is to describe the different roles of *ex situ* conservation, provide guidance on single and multi-species *ex situ* conservation assessment processes, and discuss the key roles played by *in situ* and *ex situ* experts in *ex situ* conservation assessments.

Learn more about this topic here: [Traylor-Holzer, K., Leus, K. and Byers, O. 2019. Ex situ management for conservation. W. Leal Filho et al. \(eds.\), Life on Land, Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Springer Nature, Switzerland.](#)

5: Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis: a ‘One Health’ approach

The fifth webinar in this series will take place on Monday 15th August at 12 midday GMT +1. Those who attend will discuss how to apply the IUCN/OIE Guidelines for [Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis](#) (WDRA). The purpose of these guidelines is to provide wildlife managers, public and environmental health officials, government agencies, and industry with the information they need to fully implement the DRA process to protect wildlife. In addition to providing a detailed overview of the WDRA process, this webinar will allow participants to hear from different users of the guidelines. Participants will be able to discuss their utility in a variety of contexts. WDRA is also enhanced by a quantitative risk analysis software called Outbreak.

You can read and download these guidelines here: [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\) & International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) \(2014\). – Guidelines for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis. OIE, Paris, 24 pp. Published in association with the IUCN and the Species Survival Commission.](#)

6: Quantitative Risk Assessment: A Role for PVA

The last webinar in this series is scheduled for Monday, 22nd August at 9-11pm GMT+1. Entitled '[Quantitative Risk Assessment: A Role for PVA](#)', it will address the viability Analysis (PVA) helps to analyse and discuss the relative impacts of different threats and potential solutions. The conservation sector has a degree of 'received wisdom' about such tools and their strengths and limitations. In this webinar, will be explore and dispel some of these assumptions and clarify the true potential of PVA within the context of species conservation planning.

Please review the PVA section of the following document for further background information: [Population and Habitat Viability Assessment \(PHVA\) Workshop Process Reference Packet](#)



A portrait of Luigi Boitani, an older man with grey hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark grey sweater over a light blue collared shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

Who shapes the SSC?

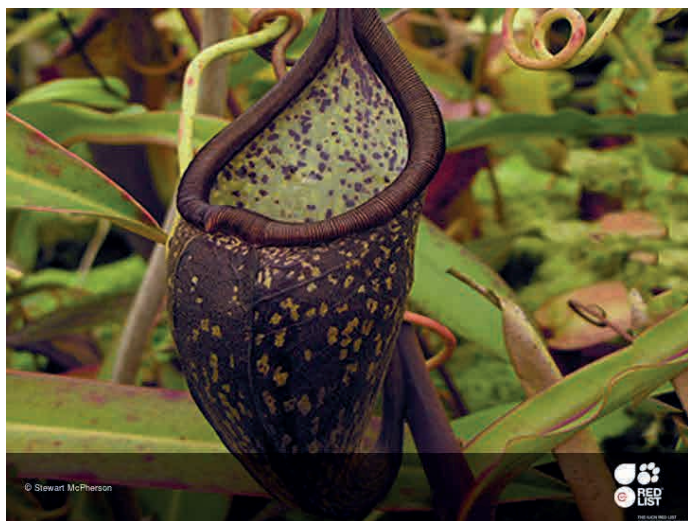
Interview with Luigi Boitani

Red List Committee Chair

Chair of the IUCN SSC Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, Luigi Boitani was also appointed Chair of the Red List Committee in 2022. The Red List Committee sets standards for scientific quality, develops guidelines on the application of these standards, ensures that evaluations of petitions against the listing of particular taxa on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species are carried out professionally and impartially, and builds collaboration with other organizations working on biodiversity assessments. In this issue, we interview Luigi Boitani to hear his perspectives and vision for the Red List Committee this quadrennium.

What would you describe as the main challenge for the Red List Committee during this quadrennium?

The Red List is facing several new challenges, from the insufficient resources to develop and maintain the electronic infrastructure to manage the databases, to the urgent need to expand the taxonomic coverage of its assessments and secure their regular update. The Red List Committee is the central body responsible for securing the smooth functioning of the Red List and in the next quadrennium will have to evolve to meet the new challenges: a) the increasing number of partners of the Red List will require a different management structure to ensure the swift operation of the Committee and the possibility for all partners to contribute; b) a renewed partnership agreement must define roles and responsibilities of the IUCN Secretariat, the Species Survival Commission and the partners; c) the advisory role of the Red List Committee is clearly defined as IUCN is the owner and custodian of the Red List and has the responsibility of all major technical and political decisions; d) the Red List Committee must provide the necessary support to IUCN and partners to upscale the fundraising efforts and try to ensure a solid financial base for the Red List.



The Red List Committee works closely with representatives of the Red List Partnership, the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and the IUCN Secretariat. Are there any changes that you would like to see taking place to strengthen the partnership and its work in the upcoming 4 years?

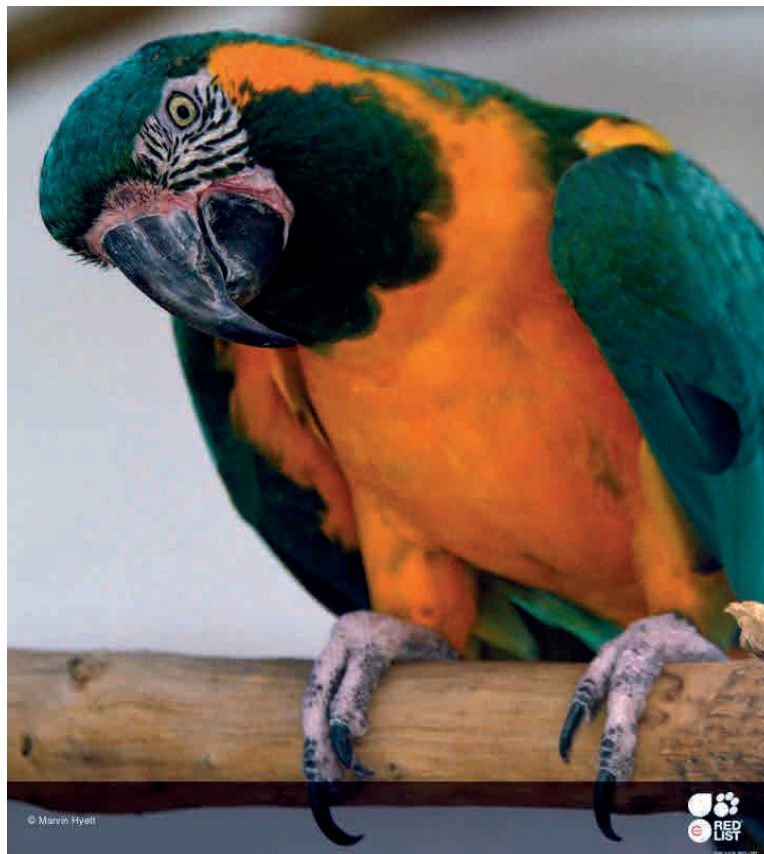
The partnership is slowly growing and it requires a new framework to coordinate the work of all partners and ensure their representation in all political decisions. However, I think that we should also make a special effort in trying to evolve the partnership into a true coalition where all partners plan and carry out a business plan really together. I would like to see a fundraising campaign planned and implemented jointly by IUCN and partners, something that has never been done in the past.

You have been involved with IUCN for several decades, made numerous contributions to the Red List and SSC, and recently retired as a Professor Emeritus at the University of Rome Sapienza. Now, you chose the major role of Chairing the Red List Committee and effectively managing a very complex and time-consuming partnership. What is your motivation to do this?

I have had a deep predilection for the Red List since I got my first Red Data Book in the late 60s. I have been chairing the technical group that developed early versions of the Species Information Service and I also have been a member of the Red List Committee for several years. It became all too natural to accept the challenge to chair the Committee when asked by Jon Paul. It is a major challenge in terms of time and work to be done, but species conservation is what I am most interested in and I plan to do all I can until I have the forces to do it.

As a veteran member of the SSC Steering Committee as well, do you have any suggestions for the next Chair, to be elected in 2025?

Being Chair of SSC has become a very demanding and complex job, especially after the excellent examples of the last few chairs who have really brought the job to new dimensions. The number of staff, the complexity of the SSC network, the challenges of new global issues, and the need to secure financial resources, are all huge frontiers that require very special heads to be tackled and managed. Being Chair is a full-time job and requires a personal investment that only a few people can offer. I have no suggestions but we have three more years to search...





Lions wintergarden.
Photo © Tim Schikora, Zoo Schwerin

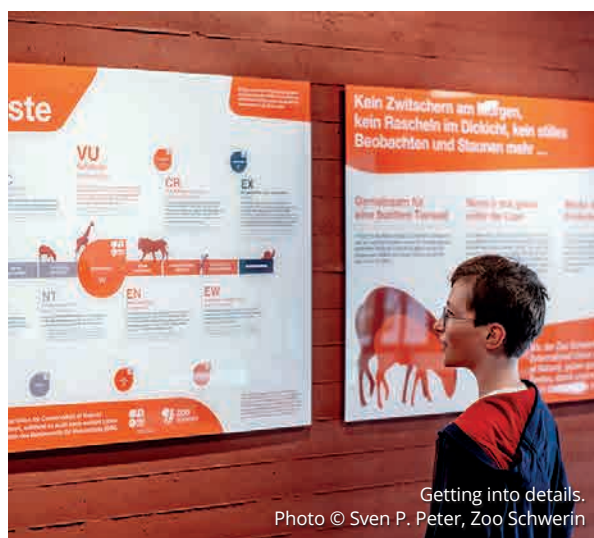
The Red List Centre at Zoo Schwerin

Schwerin Zoo has dedicated its latest visitor complex to the IUCN Red List. Here, the background, the function and also the significance for modern zoos are illustrated by means of nine animal species

Tim Schikora

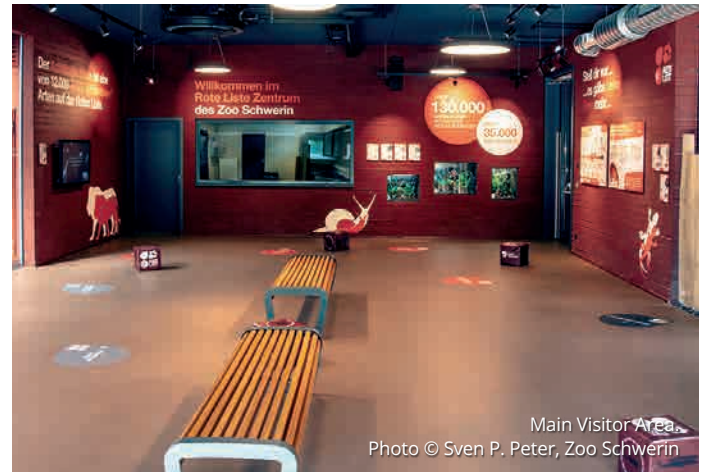
CEO Zoological Garden Schwerin, Germany

In modern zoos, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is an important tool for evaluating the collection and focusing resources in a strategic way. The scale of the IUCN Red List with the nine categories is often found on information boards about the animal species kept, of course also at Schwerin Zoo. However, visitors are rarely informed about the Red List and its function. The reference to the threat of extinction thus becomes a marginal note and the potential for conveying important information is fizzled out.



Getting into details.
Photo © Sven P. Peter, Zoo Schwerin

The Red List Centre is located directly at the beginning of the zoo tour. The consistent design of the interior in the IUCN Red List design immediately draws the visitor's attention to it. Schwerin Zoo purposely retreats into the background with its own design and allows the Red List to take centre stage. In addition to the colour design, the typical elements and striking representations of the percentages are also found. Videos from the IUCN can be called up on a touch screen, visitors can surf the Red List homepage on their own and find further multimedia information on the animal species on display.



Nine animal species each represent a category of the Red List scale. In this way, visitors are introduced to the topic by means of sympathetic animals and prepared for the subsequent visit to the zoo. The direct link between animal and category makes this particularly catchy and the differences between the categories can be explained in a way that is easy to understand. "Endangered" is literally given a face, that of the Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*), Shapur. Suddenly, an emotional relationship is established with tree snails (*Partula tohiveana*), which are already "extinct in the wild" and 40% of the remaining individuals live virtually within reach of the visitor.



Guests literally search for the representatives of the individual categories. Thus, the often-overlooked taxa such as invertebrates and amphibians in their terrariums come into focus and the visitors learn that for the majority of animal species it is not at all possible to make a robust risk assessment because they are either "data deficient" (Zimmerman's poison frog - *Ranitomeya variability*) or they have not been scientifically "evaluated" at all (*Eudicella aethiopica*).



The subject of the Red List is extensive and visitors cannot be expected to fully understand its complexity after one visit. But they will know that the IUCN Red List exists and that "Endangered" is not the same as "Vulnerable". When visiting other institutions, they will recognise the IUCN Red List, this time with the necessary background knowledge and realise that there is a large and international network of conservation partners.

We are grateful for the good cooperation and support from IUCN in the preparation and implementation of the project. The Red List Centre was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF - AGA-13-0001).

List of species at the Red List Centre:

- DD – Zimmermann's poison frog (*Ranitomeya variability*)
- NE – Flower Beetle (*Eudicella aethiopica*)
- LC – Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*)
- NT – Yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*)
- VU – (Rothschild)giraffe (*Giraffe camelopardalis ssp. rothschildi*)
- EN – Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo ssp. persica*)
- CR – Turquoise Dwarf Gecko (*Lygodactylus williamsi*)
- EW – Partula snail (*Partula tohiveana*)
- EX – Oahu Treesnail (*Achatinella apexfulva*)



Inside Enclosure Yellow-backed duiker.
Photo © Sven P. Peter, Zoo Schwerin



IUCN SSC Centers for Species Survival

Centers for Species Survival (CSS) are partnerships between the SSC Chair's Office and leading species conservation organisations. They empower dedicated partner-based staff teams of at least one full-time staff member, to work closely with relevant SSC Groups in catalysing priority efforts for assess-plan-act at various geographic scales or taxonomic focuses.

The SSC works closely with CSSs across NGOs, government agencies, zoos and aquariums, among other stakeholders, to understand the key networks and conservation efforts that are underway in their country or region. **The following is a summary of the progress and outcomes achieved by some of the Centers for the period of March to June 2022:**

EUROPE

CSS - Portugal: *Oceanario de Lisboa*

The Center for Species Survival Oceanário de Lisboa focuses on the Assess step of the Assess-Plan-Act 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', below are some of our recent achievements and activities:

Assess:

- Since March 2022, the CSS's team has prepared the draft assessments for 89 species for the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal, resulting in a total of 250 draft assessments completed since the beginning of the project.
- The first assessment workshop for the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal was held on the 14th and 15th of June and focused on deep-sea Anguilliformes. The workshop started with a session on the IUCN's methodology to assess the extinction risk of species at a regional and national scale, followed by the assessment of 43 species with the contribution of researchers from mainland Portugal, Madeira and the Azores.
- The second assessment workshop for the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Portugal was held between 21st-23rd June and focused on Gobiiformes and Blenniiformes, started with the IUCN's methodology to assess species at a national level, followed by the assessment of 54 species. It counted with the participation of researchers from ISPA (Instituto Universitário de Ciências Psicológicas, Sociais e da Vida) and FCUL (Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon).

Communicate:

- Livestream on Oceanário de Lisboa's Instagram account talking about the biodiversity crisis and the work of CSS – Oceanário de Lisboa.
- Interview for the Spanish network channel TVE about the importance of the National Red Books and the work being developed by CSS Oceanário de Lisboa.

CSS - United Kingdom: *Paradise Wildlife Park*

Assess:

- Supported the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (known as JNCC), the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation to review Red List assessments for the Coleoptera order of beetles.

Network:

- Presentation was delivered at the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquaria Annual Conference on Reverse the Red and UK Center of Species Survival. The Conference attendance included Directors and management of zoos and aquaria who could facilitate the Species Conservation Cycle as part of their collections conservation commitment as defined in the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice.
- Presentation was delivered at the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquaria Native Species Working Group. The participants were zoological professionals who are active in applied native species conservation and were very keen to hear about the movement and how they can be more involved. They welcomed the mission to become more cohesive, collaborative and strategic in our efforts.
- Presentation was delivered on the UK Center for Species Survival as part of an IUCN SSC webinar introducing the National Species Specialist Group concept.

Communicate:

- Launched and announced the UK Center for Species Survival at Paradise Wildlife Park helping to conserve native species while also educating the wider digital and local community on the continuous work we do here at the zoo but also the wider SSC community
- We have provided high-quality digital video and image content to help raise awareness for the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the United Kingdom's Center for Species Survival. Reaching a social media following which isn't exposed to the IUCN and SSC on a regular basis.
- Presented to the UK zoo community at the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquaria annual conference to help educate how social media can be used to reach and educate audiences digitally.

CSS - Macaronesia: *Loro Parque Fundacion*

Established in 2022, this Center aims to assess the current situation of biodiversity in Macaronesia, a geographical region that comprises five archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores, Madeira, the Selvagens Islands, Canary Islands and Cape Verde. By understanding the extinction risk and threats of Macaronesian species, the CSS aims to promote the conservation of key species and be part of the Reverse the Red movement to ensure the survival of wild species and reduce biodiversity decline. Therefore, we have made the first activity as part of the Assess component to review the assessments carried out by IUCN in order to understand the extinction risks of species in Macaronesia.



NORTH AMERICA

CSS - United States: *New Mexico BioPark Society*

The Center for Species Survival New Mexico supports strategic species conservation across the IUCN's Species Survival Commission. From the small cacti of the desert southwest to the bees and butterflies that colour our landscape and the fishes that grace our rivers, we are committed to these organisms, no matter how small. We use tools like the IUCN Red List to produce critical baseline data that guide conservation planning and action. As of June 2022, we have contributed to over 2,000 species-level extinction risk assessments spanning 96 countries, informing measures taken by Albuquerque BioPark (ABQ BioPark), our partners in New Mexico, and conservationists worldwide.

Assess:

- Progress continues on several assessment projects at the ABQ BioPark, including a reassessment of European medicinal plants, an assessment of the wild bees of Mexico, and an assessment of select marine fishes from the Gulf of Aqaba.
- The IUCN SSC Firefly Specialist Group (FSG) invited Anna Walker to facilitate an assessment workshop for European Lampyridae and Southeast Asian Pteroptyx fireflies in Porto, Portugal. The workshop contributed to our ongoing support for the FSG and incorporated the Assess to Plan methodology.
- With Monni Bohm, Freshwater Coordinator from the Global Center for Species Survival, Anna Walker ran a remote IUCN Red List Assessment Training Course for members of the IUCN SSC Wild Bee Specialist Group, Firefly Specialist Group, and Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group.



Act:

- ABQ BioPark staff participated in the monitoring of Sleeping Ute Milkvetch (*Astragalus tortipes*), including setting up seven permanent monitoring plots to gather data on this extremely geographically restricted species. This also resulted in the collection of *A. tortipes* seeds which will be held at our seed bank. This is the species' first and only *ex situ* collection to date.
- Center for Species Survival staff contributed to developing a new rearing facility intended for *ex situ* collections of the Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly. This species has undergone substantial declines in recent years, and *ex situ* management has been deemed vital to recovery efforts. Plans are in place to collect specimens in the coming months.



Network:

- ABQ BioPark signed a five-year agreement with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to serve as a seed banking repository and assist with the monitoring of rare plants on Ute Lands. This agreement serves as a model for supportive projects aimed at building conservation initiatives that support Indigenous communities without dictating terms.

Communicate:

- We're proud to have released a book detailing the conservation status of the Trillium of North America. This resource is the most comprehensive assessment of Trillium conservation ever compiled and will serve as a roadmap for the conservation of these charismatic wildflowers. The book is available on [ResearchGate](#).
- ABQ BioPark contributed to the publication of the first comprehensive analysis of firefly conservation status in the US and Canada. The report is available from the [Xerces Society](#).

Global CSS - United States: *Indianapolis Zoo*

The Global Center for Species Survival team continues to support, connect and communicate the work of the IUCN SSC network. In the last quarter, the Global Center team contributed to species assessments, co-hosted Red List training workshops, organized and promoted CPSG webinars, supported the development of potential new Specialist Groups, and assisted in the recruitment of new members. The Global Center team is also leading the development of a new “one-stop-shop” resource site for IUCN SSC members, Specialist Groups, and Centers for Species Survival.

Assess:

- Continued to assist Specialist Groups with several Red List assessment processes, for example for plant and freshwater species.
- Two Red List training workshops co-organised with ABQ BioPark involved members of the Butterfly and Moth, Wild Bee, Firefly and some other Specialist Groups.
- Assisting two Specialist Groups in the development of research partnerships that could help generate data that is relevant for species assessments.
- Supporting the Fungal Conservation Committee with a pilot project to develop a new tool to semi-automatically identify Least Concern Species.
- Several coordinators have been working with relevant conservation committees, Specialist Groups and Red List Authorities on papers.

Plan:

- Helped organise and promote webinars for Conservation Planning with the CPSG.

- Supporting Specialist Groups in fundraising and coordination for organising conservation planning workshops.
- Connected the Sirenia Specialist Group to the CPSG for advice on a Manatee planning workshop for Cuba.

Act:

- Supporting the Invertebrate Conservation Committee to gather expertise from the network towards IUCN Guidelines for Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Conservation in Protected Areas.
- Assisting the Plant Conservation Committee with developing a decision tree approach and methodology on how to identify species in need of emergency action.

Network:

- Engaged with experts to start the development of new potential Specialist Groups, including freshwater fungi, Brazil fungi, Colombia fungi, Gekkota, Psittacine, sea cucumbers, marine stars, seaweeds and Nigeria national SG.
- Hosted first Global Center intern who engaged in increasing freshwater communications and several other projects relevant to Specialist Groups or the Global Center workplan.
- Supported recruitment of new member(s) from currently underrepresented areas for some SGs.
- Investigating new partnerships between Specialist Groups and other organisations (NGO's, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens) for financial support and project/program assistance.
- Creating fundraising strategy for Specialist Groups and connecting with training.
- Supported the creation of a Fungal Use Group and a Plant Use Group within the Sustainable Use and Livelihood Specialist Group, to promote the inclusion of these underrepresented taxa in global discussions about use and trade.
- Finalised a contract and started working with developers on the “one-stop-shop” resource site for SSC members and Centers for Species Survival.
- Provided support for the proposal for the formation of a Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority.
- Had initial conversations regarding an SSC Fisheries Task Force.

Communicate:

- Publication and promotion of Fantastic Freshwater report – this is a collaboration of the Freshwater

Conservation Committee, Shoal and the Global Center, with contributions from more than 70 conservationists and 21 IUCN SSC Specialist Groups and Red List Authorities.

- Significant growth in Twitter audience and interactions, plus the launch of Instagram and YouTube accounts.
- Launch of Global Center for Species Survival website.
- Work with a variety of Specialist Groups to prepare social media content for related “holidays” (Amphibian Week, World Turtle Day, etc.).
- Presented about the IUCN, SSC and the Global Center to a variety of audiences, including university students in Brazil and Colombia.

SOUTH AMERICA

CSS - Brazil: *Parque das Aves*



We work hand-in-hand with the Brazilian conservation community and the government to enhance the national capacity to assess-plan-act, and influence policy to save species. Our recent activities:

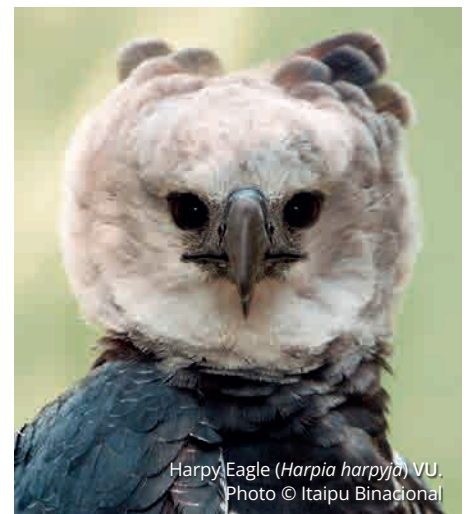
Assess:

- We supported the [ICMBio](#) process of elaborating the National Red List by validating the results of the assessments of 79 freshwater fish and 4 months.
- We participated in a webinar of the Aquatic Mammals Foundation on the category on the National Red List

of the marine manatee, in response to the request to intercede with ICMBio to review the assessment of the species.

Plan:

- Under the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) lead, we collaborated on developing and delivering the [Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis online training course](#) with the participation of 54 people from around the world. The next training starts on October 24th.
- We held a presentation meeting on additional CPSG strategic planning tools for ICMBio's General Coordination of Conservation Strategies (COPAN).
- Together with the National Center for Bird Conservation and Research (CEMAVE/ICMBio), we facilitated the workshop "Integrated management assessment for the conservation of the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja* - VU) in the Atlantic Forest, with a focus on the southern region", in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. The event had 44 participants from Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela, as well as managers of protected areas in the region, and public and federal environmental agencies. The workshop followed a decision-making process based on the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations to assess the risks and evaluate whether translocation of the species was recommended in the region. The event was organized by the Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education (SPVS), [Itaipu Binacional](#), the [IUCN SSC CPSG | CSS Brazil](#), [CEMAVE/ICMBio](#) and supported by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums of Brazil ([AZAB](#)).
- We started the development of the organizational strategic planning of our host institution, Parque das Aves.



Act:

Through the Center for Conservation of Atlantic Rainforest Birds | Instituto Claravis our host institution, Parque das Aves, is committed with the execution of actions linked to the Atlantic Forests Birds conservation plans facilitated by CSS Brazil:

- In a partnership between Aquasis and Parque das Aves, five wild-caught Northeastern Spot-winged Wood-

quails (*Odontophorus capueira plumbeicollis*), one of the priority species from the Galliformes workshop, were transported to Parque das Aves - the first step in establishing an *ex situ* population of this bird.

- Eight more Black-fronted Piping-guans (*Pipile jacutinga*) were released into the wild as part of the effort by SAVE Brasil and partners to restore the species to an area of the Atlantic Rainforest in São Paulo state.
- Also for the Black-fronted Piping-guan, data on the *ex situ* population in Brazil were entered into ZIMS as part of the studbook process, within the conservation program agreed upon between AZAB and ICMBio.
- Progress was made at Parque das Aves with hand-rearing of the model species Ruddy Ground-dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) with the first three squabs reared to fledging age.

Network:

- We provided guidance on the Red List process, its requirements, steps, and methodology, for two Brazilian states that intend to elaborate State Red Lists for their territories.
- A cooperation agreement was signed between Parque das Aves and ICMBio for the next phase of the National Action Plan for Conservation of Atlantic Forest Birds.

Communicate:

- Together with [SPVS](#) and [Itaipu Binacional](#), we collaborated in the communication campaign about the Harpy Eagle on social networks, where aspects of natural history, threats, conservation status, and conservation actions were published.
- We co-authored a paper published in [Science Advances](#) that discusses the Socioecological vulnerability and the risk of zoonotic disease emergence in Brazil.



CSS - Argentina: *Fundación Temaikèn*

The Argentina Center for Species Survival aims 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.

Assess:

- We have selected the group of the endemic flora of the Cerrado as species to carry out the study of their conservation status. They are unknown endemic species with relict populations that make up an area of endemism. Its current state of conservation is not evaluated. (KSR6)
- Started the Survey on the status of the country's red lists and associated regulations. (KSR6).

Plan:

- Started conversation with the Primate Specialists Group to collaborate in the facilitation of a workshop to carry out an analysis of upcoming *ex situ* strategies for the conservation of the species and strengthen the population of *alouatta guariba*. (KSR8)
- We continue with the implementation of the methodology applied to the yellow cardinal pilot project, stages of where and how to intervene. (KSR8).

Act:

- We carried out the third workshop of yellow cardinal, our first pilot flag species, providing the facilitation for the socialization of objectives, goals and activities, working internally with the different sectors in the phase of where to intervene. (KSR10)



Taller Cardenal.
Photo © CSS Argentina- Fundación Temaikèn



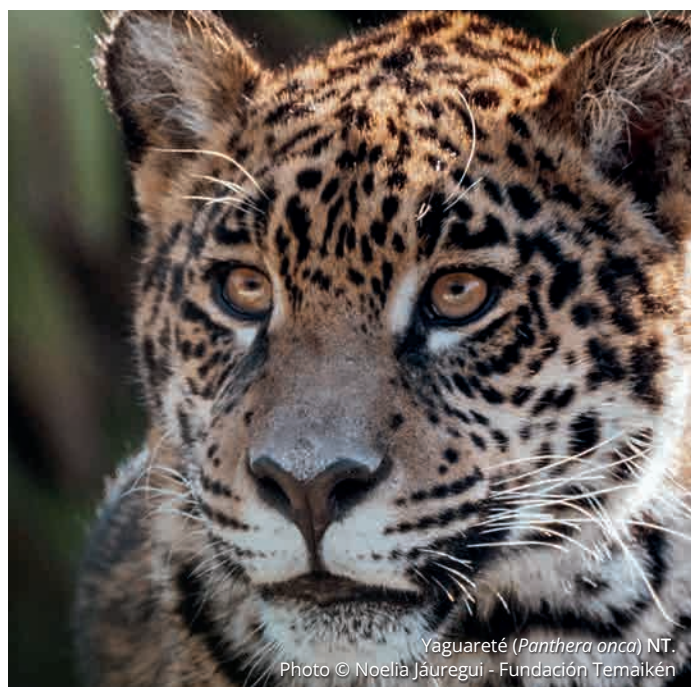
Yellow Cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*) EN.
Photo © Gonzalo Prados

Network:

- We attended the webinar organized by the SSC presenting the Argentinian Center in front of numerous argentine specialists. One of the objectives of this webinar, in addition to formally presenting to the CSS, was to convene them to form a group of local specialists. (KSR1)
- CSS team completed the Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops course. (KSR2)
- We will participate in the Argentine Conference on Mastozoology as institutional support from the Species Survival Center. (KSR3)
- A meeting was held with Albuquerque Park Staff where we were offered to guide ourselves in the case study of evaluation of endemic flora species once the course was over. (KSR2)
- We are holding various meetings with potential allies of state agencies and non-governmental organizations. (KSR4).

Communicate:

- The logo of the Center for Species Survival was finished, choosing two very symbolic species. One of them is a flora that represents a group of eight endemic floras from northern Argentina with relict populations that make up an area of endemism; they are unknown species and their conservation status has not been evaluated. The other is the Jaguar as a symbol of a Critically Endangered species at the local level, with a regional presence, it is a national monument in Argentina and an emblematic species of the Americas. (KSR12)



- We have developed communication channels for the external public through a website and a CSS email address. (KSR12)
- As part of the communications commitment of the CSS-Argentina, we will be leading the communications generating content for the environmental calendar for the following international days: August 5 (international day of the huemul) and November 20 (international day of the jaguar). (KSR13)
- We are participating in the communication group with the input of a focal point.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Proposed CSS - Singapore: Mandai Nature

The proposed Center aims to catalyse assessment, planning and action for priority species in the region, with a focus on protecting threatened species from extinction, protecting and restoring ecosystems, and creating benefits for local communities. Mandai Nature's role is to create solutions, enable and catalyse action, help scale up conservation efforts, and support organisations and experts.

Mandai Nature proudly hosts the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) secretariat, the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) Southeast Asia Resource Centre. Mandai Nature also supports the IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group and IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group.

Assess:

- As a member of the Singapore Straw-headed Bulbul Working Group, Mandai Nature is evaluating the status of the species locally. Data collected will be instrumental to developing the species conservation action plan.

Plan:

- Mandai Nature, together with the IUCN SSC Helmeted Hornbill Working Group (HHWG), has embarked on an internship-based project with the National University of Singapore (NUS) with the aim of developing a strategy for the Demand Reduction subgroup.

Act:

- Mandai Nature continued to support 40 *in situ* conservation projects across Southeast Asia for this reporting period. Key conservation milestones for this reporting period include:
 - » 30 Critically Endangered Southern River Terrapins were hatched at Koh Kong Reptile Conservation Centre in May 2022, only the second time the species has laid eggs under human care in Cambodia.



- » The Wak Gatak Conservation Centre was officially launched on 6 June 2022, as Indonesia's first songbird rescue and rehabilitation centre.



- ASAP launched the ASAP Species Conservation Grant programme for 2022 and is accepting pre-proposals.
- Mandai Nature, together with HHWG, started an internship-based project with the National University of Singapore with the aim of developing guidelines/best practices for hornbill guardian programmes that may be shared with other conservation practitioners working across the range of the species. The team is in the process of creating a road map around the guidelines, which include engagements such as webinars and workshops.

- Mandai Nature is part of the specialist panel for reviewing Singapore's Endangered Species Act, which is the policy governing wildlife import-export regulations for the country and gives effect to CITES.

Network:

- ASAP launched the second phase of the ASAP Women in Conservation Leadership Programme in June 2022: ASAP Visible Leadership Programme for Women in Southeast Asian Conservation.
- Mandai Nature, together with ASTSG and HHWG, started respective internship-based projects with the National University of Singapore with the aim of expanding ASTSG and HHWG's networks. This included engaging existing ASTSG and HHWG members in a questionnaire and interview-based study that hopes to evaluate the actual level of membership engagement, understand members' needs and expectations, as well as improve membership engagement and communication.

Communicate:

- In conjunction with World Turtle Day on 23 May 2022, ASAP organised a Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle campaign which included the launch of a report "*Setting priorities for the conservation of Asia's tortoises and freshwater turtles: a ten-year update*", a webinar "*Saving Turtles ASAP: Stories from Southeast Asia*" featuring partners from Turtle Conservation Society of Malaysia, PROGRES and Turtle Survival Alliance Myanmar Programme, and social media posts featuring 5 Critically Endangered tortoise and freshwater turtle species and 4 ASAP Partners focusing on tortoise and turtle conservation.
- Mandai Nature continues to run its social media presence which includes joint communications activities with various CSS partners. This included a [joint social media posting](#) by all CSS partners on 22 May (International Biodiversity Day), to share ongoing work and impacts on species conservation work.
- ASAP continues to run its social media presence including weekly posts featuring ASAP species, and also featured profiles of women conservation leaders during International Women's Month in March and a one-week campaign to celebrate amphibian conservation during Amphibian Week (1-7 May).
- Mandai Nature with ASTSG continues to maintain and update their respective website and social media platform, as well as engage in educational outreach. This included a second issue of the newsletter *Dawn Chorus* published in March and a third webinar on 12 May, *Song of the Forest: Using field research to better understand the Asian Songbird crisis*. The [taxa list](#) on the ASTSG website has also been updated and uploaded.



Zimmerman's Poison Frog, (*Ranitomeya variabilis*) DD.
Photo © Sven P. Peter, Zoo Schwerin

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