Terms of Reference
IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

Members

As revised and adopted by the SSC Steering Committee, 16th December 2025

---

1. Preamble

This document should be read and interpreted in conjunction with the IUCN Statutes and Regulations, the SSC Bylaws and the Code of Conduct for IUCN Commission. Unless the context or subject otherwise requires, the definitions will be as per the SSC Bylaws (Article 2).

These Terms of Reference shall guide all SSC Members in their operations in the furtherance of the mission of the SSC.

2. Roles and Relevance within the IUCN Species Survival Commission

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a professional network of experts who contribute their knowledge and expertise to advance species conservation. SSC members build knowledge on the status and threats to species, provide scientific and technical advice, develop policies and guidelines, facilitate conservation planning, and catalyse conservation action across a unique global community of practice.

SSC Members bring diverse perspectives and expertise that strengthen IUCN's role as the global authority on the status of the natural world and its conservation, and contribute to the development and implementation of SSC priorities, programmes, and actions for species survival. SSC Members also form a collaborative and supportive community of practice, sharing skills and lessons, mentoring early-career professionals, and fostering partnerships to mobilise the resources needed to drive species survival efforts.

3. Member profile.

SSC Members are scientists (biologists, statisticians, or social scientists), practitioners, researchers, government officials, wildlife veterinarians, zoo and botanical institute professionals, protected area managers, and other species experts. They volunteer their time and expertise to produce the scientific and practical foundation on which effective species conservation is built. They lead and/or conduct research and implement a range of conservation activities that lead to species survival.

Appointments of SSC Members are approved by the relevant SSC Group Leader upon delegation by the IUCN SSC Commission Chair (as per the SSC Bylaws Article 4.2).

Members must clearly understand and agree to the IUCN Statutes and Regulations, SSC Bylaws, and Policies and governance structure at the time of their appointment.

4. **Responsibilities of SSC Members**

- Register through the IUCN Commission System and Union Portal.
- Uphold and promote the Code of Conduct and build awareness of it among Members.
- Support the achievement of SSC Vision, Mission and Objectives.
- Proactively seek opportunities to advance the mission and activities of their SSC Group.
- Contribute to the delivery of their Group's quadrennial targets in alignment with the IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
- Support their Group Leaders in reporting on activities and in carrying out tasks delegated for group management and planning.
- Actively engage in meetings and contribute to agreed outcomes and deliverables.
- Where possible, acknowledge their SSC affiliation (in addition to their primary affiliation) in relevant outputs, such as scientific publications, conservation projects, conference presentations, and professional communications [e.g., email signatures]).
- Adhere strictly to IUCN Statutes and Regulations, SSC By-Laws and Policies, Code of Conduct and Finance Regulations for IUCN Commissions, and familiarise themselves with the following governance and guidance documents: Guide to IUCN SSC Membership and IUCN Species Strategic Plan:

Governance Framework	
1	IUCN Programme
2	IUCN Vision 2030
3	SSC Mandate
4	SSC Bylaws
5	Code of Conduct for IUCN Commissions
6	Guidance on the Code of Conduct and Practices for its Implementation
7	IUCN Species Strategic Plan
Terms of Reference	
8	Terms of Reference for SSC Members

5. **Communication and Accountability**

SSC Members report directly to their respective SSC Group leaders. Members are expected to maintain regular communication with their group leaders and respond in a timely manner to requests that support the SSC Group's objectives and the overall mission of the SSC.