



IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group

Changing the Future for Wildlife

Activity Report

October 2017-2018

MISSION

The mission of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. CPSG provides conservation planning expertise to governments, Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums, and other wildlife organizations. By developing innovative and interdisciplinary methodologies, providing culturally sensitive and respectful facilitation, promoting global partnerships and collaborations, fostering *ex situ* contributions to species conservation, and building capacity for species conservation planning worldwide, CPSG transforms passion for wildlife into effective conservation.

CPSG MEMBERSHIP

CPSG has a membership of 276 individuals from 45 countries and is supported by the non-profit Global Conservation Network, comprised of 178 donor institutions, organizations, and individuals.

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Finalized and launched the 2018-2020 CPSG Strategic Plan, which is centered around the following five goals:
 1. Target species are prioritized, and conservation needs assessed for conservation plan development.
 2. Context-specific, best practice, planning methods are applied based on a One Plan approach.
 3. Species conservation planning capacity is increased across SSC Specialist Groups and IUCN members.
 4. The ability of governments to meet international biodiversity targets is improved.
 5. Species conservation planning methods are evaluated for impact and effectiveness, leading to continual improvement.

The Strategic Plan guides our actions and enhances our ability, and the IUCN SSC's, to plan more effectively for threatened species.



- Led, co-led, or provided analysis for 15 single species conservation planning initiatives and five multi-species conservation planning initiatives, seven of which involved collaboration with other SSC Specialist Groups and coalitions.
- Conducted 10 training courses in topics including facilitation of species conservation planning workshops, application of the IUCN ex situ guidelines, and species population management, which included 190+ participants.
- Developed our first ever free online training course, expanding our ability to train more people across a larger geographical scope. The majority of current participants are members of SSC Specialist Groups and are from 25 countries.
- Facilitated a strategic planning workshop for Saint Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute (WCI), which sets the direction of for WCI for the next 4-5 years.
- Launched the Species Conservation Planner Development Path, an extended training program for selected conservation professionals that will result in them becoming competent and confident species conservation planners and technical experts, able to lead species conservation planning processes worldwide.
- Created a comprehensive Course Prospectus to continue expanding planning capacity, which details the growing suite of courses we run throughout the year that can be modified to suit particular needs.
- Hired Claudine Gibson as our Multi-Species Planning Program Assistant to help improve the complementarity between Red Listing, conservation needs assessments and conservation planning, and in particular to develop approaches to multi-species conservation needs assessments that will link more directly to action planning.
- Published, most in collaboration with the corresponding Specialist Groups, seven new species conservation plans (<http://www.cpsg.org/document-repository>) for species such as the Sunda pangolin, southern ground hornbill, helmeted hornbill, and Lima leaf-toed gecko. Many of these reports are also available through the IUCN Library at <https://portals.iucn.org/library/dir/publications-list>.
- Concluded the Whooping Crane Meta-Population PVA, a three-year project assessing all wild and captive populations of the species. A comprehensive *VORTEX*-based PVA report was submitted in October 2018.



- Delivered the Mexican wolf PVA report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, which was a key component of the analysis used in revising the species Recovery Plan originally published in 1982.
- Delivered the Colorado pikeminnow PVA report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, also a key component of their Species Status Assessment currently in preparation.

CONSERVATION IMPACT

Outcomes from recent CPSG-led planning workshops:

- Following the workshop for helmeted hornbills, a preliminary progress report was delivered at the CITES Conference of the Parties in 2017.
- CPSG's new ICAP process led to the restructuring of EAZA's *ex situ* programs to focus on conservation contributions by European zoos and to adopting the ICAP process for its Regional Collection Planning.
- The 10-year anniversary of the CPSG workshop for red-headed wood pigeon in Japan celebrated a larger wild population, established *ex situ* program, and strong local support for this rare bird.
- The three CPSG-organized and -facilitated CAMP workshops for Cuban plants, the first taking place in 1998, have been recognized as prompting the current conservation efforts of Cuban flora.

FUTURE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

As part of CPSG's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, CPSG will continue to improve the planning process and develop a generic species prioritization process, adaptable to a range of relevant species, to be used by the SSC, governments, and the broader conservation community. CPSG will continue to expand planning capacity through improved online and face-to-face trainings.

Upcoming species conservation planning projects include those for fish of the Sunda region (invited by IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit to collaborate on the Red List assessment of 1,073 freshwater fishes), dholes, chimpanzees, Mesoamerican felids, wild pigs in the Philippines, and selected Azores invertebrates.



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