



By-laws of the IUCN Species Survival Commission 2013 – 2016

Preamble

These By-laws have been drafted in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations of the IUCN (Reg. VII, 80).

I. Name

The Commission shall be called the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

II. Definitions

In these By-laws, unless the context or subject otherwise requires:

1. Words defined or used in the Statutes or the Regulations of the IUCN shall have the same meanings in these By-laws.
2. "SSC By-laws" shall mean these By-laws.
3. "Chair" or "Commission Chair" shall mean the Chair of the Commission as per IV (1) of the SSC By-laws.
4. "Commission" shall mean the IUCN Species Survival Commission.
5. "Deputy Chair" shall mean the Deputy Chair of the Commission as per IV (2) of the SSC By-laws.
6. "Steering Committee" shall mean the SSC Steering Committee as per VIII (2) of the SSC Bylaws.
7. "Regulations" shall mean the Regulations of IUCN, as amended from time to time.
8. "Statutes" shall mean the Statutes of IUCN, as amended from time to time.
9. Words importing singular number include the plural number and vice versa.

III. Mandate of the Commission

The Commission shall conduct its activities in accordance with its mandate as established by the World Conservation Congress. The mandate of the Commission includes the following vision, goal and objectives for the period 2013–2016:

1. Mission

- In the intersessional period of 2013–2016, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) will continue to play a leading role in enabling IUCN to be the world's most authoritative voice on behalf of global biodiversity conservation and the sustainability of natural resource use. In particular, SSC and its worldwide network are uniquely placed to enable IUCN to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity of biodiversity, and to ensure that the use of species is both equitable and sustainable, through the provision of knowledge on biodiversity status and trends, undertaking analyses of threats and facilitating action on the ground.

2. Vision

The work of SSC is guided by the Vision of:

A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth.

3. Goal

The overriding Goal of the Commission is:

The species extinction crisis and massive loss of biodiversity are universally adopted as a shared responsibility and addressed by all sectors of society taking positive conservation action and avoiding negative impacts worldwide.

4. Objectives

For the intersessional period 2013–2016 SSC, working in collaboration with members, national and regional committees, other Commissions and the Secretariat, will pursue the following key objectives in helping to deliver IUCN's "One Programme" commitment:

1. Assessing and monitoring biodiversity

To assess and monitor biodiversity and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity, especially at the species level, thus providing measures for the health of our one and only biosphere;

2. Analysing the threats to biodiversity

To analyse and communicate the threats to biodiversity and disseminate information on appropriate global conservation actions;

3. Facilitating and undertaking conservation action

To facilitate and undertake action to deliver biodiversity-based solutions for halting biodiversity decline and catalyse measures to manage biodiversity sustainably and prevent species' extinctions both in terms of policy change and action on the ground;

4. Convening expertise for biodiversity conservation

To provide a forum for gathering and integrating the knowledge and experience of the world's leading experts on species science and management, and promoting the active involvement of subsequent generations of species conservationists.

IV. Membership

The Commission's membership shall be reconstituted after each World Conservation Congress in accordance with the Statutes. The categories of membership are:

1. Chair of the Commission (elected by the World Conservation Congress).
2. Deputy Chair of the Commission (appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Commission Chair).
3. Steering Committee Members (appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Commission Chair).
4. Sub-Committees (mandated by the Steering Committee to carry out specific aspects of work on behalf of the Steering Committee). Sub-Committee Chairs are members of the Steering Committee (and therefore appointed by the IUCN Council on the recommendation of the Commission Chair). The Commission Chair shall delegate the appointment and removal of Sub-Committee members to the Sub-Committee Chairs. The Red List Committee is counted as an SSC Sub-Committee.
5. Regional Vice-Chairs (appointed by the Chair in consultation with the Steering Committee).
6. Specialist Group, Task Force and Red List Authority Members. Specialist Group and Task Force Chairs (where Task Forces are temporary groups formed to address key emergent issues) are appointed and dismissed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the Steering Committee, and with other Commission Chairs where such Specialist Groups or Task Forces are cross-Commissional in nature. Red List Authority Coordinators are appointed and dismissed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the Steering Committee, and, where Red List Authorities are within Specialist Groups, on the advice of the Specialist Group Chairs. The Commission Chair shall delegate the designation and removal of Specialist Group Members to the Specialist Group Chairs, of Task Force Members to the Task Force Chairs, and of Red List Authority members to Red List Authority Coordinators. Specialist Group Chairs, Task Force Chairs, and Red List Authority Coordinators may appoint or dismiss members of their respective Groups at any time.
7. Roll of Honour. The Steering Committee may appoint to the Roll of Honour a small number of highly distinguished people who have played critical roles in the history of the Commission. This honour may be awarded posthumously, and those names inscribed on the Roll of Honour remain so in perpetuity.
8. Distinguished Service Members. The Chair may appoint individuals as Distinguished Service Members in recognition of significant service to the Commission. Distinguished Services Members are automatically re-appointed in each quadrennium. Distinguished Service Membership encourages continuing activity in the SSC. Examples of possible Distinguished Service Members include:

- a. Former active Specialist Group, Task Force Working Group Chairs and Red List Authority Focal Points
 - b. Former active Steering Committee or Sub-Committee members
 - c. Long-serving and particularly active Specialist Group, Task Force, Working Group and Red List Authority members
 - d. Outstanding staff in the IUCN Secretariat, SSC Chair's Office and Specialist Groups
9. Advisory Members. The Commission Chair may appoint individuals as Advisory Members when they are in a working relationship with the SSC during the intersessional period. Re-appointment is not automatic each quadrennium.

V. The Roles of Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Red List Authorities

The Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Red List Authorities constitute the main work units of the Commission. They may be organized taxonomically, taxonomically by region, and/or around conservation theme areas or disciplines. The specific roles of the Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Red List Authorities are defined in the following documents:

- a. Terms of Reference, IUCN Species Survival Commission Specialist Group and Task Force Chairs 2013–2016
- b. Guidelines for IUCN SSC Specialist Group and Task Force Chairs
- c. Welcome to the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)
- d. Rules of Procedure – IUCN Red List Assessment Process 2013–2016

VI. Responsibilities of Regional Vice-Chairs

The responsibilities of the Regional Vice-Chairs are defined in the Terms of Reference: Regional Vice-Chairs.

VII. Responsibilities of Distinguished Service Members and Advisory Members

Distinguished Service Members shall:

- a. Provide advice as requested.
- b. Not speak on behalf of the SSC or IUCN, unless so delegated by the Commission Chair.

Advisory Members shall:

- a. Work with the SSC on specific matters.
- b. Provide advice as requested by the Commission Chair.
- c. Not speak on behalf of the SSC or IUCN, unless so delegated by the Commission Chair.

VIII. Governance of the Commission

(1) The Officers of the Commission

The Officers of the Commission shall be comprised of the following:

- a. The Chair, elected by the World Conservation Congress, in accordance with the Statutes. The Chair is the head of the Commission and has full powers in accordance with these By-laws to undertake such functions and responsibilities as may be necessary to meet the objectives of the Commission.
- b. The Deputy Chair, nominated by the Commission Chair and approved by the IUCN Council in accordance with the Statutes. The Deputy Chair acts in the place of the Chair whenever the latter is unable to act as the Chair.

(2) The Steering Committee

- a. The Steering Committee assists the Chair in coordinating the activities of the Commission. The Steering Committee consists of:
 - i. the Chair;
 - ii. the Deputy Chair;
 - iii. Sub-Committee Chairs; and
 - iv. other Commission members nominated by the Chair and appointed by the IUCN Council to provide advice and guidance while representing specific areas of expertise.
- b. The Commission Chair may appoint observers to the Steering Committee, representing partner organizations of the Commission and the IUCN Secretariat, who are invited to attend Steering Committee meetings as non-voting participants.
- c. The Steering Committee shall advise on Commission policy and guide Commission activities within the bounds of the mandate established by the World Conservation Congress.
- d. The Steering Committee shall assist and promote fundraising in support of the work of the SSC and its network of experts.
- e. The Steering Committee will meet at least once a year throughout the intersessional period.
- f. Summary minutes of each meeting of the Steering Committee shall be presented by the Chair and submitted to the Members of the Steering Committee as soon as possible after the meeting.

(3) Proposal of candidates to the position of SSC Chair

- a. According to Regulation IV.30 of IUCN, “[a]t least six months prior to a meeting of the Council taking place no less than four months before the date set for the opening of an ordinary session of the World Congress ... [c]ommission members shall be invited ... to make their proposals for Chair of their Commission.”
- b. In line with Regulation IV.30*bis*, the SSC Steering Committee shall select three of its members, excluding the Chair, to form an ad hoc committee, and invite Commission members to submit names to be considered for Commission Chair, at least one month prior to the date indicated in IV.30 of the Regulations. The committee shall be composed of members who are not candidates themselves. All submissions to the committee shall remain confidential. The list of proposed

- candidates shall be submitted by the ad hoc committee to the Council, highlighting especially qualified candidates, with prior endorsement by the Steering Committee at large.
- c. Commission Members are encouraged to present their proposed candidates to the ad hoc committee, though they may also present them directly the Council (Regulation IV.30 of IUCN).

IX. General

(1) Cooperation with Other Bodies

The Commission may collaborate with and extend full cooperation to other organisations and bodies promoting objectives similar to those of the Commission, particularly other Commissions, Programmes and offices of the IUCN.

(2) Submission of Reports

- a. The Chair shall present a report at each ordinary session of the World Conservation Congress.
- b. The Chair shall present a report each year to the IUCN Council.

(3) Amendments

- a. No change may be made to these By-laws which is inconsistent with the IUCN Statutes or the Regulations.
- b. Subject to the provision of sub-clause a. hereof, these By-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Steering Committee.