



Species Survival Commission Mandate 2009–2012

1. Mission

In the intersessional period of 2009–2012, 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 allow IUCN to fulfil two essential functions for the global community, namely:

- to inform the world about the status and trends of global biodiversity, thus providing measures for the health of our one and only biosphere, and
- to monitor, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the combined global conservation actions to mitigate current and emerging threats to biodiversity.

2. Vision

The work of SSC continues to be guided by the Vision of:

A world that values and conserves present levels of biodiversity.

3. Goal

The overriding Goal of the Commission is:

The extinction crisis and massive loss of biodiversity are universally adopted as a shared responsibility and addressed by concerted actions throughout the world.

4. Objectives

For the intersessional period 2009–2012 SSC, working in collaboration with members, other Commissions and the Secretariat, will pursue the following key objectives in helping to deliver IUCN's "One Programme" commitment:

1. Status of Biodiversity
Observing and monitoring species with the aspiration *to remain the leading global organization monitoring the status and trends of the world's biodiversity and informing the world and its decision makers about its full range of values.*
2. Pressures on Biodiversity
Analysing the impacts of threats to biodiversity with the aspiration *to be a leading authority in the analysis of factors responsible for the decline of species and their relative impacts.*
3. Response to Biodiversity Loss
Facilitating and undertaking action with the aspiration *to deliver solutions for halting biodiversity decline by convening, advising, facilitating and supporting key players in their efforts to mitigate the pressures on biodiversity and to reduce the rate of species decline.*

5. Priorities

The specific working priorities of SSC are derived from and focused on the ten **IUCN Global Results** and grouped into 22 **Key Species Results** each of which has a number of measurable targets to be attained by the end of 2012.

6. Enabling Key Species Results

The operational processes and communications required to deliver the Key Species Results and the individual targets are guided by six **Enabling Key Species Results** and associated operational targets.

7. Structure and Organization

Based on the By-Laws for the Commission (approved by IUCN Council) and the SSC Terms of Reference for the positions of members of the governance committees, Specialist Group Chairs and Specialist Group members, SSC will be structured as follows:

- (a) **Chair and Steering Committee:** The Commission administration will be carried out by the Chair with a Steering Committee providing the necessary skills and geographical knowledge to fulfil the Commission Mandate. Each member will be responsible for providing advice to the Chair and direction to a portion of the expert volunteer network. The Committee will assist and advise the Chair in formulating policy and setting both strategic and operational directions.
- (b) Further standing or temporary **Sub-Committees** will be formed under the direction of the Chair and the Steering Committee to advise on ongoing network management issues or areas of special focus or concern.
- (c) **Specialist Groups, Assessment Groups and Task Forces:** SSC will maintain a network of experts volunteering their time through the Commission's Specialist Groups, Assessment Groups and Working Groups. Dedicated, time-bound Task Forces will be formed to address key emergent issues. These Groups and Task Forces will be organized to provide broad coverage of taxonomic groups of animals and plants, as well as of important threats to biodiversity conservation and key tools to mitigate these threats.
- (d) **Partners and affiliated institutions:** SSC will use strategic alliances and partnerships with key institutions engaged in relevant activity to deliver key portions of its intersessional programme contribution and its long-term Strategic Plan.
- (e) **Emeritus members:** As carried forward with additions as decided by the Chair on the advice of the Steering Committee.
- (f) **Advisory members:** As required during the course of the quadrennium.