

Terms-of-Reference
IUCN Species Survival Commission
2005-2008 Steering Committee

Composition

The SSC Steering Committee (SC), including the Deputy Chair, consists of members nominated by the Chair and approved by Council. All members carry specific as well as collective responsibilities for the implementation of the SSC's mandate as approved by the World Conservation Congress. All members serve in their personal, not institutional, capacities.

Functions

The SSC SC is responsible for advising and assisting the Chair on the overall prioritization and programme oversight within the SSC to deliver on its long-term vision, goal and objectives. The SSC SC works to support and facilitate the activities of the Chair and the network of experts, providing overall guidance and advice on strategic direction as well as monitoring and evaluation of performance, in accordance with the Mandate of SSC.

Specifically, the SSC Steering Committee members undertake to:

- 1) promote the vision, objectives, roles and responsibilities of the SSC network, within and beyond the IUCN;
- 2) draft, revise and adopt the Commission's By-laws, ensuring that the By-laws conform to the Statutes and Regulations of IUCN;
- 3) establish priorities and adaptively manage the long-term vision and direction of the Commission's work by monitoring, evaluating and revising the SSC Strategic Plan (2000 – 2010);
- 4) review the Commission's work plan and the programmatic contributions of the volunteer network to the SSC Strategic Plan (2001-2010) and the IUCN Programme (2005 – 2008);
- 5) review the status, scope and performance of the Specialist Groups and Task Forces in delivering on their Terms-of-Reference and, through the SSC Chair, advise SSC SG or TF Chairs on necessary corrective actions;
- 6) make recommendations on the constitution or dissolution of Specialist Groups and Task Forces, and on the appointment or removal of their Chairs to the Chair of the Commission;

- 7) assist and promote fundraising in support of the work of the SSC and its network of experts;
- 8) develop and approve SSC policy for transmission and further approval by Council and/or the World Conservation Congress;
- 9) further the Mission, seek out new and relevant partnerships (and strengthen existing ones) and collaborative projects within the Commission itself, with other IUCN Commissions and bodies including Regional and Country Offices and thematic programmes, and beyond the IUCN, where the expertise and products of the network will be productively employed;
- 10) approve Letters of Agreement and Memoranda of Understanding and help to maintain productive relations between SSC and its key collaborating partners;
- 11) support management capacity in the SSC by advising on critical administrative matters;
- 12) provide an internal forum for debating the role of SSC in conservation and sustainable development within the IUCN;
- 13) provide a forum to discuss specific species conservation issues of regional and global concern and explore the SSC's role in possible solutions;
- 14) actively represent the SSC at other relevant groups, committees and agencies and, in particular, promote the value of the SSC to conservation and natural resource managers;
- 15) attend all SSC SC meetings; and
- 16) fulfil other functions as emerging needs are identified.

Operations

The SSC SC and the SSC Deputy Chair are nominated by the Chair [Regulation VII, 73], approved by the Council [Statute VI, 46 (l)] and act as an advisory and support body to the Chair. However, the Chair is ultimately responsible for the work of the Commission [IUCN Regulations VII, 78(a), SSC By-laws VIII (1) a.]. The Chair may, at any time, assign specific tasks and responsibilities to individual members of the SSC SC or delegate authority on specific issues [IUCN Regulations VII, 78(a)]. On all important issues affecting SSC every effort will be made to reach consensus within the SC. Should such a consensus not be possible, the Chair will decide taking into account the views expressed by the SC. On IUCN Council, the Deputy Chair shall be entitled to vote in the place of the Chair when the Chair is absent (Statute VI, 44.)

The SSC SC shall aim to meet twice a year, subject to available resources.