

By-laws of the IUCN Species Survival Commission 2009 - 2012

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.

I. bis 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 III (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 III (2) of the SSC By-laws.
6. "Steering Committee" shall mean the SSC Steering Committee as per VII (3) 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.

II. 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 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:

a. 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.*

b. 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.*

c. 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.*

III. 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. Specialist Group, Task Force and Red List Authority Members. Specialist Group Chairs and Task Force Chairs are appointed and removed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the Steering Committee (where Task Forces are temporary groups formed to address key emergent issues). Red List Authority Focal Points are appointed and removed 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 Authorities to Red List Authority Focal Points. Specialist Group Chairs, Task Force Chairs, and Red List Authority Focal Points may appoint or remove members of their respective Groups at any time.

5. Members Emeritus. The Commission Chair may appoint individuals as Members Emeritus in recognition of long service to the SSC. Re-appointment is automatic in each quadrennium.
6. 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.

IV. 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 2009-2012
- b. Guidelines for IUCN/SSC Specialist Group Chairs
- c. Welcome to the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)
- d. Red List Authorities Terms of Reference

V. Responsibilities of Members Emeritus and Advisory Members

Members Emeritus shall:

- a. Provide advice as requested.
- b. Not speak on behalf of the SSC or IUCN.

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.

VI. 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. other Commission members appointed to provide advice and guidance while representing specific areas of expertise.
- b. The Steering Committee shall advise on Commission policy and guide Commission activities within the bounds of the mandate established by the World Conservation Congress.
- c. The Steering Committee shall assist and promote fundraising in support of the work of the SSC and its network of experts.
- d. The Chair may establish standing or temporary Sub-Committees under the direction of the Steering Committee. The Chair of such a Sub-Committee is appointed by the Commission Chair and members are appointed by the Sub-Committee Chair.
- e. The Steering Committee will meet approximately twice 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 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. 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).

VII. 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.