

IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group

Terms of Reference for Members

The IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group (SCSG) covers over 170 species in the following mammal families: Ailuridae, Eupleridae, Herpestidae, Mephitidae, Mustelidae, Nandiniidae, Prionodontidae, Procyonidae, and Viverridae. The only exclusion from these families concerns the otters (Mustelidae: Lutrinae) which are covered by the [IUCN SSC Otter SG](#).

The majority of the group's species are not threatened with extinction; however, it does contain several Critically Endangered and Endangered species that require urgent conservation intervention. This includes the Malagasy carnivores, European Mink, Pygmy Raccoon, and Owston's Civet.

Membership of the SCSG is open to anyone interested in and committed to the conservation of small carnivores, regardless of their professional background or education. The SCSG is seeking to diversify its membership and encourage wider representation geographically, to achieve a better gender balance and to encourage the contribution of young professionals.

For a specialist group to be functioning effectively and efficiently, it requires its members to be enthusiastic and actively engaged in the group's activities. The contributions that each member makes will obviously vary depending on expertise and knowledge, however, wherever possible, the list below outlines the role and responsibilities required of SCSG members to deliver the group's mission: to conserve small carnivores.

Role and Activities of SCSG Members

1. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species depends on the network of SSC taxonomic specialist groups (SGs) to provide Red List Assessments on the species under its remit. Using their expertise, knowledge and opinion, members of the SCSG are required to contribute the necessary information (and data) needed to help conduct the assessments and review the status and conservation needs of the species as part of the assessment process.
2. Assist with the identification of priorities for research, management and conservation of small carnivore species.
3. Share information on relevant conservation activities through contributions to the SCSG journal "[Small Carnivore Conservation](#)" and the [SCSG website](#).
4. To promptly respond to requests from the Co-Chairs and the Red List Authority Coordinator, this may range from e.g., requests for information, feedback / suggestions on group activities, action on / contribution to specific tasks being undertaken by the SG.
5. Provide updated contact details to maintain efficient communication.
6. Provide information, maps and photos of small carnivores and conservation activities for raising awareness / promotional purposes and for the group's website.
7. Assist with the SCSG journal "Small Carnivore Conservation" by reviewing submissions. Members are also encouraged to volunteer as Associate Editors which is absolutely invaluable in helping with the journal's management and timely delivery of each volume.
8. Recommend other potential members working on / have an interest in small carnivore conservation OR could bring a valuable contribution to the group through their professional capacity (e.g., researchers of other species with range overlap, government officials, wildlife vets, social scientists, technical experts).
9. Help to raise the awareness and promote the work of the SCSG in their countries/spheres of influence and of the conservation needs of small carnivores to e.g., the media, funding institutions, scientific and educational communities and the wider public (as appropriate and relevant).
10. Alert the Co-Chairs to any high-level, serious matters relating to small carnivore conservation, where an intervention by IUCN is appropriate and may have potential influence.
11. To provide any suggestions on funding sources which could potentially support the SCSG's activities.

As a member of the SCSG, you also automatically sign up to the Terms of the Reference for membership of the wider SSC (see [here](#)). It is important to familiarise yourself with this document as it has extremely helpful information on your role and responsibility as a SSC member. For example, there is guidance on the rules around the authority to speak on behalf of IUCN, SSC and the SG of which you are a member (see appendix below for a summary of the rules around this). In addition, as

an SSC member, you must also abide by the SSC By-laws and the IUCN Code of Conduct (these are also detailed in the SSC Terms of Reference for members).

Appendix

- On appointment by the SSC Chair and as noted in the "[Terms of Reference for Specialist Group, Task Force and Conservation Committee Chairs 2017-2020](#)", only the SG/TF/SC Chair and Stand-alone RLA Coordinator or their designees are authorized to speak on behalf of the SG/TF/SC/Stand-alone RLA, either in person or via his/her own signature and on SG/TF/ SC/Stand-alone RLA letterhead;
- IUCN has specific rules about who has authority to speak on behalf of the organization, in public fora, including the SSC. The IUCN Statutes give the right of intervention on behalf of the organization to the Director General of IUCN or others delegated by her or him. For SSC, this means that at international meetings only SG/TF/SC Chairs and Stand-alone RLA Coordinators, or their designees who are formal members of the IUCN Delegation, are permitted to speak on behalf of IUCN or the SSC and then only with the agreement of the Head of the IUCN Delegation;
- It is extremely important that SSC members inform SG Chairs and the Global Species Programme (GSP) when they are asked to contribute to proposals to amend the CITES Appendices for CITES CoP meetings (assisting Parties in this regard, who submit the proposals). Notifying the SG Chair and GSP should be done as early as is practically possible;
- Individual SG/TF/SC/Stand-alone RLA members or groups of members may make any statement they wish on any matter in their independent and private capacity, but they shall not represent themselves as speaking on behalf of the SG/TF/SC/Stand-alone RLA, the SSC or IUCN (including on SG/TF/SC/Stand-alone RLA letterhead) unless the SG/TF/SC Chair or Stand-alone RLA Coordinator has expressly authorized it. This is to ensure consistency within the group in communicating science-based information on behalf of IUCN, the SSC and/or SG/TF/SC/Stand-alone RLA.