



Christine Breitenmoser



Urs Breitenmoser

Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

194

Social networks

Facebook:
IUCN SSC Cat SG



Mission statement

Cat Manifesto (<http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=44>).

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. Twelve cat species reassessed for the Red List: bobcat, rusty-spotted cat, Andean cat, black-footed cat, Borneo bay cat, leopard, sand cat, caracal, jungle cat, fishing cat, southern tigrina and northern tigrina. (KSR #1)

Bolster work at national scales

■ Synergy

i. Discussions took place in Iran on the future of the Conservation of the Asiatic Cheetah Project (CPCP) with Department of Environment (DoE) and Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation (HWF) and progress on the implementation of the cat road map. As result, a series of articles on the topic were published in *Cat News* 66. (KSR #29)

Capacity building

■ Technical advice

i. We held a workshop with colleagues from the Caucasus and with experts on monitoring of large predators and their prey as we are preparing guidelines for monitoring of wildlife in the Caucasus as part of the implementation of the current strategy. (KSR #27)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Status of all cat species in Iran was updated and posted on the web (<http://www.catsg.org/index.php?id=629>) and *Cat News* 64 was published. (KSR #28)

ii. A revised taxonomy of the Felidae and *Cat News* 65 have been published. (KSR #28)

iii. *Cat News* 66 has been published. (KSR #28)

iv. Initiated the celebration of UN World Wildlife Day 18 with a big event in Bern. (KSR #28)

■ Scientific meetings

i. Attended the EAZA Felid TAG mid-year meeting in Wuppertal, Germany. As result, our relationship with the EAZA community for collaborative action on cat conservation increased.

ii. Presented lion database at a meeting of the African Lion Working Group in Kasane, Botswana.

iii. Gave a presentation on the way forward for the Iberian lynx at the V Seminar for the Conservation of the Iberian lynx in Sevilla, Spain. This helped develop the strategic direction of the next project period.

iv. Attended AZA Annual Conference, which contributed to boost our relationships with the AZA community for future collaborative actions on cat conservation.

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. Fifteen small carnivore and five wild cat papers published as a supplementary of *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*. The articles discuss the distribution, conservation and research priorities of Borean small carnivores and cats. (KSR #15)



Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), Least Concern
Photo: P. Meier



Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Vulnerable
Photo: P. Meier

ii. The project in the W-Arli-Pendjari (WAP) transboundary conservation complex (Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin) run by Panthera and ZSL in collaboration with us and that is funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US-FWS) and a SWISS foundation has started. The project aims to improve the protection of the WAP, starting from the Benin side, but we have been able to add a cat component in addition to the protection and law enforcement part, where we set up a monitoring system for cats and we do market surveys for trade in cat products in Benin. First actions implemented included camera trapping and market surveys. (KSR #27)

iii. Prepared and facilitated a workshop for the revision of the Regional Conservation Strategy in collaboration with the WWF Caucasus Program, and with the support of the Council of Europe and the Fondation Segré. As a result, the strategy has been updated. (KSR #15)

■ **Synergy**

i. Visited the Eco Group of Prof Janpin Ge at Beijing Normal University for the conservation of the Amur leopard and Siberian Tiger Strategic. We planned a partnership for the conservation of cats. (KSR #29)

ii. We attended the EAZA Felid TAG mid-year meeting in Scotland. Besides the regular meeting, we attended a meeting on the future of the Scottish wildcat, participants were the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) and government representatives. Thanks to these meetings, we grew relationships with the EAZA community for collaborative action on cat conservation. (KSR #29)

iii. We held a meeting with Irina Fomynik and Rustam from Ministry for Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) on the new memorandum of understanding for the restoration of the

leopard in the Caucasus. A draft MoU was agreed and has since been signed. (KSR #29)

iv. We organized and hosted a meeting with the newly launched Lion Recovery Fund (Peter Lindsey), the Range wide cheetah programme (Sarah Durant), CMS (Clara Nobbe), CITES (Tom de Meulenaar) and SOS (Alessandro Bardolotti). The focus was funding/granting/support for conservation in Africa - and looking for synergies where the interests of our various organisations overlap. (KSR #29)

■ **Technical advice**

i. Attended a meeting of PICA – Pallas’s cat initiative at Nordens Ark, Sweden. This is a joint initiative of Nordens Ark and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS). We advise them for monitoring, status assessment and conservation planning. (KSR #27)



Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

- i. Cat SG reconstituted.
- ii. We developed the CSG member strategy 2017-2020.

Policy

■ Policy advice

- i. Attended CITES SC66 and organised a side event on leopards. Awareness of conservation status of leopards grew. (KSR #26)
- ii. Gave a talk at the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) on using species as program impact indicators and we brought cats into the focus of the GEF GWP. (KSR #26)
- iii. Attended the CITES-CMS African Lion Range State Meeting and generated a joint communication of CITES and CMS as input for the CoP17. (KSR #26)
- iv. Attended the Cecil Summit in Oxford and published summarising document. (KSR #26)
- v. Attended CITES CoP17, organised side-events for leopards and attended working group meetings for lions. As result, awareness of conservation status of leopards grew. (KSR #26)
- vi. Had a 1-day meeting with CITES Secretariat (Tom) and CMS (Clara) in our office to discuss the cat related decisions at CoP17. We are working with them on a road map for the implementation of these decisions, mainly lion and leopard. Agreement on way forward for implementation of CITES decisions achieved. (KSR #26)

vii. We held a meeting with the Russian Ministry of Environment, WWF Russia, the Caucasus Nature Centre, Northern Caucasus Resorts and EAZA in Zürich in January, where we discussed the leopard reintroduction in the Russian Caucasus. Project progress was reviewed. (KSR #27)

viii. Supported I.R. Iran and co-proponents Ghana, Kenya and Saudi Arabia with the development of the proposal to list the leopard on CMS Appendix II. Proposal submitted and leopard listed. (KSR #26)

ix. We attended the CMS Scientific Council meeting in Bonn, where we participated in the working group for terrestrial mammals. On the agenda were the listing proposals for lion and leopard, and the proposed concerted actions for cheetah and African wild dog (already listed). The Scientific Council supported lion and leopard proposal. (KSR #26)

x. We attended Animals Committee meeting of CITES in Geneva for agenda items on lion (implementation of CoP decisions) and leopard (review of quotas) and gave two interventions for the two agenda items. Two interventions given. (KSR #26)

xi. We attend the Steering Committee Meeting 67 of CITES in Geneva. Concept of lion framework discussed with relevant partners. (KSR #26)

Acknowledgements

Working very closely with the Cat Specialist Group Co-chairs were Manuela von Arx (Digital Cat Library, Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme), Tabea Lanz (Assistant to the Chair, website, Red List Assessments), Roland Bürki (support to the Chair), Anna Huber (book keeping), Kristin Nowell (Cat SG Red List Authority Coordinator during the Quadrennium 2013-2016): a great thank you to all of them. We would like to thank the many dedicated people who helped develop and run the various projects: Alex Sliwa (Sochi leopard reintroduction, Cats in Iran), Marianne Hartmann (Sochi leopard reintroduction), Keith Richmond, Sultana Bashir, Brian Bertram, Javier Pereira and Juan Repucci (associate editors Cat News). Alex Sliwa, Patrick Meier and Sebastian Kennerknecht have generously made available their superb cat pictures for Cat SG purposes. Our projects would not be possible without financial support from many committed institutions and private persons: Friends of the Cat Group, MAVA Foundation, Zoo Leipzig, Forestry Bureau of the Taiwan Council of Agriculture, Fondation Segré, WAZA, AZA Felid TAG, Foundation Temperatio, Beijing Normal University, the World Bank, Governments of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Inflow AG, Stämpfli Publikationen AG, and especially Patrick Meier and Peter Stämpfli.

Serval (*Leptailurus serval*), Least Concern
Photo: P. Meier



Breitenmosers in United Arab Emirates

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: update key Red List assessments: Fishing Cat, Chinese Mountain Cat, Leopard subspecies.

Research activities: develop camera trapping database which feeds into GMA and SIS.

Bolster work at national scales

Conservation activities: revise the National Action Plan for Asiatic Cheetah in Iran.

Capacity building

Conservation activities: participate in Javan leopard workshop.

Technical advice: develop Cat Monitoring Guidelines.

Communications

Communication: (1) World Wildlife Day celebration: Cat theme; (2) develop *Cat News* Issue on the Status and Conservation Needs for Pallas's cat; (3) develop *Cat News* Issue on the Status and Conservation Needs for Eurasian lynx *Lynx lynx* in Continental Europe; (4) scale up communication and fundraising.

Scientific meetings: Suicide or Survival (SOS) Conference in the Hague representing IUCN SSC APA.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) facilitation of lynx workshop; (2) develop conservation strategy for the Pallas's cat; (3) planning for the leopard in Africa and SE Asia; (4) updating and coordination for Lion Conservation Strategy; (5) support implementation of revised strategy for leopard in Caucasus eco-region; (6) support implementation of revised National Action Plan for Asiatic Cheetah in Iran.

Scientific meetings: attend workshop on non-detriment findings in regard of trophy hunting in Sevilla, Spain.

Synergy: Attend EAZA and AZA Felid TAG meetings.

Policy

Technical advice: (1) attend CMS CAMI midterm workshop; (2) attend CITES Animal Committee, Steering Committee meetings and CoP.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By 2020, we will have implemented the Assess-Plan-Act (APA) approach for additional cat species. We envision to improve the status assessments and launch new conservation planning processes. These conservation initiatives will be combined with communicational and educational programs for people and institutions living with these species.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 7/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Communications (8 activities)
- Conservation action (8 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (2 activities)
- Policy (11 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 26, 27, 28, 29

Resolutions 2016 WCC: 010

KSR: Key Species Result