



## Building Global Capacity for Species Conservation Planning

### About us

The Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) is a member of the world’s largest global conservation organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Species Survival Commission (SSC).

### Our Mission & approach

CPSG’s Mission is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. For nearly 40 years, we have accomplished this by using scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyze positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, other IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums, and other wildlife organizations.



**Golden lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus rosalia*)**

*In 1990, the population of golden lion tamarins was approximately 450. Multiple conservation projects were undertaken and, with careful conservation planning and facilitation by CPSG, these various projects have become unified around concrete goals, and the population now stands at around 3,000.*

### A need for collaborative conservation action

The average rate of vertebrate extinctions over the last century is around 100 times higher than the background rate, strongly supporting the claim that we are experiencing the Earth’s 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction event; an event the likes of which have not been seen for at least 65 million years. But the good news is that conservation works.



**Wattled crane (*Bugenerus carunculatus*)**

*CPSG’s workshop for wattled cranes facilitated the aggregation of all data and research findings on the species, so that all groups working to conserve the wattled crane could jointly evaluate and plan for its future. The population of wattled cranes in South Africa has increased more than 60%.*

There is increasing evidence for the positive impact of conservation funding and conservation action. Conservation actions are having a real impact in reducing biodiversity loss, but are not yet implemented at sufficient scale to stabilize and ultimately reverse current trends. The loss of biodiversity remains one of our planet’s most critical problems, threatening valuable ecosystem services and human well-being. But it is clear that with effective, well-funded, and government-supported planning, we can change the trajectory.

We can achieve this through **collaborative conservation planning processes** that are stakeholder-inclusive and take an integrated approach to the conservation of biodiversity. This approach is at the core of CPSG’s Mission and philosophy and has proven to catalyze action to save threatened species worldwide.



**We now need to scale up our efforts substantially to catalyze action for the more than 25,000 species currently threatened with extinction.**

CPSG is seeking financial support of **US\$ 1.3 million** over the next three years to increase substantially the **global capacity for collaborative conservation planning**, and to make a significant and measurable conservation impact.

**Our challenge**

Over the next three years, CPSG will take a leading role in significantly building the global conservation community’s capacity to ensure that every species that needs a plan is covered by an effective conservation plan.

To achieve this, we will deliver on five strategic goals:

- 1. Develop more efficient processes to move our work for species from threat assessment, through planning for conservation, to conservation action**
- 2. Ensure that planning efforts follow best practices using an adaptive, evidence-based approach, and integrating input from all conservation allies working for a species, whether inside (*in situ*) or outside (*ex situ*) the species’ natural range**
- 3. Increase species conservation planning capacity across SSC Specialist Groups, national authorities, and IUCN members**
- 4. Improve the ability of governments to achieve international biodiversity targets**
- 5. Evaluate species conservation planning methods for impact and effectiveness, leading to continual improvement**

**In conclusion**

The need for effective conservation planning to save species is greater than ever before if we are to turn the tide of extinctions. CPSG’s conservation planning tools, processes and trainings have a proven track record of success in saving species.

Your support will allow us to ramp up our activities and to increase substantially the worldwide capacity for species conservation planning. ***Will you please help us?***

**Photo credits:**

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American burying beetle © Ray Meibaum, St. Louis Zoo



**Hungarian meadow viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*)**

*CPSG’s workshop for the Hungarian meadow viper brought stakeholders together to share data and identify assumptions in order to find a common understanding and collaboration. This led to the establishment of a conservation breeding program which has hatched over 2,000 Hungarian meadow vipers, and hundreds have been released into reconstructed grasslands nearby.*



**American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*)**

*Conservation efforts for the American burying beetle were at a standstill due to conflicts among stakeholder groups until a CPSG facilitated workshop showed them all their common ground, allowing them to move into action. Reintroduction efforts are currently making progress in several states.*