

Terms of Reference

IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee (MCC)

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Mission: Supporting, connecting and promoting SSC expertise for marine species conservation

1. Role of the MCC

The MCC acts to mobilise and assist the SSC and its constituent parts with their responsibilities for achieving effective long-term conservation of marine species.

- a) The MCC explores SSC's potential role in global and regional species conservation issues, in consultation with SSC and IUCN constituent parts.
- b) The MCC provides strategic guidance and assistance on marine species for the activities of the SSC Chair, the IUCN Global Species Programme, and the expert volunteer network of Specialist Groups (SGs), Red List Authorities (RLAs) and Task Forces (TFs).
- c) The MCC acts as an ambassador for SSC interests, expertise and activities in marine conservation within the IUCN and far beyond, and help find opportunities to deploy SSC skills effectively.

2. Responsibilities of the MCC

- a) Provides technical advice and support to the SSC Chair and Steering Committee on marine conservation issues.
- b) Identifies and generates action on important and/or emerging issues for conservation of marine species, with particular reference to policy processes.
- c) Consults IUCN SSC SGs and RLAs to identify marine conservation needs and issues that could be addressed collectively, with ideas as to possible action.
- d) Establishes goals and objectives as part of the strategic visioning for the MCC on a quadrennial basis, in consultation with the SSC Chair's Office and the IUCN Secretariat.
- e) Generates active communication that connects SSC members and relevant constituents of IUCN (particularly other Commissions) to build active collaboration for marine conservation.
- f) Highlights SSC expertise in marine conservation, through documenting novel and/or important perspectives on marine conservation issues in a manner that supports the SSC mission.

- g) Connects SGs, RLAs and TFs to potential actors in marine conservation at national and global levels.
- h) Briefs the SSC Chair and Steering Committee on opportunities, assets, needs and challenges of marine SGs, RLAs and TFs.
- i) Develops and reports on strategic objectives on marine conservation for the joint SSC/GSP 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.
- j) Supports completion of marine species assessments as per the SSC Strategic Plan.

3. Composition of the MCC

The MCC consists of a Chair or Co-Chairs nominated by the Chair of the SSC (with the approval of the SSC Steering Committee). The MCC Chair, consulting with the SSC Chair and other IUCN staff as seems advisable, invites people to join the MCC as members. Members carry responsibility for the implementation of agreed IUCN/SSC marine conservation activities. All MCC members serve in their personal, not institutional, capacities and will be chosen to ensure diversity and balance in terms of geography, age and gender. However, the MCC should be constrained to a manageable size to maximize efficiency of this volunteer body and to achieve meetings within the limited budget. The MCC's capacity can be expanded by the creation of advisory groups of resource people and colleagues for specific themes and issues. Such advisors are not formal members of the MCC and would not be expected to contribute to the MCC to the same level.

4. Responsibilities of the MCC Chair

Programmatically

- a) Act as a focal point for marine conservation within the purview of SSC activities.
- b) Work with MCC members to identify priority activities for the MCC, including SSC and IUCN strengthening, research, conservation, policy and outreach ventures
- c) Promote mechanisms for effective internal communication within the MCC and between marine SGs / RLAs and the SSC Steering Committee.
- d) Establish mechanisms for effective communication between the MCC and relevant stakeholders and target audiences.
- e) Liaise with relevant IUCN actors (e.g. staff in headquarters and in Regional and Country Offices and other commissions) and SSC Steering Committee Members on marine conservation activities.
- f) Raise the profile of SSC's involvement with marine conservation, promoting its expertise and activities at national and global levels.

Administratively

- a) Review MCC membership every four years, ensuring appropriate regional and technical representation, an equitable gender balance, and recruiting young professionals of great promise who may not, as yet, be recognised SSC leaders.
- b) Work with the Commission Support Unit and the Global Species Programme to keep the records of MCC members up to date in the SSC members' database.
- c) Help identify and advance funding opportunities for the MCC and its activities.
- d) Guide communication of the MCC's activities through websites, social media and other conventional and electronic tools.
- e) Oversee the financial management of the MCC, working closely with the SSC Chair's Office to manage any funds provided from the Commissions Operating Fund e.g., for support of MCC meetings.

5. Responsibilities of the SSC Chair's Office and Secretariat

- a) Budget: Provide a budget for the MCC, one that allows at least MCC meetings every two years, and assist in identifying funds that can be raised elsewhere.
- b) Staffing: Provide guidance and assistance on matters relating to the MCC in collaboration with the Global Species Programme.
- c) Documentation: On appointment of the Chair of the MCC, provide Terms of Reference, most recent MCC strategic plan, list of former MCC members, list of Chairs of SGs, RLAs, and Task Forces with contact info, and other documents as requested.
- d) Advice: Be available for consultation on matters of concern.

6. MCC Operations

The MCC will meet biannually, and otherwise remain in contact by other means. The Chair or Co-Chairs may assign specific tasks and responsibilities to individual members of the MCC. The MCC Chair acts as the marine conservation focal point on the SSC Steering Committee, and is expected to liaise with MCC members and marine SGs / RLAs regarding inputs to the SSC Steering Committee. On all business of the MCC every effort will be made to reach consensus within the MCC. Should such a consensus not be possible, the Chair will decide taking into account the views expressed by MCC members.

7. MCC Finances

The MCC is allocated an annual budget from the Commissions Operation Fund of the SSC every two years, with the amount subject to change. The SSC Chair will notify the MCC Chair (on appointment) of the projected budget, which should be used to support the MCC meeting. Should the MCC wish to meet more frequently, additional funding must be raised. If there are surplus funds, their use should be agreed with SSC Chair. If the MCC Chair or members engage

in fundraising activities on behalf of the MCC, they are expected to consult with and communicate with the SSC Chair and relevant Global Species Programme staff.

8. Suggested initial tasks for the MCC Chair

- a) Review the MCC Terms of Reference.
- b) Review other documentation from SSC Chair's office and GSP, as provided under 5 (c) above.
- c) Obtain clear indication of the MCC budget from the SSC Secretariat.
- d) Contact the SSC SGs, RLAs and TFs related to marine conservation, to establish a line of communication and strengthen relationships that will assist with future collaborations and collective efforts.
- e) Develop a draft set of MCC objectives and priorities to help identify possible MCC members and to give them an insight into what would be expected of them.
- f) Plan an MCC structure that optimises its efficiency and effectiveness, perhaps including a core group of members supported by other observers or advisors for particular work.
- g) Formally invite MCC members and thank former MCC members.
- h) Work with SSC staff and the MCC to plan annual meetings.
- i) Review and update directory of focal points relevant to marine conservation at IUCN and its Commissions.