

## Membership Policy and Terms of Reference for 2021–2025

### IUCN Species Survival Commission, Seed Conservation Specialist Group

The Seed Conservation Specialist Group (SCSG) members generously volunteer their time to be part of a global community of experts. The mission of the SCSG is to promote seed conservation by providing a network for knowledge-sharing in different ecosystems around the world, and aiding in prioritization, capacity building, and development of best practices. We have > 100 members, from > 25 countries on 6 continents, including seed bank managers, academic researchers, conservation practitioners, national and international coordinators, and other specialists from around the world. We work with the IUCN Species Survival Commission to achieve “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth.”

Members' contributions are an integral and essential part of the SCSG, and our group's success is a testament to their dedication to the mission. The SCSG members are appointed to quadrennium (four-year) terms during which they are expected to assist with core activities and act in accordance with the [IUCN Membership Code of Conduct](#) and [IUCN SSC Terms of Reference](#).

### Membership Policy of the IUCN SSC, Seed Conservation Specialist Group

1. The SCSG operates with two Co-Chairs, a Deputy-Chair, a Secretariat, four focal points (Conservation Planning, Early Career Engagement, Ex Situ Conservation, and Sustainable Use) who make up the "Executive Committee".
2. In accordance with IUCN statutes, the Co-Chairs are appointed by the Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Membership in the SCSG is by invitation of the Co-Chairs for the period of the current quadrennium only, and the members must clearly understand and agree to this governance structure at the time they are appointed.
3. The SCSG membership policy strives to achieve broad and balanced representation in expertise and regional diversity to formulate a group that is fully supportive of the mission and activities of the SCSG.
4. The SCSG invites members who contribute expertise to build knowledge on seed conservation, provide advice, develop policies and guidelines, and facilitate conservation planning, research, management, and/or education that would be supportive of the SCSG's mission and objectives and within the framework of the IUCN Terms of Reference.

5. Membership will remain flexible throughout the quadrennium, and new members are added as they are recognized and approved, from as broad a geographic range as possible, and inactive members or those that no longer support the SCSG's mission and objectives will not be renewed in subsequent quadrennia.
6. According to IUCN SSC governance structure, SCSG members respond directly to the SCSG Co-Chairs. Members are responsible to maintain contact with SCSG leaders and respond in a timely manner to requests that help the SCSG to pursue its objectives.
7. The SCSG's internal operations will be flexible, under the leadership of the SCSG co-chairs, allowing for the convening of regular and ad hoc national, regional or international consultations, to appoint new members, or to address specific conservation issues or techniques.

#### Responsibilities of the IUCN SSC, Seed Conservation Specialist Group Members

1. Register through the IUCN Commission System and Union Portal upon invitation by the SCSG co-chairs.
2. Embrace the IUCN [Code of Conduct](#) and support its implementation and building awareness among other members.
3. Familiarize themselves with the [Guide to IUCN SSC Membership](#), [IUCN Species Strategic Plan](#) and [SSC By-laws](#) and other governing documents.
4. Support the achievement of [SSC Vision, Mission and Objectives](#).
5. Contribute to delivering the quadrennial targets of the SCSG and towards achieving the IUCN Species Strategic Plan for the current quadrennium.
6. Support SCSG co-chairs in reporting on the activities of the group and any other tasks delegated by the co-chairs.
7. Actively engage in meetings of the SCSG and in the delivery of quadrennial targets.
8. It is strongly encouraged that all SCSG members share publications, initiatives, and stories relevant for seed conservation for the purpose of SCSG outreach and education efforts by contacting us [here](#).
9. It is strongly encouraged that all SSC members include, in addition to their primary affiliation, their SSC/SCSG affiliation in the products of their research and conservation work (e.g. publications, engagement in conservation projects, participation in congresses and conferences, email signatures, among others). The format for SCSG affiliation is "Seed Conservation Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 281196 Gland, Switzerland".