

with the Global Wildlife Program, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the World Bank, and the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit of Oxford University, with the support of many other organizations and donors.

The conference brought together > 500 delegates from non-profit, government, academic and donor backgrounds from 70 countries, providing a forum for discussions and the exchange of knowledge. The programme included scientific presentations, panel debates, short courses, keynote speeches and interactive discussions. It was an interdisciplinary conference with participation from ecology, animal behaviour, psychology, policy, political ecology, conflict analysis, mediation and peacebuilding, international development, economics and anthropology.

The conference, postponed since 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, provided a timely response to the formal inclusion of human–wildlife conflict in global policy. The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at the UN Biodiversity Conference in December 2022 includes a target that calls for countries to ‘effectively manage human–wildlife interactions to minimize human–wildlife conflict for coexistence’.

To support coexistence with wildlife, and to help inform new national policies and support action, on 30 March 2023 the Human–Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group released the first edition of the IUCN SSC Guidelines on Human–Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence. The Guidelines, developed by an interdisciplinary team of 50 experts, provide the most comprehensive recommendations for good practice on the topic to date. The publication centres on good process and provides guiding foundations and principles applicable to any human–wildlife conflict situation in any region. The first edition, in English, is available at [hwctf.org/guidelines](http://hwctf.org/guidelines), and will soon be available in additional languages.

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### **China Species Specialist Group: piloting a new initiative for expansion of the IUCN Species Survival Commission**

National Species Specialist Groups are a new type of group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), designed to catalyse interdisciplinary cooperation across specialist groups and to develop national species expert networks to help reverse biodiversity loss and face new nature-related sustainability challenges.

The China Species Specialist Group is one of a few recently launched pilot groups (including in Colombia, Indonesia and Madagascar). It focuses on supporting China, the host nation of the Convention of Biological Diversity’s recent CoP15, to develop and implement the country’s ambitious National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan, and to develop a model for pragmatic advancement of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The establishment of this new Specialist Group has improved SSC’s ability to provide support to conservation and research projects in China, and opened doors for young professionals, non-English speaking specialists and multi-taxa biodiversity experts to engage in SSC’s international community. Since its establishment in 2022, the Specialist Group has recruited > 100 new members into the SSC, launched pilot programmes for young professionals and initiated a comprehensive study in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, via the newly formed Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Biodiversity Alliance, which the Specialist Group helped establish. Spearheaded by the universities of Sun Yat-Sen, Hong Kong and Macau, the Alliance aims to create an interinstitutional platform for knowledge sharing and regional biosphere collaborations.

The new Specialist Group’s pilot biosphere study in the Greater Bay Area aims to examine the dynamic interrelationships between biodiversity and climate for each of the area’s 11 municipal biospheres and collectively as a regional biosphere. The study includes tools for spatial planning and sustainable financing, such as the IUCN Red List, and measurable, reportable and verifiable carbon measurements of climate impacts on nature. The Greater Bay Area Biodiversity Alliance is a collaborative model for facilitating cross-border planning and implementation of regional biodiversity strategies and action plans and other nature conservation and sustainability development efforts.

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### **The IUCN Species Survival Commission launches a new Red List Authority to assess marine invertebrates**

Invertebrates comprise the majority of biodiversity in the oceans. The conservation issues facing these taxa, comprising c. 200,000 described and many more undescribed species, are diverse. The under-representation of marine invertebrates