

Conservation news

Opportunity: assess programme impact by testing an adaptation of the IUCN Green Status of Species

Launched in 2021, the IUCN Green Status of Species is a complementary part of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, assessing how close a species is to being fully recovered (Grace et al., 2021, *Conservation Biology*, 35, 1833–1849; 2021, *Oryx*, 55, 651–652). This information, alongside the Red List classification of a species' risk of extinction in the wild, provides a more complete picture of the status of species and the impact of conservation.

The Green Status of Species defines Fully Recovered as 'a species that is viable and ecologically functional in every part of its range'. It thus incentivizes conservation to go beyond the first steps of preventing extinction and maintaining species' viability, addressing the goal of restoring the functions of species within ecosystems. In addition to assessing a species' current state relative to being fully recovered, the [Green Status of Species](#) uses hypothetical scenarios to estimate past and potential future impact of conservation action through four conservation impact metrics.

Like the Red List, the Green Status of Species is global, recognizing the combined impact of all past conservation actions on species status, highlighting species dependent on continued actions and forecasting expected gains from further conservation interventions. Nonetheless, it is common for conservation practitioners to seek to understand how their sub-global scale programmes contribute to global recovery, and to date there is no standardized method to assess the impact of a programme in this way. To address this, we have adapted the Green Status of Species for application at the programme level, providing a standardized way to understand the past and future impact of programmes in relation to the global recovery of species.

Based on a completed IUCN Green Status of Species assessment, a Programme Green Status of Species assessment estimates the contribution of past programme actions to global species recovery and what could be achieved by continuation of the programme and its actions. Working with colleagues across five international conservation organizations, members of the Green Status of Species–Species Survival Commission Integration Task Force have developed the method and guidelines for applying the Green Status of Species at the programme level. We are now looking for participants to (1) ensure the adaptations work for a range of different programmes and species, and (2) provide feedback on the framework and accompanying documentation.

If you are interested in assessing the contribution of your programmes to the global recovery of species, whilst contributing to the testing of the Programme Green Status of Species framework, we want to hear from you. Please

contact Rebecca Young to register your interest in participating and to learn more about the programme assessment process.

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REBECCA E. YOUNG¹  (rebecca.young@durrell.org),
H. REŞİT AKÇAKAYA² , ELIZABETH L. BENNET³, MICHAEL
HOFFMANN⁴ , MICHAEL A. HUDSON¹ , BARNEY LONG⁵ ,
THALASSA MCMURDO HAMILTON⁴ , KELSEY NEAM⁵ , MEGAN
A. OWEN⁶ , RICHARD P. YOUNG⁷  and MOLLY K. GRACE⁸ 
¹Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Trinity, Jersey.
²Department of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, USA. ³Wildlife Conservation Society, New York City, New York, USA.
⁴Zoological Society of London, London, UK. ⁵Re:wild, Austin, Texas, USA. ⁶San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, San Diego, California, USA. ⁷Nature Positive, Bath, UK. ⁸Department of Biology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

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Online publications for responsible primate-watching for tourists and for tourism professionals

Many people enjoy watching primates, whether free-ranging or in zoos or sanctuaries. This activity can have positive impacts on primate conservation and contribute to local livelihoods when conducted responsibly.

In October 2023, the IUCN Species Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group Section on Human–Primate Interactions, in collaboration with the Section on Small Apes, published place-based and primate-specific recommendations for responsible primate-watching (excluding large apes, for which there are already guidelines: Macfie & Williamson, 2010, *Best Practice Guidelines for Great Ape Tourism*, IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group). *Responsible Primate-Watching for Tourists* aims to provide accessible information about how to watch primates and is designed to ensure minimal impact on them.

The recommendations include information on how to behave around primates either in a planned tour or during unplanned encounters. Recommendations are also available for nocturnal primates and primates in zoos and sanctuaries. Responsible primate-watching means considering primate welfare, their conservation and that of the ecosystems they inhabit, and the wellbeing and livelihoods of people living with or close to primates. The recommendations are available by region and for particular primate groups. Many of the chapters have been translated into