

Switzerland, January 2017

“A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth”

Dear Mohd-Azlan

In the context of the above vision of the IUCN Species Survival Commission that has never been more imperative and with great pleasure we invite you to serve as a member of the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group for the 2017-2020 IUCN Quadrennium.

As a member of the Cat Specialist Group, you will again become a member of the SSC, the largest of the six volunteer commissions of IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature. The combined skills and insights represented by SSC's broad membership of scientists, field biologists and other professionals uniquely position the SSC to identify and promote actions necessary to stem the loss of the world's biological diversity. The types of expertise required to accomplish the ambitious work of the SSC are wide-ranging, and your skills have been found to be particularly valuable to the work of the Cat Specialist Group.

Collectively, SSC members form a highly-regarded and influential network of species experts that is able to influence conservation outcomes at all levels, particularly international, through engaging with each other and collaborating in both the IUCN's and SSC's name.

The specifics of the responsibilities of Cat SG members are detailed in the following important documents found as the following attachments accompanying this letter of appointment:

- Terms of Reference – IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group 2017-2020;
- SSC Terms of Reference for SSC members
- IUCN Code of Conduct for Commission members

Please note that these documents have been revised and edited or added for the Quadrennium 2017–2020. The Cat SG Terms of Reference outline the deliverables expected from a Cat SG member and we encourage you to read this document carefully before signing the attached membership form.

We have been asked to clarify to you that, in accepting your appointment as an SSC Member, you agree that the information provided by you may be made publicly available through the SSC Membership Directory or database in print or electronic format. The private telephone, fax and mobile phone numbers as well as the Skype™ address will be kept only for use by the Specialist Group Co-Chairs and SSC/Global Species Programme staff on occasions where communication with a member is urgent.

For this and the administration of the group we need the following **updated** information from you:
The **signed Membership Form** by

- email to **ch.breitenmoser@kora.ch** or
 - regular mail to IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group, c/o KORA, Thunstrasse 31, CH –3074 Muri b.Bern, Switzerland
1. Please make sure that we have the appropriate address where you want to receive Cat News! For members of the Cat Specialist Group the newsletter is for free, but we would like to encourage everybody who can afford it to support the production of the newsletter.
 2. A short **updated curriculum vitae** (maximum of 100 words) – where you specify your experience with cat species and conservation work as well as the geographic region for the membership directory on the website. Send us a new CV if you want to update the information that is currently on the website.
 3. A **photo** of you as a .jpg of the size (portrait, 200x270; 96 dpi) that you would like to see on the website.
 4. A **reference list** with your recent cat papers, including reports. This will help to check what is missing in the Digital Cat Library.

You will receive an eMail from the SSC Membership team from the headquarter to update your information in the Union Portal and to tick a check box to indicate that you have read and accept the SSC Members TOR and the IUCN Code of Conduct. Only after this step you will become officially an SSC Member.

We hope that you will accept this invitation and we look forward to continue working with you as a member of the Cat Specialist Group. Please bear in mind that, for you to be registered as a member of the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group, it is mandatory that we receive confirmation of your acceptance and that we have all the information we are asking for under 1-5.

Please send the all required information to us until not later than **25 January 2017**.

Yours sincerely,



Urs Breitenmoser
Co-Chairs IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group



Christine Breitenmoser-Würsten

Attachments

- membership form
- Terms of Reference for Cat SG members
- SSC Terms of Reference for SSC members
- IUCN Code of Conduct for Commission members