International Symposium on Protected Area Monitoring and Species Conservation IAPA/ISZS and ChSSG Annual Meetings

Dates: 14–18 December 2026

Venue: 17th Floor, International Science and Technology Organizations Headquarters Cluster, Donghu International Center, Beijing, China

Tentative Programme

IAPA/ISZS is the protected area network committee of the International Society of Zoological Sciences. ChSSG is the China Species Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC).

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Monday, 14 December

Afternoon | Participant check-in

Time	Speaker / lead	Participants	Session / presentation
16:00–18:00	Weihan Dai	All delegates	Participant check-in and collection of meeting materials

Evening | Parallel Session 1: Early-career researchers in species research and conservation

Participants: Speakers at the Young Conservationists' Forum. Other delegates are welcome to join voluntarily.

Objective: Help young participants get to know one another, exchange information about their current species conservation work, and find peers with shared interests. Collect questions they would like to ask experienced conservationists for the following evening's career development dialogue.

Time	Speaker / lead	Participants	Session / presentation
18:30–20:30	Le Maoji	Young participants	Young conservationists' exchange

Evening | Parallel Session 2: Discussion on an Eco-Secured Community with a Shared Future for Mankind (ESCM)

Participants: Country representatives. Other delegates are welcome to join voluntarily.

Objective: Review progress on ESCM, hear updates from country representatives, and exchange national plans, including national research centres, the "Light Up" initiative for universities and research institutes, and eco-security science outreach in primary and secondary schools.

Chair: Yan Xie

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
18:30–19:15	Dexin Tian	Progress and outlook of the ESCM International Science Plan
19:15–20:00	Country representatives	National progress and directions for action
20:00–20:30	Dexin Tian	Work arrangements and closing remarks

Tuesday, 15 December

Morning | Species conservation priorities and practice

Objective: Using the IUCN Species Conservation Cycle as a shared framework, speakers will draw on their observations and experience to discuss recent developments in global nature conservation and explore what these mean for participants' own work.

Chairs: Yan Xie and Yufang Gao

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
08:30–09:00	Organizing team	Check-in and collection of meeting materials
09:00–09:15	Invited leaders	Opening remarks
09:15–09:25	Yan Xie	Light up the heart of science and illuminate humanity's future: What can you contribute to building an eco-secured community with a shared future for mankind?
09:25–09:35	Yufang Gao	Emerging issues in biodiversity conservation through the lens of the second IPBES Global Assessment
09:35–09:45	Sulaiman Inuwa Muhammad [Online]	Balancing Conservation and Survival: Human Incursion and Economic Pressures in Nigeria's Protected Ecosystems
09:45–10:15	Organizing team	Group photograph and refreshment break
10:15–10:25	Roman Jashenko	New edition of the Red Data Book of Kazakhstan and further action
10:25–10:35	Yohanes Purwanto [Online]	Integrating Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Science-Based Innovation: The MIDAs Approach in Raja Ampat, Indonesia
10:35–10:45	Okolie Christopher Uche [Online]	Conservation Without a Protected Reserve: The Awka Monkey Story
10:45–10:55	Muhammad Subhan Qureshi	Animal Diversity under Pressure: Economic Selection, Food Security and Climate Resilience
10:55–11:05	Baoguang Zhu	Oriental stork population conservation research: A case study from Honghe, Heilongjiang
11:05–11:15	Chao Yu	Spatial and temporal dynamics of wintering scaly-sided merganser populations in Anhui Province
11:15–11:25	Menghong Hu	From treatment to prevention: Safeguarding the health of the Chinese sturgeon
11:25–11:35	Chao Li	Conservation practice for the white cloud mountain minnow, a Class II nationally protected aquatic species in China
11:35–11:55	All delegates	Audience questions and responses from speakers
11:55–12:00	Yan Xie	Closing remarks
12:00–13:00	—	Lunch
13:00–14:00	Organizing team	Documentary screening and informal exchange

Afternoon | Parallel Session 1: Young Conservationists' Forum

Objective: Give young conservationists opportunities to share research progress and practical experience, and explore how scientific evidence and social participation can support conservation action. Expert feedback and peer discussion will help speakers identify next steps and potential collaborations.

Chairs: Weiyang Zhao and Le Maoji

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
14:00–14:10	Weiyang Zhao and Le Maoji	Opening and introduction to the forum
14:10–14:25	Xin Liu	Threats to native small freshwater fishes and progress in their conservation
14:25–14:40	Xiaohai Chen	Microecological effects of fragmented nursery habitats of the Chinese horseshoe crab and implications for conservation
14:40–14:55	Yuxi Peng	Restructuring ecological space in Northeast Asia: Cross-scale evidence from tigers, pikas and amphibians
14:55–15:10	Abhilasha Shrivastava	Global averages and silent extinctions: Why East Asian salamander conservation needs regional horizon scanning
15:10–15:35	Discussant (TBC)	Session 1 feedback and discussion: Species status and conservation evidence
15:35–15:50	—	Refreshment break
15:50–16:05	Siyue Xiao	Integrated conservation of *Manglietia ovoidea* and *Michelia lacei*, two plant species with extremely small populations
16:05–16:20	Siyu Wang	How public communication can support species conservation: The Chinese white dolphin
16:20–16:35	Mengxi Kou	Paying for tolerance? How compensation policies reshape human–wild boar coexistence in China
16:35–16:50	Duojie Cuomao	Artificial nesting for black-necked cranes at Qinghai Lake: Community participation in adaptive co-management
16:50–17:15	Discussant (TBC)	Session 2 feedback and discussion: Conservation practice and social participation
17:15–17:30	Weiyang Zhao and Le Maoji	Forum summary

Afternoon | Parallel Session 2: Ecotourism in protected areas

Objective: Exchange case studies and management experience in protected area ecotourism, understand the needs of individual protected areas, and establish contacts among potential partners interested in further exchange.

Chair: Lan Zheng

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
14:00–14:10	Lan Zheng	Opening and introduction to the forum
14:10–14:20	Anirudh Chaoji	Eco-tourism activities better support conservation in lesser known forestslesser known forest
14:20–14:30	Kedar Baral	Nepal (topic to be confirmed)
14:30–14:40	Xingba	Kenya (topic to be confirmed)
14:40–14:50	Ekaterina Lonkina	The development of eco-tourism in the Bastak Nature Reserve: current state and development prospects.
14:50–15:00	Johan Setiawan	Wildlife based ecotourisn in National Parks, Indonesia
15:00–15:10	Lei Wang	China’s Ecotourism Development: Current Situation and Value Orientations
15:10–15:20	Nan Liu	Ecotourism centred on Tibetan pastoral cultural resources: A case study
15:20–15:30	Abdullahi Abdulhameed [Online / in person]	The Role of Eco-tourism in Rural Development and Alternative Livelihoods for Enclave Communities; A Case Study of Gashaka Gumti National Park.
15:30–15:40	Timothy Kebba Conteh [Online]	Integrating Community Engagement and Biodiversity Monitoring for Effective Protected Area Management: Lessons from Sierra Leone
15:40–15:50	Tima Dago [Online]	Community Engagement in Marine Protected Areas: Balancing Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Tourism and Coastal livelihood
15:50–16:05	—	Refreshment break
16:05–16:40	Participating protected area managers	Thematic table discussions on management areas participants hope to improve, sharing needs, practices and available support
16:40–17:15	Protected area representatives with shared interests	Informal networking among protected areas to explore mutual interest in continued exchange, and agree on contacts and topics for follow-up
17:15–17:30	Lan Zheng	Forum summary

Evening | Parallel Session 1: Conservation careers and youth development

Objective: Through speakers' personal experiences, help young participants understand different routes into species conservation and opportunities for further development, and consider their own next steps. Use the discussion and Q&A to explore their needs for practical experience, career guidance and peer support.

Chair: Le Maoji

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
18:30–18:40	Le Maoji	Opening and introduction of questions from the youth forum
18:40–19:00	Hanzhi Wen (TBC)	Personal career paths through research, conservation practice and organizational collaboration
19:00–19:20	Yufang Gao	Personal career paths through research, conservation practice and organizational collaboration
19:20–19:40	To be confirmed	Personal career paths through research, conservation practice and organizational collaboration
19:40–20:30	Three guest speakers	Roundtable dialogue and questions from young participants

Evening | Parallel Session 2: Ecotourism itineraries and visitor experiences

Objective: Bring protected area representatives, tour operators and experts together to discuss existing itineraries and distinctive visitor experiences, advance ongoing itinerary development, and help protected areas with early-stage ideas find potential partners.

Chair: Ning Liu / Lei Wang

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
18:30–18:45	Chair, tour operators and protected area representatives	Opening, with introductions to tour operators' itinerary needs and protected areas' existing itineraries, distinctive experiences or initial ideas
18:45–19:35	Protected area representatives, tour operators and experts	Two rounds of table discussions on visitor experiences, suitable markets and hosting conditions, exploring which experiences could be developed into itineraries
19:35–20:15	Delegates	Open discussions to advance the four itineraries already under development, and opportunities for other protected areas to find partners for experiences of interest
20:15–20:30	Chair and delegates	Summarize itineraries and experiences proposed for further development, and identify contacts and next steps

Expected output: A list of itineraries and visitor experiences proposed for further development, identifying the partners, additional information needed and next steps.

Wednesday, 16 December

Morning | Species conservation practice and protected area management

Objective: Through Chinese and international case studies, discuss how species research can inform conservation practice and how to collaborate across regions and institutions within and beyond protected areas. Identify transferable approaches and specific topics that IAPA and ChSSG could explore further.

Chair: Yufang Gao

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
09:00–09:10	Yufang Gao	Opening and introduction to the discussion. Progress and plans for research on species conservation priorities in China
Session 1 | Species research and conservation priorities		
09:10–09:25	Abraham Birara Desalegn [Online]	Assessing Agricultural Land-Use Change Impacts on Bat Diversity and Ecosystem Services in the Guassa Menz Community Conservation Area, Ethiopia.
09:25–09:40	Mauricio Talebi Gomes [Online]	Primates
09:40–09:55	Fernando Iglesias [Online]	Integrating Pastoralism into Protected Areas: A Biocultural and Regenerative Pathway from the Río Colorado Valley, Chile
09:55–10:10	Said Shee Mohamed [Online]	Watamu for Coral Reef restoration
10:10–10:20	Speakers and participants	Plenary discussion and summary
10:20–10:30	—	Refreshment break
Session 2 | Collaboration and management within and beyond protected areas		
10:30–10:45	Weiyang Zhao	Conservation effectiveness and governance pathways for OECMs under the 30×30 target
10:45–11:00	Meng Jiang	“From the Yangtze River to the Ocean”: Species conservation and international cooperation
11:00–11:15	Relebohile Ramokoatsi Samuel	Protected Areas and People in Lesotho
11:15–11:30	Tatiana IASHINA [Online]	Monitoring the species and ecosystems in the transboundary regions: towards harmonized monitoring in the protected areas in the Altai mountains
11:30–11:45	Hendra Gunawan	Integrating Ecological Corridor Management and Multi-Business Forestry for Tapanuli Orangutan Conservation in the Batang Toru Landscape, Indonesia
11:45–12:00	Speakers and participants	Plenary discussion and summary

Afternoon | Protected area monitoring experience and needs

Objective: Exchange overarching approaches and practical experience in species monitoring in protected areas, and examine how monitoring results can inform day-to-day management and conservation decisions. Understand the needs and available support of protected areas, research teams and technical teams, and identify opportunities for IAPA and ChSSG to facilitate further exchange and cooperation.

Chair: Xinhai Li

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
14:00–14:10	Yan Xie	Research on the development of China's protected area monitoring system
14:10–14:20	Yue Yu [Online]	Research on species selection for monitoring across China's protected areas
14:20–14:30	Rongjie Zhang	Achievements in biodiversity monitoring in Changbaishan National Nature Reserve
14:30–14:40	Xinhai Li	Standardized protocols for wildlife surveys in protected areas
14:40–14:50	Chaodong Zhu	Bee monitoring: The Changbaishan case
14:50–15:00	Yahui Zhao	Fish monitoring: The Changbaishan case
15:00–15:10	Lile Hu	Intelligent biodiversity monitoring methods and case studies
15:10–15:20	Dingxing (Xue Li?)	Biodiversity monitoring technologies for protected areas (?)
15:20–15:30	Fasheng Zou	Estimating bird population sizes in China
15:30–15:40	Koffi Valentin MAWOUGNIGAN	Linking protected area monitoring, species conservation and sustainable wildlife governance: lessons and opportunities from Togo
15:40–15:50	Chiranjibi Prasad Pokheral [Online]	Advancing Protected Area Monitoring and Wildlife Conservation in Nepal: NTNC's Contributions, Innovations, and Partnerships
15:50–16:00	Shimelis [Online]	Endangered and Flagship Species Monitoring in Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia: Approaches, Lessons Learned, and Conservation Implications
16:00–16:15	—	Refreshment break
16:15–16:25	Weihan Dai	China's National Occupational Skills Standard for Nature Reserve Patrol and Monitoring Personnel
16:25–16:50	Yan Xie, speakers and participants	Discussion of monitoring methods and applications: Questions on the presentations, the management needs different methods can address, and the conditions required for implementation
16:50–17:15	Yan Xie and participants	Exchange of needs and cooperation opportunities: Protected areas, research teams and technical teams briefly introduce current problems, support sought, and methods, protocols or experience they can share
17:15–17:30	Yan Xie	Summary and follow-up: Identify shared priorities and confirm teams and contacts interested in further exchange

Evening | Multi-stakeholder participation in species conservation

Objective: Through Chinese and international case studies, explore how communities, protected area authorities, civil society organizations, research teams and local governments work together on species conservation, and discuss how IAPA and ChSSG could provide peer support or connect partners.

Chair: Yufang Gao

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
18:30–18:35	Chair	Opening and introduction of speakers
18:35–18:55	Caijiang	Bear conflict prevention in Sanjiangyuan pastoral areas: Practice and reflections
18:55–19:15	Le Maoji	Interdisciplinary conservation through the Weierba programme
19:15–19:35	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
19:35–19:55	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
19:55–20:25	Chair, four guest speakers and participants	Roundtable discussion and audience Q&A
20:25–20:30	Chair	Closing remarks

Thursday, 17 December

All day | Parallel Session 1: 2026 IAPA/ISZS Annual Meeting

Morning | Progress on IAPA ecotourism criteria and review of eco-product standards

Chair: Lan Zheng

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
09:00–09:10	Weihan Dai	Annual review of ecotourism work and proposed improvements to the ecotourism criteria
09:10–09:30	Working group rapporteurs and participating members	Group discussions
09:30–10:00	Working group rapporteurs and participating members	Group reports and discussion to agree on additional content and directions for improving the ecotourism criteria
10:00–10:10	—	Refreshment break
10:10–10:25	Lan Zheng	Introduction to the draft IAPA eco-product standards and certification procedures
10:25–11:05	Working group rapporteurs and participating members	Group review of the draft IAPA eco-product certification standards and procedures, identifying revisions needed
11:05–11:40	Working group rapporteurs and participating members	Group reports and expert discussion to consolidate proposed revisions to the eco-product certification standards and procedures
11:40–13:30	—	Lunch break

Afternoon | Review of the IAPA annual work plan

Chair: Weihan Dai

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
13:30–14:00	Weihan Dai and Rongjie Zhang	IAPA annual report
14:00–14:20	All participating IAPA members	Review and adopt revisions to the IAPA ecotourism criteria. Review and adopt the draft IAPA eco-product certification standards.
14:20–14:40	Yan Xie	Introduction to the draft IAPA 2027 work plan 1. Eco-security science outreach around protected areas 2. Research on biodiversity monitoring in protected areas 3. Application of the IAPA ecotourism criteria 4. The 2027 IAPA Annual Meeting
14:40–14:55	—	Refreshment break
14:55–15:40	Working group rapporteurs and participating members	Group discussions on the IAPA 2027 work plan and internal collaboration and communication among members and experts
15:40–16:20	Working group rapporteurs and participating members	Group reports and plenary discussion to consolidate the 2027 work plan
16:20–16:40	All participating IAPA members	Review and adopt the IAPA 2027 work plan
16:40–17:00	Yan Xie	Closing remarks and adjournment

Expected output: An agreed 2027 work plan and arrangements for internal collaboration and communication within IAPA. Priorities include continued eco-security science outreach, protected area monitoring, application of ecotourism criteria and eco-product standards, the World Protected Areas Exhibition, and development of the IAPA member and expert networks.

All day | Parallel Session 2: 2026 ChSSG Annual Meeting

Objective: Review the year's work, discuss membership management arrangements and the 2026–2029 work plan and collaboration mechanisms, and ask the four working groups to develop their initial work plans for 2027.

Chair: Yufang Gao

Morning | Annual review, membership management and the four-year work plan

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
09:00–09:25	Co-Chairs	Annual review: Review major progress, member participation and work to continue from the past year, and invite members to contribute additional information
09:25–10:00	Participating members	Discuss membership management arrangements based on the draft circulated before the meeting, including how to confirm continued interest in participation, record annual contributions, and follow up with members who have not participated or responded for an extended period
10:00–10:15	—	Refreshment break
10:15–10:55	Participating members	Introduce and discuss the ChSSG 2026–2029 work plan. Allow approximately 10 minutes to introduce the 12 objectives and four working groups, then use members' pre-meeting feedback to discuss priorities and collaboration among working groups, taxon coordinators and the Secretariat
10:55–11:20	Proposed working group conveners	Initial proposals from the four working groups. Each group has approximately 5 minutes to introduce a proposal with an existing foundation, its proposed first step and the colleagues whose participation is needed
11:20–11:30	Participating members	Brief questions and introduction to afternoon groups. Invite additional proposals and let members choose a working group • Species Prioritization and Conservation Status Assessment (Objectives 1 and 2) • Protected Area Monitoring and In-situ Conservation Practice (Objectives 4, 5 and 6) • Capacity Building and Membership Development (Objectives 3, 7 and 8) • Communication, Outreach and Resource Mobilization (Objectives 9–12)
11:30–13:30	—	Lunch break

Afternoon | Working group planning and plenary exchange

Time	Speaker / lead	Session / presentation
13:30–14:40	Proposed working group conveners and participating members	The four working groups develop plans in parallel. Each selects one or two tasks that can be advanced soon, defining expected outputs, willing leads, members' contributions and the first step after the meeting
14:40–14:50	—	Refreshment break
14:50–15:50	Working group rapporteurs and participating members	Working group reports, with 10 minutes for each report and 5 minutes for discussion
15:50–16:10	Co-Chairs	Cross-group coordination and follow-up. Discuss collaboration among groups and support needed from taxon coordinators and the Secretariat. Confirm leads and the first follow-up date for initial tasks, and how absent members can comment and join tasks
16:10–16:30	Co-Chairs	Closing remarks and adjournment. Explain how the minutes, outstanding issues and task lists will be circulated to all members

Expected output: Proposed revisions and outstanding issues concerning membership management, a record of discussions on 2026–2029 priorities and collaboration arrangements, and a ChSSG task and responsibility list for 2027.