

A new website for the Cat Specialist Group



One of the important points on our to-do list for the present quadrennium was to renew the website of the Cat Specialist Group www.catsg.org. Our old website, which has served us well for many years, was technically outdated as well as no longer up-to-date regarding the content. One technical shortcoming was that it was not designed to be used on tablets or smartphones. A conceptual shortcoming was that it did not properly explain the work of the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group compared to other organisations involved in cat conservation.

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We hope that our new website meets the requirements of an IUCN SSC specialist group much better. Hence, the design of our new website follows the [Species Conservation Cycle](#) of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. We have never evaluated in detail the time we invest in the five components Assess, Plan, Act, Network and Communicate, but we think that over-all importance within the SSC is pretty representative also for the CatSG chairs' office team.

Besides improved compatibility with mobile devices and being more informative about our work, we are convinced that the new website is also more attractive to visitors, mainly thanks to the amazing photos that we have been allowed to use. Many highly esteemed wildlife photographers have always donated their amazing cat pictures to be used for free by the CatSG, and many have been used for the new website. Please see [Contributing Photographers](#) under "Communicate" for a list. We are sincerely grateful to these photographers, who have not only helped to make this website so attractive, but also are very responsive and generous when we ask them for a picture!

I would like to particularly mention two names listed under "Contributing Photographers", Patrick Meier and Malini Pittet. They both have indeed contributed some of their amazing pictures to the new website, but much more than this. Patrick was not only a patron of the new and already the former version of our website, he was also available to help solving technical and organisational problems. When the company that committed to design our new website dropped out of the project, Patrick and Malini were ready to step in. Without the help from Patrick and the enormous work that Malini has put into the new window to the CatSG, we would not have been able to go live within the foreseen time.

Yet, as attentive users will see, we are not quite there. A few pages are still under construction, and we know that there are shortcomings and errors. After months of working on such a project, you can no longer see the forest behind the trees. And that is the point where we presently are. So, we apologize for mistakes or shortcomings, but we also encourage all visitors to www.catsg.org to report any error or gap that they may detect. Any comment is welcome and will be taken care of as soon as ever possible!

Urs Breitenmoser