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***Guest Editor for Special Issue:* Simone Santoro**

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Welcome to Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Conservation

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It is a great honour to present this first issue of *SIS Conservation*, not only because of the importance of this fascinating group of birds, but for the accomplishment of one of our finest: the IUCN SSC Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group (SIS SG), created in 1981 and currently structured by 97 members from 5 continents.

This new journal is an encouraging and inspiring example for the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) family. It is an accomplishment of collaborative commitment, leading to a unique peer-reviewed publication devoted to their subject of study, and entirely worked out by themselves – simply spectacular! It is in perfect alignment with SSC's species conservation cycle, targeting conservation action after assessment and planning, while firmly anchored on networking and communication. At the same time, the journal is a product of their internal strategic planning process that led SIS SG to set such a high communication goal standard. The accomplishment is even more impressive given that the group values communication as a key issue, opening the gates as well to a wide number of people that may not be members of SSC.

I want to especially congratulate Simone Santoro for the great editing effort of bringing together an entire monograph devoted to the extraordinary Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, posing exciting biological questions that may help improve the conservation of many other species that do not have such ecological

plasticity. This publication compiles the knowledge of the species through 25 papers written by 75 specialists, which is in itself an impressive achievement.

At SSC we are very proud and grateful for the leadership of K. S. Gopi Sundar and Luis Santiago Cano Alonso, excellent examples of what evidence-based, enthusiastic and collaborative co-leadership can achieve.

Long and successful life to *SIS Conservation*!



Jon Paul RODRÍGUEZ
Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission