



Species

ISSUE 63

2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC’s major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

ASSESS: Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

PLAN: Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

ACT: Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

NETWORK: Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

COMMUNICATE: Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network each year. Each SSC Group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

Structure of the IUCN SSC Stand-alone Report

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

Title of the SSC Group

Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

Group information

Includes names of Chair / Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators and Program Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

Logo of the SSC Group

Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC Group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

Recommended citation:

Bowles, P. 2023. 2022 Report of the Snake and Lizard Red List Authority. In: Nassar, JM, García, L, Mendoza, L, Andrade, ND, Bezeng, S, Birkhoff, J, Bohm, M, Canteiro, C, Geschke, J, Henriques, S, Ivande, S, Mileham, K, Ramos, M, Rodríguez, A, Rodríguez, JP, Street, B, and Yerena, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 4 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Snake and Lizard Red List Authority



**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**

Philip Bowles

IUCN Biodiversity
Assessment Unit
c/o Conservation
International,
Washington, DC, US

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

58



Least Concern Common Gartersnake,
Thamnophis sirtalis, Alexandria,
Virginia, US, 2018
Photo: Philip Bowles

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Snake and Lizard Red List Authority is to undertake and support IUCN Red List assessments for reptile groups not covered by other Specialist Groups, including most snakes and lizards and the New Zealand Tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*), and to curate IUCN's global taxonomy for these groups.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Providing a comprehensive overview of each species' conservation needs, made publicly accessible to conservation managers in the range states. There is an increased focus during the reassessments on the Conservation Actions section of red listing to ensure that useful, actionable recommendations to improve species' status are included where possible and necessary. Collaboration with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group continues and has already been used to help identify priority areas for conservation of Philippine vertebrates in this quadrennium.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Ensure all snake and lizard assessments more than 10 years old are in compliance with the 10-year rule by the end of 2023 (ca. 2,750 species).

Status: On track

T-002 Lead on implementing the first four years of the second Global Reptile Assessment, with the estimated completion of at least 25 assessment projects by the end of 2025.

Status: On track

T-004 Ensure all new species described by 2025 are included on the Red List, including ca. 1,000 species described prior to 2020 that were not part of the Global Reptile Assessment.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-003 Increase capacity within the Red List Authority for red listing independent of the Chair, including recruiting additional regional coordinators and Red List training.

Status: On track



Near Threatened Parson's Chameleon, *Calumma parsonii*, Andasibe, Madagascar, 2017
Photo: Philip Bowles

Least Concern Pink-tongued Skink, *Cyclodomorphus gerrardii*, Kirrama, Queensland, Australia, 2005
Photo: Philip Bowles



Least Concern Malagasy Leaf-nosed Snake, *Langaha madagascariensis*, Akanin'ny nofy, 2017
Photo: Philip Bowles



Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Ensure all snake and lizard assessments more than 10 years old are in compliance with the 10-year rule by the end of 2023 (ca. 2,750 species). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 182

Result description: Due to the extended backlog in the Red List Unit, the only assessments that made it all the way through to the publication process were the endemic species from the Philippines (182). Ongoing assessments for multiple other regions have not yet made it to submission. The deadline for this goal has now been shifted to 2026.

T-002 Lead on implementing the first four years of the second Global Reptile Assessment, with the estimated completion of at least 25 assessment projects by the end of 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of regional assessment projects completed: 0

Result description: No projects were completed due to ongoing delays in finalising the European and Chinese work. North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and Cape Verde are targets (and North Africa is underway), but following the failure to secure funds for Mexico the timeline is uncertain.

T-004 Ensure all new species described by 2025 are included on the Red List, including ca. 1,000 species described prior to 2020 that were not part of the Global Reptile Assessment. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 1

Result description: Part of the Philippine submissions included new species, final number TBD.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the snake and lizard Specialist Groups, especially Skinks, Monitor Lizards, and Vipers, all of whom were involved in projects underway this year. Thanks also in particular to the support of Conservation International–Philippines, the Philippine Department of Natural Resources and the Rainforest Trust for support for the Philippine reassessments.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 4

Geographic regions: 4 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 3 (KSR 6)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

