



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:

Stephenson, P.J. 2023. 2022 Report of the Species Monitoring Specialist Group. 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

IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group



SPECIES MONITORING
Specialist Group



CHAIR

P.J. Stephenson

Laboratory for Conservation Biology,
Department of Ecology
& Evolution, University
of Lausanne,
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

109

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Twitter: @Monitor_Species

Website: <https://www.speciesmonitoring.org>

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group (SMSG) aims to enhance biodiversity conservation by improving the availability and use of data on species populations, their habitats and threats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Species Monitoring Specialist Group helps build capacity for biodiversity monitoring in a range of stakeholder groups, from government departments to companies to NGOs, and also in taxonomic Specialist Groups. That increased capacity for data access and use will improve adaptive management of conservation projects and in turn, improve the status of species. However, we cannot predict precisely how many species will have their conservation status improved as a result of our work.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Enhance species monitoring and Red List data quality and volume through the testing of monitoring methods and the development and dissemination of lessons, tools and guidelines.
Status: On track

T-002 Support the development and testing of the Green Status of Species (GSS).
Status: On track

T-003 Integrate the IUCN Red List Index and the Green Status of Species into monitoring tools and guidelines developed by the group so as to encourage uptake by civil society and business as well as countries.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-004 Develop and implement partnerships that result in projects and products that enhance species monitoring.
Status: On track

T-005 Engage IUCN members and Secretariat teams in group projects.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-003 Integrate the IUCN Red List Index and the Green Status of Species into monitoring tools and guidelines developed by the group so as to encourage uptake by civil society and business as well as countries. (KSR 7)
Number of NGOs and companies using group tools and guidelines that advocate using the Red List Index or Green Status of Species: 3

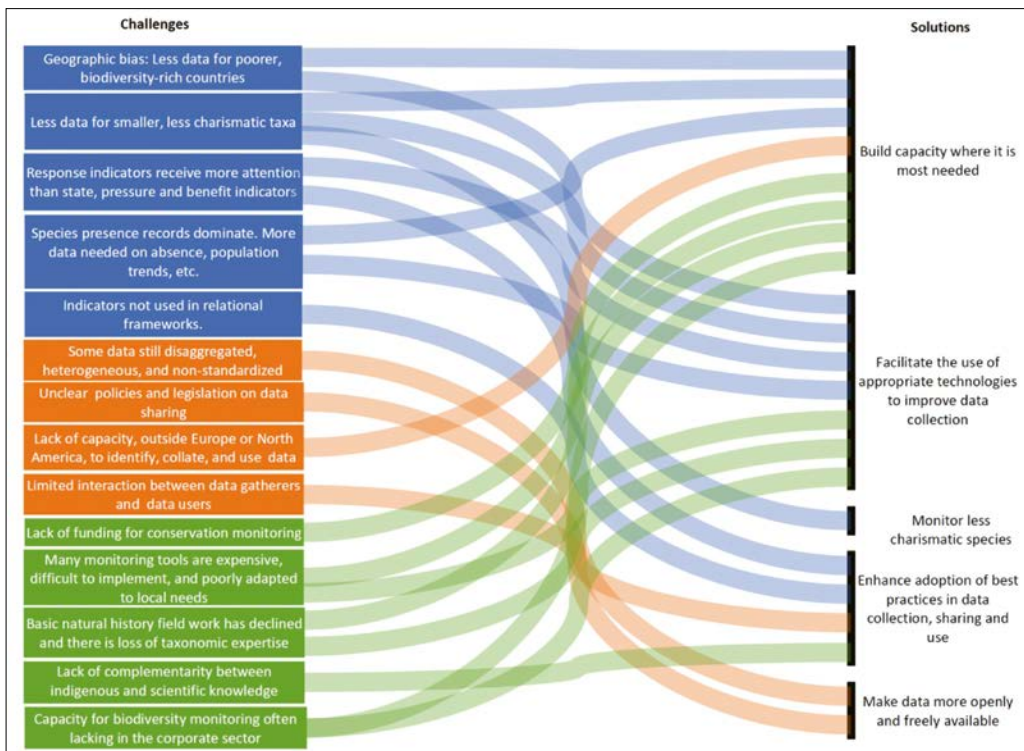
Result description: Following on from the group's project with the IUCN Global Business & Biodiversity Programme and the production of the Guidelines for Planning & Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance – which encourages the use of both the Red List and Green Status of Species – several companies have used the guidelines to assess their pressures and dependencies on biodiversity in preparation for biodiversity goal-setting, including the marine services companies Boskalis and Jan de Nul. Furthermore, WBCSD (World Business Council for Sustainable Development) produced a practitioner guide entitled What Does Nature-Positive Mean for Business, with input from the group Chair, who explicitly encourages companies to use the IUCN guidelines.

Research activities

T-001 Enhance species monitoring and Red List data quality and volume through the testing of monitoring methods and the development and dissemination of lessons, tools and guidelines. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 4

Result description: Key papers this year as a direct result of the Chair's work or group projects that acknowledged relevant SSC affiliations included: (1) Moreno, I.,



The Group's research project on blockages to data use published a paper discussing monitoring challenges and solutions.

Gippet, J., Fumagalli, L. & Stephenson, P.J. (2022). 'The biodiversity data conservationists most need in East Africa are the most difficult to access' *Biodiversity and Conservation*; (2) Stephenson, P.J., et al. (2022). 'Measuring the impact of conservation: the growing importance of monitoring fauna, flora and funga'. *Diversity*, 14(10): 824. DOI: 10.3390/d14100824; (3) Stephenson, P.J., & Ruiz de Paz, A. (2022). 'New database enhances the accessibility of global biodiversity information for conservation monitoring'. *Oryx*, 56(3): 329-330. DOI: 10.1017/S0030605322000205; (4) Stephenson, P.J. & Walls, J.L. (2022). 'A new biodiversity paradigm for business'. *Amplify*, 35(5): 6-14. <https://www.cutter.com/article/new-biodiversity-paradigm-business>. The Chair also presented Group work and promoted species monitoring at several conferences including: (1) Monitoring biodiversity for business: learning from the conservation community (by P.J.S.), webinar for the WBCSD members group, Geneva, Switzerland, October 12th, 2022. (2) Symposium on Mammal Population Monitoring for Conservation organised at the 95th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Mammalian Biology, Hamburg, Germany, September 20st, 2022. P.J.S. also presented a keynote talk, Mammal monitoring for conservation: an overview of challenges & opportunities. (3) An overview of biodiversity monitoring tools: challenges and opportunities (by P.J.S.), symposium on Scaling up Terrestrial Biodiversity Monitoring - Needs, Challenges and Opportunities, World Biodiversity Forum, Davos, Switzerland, June 30st, 2022.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-004 Develop and implement partnerships that result in projects and products that enhance species monitoring. (KSR 1)

Number of partners engaged in group projects: 4

Result description: New partnerships were established in 2022 with: (1) IBAT (Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool) Alliance – to explore the relationship between biodiversity data availability and corporate data needs; (2) The Luc Hoffmann Institute – to review the monitoring of biodiversity-focused economic models; (3) WBCSD – to explore corporate monitoring needs, especially in the context of Nature Positive; (4) InfoFauna (the Swiss national centre for animal data) – to collaborate on an assessment of Swiss government biodiversity needs and challenges.

Proposal development and funding

T-005 Engage IUCN members and Secretariat teams in group projects. (KSR 3)

Number of species monitoring initiatives implemented together with IUCN members, national/regional committees and Secretariat: 2

Result description: In September 2022, the Group Chair co-organised the IUCN/UNIL Summer School on Transdisciplinary Nature Conservation at the University of Lausanne which was attended by 12 young professionals from around the world. P.J.S. taught five modules covering biodiversity conservation and monitoring, including a practical session on developing a species conservation project monitoring plan. The group's Database of Biodiversity Data Sources

for Conservation Monitoring was updated, in collaboration with Re:wild, an IUCN member: IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group & Re:wild (2022). Database of Biodiversity Data Sources for Conservation Monitoring. Version 2.0. <https://www.speciesmonitoring.org/data-sources.html>.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 5

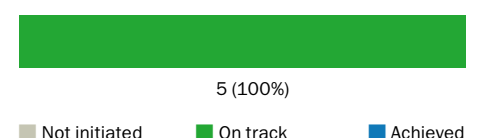
Geographic regions: 5 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6, 7)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 3)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Not initiated

On track

Achieved