



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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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IUCN SSC Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

39

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://storkibisspoonbill.org>

Mission statement

The Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group (SIS-SG) is a global network of scientists, conservationists, governmental and non-governmental institutions, and people committed to the scientific understanding and conservation of SIS species and their habitats.

Projected impact for 2021–2025

We expect to assess the Green Status of six species of the group.

Targets for 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Publish yearly the peer-reviewed online open access publication *SIS Conservation*.
Status: On track

T-002 Assess the Green Status of at least six Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill (SIS) species.
Status: On track

T-003 Contribute to the publication of the global Green Status of Species.
Status: On track

T-008 Publish at least one new special publication.
Status: On track

T-009 Write and publish scientific articles including: SIS species biology, ecology and behaviour, threats and conservation issues by at least one author with affiliation to SSC.
Status: On track

ACT

T-006 Organise at least a technical consultation to support conservation actions for organisations and institutions engaged with SIS species research and conservation.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-004 Identify focal experts for species in the Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered categories.
Status: On track

T-005 Review membership and expand the taxonomic and geographic representation for the group by inviting 10 new experts, with emphasis on increasing the representation of members from the Americas and Africa and aiming for female members.
Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Compile a list of relevant news and documents and make them publicly available on the SIS-SG website.
Status: On track

Activities and results for 2022

ASSESS

Green Status

T-002 Assess the Green Status of at least six Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill (SIS) species. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 0

Result description: We have deeply assessed the Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) under the fine-resolution weights assessment in order to complete the preliminary assessment done before.

T-003 Contribute to the publication of the global Green Status of Species. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 1

Result description: We have deeply assessed the Green Status of Black-faced Spoonbill with fine-resolution weights, and it is under review process to be uploaded on the IUCN Red List website.

Research activities

T-001 Publish yearly the peer-reviewed online open access publication *SIS Conservation*. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1



Black-faced Spoonbill
(*Platalea minor*)
Photo: Ya-tung Yu

Bostrychia carunculata in Seru woreda, Oromia region, Ethiopia
Photo: Luis Santiago Cano



Result description: *SIS Conservation* Issue 4, 2022 is ready: six original peer-reviewed papers on stork, ibis and spoonbill have been submitted and approved to be published in the 4th issue of *SIS Conservation* 2022 which full issue will be online during the first quarter of 2023. An early view of the issue is available at: <https://storkibisspoonbill.org/publications/sis-conservation-issue-4/>.

T-008 Publish at least one new special publication. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: We agreed to produce a special issue on the X International workshop on the Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) with the Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group, and it is expected to be published in 2023.

T-009 Write and publish scientific articles including: SIS species biology, ecology and behaviour, threats and conservation issues by at least one author with affiliation to SSC. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 2

Result description: We have two new publications which acknowledge SSC affiliation. The first is a chapter on the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) published in the Virtual Encyclopaedia of Spanish Vertebrates

(<https://doi.org/10.20350/digitalC-SIC/14797>) where the natural history and biology of the species are widely explained. It is the first kind of text of this species in Spanish. Three of the authors are members of this specialist group. The second publication reviews the conservation history and Green Status assessment of the Black-faced Spoonbill in *Diversity*. This article belongs to the Special Issue Assessments, Planning and Action for Conservation of Species and Ecosystems at Multiple Spatial Scales promoted by the chair office of the SSC. Two of the authors are members of this specialist group (this publication was finally published online in 2023).

NETWORK Membership

T-004 Identify focal experts for species in the Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered categories. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 4

Result description: The specialist group have now focal experts for the following species: Dwarf Ibis (*Bostrychia bocagei*) "CR", Northern-bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) "EN", Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) "EN", and Asian Crested Ibis (*Nipponia nippon*) "EN".

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-007 Compile a list of relevant news and documents and make them publicly available on the SIS-SG website. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: We have posted a news blog post on the website where we spread out the information about the X international workshop on the Eurasian Spoonbill. Available at: <https://storkibisspoonbill.org/news/x-international-workshop-of-the-eurasian-spoonbill-international-expert-group/>.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

