



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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2022 Report

IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force



CHAIR
Nisha Owen
On the Edge,
London, UK

VICE CHAIR
Rikki Gumbs
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
16

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Twitter: @IUCN_TreeOfLife
Website: <https://www.pdtf.org>

Mission statement

The aim of the IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force (PDTF) is to provide leadership and guidance on the inclusion of phylogenetic diversity in conservation strategies. By providing the necessary scientific and technical expertise, we will promote wider adoption and greater understanding of this approach by conservation practitioners, decision-makers and the public.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Throughout the 2021–2025 period, the PDTF will positively impact multiple species conservation statuses by supporting implementation and providing guidance and advice for practitioners and decision-makers on selecting and using appropriate phylogenetic diversity (PD) approaches and incorporating PD into policy. As part of this, the PDTF has committed to the production of two indicators proposed to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The PDTF will also seek to compile information and identify gaps in knowledge or application of PD-based approaches and encourage its members and the wider scientific and conservation community to undertake scientific research and conservation applications that will add to the knowledge base.



The PDTF co-hosted a panel discussion held at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Reverse the Red Pavilion, featuring (L-R) Andrew Terry (ZSL), Roseli Pellens (MNHN), Nisha Owen (OTE), Barney Long (re:wild)
Photo: On the Edge

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Develop state-of-the-art methods for measuring and categorising the success of conservation.

Status: On track

PLAN

T-005 Develop knowledge exchange and consultation between stakeholders to advance adoption of PD-prioritisation.

Status: On track

ACT

T-007 Develop a variety of documents, including position paper, perspectives piece and guidelines that will include practical examples and review obstacles and lessons to share best practice on the ground.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Maintain existing partnership with host organisation (On the EDGE Conservation) and key PDTF member institutions, and develop new partnerships where appropriate.

Status: On track

T-003 Ensure diversity among Task Force membership.

Status: On track

T-004 Collaborate with IUCN bodies and SSC groups on incorporating PD into conservation prioritisation.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Communicate species conservation work around the application of PD, best practice, and PDTF achievements and activities.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Research activities

T-002 Develop state-of-the-art methods for measuring and categorising the success of conservation. (KSR 5)

Produce the expected PD loss indicator and EDGE Index on an annual basis: Ongoing.

Result description: The PDTF proposed in 2021 two indicators for inclusion in the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework to meet the drafted goals, elements and targets. Our indicators explicitly and uniquely interlink Goal A (preventing extinctions and improving conservation status) and Goal B (valuing nature's contributions to people). Our indicators recognise both phylogenetic diversity as a valuable aspect of biodiversity, and the neglected species that represent our evolutionary history, thus enabling conservation, measurement, and monitoring into the future. The CBD Kunming-Montreal Monitoring Framework (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/179e/aecb/592f67904bf07dca7d0971da/cop-15-l-26-en.pdf>) now lists both indicators: the EDGE Index as a Component Indicator for Goal A, and a Complementary Indicator for Target 004; and the PD Indicator are listed as a Complementary Indicator for Goal B. Read more about the indicators here: <https://www.pdtf.org/publications>.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Develop knowledge exchange and consultation between stakeholders to advance the adoption of PD-prioritisation. (KSR 8)

Stakeholders incorporating PD into conservation planning: Ongoing.

Result description: The PDTF shared documents relating to the prioritisation of the Tree of Life to stakeholders to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), through engagement and in related meetings throughout 2022. The PDTF has published a policy paper pre-print covering the two proposed indicators and re-submitted this policy paper to a peer-reviewed journal.

Policy

T-005 Develop knowledge exchange and consultation between stakeholders to advance the adoption of PD-prioritisation. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 2

Result description: The PDTF submitted comments relating to the prioritisation of the Tree of Life to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The PDTF published its views on the CBD Survey of post-2020 Indicators and published a CBD Policy Summary Document. The PDTF policy summary was published and shared with National Delegations to the CBD, including New Zealand, Chile, and France. Publications by the PDTF are uploaded at: <https://www.pdtf.org/publications>.

T-005 Develop knowledge exchange and consultation between stakeholders to advance the adoption of PD-prioritisation. (KSR 9)

Number of MEA meetings attended by the SSC group: 2

Result description: The PDTF attended the CBD post-2020 meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, and the CBD COP15 Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-007 Develop a variety of documents, including position paper, perspectives piece and guidelines that will include practical examples and review obstacles and lessons to share best practices on the ground. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: The PDTF has updated the preprint and resubmission of the policy paper on indicators for peer-review publication and will expand on its work to develop guidance documents in the following years. Members of PDTF led the submission of a consensus view for a unified protocol for prioritising Evolutionarily Distinct Species for Conservation Action.



Nisha Owen (OTE) speaking at a panel on the Tree of Life held at COP15
Photo: Cesar Montes Figueiro from Youth4Nature

Below: Louise McRae (ZSL) speaking at the panel event on the Tree of Life at COP15
Photo: Cesar Montes Figueiro from Youth4Nature



NETWORK

Membership

T-003 Ensure diversity among Task Force membership. (KSR 2)

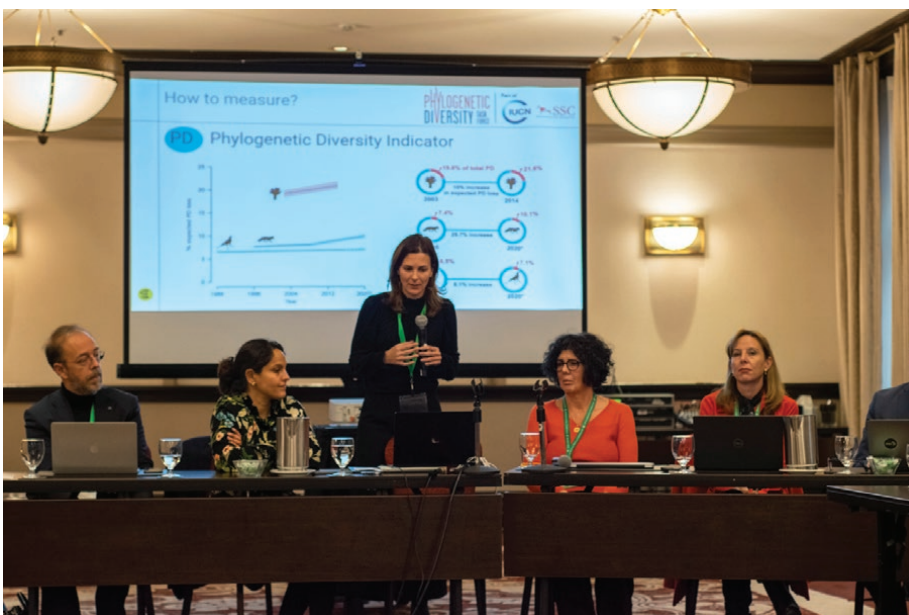
Number of SSC members recruited: 0
Result description: The PDTF appointed a new Communications Officer this year, and is planning to expand its membership when it becomes a Specialist Group in the upcoming year.

Synergy

T-001 Maintain existing partnership with host organisation (On the EDGE Conservation) and key PDTF member institutions and develop new partnerships where appropriate. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in kind' partnerships established and maintained:5

Result description: We have maintained our partnership with On the Edge, which has renewed its commitment to resource the PDTF and its activities. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) continues to provide a platform for the group, as well as technical and policy support. The ZSL, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Imperial College London, and On the Edge oversee a new PhD student who is also part of the PDTF. The French Museum of Natural History supported the PDTF's advocacy activities at CBD meetings in Geneva and Montreal in 2022.



T-004 Collaborate with IUCN bodies and SSC groups on incorporating PD into conservation prioritisation. (KSR 3)

IUCN bodies with which the PDTF collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: The PDTF supported the SSC EDGE Grant (2022/23) for high ED and EDGE species, by providing up-to-date lists, expertise, and guidance. The awarded eight SSC groups included under-represented taxa such as plants, fungi, and invertebrates, with a variety of range state involvement.

Laura Pollock (PDTF) speaking at the panel event on the Tree of Life at COP15
Photo: Cesar Montes Figueiro from Youth4Nature



Presenting the PD indicator at the Nature Positive Pavilion, COP15
Photo: Mike Hoffmann

T-004 Collaborate with IUCN bodies and SSC groups on incorporating PD into conservation prioritisation. (KSR 3)

Non-IUCN bodies with which the PDTF collaborates to advance targets: Ongoing.

Result description: The PDTF was actively involved in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 process. The PDTF held a side event at the CBD meetings taking place in Geneva, Switzerland in March and arranged an evening event hosted by the French Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle. The PDTF members participated in the COP15 Meeting in Montreal, Canada in December, presenting the PDTF's work and indicators at three events (Species Indicators, Species on the Edge, and Conserving the Tree of Life hosted by the French Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle), advocating for indicators that value the Tree of Life in conservation.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-006 Communicate species conservation work around the application of PD, best practices, and PDTF achievements and activities. (KSR 13)

Contribute to the increased awareness and wider adoption of PD-informed conservation through representations at events: Ongoing.

Result description: The PDTF members were actively involved in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post-2020 process and participated in the SBSTTA and SBI meetings. The PDTF held a side event in March at the CBD meetings taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, with an evening event hosted by the Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle in France. Members of the PDTF, including the Chair of the PDTF, Nisha Owen, participated in the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15

Meeting in Montreal, Canada, holding three events (two at the Nature Positive Pavilion on Species Indicators and Species on the Edge, and one hosted by the French Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle).

T-006 Communicate species conservation work around the application of PD, best practices, and PDTF achievements and activities. (KSR 13)

Digital resources that demonstrate applied use of PD in conservation and its benefits: Ongoing.

Result description: The PDTF members shared the video 'Saving the Tree of Life' and 'EDGE Species' at the CBD side event in Geneva in March and at the CBD COP15 in Montreal in December 2022, published by On the Edge.

T-006 Communicate species conservation work around the application of PD, best practices, and PDTF achievements and activities. (KSR 13)

Communication through website and social media: Ongoing.

Result description: The PDTF has been updating its website (www.pdtf.org) and Twitter (@IUCN_TreeOfLife) with blogs, resources and publications. The PDTF has supported its wider network by re-sharing posts by the SSC network, including SSC group results of the SSC EDGE grant. The PDTF was active on social media during the CBD meetings. This has resulted in an increase of followers on Twitter, rising from 140 to 200 followers in one year and increasing engagement on posts that highlight the importance of the Tree of Life, Phylogenetic Diversity and our evolutionary heritage.

Acknowledgements

We thank On the Edge for hosting the group and their activities; we thank the EDGE of Existence Programme at the Zoological Society of London for facilitating meetings, sharing technical resources, and providing a platform for collaboration; and we thank the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle for supporting our engagement with the Convention on Biological Diversity at the meetings in 2022.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 Global

Actions during 2022:

- Assess: 1 (KSR 5)
- Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)
- Act: 1 (KSR 10)
- Network: 4 (KSR 1, 2, 3)
- Communicate: 3 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

