



Species

ISSUE 62

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.

Example for the recommended citation:

Superina, M. 2023. 2022 Report of the Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo 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

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
29

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @xenarthrans
Instagram: @iucn_anteater_sloth_armadillo
Websites: <https://xenarthrans.org>
<https://pygmysloth.org>
<https://perezosopigmeo.org>
Youtube: @xenarthrans

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group is to promote the long-term conservation of the extant species of xenarthrans (anteaters, sloths, and armadillos) and their habitats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we envision we will have achieved increased protection for our priority species. We aim to reach this goal by reviewing and endorsing existing national or regional action plans as well as supporting the development and implementation of comprehensive action plans for xenarthrans. Capacity building through training courses will allow us to increase the number of researchers dedicated to conservation-relevant research on anteaters, sloths, and armadillos. We predict that our awareness campaigns will increase the knowledge about our species and their conservation problems among the general public, especially the impact of illegal trade and the use of xenarthrans as exotic pets.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete global Red List assessments of recently described Xenarthra species by 2022.
Status: On track

T-002 Complete global Red List reassessments of all Xenarthra species by 2022.
Status: On track

T-004 Facilitate assessments of other taxa for the IUCN Red List.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-006 Develop an Action Plan for Pygmy Sloths (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) by 2022.
Status: On track

ACT

T-011 Review and endorse existing national or regional action plans for Xenarthra.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-003 Establish one new formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group by 2025.
Status: Achieved

T-005 Recruit new members from underrepresented range countries by 2023.
Status: On track

T-010 Build capacity through courses on the biology and conservation of Xenarthra in range countries.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Publish four annual issues of our newsletter and journal *Edentata*.
Status: On track

T-008 Raise awareness about the illegal trade of Xenarthra.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Strengthen our Specialist Group's outreach and education strategies.
Status: On track

T-013 Issue a position paper about the use of xenarthrans as pets.
Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Complete global Red List assessments of recently described Xenarthra species by 2022. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 7

Result description: In 2022 we assessed the conservation status of all newly described silky anteater species.

T-002 Complete global Red List reassessments of all Xenarthra species by 2022. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 9

Result description: In 2022 we concluded the reassessment of the six sloth species as well as the two tamanduas and the Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*). We will initiate the reassessment of all armadillo species in 2023.



Tamandua tetradactyla, Parnaíba, Piauí, Brazil
Photo: Karina Theodoro Molina, Instituto Tamandua

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth
(*Bradypus variegatus*), Colombia
Photo: Fundación AIUNAU

T-004 Facilitate assessments of other taxa for the IUCN Red List. (KSR 6)

Number of workshops facilitated: Ongoing.
Result description: We continued supporting the assessment of the conservation status of the mammals of Colombia by facilitating six online workshops. Our Red List Authority also facilitated the workshop to assess the conservation status of the mammals of Uruguay.

PLAN

Planning

T-006 Develop an Action Plan for Pygmy Sloths (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) by 2022. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1
Result description: In June 2022, members of our Specialist Group participated in a workshop to develop an Action Plan for the Conservation of Pygmy Sloths. The workshop was attended by government representatives, NGOs, and members of the indigenous communities. The workshop is in part funded by an SSC Internal Grant as well as our partner institution Nurtured by Nature. The action plan is currently being compiled. The next step will be a review process prior to its approval by the Ministry of Environment of Panama.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-003 Establish one new formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group by 2025. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in kind' partnerships established and maintained: 1
Result description: Thanks to the support of our partners FIAA and Nurtured by Nature, we have been able to strengthen our education and awareness programs.

Capacity building

T-010 Build capacity through courses on the biology and conservation of Xenarthra in range countries. (KSR 3)

Number of courses taught: Ongoing.
Result description: The courses had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 Publish four annual issues of our newsletter and journal *Edentata*. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: In December, we published issue 23 of our newsletter and journal *Edentata*.

T-009 Strengthen our Specialist Group's outreach and education strategies. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 4

Result description: We have been able to hire Kenny Coogan as our education coordinator. Kenny has increased our presence on social media by scheduling timely posts (e.g., International Sloth Day, World Anteater Day) on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/iucn_anteater_sloth_armadillo/) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/xenarthrans>).

He has also created animated videos on Xenarthra, which are available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese on our new YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@xenarthrans>) and is organizing regular webinars. We have been elated by the number of people who are attending the webinars live on YouTube. This shows us that there is a need for us to be educating the public. Finally, Kenny is creating puzzles, mazes, and worksheets on Xenarthra. They can be viewed on our website at <https://xenarthrans.org/kids-corner/>.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to our partner institutions FIAA and Nurtured by Nature for their constant support, especially for allowing us to hire Kenny Coogan.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 12

Geographic regions: 2 Global, 10 America

Actions during 2021:

- Assess: 3 (KSR 6)
- Plan: 1 (KSR 8)
- Network: 2 (KSR 1, 3)
- Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

