



# Species

ISSUE 62

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the SSC Group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the SSC Group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

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

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### 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.

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Ludwin, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Sturgeon 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 Sturgeon Specialist Group



#### CHAIR

Arne Ludwig

Leibniz Institute  
for Zoo and Wildlife  
Research (IZW),  
Berlin, Germany

#### RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

Leonardo Congiu

Department of  
Biology, University  
of Padova, Padova,  
Italy

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

24

### Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN Sturgeon Specialist Group is to provide accurate information on the status of sturgeons and paddlefishes and promote their conservation and recovery.

### Projected impact for 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we envision that we will have reached increased protection for sturgeon and paddlefish species. We plan to reach this goal mainly through our support of national and trans-national management and conservation activities. In addition, we will promote efforts to develop and establish state-of-the-art forensic methods for stringent control of international sturgeon trade (e.g. caviar). We predict that jointed awareness campaigns with our close partners from WWF and World Sturgeon Conservation Society (WSCS) will increase knowledge about sturgeon species and their conservation problems among the public, especially the impact of poaching and illegal trade on population declines.

### Targets for 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-003** Reassess all sturgeon and paddlefish for the IUCN Red List (27 species and 66 populations).  
Status: Achieved

#### NETWORK

**T-001** Consolidate and strengthen existing partnerships for conservation of Yangtze Sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*) and Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*).  
Status: Achieved

**T-002** Consolidate and strengthen existing partnerships for conservation of Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*), Russian Sturgeon (*A. gueldenstaedtii*) and Beluga (*Huso huso*).  
Status: On track

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-004** Support Freshwater Conservation Committee communications highlighting freshwater species at risk and threats to freshwater systems.  
Status: Achieved

### Activities and results for 2022

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-003** Reassess all sturgeon and paddlefish for the IUCN Red List (27 species and 66 populations). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 75

Result description: All 27 sturgeon and paddlefish species, plus 48 subspecies/sub-population assessments, were published on the IUCN Red List in June 2022. The sturgeon assessment (all species in threatened categories, bar the Yangtze Sturgeon (EW) and Chinese Paddlefish (EX)) was featured as part of the IUCN press release on the Red List update (<https://www.iucn.org/press-release/202207/migratory-monarch-butterfly-now-endangered-iucn-red-list>).

The group worked with other partners (e.g. WWF, Global Center for Species Survival) to produce additional news releases and blogs: (1) <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/heavily-poached-sturgeon-slip-toward-extinction>; (2) <https://www.indianapoliszoo.com/gcss/sturgeons-on-the-brink/>. The group also put together an *Oryx* Conservation News article on the reassessment, to be published in 2023.

## NETWORK

### Synergy

**T-001 Consolidate and strengthen existing partnerships for conservation of Yangtze Sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*) and Chinese Sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*).** (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 1

Result description: A complete fishing ban was achieved in the Yangtze River and its tributaries.

**T-002 Consolidate and strengthen existing partnerships for conservation of sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*), Russian sturgeon (*A. gueldenstaedtii*) and beluga (*Huso huso*).** (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 5

Result description: In October 2022, the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the National Focal Points for the Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons was held by EU Commission in Strasbourg, France.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

**T-004 Support Freshwater Conservation Committee communications highlighting freshwater species at risk and threats to freshwater systems.** (KSR 12)

Contribute to and disseminate communications from Freshwater Conservation Committee's Species at Risk report (in partnership with Shoal) within and outside SSC: Ongoing.

Result description: The FCC's Fantastic Freshwater report was published by Shoal in May 2022. The group contributed to the report with information and a review of species information for Yangtze Sturgeon.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank for the ongoing support of our partners from the WWF and the World Sturgeon Conservation Society.

## Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 4

Geographic regions: 2 Global, 1 Asian, 1 Europe

### Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Network: 2 (KSR 4)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

### Overall achievement 2021–2025:

