



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:

Yang, Y. 2023. 2022 Report of the Conifer 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 Conifer Specialist Group



CHAIR
Yong Yang
Nanjing Forestry
University, China

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Philip Thomas
Nanjing Forestry
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
32

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://threatenedconifers.rbge.org.uk>

Mission statement

The Conifer Specialist Group (CSG) helps promote the long-term survival of the world's conifers through rigorous conservation assessments, which help to guide conservation planning and conservation action.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Conifer Specialist Group is in the process of re-assessing all the world's conifers for the third time and aims to have all assessments completed by June 2023. Following on from that, the group will be focusing on producing an updated Conifer Action Plan.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Review, update and revise existing taxonomic framework; add and assess new taxa.
Status: On track

T-004 Submit 300 revised assessments with appropriate maps.
Status: Not initiated

T-005 Submit 500 revised existing assessments.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-006 Workshop to discuss planning/outline for new Conifer Action Plan.
Status: On track

T-007 Draft new Conifer Action Plan.
Status: Not initiated

T-008 Publish new Conifer Action Plan.
Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-009 Support funding applications from national and regional organisations for conifer conservation activities.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Add 20 new members who have expertise not previously available within the group, e.g. pathology, genetics, forest ecology, climate change.
Status: On track

T-002 Re-invite previous members who want to be active during the next quadrennium.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-003 Review, update and revise existing taxonomic framework; add and assess new taxa. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 10

Result description: Ten new taxa have been recognised and assessed for Red List; at present the assessments are in the queue awaiting publication. Additionally, the Co-Chair of the Conifer Specialist Group and four members published an updated classification for gymnosperms (genus level and above): Yang, Y *et al.* (2022). 'Recent advances on phylogenomics of gymnosperms and a new classification'. *Plant Diversity* 44: 340-350.

T-005 Submit 500 revised existing assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 196

Result description: One hundred and ninety-six assessments were completed and submitted in 2022.

PLAN

Planning

T-006 Workshop to discuss planning/outline for new Conifer Action Plan. (KSR 9)

Agreement on major thematic areas to be covered: Ongoing.

Result description: A workshop is due to be held in 2023. However, discussions have been held by the CSG Chair with a potential publisher.

Mature female cones of Assam Catkin Yew
(*Amentotaxus assamica*)
Photo: Mr Genius Teron, EDGE Fellow



Assam Catkin Yew is a small tree usually found in evergreen forests at elevations around 1600 m asl
Photo: Mr Genius Teron, EDGE Fellow



Loss of habitat for cardamon cultivation is the main threat facing Assam Catkin Yew, an endangered species mainly distributed in NE India
Photo: Mr Genius Teron, EDGE Fellow

T-007 Draft new Conifer Action Plan.
(KSR 9)

Draft of Conifer Action Plan: Ongoing.

Result description: Planning was delayed to 2023 due to other commitments by CSG members. Will be a priority for 2023.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-009 Support funding applications from national and regional organisations for conifer conservation activities. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 4

Result description: Four applications by CSG members supported for work in Chile/ Argentina, Morocco and China.

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 Add 20 new members who have expertise not previously available within the group, e.g. pathology, genetics, forest ecology, climate change. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 9

Result description: In 2022 nine people from North Africa, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Russia and China have been involved as assessors for specific assessments. These are for species where those people have local/regional expertise that has not previously been available through the CSG. They are on a list of prospective members. This target will be met when the next round of membership is open for applications.

T-002 Re-invite previous members who want to be active during the next quadrennium. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 32

Result description: 32 members signed up in the renewal process.

Acknowledgements

The Chair would like to acknowledge the support provided by Nanjing Forestry University. The Red List Coordinator acknowledges support from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Plan: 2 (KSR 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

