



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:

Pasachnik, S. and Knapp, C. 2023. 2022 Report of the Iguana 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 Iguana Specialist Group



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Website: <https://iucn-isg.org>



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
94

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group (ISG) is to prioritise and facilitate conservation, science and awareness programmes that help ensure the survival of wild iguanas and their habitats. To achieve this we implement, advise, and fundraise for programmes that include population surveys, protected areas management, invasive species control, field research, genetic studies, education, and captive breeding/head-starting initiatives. Headstarting, in which hatchling iguanas are raised in a safe, captive environment until they reach a larger, less vulnerable size, is proving invaluable in rescuing several Critically Endangered iguanid taxa from the brink of extinction.

Projected impact 2021–2025

We will increase *in situ* conservation action, advance conservation action plans, hold annual meetings, complete additional Red List assessments and Green Status of Species assessments, increase the use of our specialist group listserv, add resources to our virtual library, and publish newsletters, protocols and papers focusing on iguanas.

Targets 2021–2025

- ASSESS**
- T-002** Complete Red List assessment updates. Status: On track
- PLAN**
- T-004** Complete species conservation action plans. Status: On track
- T-005** Update conservation action plans. Status: Achieved
- T-010** Develop rapid response protocol for hurricanes. Status: On track
- ACT**
- T-009** Compile and curate outreach assets. Status: On track
- T-011** Execute actions outlined in the action plans. Status: On track
- T-012** Conserve and manage threatened iguanas prior to action plan development. Status: On track
- NETWORK**
- T-003** Hold annual meetings. Status: On track
- T-015** Increase our efforts to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the membership and our collaborators. Status: On track

- T-016** Establish a mentorship program. Status: On track
- COMMUNICATE**
- T-007** Increase publications in the ISG virtual library. Status: On track
- T-008** Maintain and increase the use of the ISG listserv. Status: On track
- T-013** Publish scientific and other literature on iguanas. Status: On track
- T-014** Establish a dedicated Facebook page and group for our membership and friends to be able to more easily communicate. Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS
Red List
T-002 Complete Red List assessment updates. (KSR 6)
Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 2
Result description: We published a Green Status of Species assessment for Roatán Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura oedirhina*). We also submitted one new Red

Hatchling Jamaican Rock Iguana (*Cyclura collei*), just after emergence
Photo: Stesha Pasachnik



List assessment (December 2022) for a subpopulation of Common Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*) on Saba that highlights significant conservation concerns.

PLAN

Planning

T-004 Complete species conservation action plans. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: We completed a new species conservation action plan in review for the Galápagos Pink Land Iguana (*Conolophus marthae*) in the Galapagos.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-012 Conserve and manage threatened iguanas prior to action plan development. (KSR 10)

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

Result description: In 2022, four species were added to the previous list of those benefiting from *in situ* conservation actions, including the Pink Land Iguana, several subpopulations of the Common Green Iguana, Five-keeled Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura quinquecarinata*) and *Cachryx* sp.

Synergy

T-009 Compile and curate outreach assets. (KSR 10)

Number of resources compiled: 1

Result description: We are still in the organizational stage of this target.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-003 Hold annual meetings. (KSR 2)

Number of meetings: 1

Result description: We held our 2022 meeting in person in Dominica and are in the planning stage for our 2023 meeting.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 Increase publications in the ISG virtual library. (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative: 81

Result description: We have added 81 new records to the ISG Library in 2022, for a total of 3034 records. Although this reached our planned goal it remains active, and we will continue to add publications each year.

T-008 Maintain and increase the use of the ISG listserv. (KSR 12)

Number of emails sent annually: 114

Result description: In 2022, 78 threads and 114 emails were sent.

T-013 Publish scientific and other literature on iguanas. (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 21

Result description: Our members have published 21 papers focusing on iguanas.

Acknowledgements

We thank the International Iguana Foundation (IIF) and their donors for the financial support of nine projects awarded for the 2022/2023 cycle, totaling \$112,095, focused on iguana conservation

in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Galapagos. Further, we are grateful to the IIF for the End of Year campaign aimed at protecting the Critically Endangered Motagua Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura palearis*), which raised over \$20,000 for these efforts. We thank the Fort Worth Zoo for supporting Stesha Pasachnik's role in the ISG; the Shedd Aquarium for supporting Charles Knapp's role in the ISG, and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for supporting Tandora Grant's role in the ISG. We also thank those members who made donations in 2022 to our ISG fund for future meetings, contributed to Red List assessments and action plans, and participated in other ISG activities. Lastly, we thank all those who attended our annual meeting in Dominica for presenting project updates, taking part in lively discussions, and contributing to important discussions on diversity and inclusion within our group and the greater conservation community.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 14

Geographic regions: 14 Global

Actions during 2022:

- Assess: 1 (KSR 6)
- Plan: 1 (KSR 8)
- Act: 2 (KSR 10)
- Network: 1 (KSR 2)
- Communicate: 3 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

