



# 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:

Garcia-Borboroglu, P. and Dee Boersma, P. 2023. 2022 Report of the Penguin 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 Penguin Specialist Group



**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Twitter: @IUCNPenguin

Website: <https://www.penguinsg.org>

**CO-CHAIR**

**Pablo Garcia-Borboroglu**

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**CO-CHAIR**

**P. Dee Boersma**

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**RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR**

**Pablo Garcia-Borboroglu**

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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

60

**Mission statement**

The mission of the IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group (PSG) is to provide scientific advice that informs policy and engages people in effective conservation action.

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

The disconcerting and rapid population decreases reported for most of the world's penguin species will be reversed only through immediate and affirmative action on the part of the global community of researchers, governmental entities, conservation organisations, fisheries managers, and the general public. If we address the identified threats, undertake priority research needs using an interdisciplinary and integrated approach, and begin to implement appropriate conservation actions, management could perhaps slow or stop the observed decreases in penguin populations. We wish to call attention to the plight of this important and charismatic taxonomic group, whose dire situation is a clear reflection of the current escalating crisis facing the world's marine ecosystems and as indicators of future global warming scenarios. To improve the conservation status of penguin species we will: (1) identify the need for management

actions and/or studies for particular species, critical areas, or threats to penguins; (2) provide scientific advice on conservation and management issues concerning penguins to interested parties; (3) coordinate input from penguin experts for the IUCN Red List assessments, and (4) facilitate dissemination of scientific information concerning penguins, including supporting publications and regional and international meetings.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-004** Reassess IUCN Red List status of penguin species.  
Status: On track

**T-005** Publish at least one paper of global relevance related to the ecology and conservation of all penguin species.  
Status: Not initiated

**PLAN**

**T-001** Convene meetings of the PSG Steering Committee focused on updating our Wild Penguins in Perpetuity Conservation Strategy.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Convene annual Steering Committee meetings to revise and redefine priorities for global penguin conservation.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Convene a meeting of the PSG Steering Committee to update and redefine priorities for global penguin conservation prior to the International Penguin Congress in Chile in 2022.  
Status: On track

**ACT**

**T-008** Redefine priority conservation actions needed and priority research.  
Status: On track

**NETWORK**

**T-002** Continue to add expert members as needed.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Convene a Steering Committee meeting in Chile 2022 to update status of PSG and define future goals.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Convene regular virtual meetings every six months with Steering Committee members.  
Status: Achieved

**COMMUNICATE**

**T-009** Develop the Specialist Group official website.  
Status: Achieved

**T-010** Develop the logo of the Specialist Group.  
Status: Achieved



Magellanic Penguin with small chicks  
Photo: Pablo Borboroglu



## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Red List

##### T-004 Reassess IUCN Red List status of penguin species. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: Following the announcement by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) as threatened and to list it under the US Endangered Species Act, we are discussing if there is evidence to justify a change in its Red List status to Vulnerable. Members of our Steering Committee will be publishing updated information and we will see if it meets the Red List criteria and justifies an upgrade for that listing before we go much further.

### PLAN

#### Planning

##### T-001 Convene meetings of the PSG Steering Committee focused on updating our Wild Penguins in Perpetuity Conservation Strategy. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 4

Result description: We held four virtual meetings/workshops where we discussed different aspects that will be incorporated into our Strategic Plan. We will continue the process to complete the Plan in 2023.

##### T-003 Convene annual Steering Committee meetings to revise and redefine priorities for global penguin conservation. (KSR 8)

Number of meetings in quadrennium: 1

Result description: We continued the process to redefine conservation priorities. This discussion took place under the framework of our Strategic Planning process.

##### T-006 Convene a meeting of the PSG Steering Committee to update and redefine priorities for global penguin conservation prior to the International Penguin Congress in Chile in 2022. (KSR 8)

Conservation meetings to redefine priorities: 3

Result description: The International Penguin Congress in Chile was postponed until September 2023. The Leader of the Congress and many members of the Organizing and Scientific Committee are part of our SG Steering Committee, so we made progress in the activities and events proposed for the agenda. These activities will foster conservation planning efforts.

### ACT

#### Conservation actions

##### T-008 Redefine priority conservation actions needed and priority research. (KSR 11)

Priority actions and research identified: Ongoing.

Result description: We have been making progress in the elaboration of our Strategic Planning, which includes the identification of priority and research action discussions.

### NETWORK

#### Membership

##### T-002 Continue to add expert members as needed. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: The International Penguin Congress will be held next year, and we will meet in person again in Chile where we will discuss future candidates to be invited to join the SG.

#### Synergy

##### T-007 Convene a Steering Committee meeting in Chile 2022 to update status of PSG and define future goals. (KSR 4)

Update PSG status and define goals: 0

Result description: The International Penguin Congress in Chile, where we planned to hold our Steering Committee meeting, was postponed until September 2023, when we will finally meet in person. However, during our virtual meetings, we discussed issues where our members interact with governments, such as the African Penguin process to avoid the elimination of the current marine protection.

##### T-011 Convene regular virtual meetings every six months with Steering Committee members. (KSR 2)

Number of Steering Committee meetings: 10

Result description: During 2022, we had ten virtual meetings with all the members of our Steering Committee.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the members of our Penguin Specialist Group who have contributed their time, expertise, and resources to help our group move forward. Without their support and commitment, we would not have achieved our goals. We would like to extend a special thanks to the members of our Steering Committee, who represent all the penguin species and regions. Their leadership, guidance, and dedication have been invaluable in shaping our organization's vision and direction. We would also like to acknowledge the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission (IUCN SSC) for their guidance and assistance in helping our group grow. Their expertise and resources have been instrumental in our efforts to protect and conserve penguin species around the world.

### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 11

Geographic regions: 10 Global, 1 America

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 3 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 4)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

