



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:

Anderson, CV. 2023. 2022 Report of the Chameleon 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 Chameleon Specialist Group



CHAIR
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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR
Krystal Tolley
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Applied Biodiversity Research Division, Cape Town, South Africa

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
24

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: IUCN SSC Chameleon Specialist Group
Twitter: @IUCNchameleons

Mission statement

The mission of the Chameleon Specialist Group is to improve the conservation status and sustainable use of wild chameleons.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Provide an evidence-based approach and scientific knowledge directed at the implementation of conservation actions and public policies that lead to the reduction of the extinction risk for members of this enigmatic lizard family.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess newly described chameleon species for the IUCN Red List within two years of description, with publication of assessments within three years of description.
Status: On track

T-002 Undertake the reassessment of species with IUCN Red List assessments that are a minimum of 10 years old.
Status: On track

T-007 Publish results of fieldwork undertaken by the group in response to assessment findings.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-003 Support implementation of CITES.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-004 Expand membership to improve geographic coverage and representation of taxonomic experts.
Status: On track

T-006 Locate and establish a relationship with a host financial institution.
Status: Not Initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Establish and develop a new website for the group.
Status: Not Initiated

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Assess newly described chameleon species for the IUCN Red List within two years of description, with publication of assessments within three years of description. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 3

Result description: We published assessments of three new *Bradypodion* species, and have the assessments for 13 new species in the draft stage, these should be completed in 2023 or early 2024.

T-002 Undertake the reassessment of species with IUCN Red List assessments that are a minimum of 10 years old. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 17

Result description: We published re-assessments of 17 *Bradypodion* species, and have re-assessments for 82 species in draft, which should be completed in 2023 or early 2024.

Research activities

T-007 Publish results of fieldwork undertaken by the group in response to assessment findings. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: We published a paper on the impact of ultraviolet light on growth in neonate Carpet Chameleon (*Furcifer lateralis*) as part of our effort to support *ex situ* care in the journal *Herpetological Review*.



PLAN

Policy

T-003 Support implementation of CITES. (KSR 9)

Number of policies and implementation decisions where SSC members provided technical input: 2

Result description: We worked with national Management Authorities to provide technical input on trade issues relating to chameleons.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our membership for the donation of their time and expertise, and to everyone who has assisted with our Red List assessment efforts in 2022.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

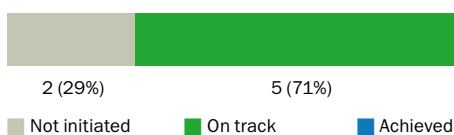
Geographic regions: 6 Global, 1 Africa

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Much of the natural forest habitat of the Critically Endangered Chapman's Pygmy Chameleon has been transformed for maize and cassava plantations
Photo: Krystal A. Tolley