



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:

Boitani, L. 2023. 2022 Report of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe 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 Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe Specialist Group



CHAIR
Luigi Boitani
University of Rome
Sapienza, Roma, Italy

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
57

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @LCIEIUCN
Website: <https://www.lcie.org>

Mission statement

Maintain and restore, in coexistence with people, viable populations of large carnivores as an integral part of ecosystems and landscapes across Europe.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) works to improve the management of six species of large carnivores in Europe. The LCIE provides updated data on species presence and abundance and supports management through the technical guidelines on best practices to enhance the coexistence of carnivores and human economic activities.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-014 Conduct Green Status assessment for Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*).

Status: Not initiated

T-016 Produce report on the greatest misconceptions/fake news concerning large carnivores.

Status: Not initiated

T-018 Update status and distribution maps of large carnivores for Europe for the period 2017–2024 and publish a report in 2025.

Status: On track

T-019 Streamline data collection and publication for large carnivore status and distribution in Europe.

Status: On track

T-030 Assess the conservation status of Wolf in Europe for the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.

Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-001 Ensure regular inclusion of policy statements, guidelines, and publications on the LCIE webpage.

Status: On track

T-020 Produce an updated vision for conservation goals for large carnivores in Europe, including a vision for the nature of human-large carnivore coexistence.

Status: On track

T-021 Identify the 'neglected' populations (e.g., the Balkans) and define/plan priorities for action by LCIE and authorities.

Status: Not initiated

T-022 In view of the continuing expansion of some wolf and bear populations, propose a more robust way to define/draw the line among different populations.

Status: On track

ACT

T-025 Hybridisation of wolves with dogs and proper dog management: provide recommendations at national levels, scientific paper with evidence of interventions, and guidelines on detection and estimation of hybrid presence.

Status: Not initiated

T-026 Revise guidelines on how to manage 'bold wolves' based on hard data and experience from different countries.

Status: On track

T-029 Produce a report on rehabilitation and release of large carnivores, touching on all aspects of rehabilitation of rescued animals – e.g. large carnivores injured in car accidents or snares, orphaned large carnivore young because of human activity – and guidelines (when, where and how to help).

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-005 Reach out to and engage with major European conservation NGOs and open dialogue on common goals.

Status: Not initiated

T-007 Form taxonomic and/or geographic subgroups in which each member will take part.

Status: Achieved

T-008 Implement a more effective method of communication between LCIE members.

Status: Achieved

T-011 Improve communication and collaboration with national and international authorities for large carnivore conservation and management.

Status: Not initiated

T-012 Maintain and expand the LCIE role as advisor of the European Commission on large carnivore policy.

Status: On track

Endangered Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*),
El Acebuche Breeding Center, Doñana National Park,
Matalascañas (Huelva), Spain
Photo: Alexander Sliwa



COMMUNICATE

T-002 Post news regularly on the LCIE Facebook page.
Status: On track

T-003 Participate in public talks and webinars on large carnivores.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-030 Assess the wolf conservation status in Europe for the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 1

Result description: A Report was produced for the Council of Europe, Bern Convention Secretariat on the abundance of Wolf (*Canis lupus*) populations across Europe, their status in each country and the main threats. The report includes an assessment of the impact of wolves on livestock (number of livestock killed).

Research activities

T-018 Update status and distribution maps of large carnivores for Europe for the period 2017–2024 and publish a report in 2025. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: Plans are underway to carry out the next data collection in early 2024.

T-019 Streamline data collection and publication for large carnivore status and distribution in Europe. (KSR 6)

Systems to collect and store data designed and implemented: 0

Result description: A subgroup of LCIE members has been established to provide support to the collection of data on species abundance and distribution. The next data collection is scheduled for early 2024.

PLAN

Planning

T-022 In view of the continuing expansion of some wolf and bear populations, propose a more robust way to define/draw the line among different populations. (KSR 9)

Revised approach to define populations approved: 0

Result description: A subgroup has been tasked to prepare a proposal to be discussed and approved at the LCIE meeting in October 2023

Policy

T-001 Ensure regular inclusion of policy statements, guidelines and publications on the LCIE webpage. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 70

Result description: This is an ongoing activity as we publish on our website reports and guidelines produced by other organisations are endorsed by our Group.

T-020 Produce an updated vision for conservation goals for large carnivores in Europe, including a vision for the nature of human-large carnivore coexistence. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: A new version of our Manifesto is being prepared for adoption at the next meeting of the group in October 2023.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-008 Implement a more effective method of communication between LCIE members. (KSR 2)

More frequent and better exchange within the group: Ongoing.

Result description: A google group is maintained as the fastest way to communicate among all members of the Group. No other communication means seem necessary.

Documents review

T-012 Maintain and expand the LCIE role as advisor of the European Commission on large carnivore policy. (KSR 4)

Collaboration with the European Commission established: Ongoing.

Result description: We maintain regular contact with the European Commission on all issues related to large carnivore conservation in Europe. We also sit on behalf of IUCN-Europe in the Large Carnivore Platform with all other key stakeholders.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-002 Post news regularly on the LCIE Facebook page. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 60

Result description: Sixty (60) media articles were published in 2022; this is an ongoing activity for the Group.

T-003 Participate in public talks and webinars on large carnivores. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 60

Result description: Ongoing presence at several congresses, meetings and seminars on large carnivores in Europe.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 19

Geographic regions: 19 Europe

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 3 (KSR 9)

Network: 2 (KSR 2, 4)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

