



# 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:

López-Gallego, C and Castellanos-Castro, C. 2023. 2022 Report of the Colombian Plant 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 Colombian Plant Specialist Group



**CO-CHAIR**  
**Cristina López-Gallego**  
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Medellin, Colombia

**CO-CHAIR**  
**Carolina Castellanos-Castro**  
Alexander von Humboldt Institute,  
Bogota, Colombia

**RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR**  
**Nestor García**  
Departamento de Biología, Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, Colombia

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
26

**Mission statement**

To generate baseline information to support decision-making for plant conservation by different stakeholders in Colombia.

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

Our Specialist Group will provide important input to the National Strategy for Plant Conservation of Colombia, in terms of Red List assessments and inclusion of threatened species in legislation, use of plant information to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and contribute to other spatial conservation planning, and concrete actions in our conservation plans for strategic groups – timber, Palms, Cycads, Orchids, Magnolias, Cacti and others.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-001** Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups.  
Status: On track

**PLAN**

**T-005** Design at least four conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Contribute to national policy instruments focused on species conservation.  
Status: On track

**ACT**

**T-002** Update the four existing conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Incorporate at least 50% of identified threatened species in projects to identify and validate priority areas for plant conservation – e.g. KBAs, Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) and others.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Generate knowledge to support the sustainable use of plant species.  
Status: Not initiated

**COMMUNICATE**

**T-004** Design at least four concrete products that relevant stakeholders could use for plant conservation decision-making in the country – e.g. technical reports, communications with recommendations, among others.  
Status: On track

**Activities and results 2022**

**ASSESS**

**Red List**

**T-001** Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing

**all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups.** (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 568

Result description: We submitted to the Red List Unit 500 Red List assessments on tree species present in Colombia and neighbouring countries, as a contribution to the Global Tree Assessment within the framework of an agreement with Botanic Gardens Conservation International. We also completed Red List assessments for all endemic species of the orchid genus *Dracula* (68 species), in collaboration with the Orchid SG funded by the SSC Small-grants program.

Number of new national Red List assessments completed: 700

Result description: We published 700 Red List assessments at the national level for plant species of Colombia in the national biodiversity information system (SIB Colombia).

**Research activities**

**T-001** Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups. (KSR 5)

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



CPSG workshop on action plan Nov. 2022  
Photo: Cristina López-Gallego



CPSG meeting Nov-2022  
Photo: Cristina López-Gallego

**Result description:** Members of the CPSG in collaboration with researchers at the Royal Botanic Gardens KEW of the UK produced a book chapter focused on identifying priorities for species conservation of useful plants of Colombia. Citation: Kor, L, *et al.* *In press.* 'Assessing extinction risk coverage and identifying geographical hotspots to guide conservation action for Colombia's useful plants'. In: Negrao, R, *et al.* (eds.) 'Useful Plants of Colombia'. London, UK: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

## PLAN

### Planning

**T-005 Design at least four conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.** (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 1

**Result description:** We implemented a workshop during the Colombian Botanical Congress held during November 2022, to provide basic training in species conservation planning and discuss potential new conservation plans for plant groups in Colombia. We set the goal to start working on a Conservation Action Plan for Cacti of Colombia, and taxonomic groups of Orchids (genus *Vanilla*) and Asteraceae (Espeliitinae). We also continue to serve as advisors for the Conservation Action Plan for *Magnolia* of Colombia.

## ACT

### Conservation actions

**T-003 Incorporate at least 50% of identified threatened species in projects to identify and validate priority areas for plant conservation – e.g. KBAs, Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) and others.** (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 25

**Result description:** Members of the CPSG lead the execution of the project 'Advancing Key Biodiversity Areas in the Tropical Andes' in Colombia, an agreement with the NGO Birdlife, funded by the Bezos Fund (<https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/12/01/flagship-project-takes-off-to-identify-key-sites-for-protecting-nature-in-two-megadiverse-regions/>). One of the objectives of the project is to increase the number of plant species that are identified as trigger species in existing and newly-nominated KBA in the country. During 2022, a list of 300 plant species geographically restricted or threatened were identified as potential KBA trigger species in areas of interest, based on the information the CPSG has published in the IUCN's Global Species Red List. In addition, members of the CPSG participated in a workshop to socialise the project and provide feedback in relation to the areas and groups prioritised for the spatial analysis.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

**T-004 Design at least four concrete products that relevant stakeholders could use for plant conservation decision-making in the country – e.g. technical reports, communications with recommendations, etc.** (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

**Result description:** We established an agreement with CAR Corantioquia, a regional environmental authority, to use Red List assessments to make decisions

on legal exploitation bans for plant species of conservation priority in their jurisdiction. The agreement produced a technical document that is being used to change a legislative tool that the environmental authority uses for preventing overexploitation and ensuring the protection of threatened species that are used in their territories.

## Acknowledgements

The Colombian Plant Specialist Group thanks the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for serving as a host institution for the Colombian Plant SG, and the Humboldt Institute and University of Antioquia for supporting the work of the Co-Chairs. We thank all institutions that have provided financial and technical support for the various initiatives of the Group, including Botanic Gardens Conservation International, SSC Small Grants Program, BirdLife and the Bezos Fund, and the Medellín Botanical Garden.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7**

**Geographic regions: 7 America**

**Actions during 2022:**

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

