



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:

Marsh, H, and Alvarez Aleman, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Sirenia 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 Sirenia Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
 80

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
 Website: <https://mission.cmaquarium.org/research-institute/manatee-research/sirenews/>

Mission statement

The mission of the Sirenia Specialist Group (SSG) is to provide recommendations to managers and stakeholders in range states regarding research and conservation actions to ensure the long-term conservation of all extant Sirenian populations by increasing current knowledge of their status and distribution and identifying issues of concern and suggesting culturally appropriate, effective, and efficient corrective actions. Our goal is that local population of the Sirenia species are recovered, and the species diversity is maintained in order to increase resilience to the effects of climate change and major stochastic events, especially extreme weather.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The projected impact for this quadrennium is to: (1) increase knowledge about the different Sirenian species and populations across their ranges; (2) support and strengthen the network of researchers and conservationists who direct work with the species; (3) share conservation and research initiatives among the network of collaborators and provide status updates for the Red List assessments, and (4) support and promote conservation planning and management actions at regional, national, and local levels.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

- T-001** Conduct regional Red List assessments.
Status: On track
- T-002** Conduct subspecies assessments for Florida Manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) and Antillean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*).
Status: On track
- T-004** Carry out aerial surveys for West Indian Manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) in Central America to provide population estimates.
Status: On track
- T-005** Designate Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) for the entire global Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) range.
Status: On track
- T-007** Develop monitoring strategies for Antillean Manatee populations associated with habitats with limited visibility.
Status: On track

PLAN

- T-006** Prepare the Species' Plan of Action or Recovery in the manatees' country of distribution.
Status: On track

ACT

- T-010** Increase coverage protection of manatee habitats in the Caribbean.
Status: On track

NETWORK

- T-008** Hold a sirenian workshop in association with the Society of Marine Mammalogy Meetings.
Status: Not initiated
- T-009** Facilitate networking in association with UNEP Dugong MOU through regional and range-wide meetings.
Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

- T-003** Produce and publish *Sirenews* bulletins.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

- T-001** Conduct regional Red List assessments. (KSR 6)
 Number of national Red List reassessments published: 2
 Result description: In 2022, regional Red List assessments were completed for Dugong subpopulations in Mozambique (Critically Endangered) and New Caledonia



Researchers, technical staff and park rangers from the protected areas collaborating during the field work in Guatemala
Photo: Hugo Tiul



Manatee drone survey in the Dominican Republic, 2022
Photo: Rachel Plekaniec

(Endangered). Progress was made in finishing the Antillean and Florida subspecies Red List assessments.

T-002 Conduct subspecies assessments for Florida Manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) and Antillean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*). (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: A team is working on updating the 2021 drafts of the Antillean Manatee and the Florida Manatee Red List assessments and integrating the West Indian Manatee assessment. The goal is to submit these documents before the end of 2023 for publication in 2024. The geographic range map is ready, as well as other supplementary information such as the table of data by country for extant manatee population and files for habitats, threats, and conservation actions and utilization.

T-005 Designate Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) for the entire global Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) range. (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 0

Result description: Support documentation was produced for dugongs in coastal East Africa and New Caledonia. The Africa Regional Group is working on getting the IMMA (Important Marine Mammal Areas) group to start working on the western coast of Africa (eastern Atlantic) and is now in the process of organizing the potential to host the meeting in Senegal.

Research activities

T-007 Develop monitoring strategies for Antillean Manatee populations associated with habitats with limited visibility. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: In 2022, the first country-wide drone surveys in the Dominican Republic to study Antillean Manatees were carried out. As well, the habitat characterization and detection of the Antillean Manatee in the dark waters of the Caribbean of Guatemala was done with the use of the sidescan sonar.

**PLAN
Planning**

T-006 Prepare the Specie's Plan of Action or Recovery in the manatees' country of distribution. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: In 2022, a workshop for the conservation planning of Antillean Manatees in Cuba was held in Zapata Swamp National Park in July, in joint collaboration with the Centre for Marine Research, University of Havana. A total of 23 people participated from 13 national entities and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute (CMARI). The workshop objectives were to update the current state of knowledge of Antillean Manatees in Cuba and create a draft Action Plan that will be reviewed and presented to government agencies and stakeholders. The production of a National Plan of Action is in process.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-003 Produce and publish Sirenews bulletins. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 2

Result description: Two bulletins were published in 2022, with information and local news about research and conservation initiatives for Manatees and Dugongs.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the SSC Conservation Planning group, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, the Cuba Enterprise of Flora and Fauna, Belize Marine Fund & Belize Island Holdings, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Wildlife Conservation Society, and UNEP Dugong MOU Secretariat.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 10

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 4 America

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

