



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Tye, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Galapagos 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.

## 2022 Report

# IUCN SSC Galapagos Plant Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
Alan Tye  
UK

**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
Alan Tye  
UK

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
11

### Mission statement

The Galapagos Plant Specialist Group promotes the conservation of all Galapagos native plants and plant-like organisms, including algae, fungi, lichens and similar taxa, with the intention to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Most of our projects are directed at the conservation of highly threatened plant species and their habitats, including restoration of degraded habitats and reduced populations. During this quadrennium, we expect to have stabilised or improved the conservation status of more than 10 Galapagos endemic plant species, across at least 10 sites and at least five islands, by means of management of threats, e.g. invasive species, population enhancement and site restoration.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Search for presumably extinct and rare plants on Floreana and Santiago islands.

Status: Not initiated

**T-002** Contribute to the assessment of the distribution of some endangered endemic vascular plants.

Status: On track

**T-003** Re-evaluate endemic vascular plants.

Status: On track

**T-004** Red List all ca. 200 Galapagos endemic species of lichenised fungi.

Status: On track

**T-005** Assess the population status of species of Galapagos algae deemed Data Deficient by the IUCN.

Status: On track

**T-006** Investigate invasive species impacts on endemic flora.

Status: Not initiated

**T-007** Generate distribution maps and ecological information for iconic endemic plant groups.

Status: Not initiated

**T-009** Assess the value of water-saving technology on the recovery of threatened plant populations.

Status: On track

**T-010** Conduct phylogenetic and morphological studies of Families Amaranthaceae, Asteraceae and Zygothylaceae of the Galapagos.

Status: On track

**T-012** Evaluate the conservation status of endangered populations of endemic plants on the islands of Santa Cruz, Isabela and Floreana.

Status: On track

### PLAN

**T-011** Formulate management recommendations for three invasive plant species: *Rubus niveus*; Guava, (*Psidium guajava*) and Quinine (*Cinchona pubescens*) to protect endangered populations of endemic plants.

Status: On track

### ACT

**T-008** Restore threatened and endangered plant populations in protected areas and populated zones.

Status: On track

**T-013** Restore endangered populations of *Scalesia pedunculata* (Santa Cruz) and Heart-leaved Scalesia (*Scalesia cordata*; Isabela).

Status: On track

### Activities and results 2022

#### ASSESS

##### Research activities

**T-012** Evaluate the conservation status of endangered populations of endemic plants on the islands of Santa Cruz, Isabela and Floreana. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 2

Result description: In 2022, progress was made with re-assessment of the population status of Heart-leaved Scalesia (*Scalesia cordata*) on Isabela and searches for “lost” species on Santa Cruz are reported in more detail under other targets.



Galvezia sp  
Photo: Patricia Jaramillo

## PLAN

### Planning

**T-011 Formulate management recommendations for three invasive plant species: *Rubus niveus*; Guava (*Psidium guajava*) and Quinine (*Cinchona pubescens*) to protect endangered populations of endemic plants.** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 2

Result description: Management recommendations based on biological control have been formulated for *Rubus niveus*, and evaluation of potential control agents is in progress. This program now moves to a target under 'Act' rather than 'Plan'. Studies of the effects of physical and chemical management on *Cinchona pubescens* and native vegetation continue. Work on *Psidium guajava* awaits additional programme resources.

## Acknowledgements

The main organisations that carried out or supported our work during 2021, by employing staff, providing permits and logistical assistance, and partaking in collaborative projects, were the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands, Galapagos National Park Directorate, Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (Ecuador), Arizona State University and Eastern Washington University. We thank the following organisations for their generous financial assistance, without which our work in 2021 would have been impossible: Comon Foundation, Fondation Franklinia, Galapagos Conservancy, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund and Lindblad Expedition-National Geographic Fund.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 13

**Geographic regions:** 13 America

**Actions during 2022:**

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

