



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 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.



## 2022 Report

# IUCN SSC South Asia Invertebrate Specialist Group



#### CO-CHAIR

Sanjay Molur

Zoo Outreach  
Organization,  
Coimbatore, India

#### CO-CHAIR

Gawsia Wahidunnessa  
Chowdhury

University of Dhaka,  
Bangladesh

#### RED LIST AUTHORITY

COORDINATOR

Sanjay Molur

Zoo Outreach  
Organization,  
Coimbatore, India

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

100

### Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAISG) is to encourage and assist invertebrate specialists' institutions and agencies in South Asia to conserve invertebrate taxa at species, genetic and habitat level and to make it into a region that appreciates and conserves invertebrates.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-010** Complete global Red List assessments of more than 60 tarantula species of India by 2025.

Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-012** Identify important invertebrate sites and unique habitats in South Asia and promote species conservation.

Status: On track

**T-014** Direct studies on invertebrate surveys and monitoring, and improving knowledge on life cycles of invertebrates.

Status: On track

**T-015** Conduct awareness sessions and build capacity for invertebrate conservation to the common public and the budding wild-life enthusiasts.

Status: On track

#### NETWORK

**T-016** Train wildlife conservationists on IUCN red listing process, Green List, Conservation Action Planning and facilitation skills.

Status: On track

**T-019** Develop capacity in young wildlife conservationists that helps them take up invertebrate conservation projects.

Status: Not initiated

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-017** Promote and publish popular/creative/scientific articles on invertebrates every year.

Status: On track

**T-018** Create a strong social media presence of the group and to keep updating the ongoing events.

Status: On track

### Activities and results 2022

#### ASSESS

##### Research activities

**T-010** Complete global Red List assessments of more than 60 tarantula species of India by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0

Result description: Preliminary data required to do assessments, such as tarantula species list and their distribution, has been collated via literature review and expert consultations. We have got around more than 60 species of which more than 55 are endemic to India; only 11 species were assessed in 2008 which is outdated by 14 years and requires reassessments, while the rest need to be newly assessed.

#### ACT

##### Conservation actions

**T-012** Identify important invertebrate sites and unique habitats in South Asia and promote species conservation. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: Populations of Rameshwaram Parachute Spider *Poecilotheria hanumavilasumica* (Critically Endangered) restricted to Rameswaram, India, were assessed to be stable by on ground surveys and work is in progress to declare it a protected area, making this the first invertebrate sanctuary in India.

**T-014** Direct studies on invertebrate surveys and monitoring, and improving knowledge on life cycles of invertebrates. (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 1

Sessions on Marine taxonomy and diversity by Dr Biju Kumar  
Photo: Payal B. Molur



Session on insect diversity and their role in ecosystem by Dr B. A. Daniel  
Photo: Usha Ravindra



Result description: In 2022, landing surveys were carried out by Priyanka Iyer and Usha Ravindra in seven harbours (Kasimedu-Chennai, Rameswaram, Pamban, Thoothoor, Muttom-Tamil Nadu, Thompampadi-Kerala, Mangalore-Karnataka) to understand the impact and scale of trawling on marine invertebrates. Moreover, a comprehensive list of all marine invertebrates caught in Indian fisheries is being compiled – so far, information of more than 500 species has been collected – via literature review by Priyanka Iyer and Usha Ravindra.

**T-015 Conduct awareness sessions and build capacity for invertebrate conservation to the common public and the budding wildlife enthusiasts. (KSR 10)**

Number of sessions or activities to sensitise people on invertebrates' conservation: 8

Result description: In 2022, eight awareness activities were carried out: (1) Talk on 'Need for Biodiversity and Ecological Conscious Developments' by Dr Sanjay Molur at Greencon 2022 by Tie Coimbatore, a national one-day conclave of best minds in sustainable entrepreneurship, highlighting the importance of invertebrates and the need to conserve them; (2) At a three-day national workshop, Techcamp Kochi 2022: A wave of change, on technological innovations to promote ocean health, the impacts of trawling on marine invertebrates was presented and solutions were brainstormed by Zooreach members Priyanka Iyer and Usha Ravindra in May 2022; (3) Awareness sessions on the impact of exploitative fishing on marine invertebrates was presented to the ten fellows of Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation – RHATC, a wildlife course run by Zoo Outreach Organisation by Priyanka Iyer; (4) A three-day workshop

on the impacts of climate change, exploitative fishing on marine invertebrates and fishes, and a basic identification of marine groups – with one of the focal groups being crabs and molluscs was conducted by Dr Biju Kumar for RHATC fellows; (5) A rapid survey was conducted by Soham Parnaik in Kollam (Kerala) to understand the dependency of communities on deep sea crabs for consumption, as part of RHATC course curriculum; (6) A Terrarium was set up for *Daphnis nerii*, a hawkmoth whose life cycle was studied by Pooja Ramdas Patil and Usha Ravindra (all six moths successfully emerged out of the cocoons); (7) A session on 'Importance of invertebrates with particular focus on Dipteran taxonomy and their role in the ecosystem' was conducted by Dr BA Daniel to RHATC fellows; and finally, (8) The 2022 RHATC batch fellows were taken to Butterfly garden, Honey Bee nest sites etc. at Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park to help them understand the ecological importance of insects and the need for conservation.

**NETWORK**

**Capacity building**

**T-016 Train wildlife conservationists on IUCN red listing process, Green List, Conservation Action Planning, and facilitation skills. (KSR 2)**

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 10

Result description: In 2022, ten wildlife enthusiasts were trained on IUCN Red List process and facilitation skills for a period of one month as part of RHATC course curriculum.

**COMMUNICATE**

**Communication**

**T-017 Promote and publish popular/creative/scientific articles on invertebrates every year. (KSR 13)**

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 30

Result description: In 2022, 30 articles on invertebrates were published on *Zoo's Print* under 'Bugs are all' run by Zoo Outreach Organisation as part of SASISG.

**T-018 Create a strong social media presence of the Group and to keep updating the ongoing events. (KSR 13)**

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 23

Result description: A Social media series called 'Investigating Invertebrates' was launched to create a fandom for invertebrates by creative storytelling/art/illustrations. Overall, 23 posts were made over a wide range of groups and facts: dragonflies, leeches, hoppers, spiders, water scorpions, butterflies, sea cucumbers, flies, star fishes, grass hoppers, weevils, generic information on the groups, threats, games; all this was created and posted on Instagram on Zooreach handle.

**Summary of achievements**

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

Geographic regions: 8 Asia

**Actions during 2022:**

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 13)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

