



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.

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:

Fisher, D, and Woinarski, J. 2023. 2022 Report of the Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme 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 Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

36

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Twitter: @OzMMSSG

Mission statement

To enhance the long-term conservation outlook for the marsupials and monotremes of Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Major focal areas in the 2021–2025 period will be: further increasing conservation efforts for marsupials and monotremes in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, and completing conservation status assessments for species needing updated assessment, particularly recently described species and species affected by extensive and severe wildfires in eastern and southern Australia in 2019–2020. The group will also contribute to recovery of fire-affected species, those at risk from other climate change-related events such as increasing heatwaves and flooding, and promote research on the status of Data Deficient species and recently described species.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Undertake new assessments for the species most affected by the catastrophic 2019–2020 Australian wildfires.
Status: On track

T-002 Undertake new assessments for poorly known marsupials in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, including Peleng Cuscus (*Strigocuscus pelengensis*) Talaud cuscus (*Ailurops melanotis*), and Gebe cuscus (*Phalanger alexandrae*).
Status: On track

T-003 Undertake assessments of a set of taxonomically re-defined Australian marsupial species (e.g. Sugar Glider, *Petaurus breviceps*).
Status: On track

T-004 Undertake new Red List assessments for high-profile Australian marsupials (Koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus*) and monotremes (Platypus, *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*), based on new information.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-005 Develop conservation action plan (and survey) for long-beaked echidnas *Zaglossus* species.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-006 Enhance or expand group membership, including an annual or biennial meeting.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-008 Hold annual or biennial meetings of SSC members.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Green Status

T-004 Undertake new Red List assessments for high-profile Australian marsupials (Koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus*) and monotremes (Platypus, *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*), based on new information. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed per species group, region, and biological realm: 0

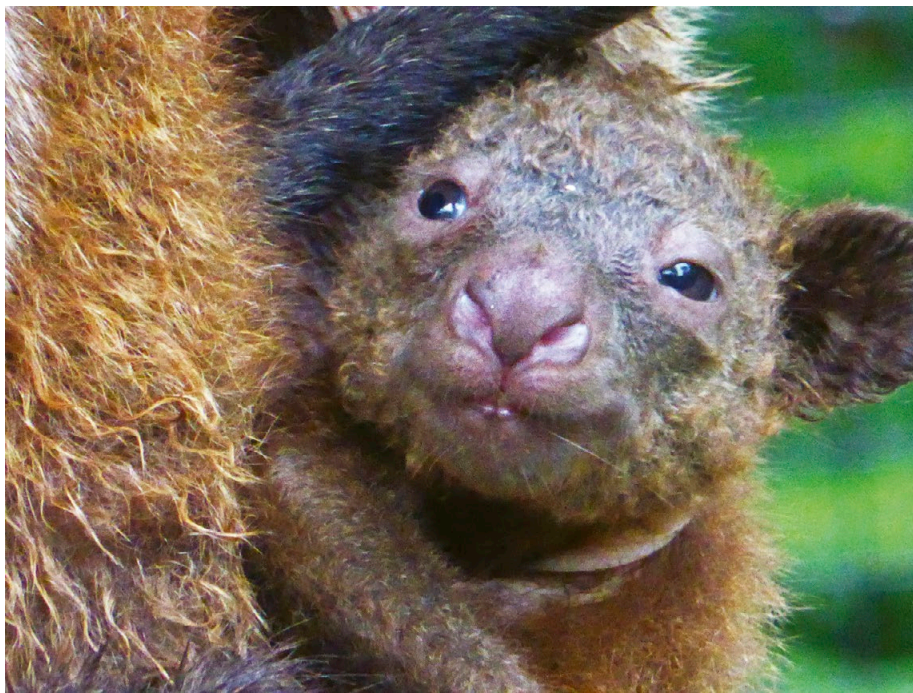
Result description: Initial assessment undertaken of extent of recovery of some Australian marsupial species (Woinarski et al. (2023). *Biol. Cons.* 279, 109946), which will inform proposed Green List assessment for further species in 2023–25. Re-assessment of koala and platypus are pending.

Red List

T-001 Undertake new assessments for the species most affected by the catastrophic 2019–2020 Australian wildfires. (KSR 5)

Number of species significantly affected by the 2019–2020 Australian fires that have consequently had their Red List assessments updated: 0

Result description: Progress pending national review (under Australian legislation) of the conservation status of fire-affected marsupials, so as to be as



Juvenile Doria's Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus dorianus*), Port Moresby Nature Park
Photo: Michelle McGeorge

consistent as possible in evidence and interpretation, and avoid duplication.

T-002 Undertake new assessments for poorly known marsupials in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, including Peleng Cuscus (*Strigocuscus pelengensis*) Talaud Cuscus (*Ailurops melanotis*), and Gebe Cuscus (*Phalanger alexandrae*). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Support and collaboration were provided for field surveys for two critical species in West Papua and Indonesia (Gebe Cuscus, *Phalanger alexandrae*, and Talaud Bear Cuscus, *Ailurops melanotis*). Major review of the conservation of Australasian marsupials completed (Woinarski, JCZ, and Fisher, DO. (2023). 'Conservation biogeography of Australasian marsupials'. In: 'American and Australasian Marsupials: an evolutionary, biogeographical, and ecological approach'. (Eds NC Cáceres and CR Dickman). pp. 1319-1366. Springer Nature, Cham, Switzerland).

T-003 Undertake assessments of a set of taxonomically re-defined Australian marsupial species (e.g. Sugar Glider, *Petaurus breviceps*). (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 0

Result description: Information gathering undertaken to inform conservation assessment of some recently described Australasian marsupials.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Develop conservation action plan (and survey) for *Zaglossus* species. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: Support and collaboration were provided for surveys and conservation. Major review of conservation of Australasian marsupials completed (Woinarski, JCZ, and Fisher, D. O. (2023). 'Conservation biogeography of Australasian marsupials. In: American and Australasian Marsupials: an evolutionary, biogeographical, and ecological approach'. (Eds NC Cáceres and CR Dickman). pp. 1319-1366. Springer Nature, Cham, Switzerland.).

NETWORK

Membership

T-006 Enhance or expand group membership, including an annual or biennial meeting. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 36

Result description: Membership increased to 36 in 2022.

COMMUNICATE

Scientific meetings

T-008 Hold annual or biennial meetings of SSC members. (KSR 12)

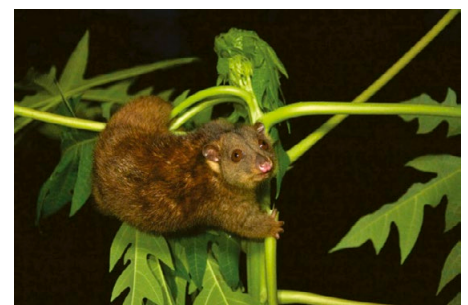
Number of meetings held: 1

Result description: Meetings held in collaboration with the Australian Mammal Society.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Australian Mammal Society, the Wild Pig Specialist Group, Wildlife Conservation Society Indonesia, EDGE, Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group members who have provided photos, members who have provided information on bushfire effects on

Long-fingered Triok (*Dactylopsila palpator*), PNG highlands
Photo: John Lamarin



Northern Common Cuscus (*Phalanger orientalis*)
Photo: Tyrone Lavery

marsupials and monotremes, members who have facilitated communication with researchers and communities in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, the IUCN Red List Unit, the Australian Committee for IUCN, Jon Paul Rodríguez and the SSC, and Angela Yang.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 3 Asia, 7 Oceania

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

