



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:

Kingston, T, and Medellin, R. 2023. 2022 Report of the Bat 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 Bat Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
75

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @IUCNBatSpecialistGroup
Website: <https://www.iucnbsg.org>

Mission statement

- (1) To contribute to the mission and goals of IUCN SSC.
- (2) To ensure the maintenance or recovery of populations of threatened Bat populations.
- (3) To ensure that other Bat species remain at a favourable conservation status.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-006 Trade in Bat Species Working Group (TBS WG): gather data to support application to CITES for two distinctive ‘souvenir’ species.
Status: On track

T-009 Conduct Red List Assessments of Old World Bats.
Status: On track

T-010 Conduct Red List Assessments of New World Bats.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-002 Human Dimensions of Bat Conservation Working Group (HDBC WG): develop strategies to manage human attitudes and behaviours towards Bats in the post-COVID-19 era.
Status: On track

T-004 Bats and One Health Working Group (OH WG): provide advice to the research and conservation community about safe practices for Bat research and the role of Bats in emerging infectious diseases.
Status: On track

ACT

T-007 Trade in Bat Species Working Group (TBS WG): work with CITES representatives to submit applications for two distinctive species.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-001 Establish a Human Dimensions of Bat Conservation Working Group (HDBC WG).
Status: Achieved

T-003 Establish a Bats and One Health Working Group (OH WG).
Status: Achieved

T-005 Establish a Trade in Bat Species Working Group (TBS WG).
Status: On track

T-008 Develop an online Red List assessment training pipeline specific to Bats.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-008 Develop an online Red List assessment training pipeline specific to Bats. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 13

Preventing human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2

Preventing human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2 AMP infographic for researchers
Photo: BSG One Health Working Group

Exposure Risks

- Aerosol exposure**
Infectious droplets from handlers holding bats in close proximity
- Environmental exposure**
Sharing enclosed, poorly-ventilated spaces with bats, where virus may persist in the air or on surfaces
- Contact exposure**
Bats coming into contact with contaminated hands or equipment

Mitigation Strategies

- Assess**
The level of risk the project poses to bats based on epidemiological context and team status
- Modify**
Research activities based on the risk assessment: green, amber or red
- Protect**
Adopt good field hygiene: wear masks and gloves, follow disinfection procedures

AMP: your plan to keep protecting bats

www.iucnbsg.org Full recommendations @ <https://tinyurl.com/AMP4bats>

Preventing human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infographic for cavers
Photo: BSG One Health Working Group

Preventing human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2 for cavers

Exposure Risks

- Aerosol exposure**
Infectious droplets from cavers in close proximity to bats
- Environmental exposure**
Sharing enclosed, poorly-ventilated spaces with bats, where virus may persist in the air
- Contact exposure**
Cavers coming in contact with bats

Mitigation Strategies

- Minimize**
Plan routes to avoid bat aggregations, wear mask if passing bats is unavoidable
- Assess**
The level of risk the trip poses to bats, avoid caving if you have been exposed or have symptoms
- Protect**
Adopt best caving practices, wear masks if passing bats, avoid crowding, clean and disinfect equipment

MAP your plan to prevent transmission to cave-dwelling bats!

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Result description: In 2022, our training was integrated into university classes where students were trained to complete assessments. We also held an in-person training at the International Bat Research Conference (Austin, Texas, US) in August 2022 and a virtual training workshop in December 2022 at the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines.

Summary of achievements

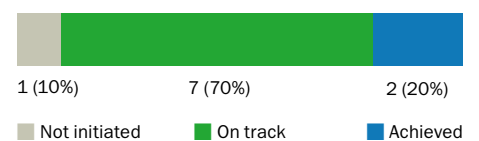
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 10

Geographic regions: 10 Global

Actions during 2022:

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Preventing human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2 for bat rehabilitation

Exposure Risk

- Contact exposure**
Bats coming into contact with contaminated hands or equipment
- Aerosol exposure**
Infectious droplets from handler holding bats in close proximity
- Environmental exposure**
Sharing enclosed, poorly ventilated spaces with bats, where virus may persist in the air or on surface

Mitigation Strategies

- Minimize** direct contact with bats by keeping handling to a minimum, use face masks, gloves, and closed containers for transportation
- Assess** the risk you may pose of exposing bats to SARS-CoV-2 and avoid contact with bats if you have or suspect you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with or suspected to have COVID-19
- Protect** bats by modifying collection, rehabilitation and release practices to reduce exposure to SARS-CoV-2

MAP your plan to prevent transmission to bats

Complete recommendations @ <https://tinyurl.com/map4rehab>
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Preventing human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infographic for bat rehabilitation
Photo: BSG One Health Working Group