



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:

Van Eerden, M, and Parz Gollner, R. 2023. 2022 Report of the Cormorant 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

IUCN SSC Cormorant Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR

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CO-CHAIR

**Rosemarie Parz
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University of Natural
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

250

Mission statement

The main purpose of the group is to facilitate the exchange of information on both ecology and biology of the ca. 30 different species of cormorants, shags and darters worldwide and on resolving possible conflicts between cormorants and human fisheries' interests. The Group was officially founded in 1993 and has always been aware that cormorants constitute an ecologically important group of species, as predators, indicative of the water system, since they are part of water either fresh or marine. Due to the continuous discussion about the perceived damage caused by the Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), most attention of our Group has been dedicated to this issue. However, rather than focusing on the management issues of this species alone, we feel the necessity to highlight the existence of other, rare and vulnerable species. By comparing the extensive knowledge that has been collected on the great cormorant we hope to apply this for a better understanding of the other species and combine the knowledge with other fish-eating birds.

Projected impact for 2021–2025

Disseminate relevant information about cormorant biology in different fora and contribute to the ongoing debate about managing assumed human-wildlife conflicts in great cormorants.

Targets for 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Write and publish scientific articles on the conservation and conflict management perspectives on cormorants.

Status: On track

ACT

T-002 Provide technical and specialist input on cormorant conservation and management issues.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results for 2022

ASSESS

Research activities

T-001 Write and publish scientific articles on the conservation and conflict management perspectives on cormorants. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 8

Result description: About 80 scientists, including members of the Cormorant SG from all over Europe, Israel and Japan contributed data and thoughts in a special issue of *Ardea* resulting in 30 peer-reviewed papers, focused on the: (1) Population developments, demography, and migration; (2) Habitat choice, food and feeding habits; (3) Breeding biology and reproductive ecology, and (4) Interactions with man, conflict management and solutions on the great cormorant. Fifteen of these articles include the Chair and core members of the Cormorant SG as author.

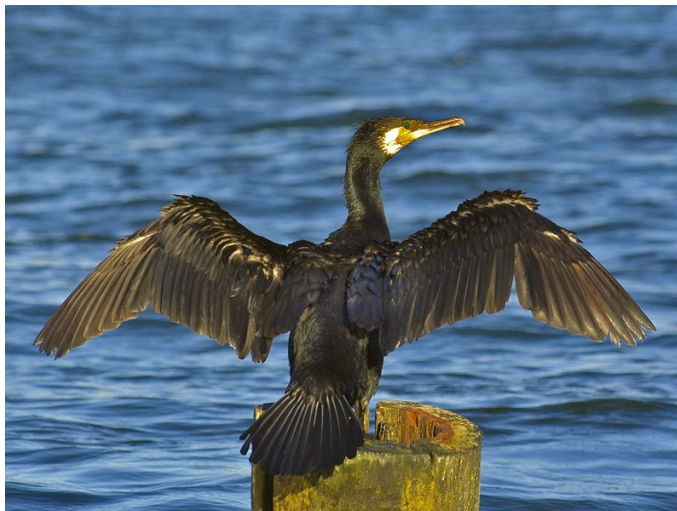
ACT

Conservation actions

T-002 Provide technical and specialist input on cormorant conservation and management issues. (KSR 10)

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

Result description: The Cormorant SG sent an open letter to all MEPs in September 2022 before the EU parliament voted on cormorant management issues in Europe.



Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Photo: Sławek Staszczuk (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021-2025: 2

Geographic regions: 2 Europe

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Overall achievement 2021-2025:

