



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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

Example for the recommended citation:

Glazov, P. 2023. 2022 Report of the Goose 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 Goose Specialist Group



CHAIR

Peter Glazov

Institute of Geography,
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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

BirdLife International

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

363

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: Goose Specialist Group

Website: <https://www.geese.org/gsg/>

Mission statement

The Goose Specialist Group seeks to strengthen contacts between all researchers on migratory Goose populations in the northern hemisphere by organising regular scientific conferences and stimulating population dynamics research on Geese.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The main aim for our group is to update the information on population status of northern hemisphere Goose populations. This includes the compilation of population counts as well as counts of juvenile production. This information is vital to understand the changes in conservation status of Goose populations. Besides this main goal, we have several projects aimed at specific conservation issues regarding particular species.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Investigate whether Geese flee high and far and with aftereffects from New Year's fireworks.
Status: On track

T-002 Study survival, breeding behaviour and migration pattern of local breeding Greylag Geese (*Anser anser*).
Status: On track

T-004 Update the Global Audit of the Status and Trends of Arctic and Northern Hemisphere Goose Populations.
Status: On track

T-005 Provide a climate-resilient network of critical sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) in Europe (LIFE LWfG CLIMATE LIFE19 NAT/LT/000898).
Status: On track

T-008 Conduct the annual global population census of the Greenland White-fronted Goose.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Organise the Goose Specialist Group Conference in 2023.
Status: On track

T-007 Publish the *Goose Bulletin*.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-008 Conduct the annual global population census of the Greenland White-fronted Goose. (KSR 5)

Annual counts of population and reproduction in Greenland White-fronted Geese: 1
Result description: Full reporting of 2021-2022 was achieved.

Research activities

T-004 Update the Global Audit of the Status and Trends of Arctic and Northern Hemisphere Goose Populations. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: The global audit of northern hemisphere Goose populations – published in 2017 but based on data up to around 2015 – suggested that there were between 39.0 and 39.2 million wild Geese in the northern hemisphere, belonging to 68 populations of 15 species at that time. Most of populations showed increasing or stable trends over the previous 10 years, largely due to their successful transition from feeding on natural wetland and other habitats, to feeding on artificial agricultural habitats that provide considerably better food intake rates, forage quality and energy.

Greenland Greater White-fronted
Goose (*Anser albifrons*)
Photo: Ian Francis



A Lesser White-fronted Goose
(*Anser erythropus*) in a mixed species
flock in Lithuania
Photo: Vytautas Eigirdas



Some of the most rapidly increasing populations have brought conservation challenges due to their abundance affecting economic interests, which we continue to need to address. However, our ability to judge these trends was highly variable among populations and, in addition, the assessment identified 23 populations that had declined in the previous 10 years at that time. The Goose Specialist Group therefore sees as its core activities to continue: (1) to monitor all northern hemisphere Goose populations, and in the coming 18 months attempt to revise all estimates of current population size and recent (10 year) and longer trend as far as possible with an assessment of their quality; (2) to improve our knowledge of those populations for which we are data deficient; (3) to focus on improved knowledge about the causes for the declining trends among those populations that have unfavourable conservation status and gather information about methods to restore these populations to favourable conservation status.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: *Goose Bulletin* 28 was published in 2022.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 2 Asia, 1 America, 6 Europe

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

