



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the SSC Group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the SSC Group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### 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.

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Kemp, L, and Datta, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Hornbill 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. 6 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

# IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group



**CO-CHAIR**

Lucy Kemp (Africa)  
Mabula Ground  
Hornbill Project,  
South Africa

**CO-CHAIR**

Aparajita Datta (Asia)  
Nature Conservation  
Foundation, India

**RED LIST AUTHORITY**

**COORDINATOR**  
BirdLife International

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

141

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Facebook: @iucnhornbills  
Instagram: @iucn\_hornbills  
Twitter: @iucn\_hornbills  
Website: <https://iucnhornbills.org>

**Mission statement**

The Hornbill Specialist Group aims to use our combined knowledge and skills for evidence-based conservation action of Hornbills and their habitats.

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

By the end of 2025, the Hornbill Specialist Group (HSG) will have carried out conservation planning for all Endangered and Vulnerable Hornbill species in both Asia and Africa, with implementation agencies supported by the HSG to meet their targets. Conservation planning will include Indigenous Knowledge Systems to be used in designing bespoke conservation actions/models where the threats are anthropogenic in nature. We will have enabled and supported research for greater understanding of lesser-studied species, especially in Africa and for some Asian species. The knowledge will be used for evidence-based conservation action for Hornbills and their habitats. By 2025, we will have built a strong and active collaborative Hornbill research and conservation network in Asia and established one in Africa.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-006** Continue to publish and share *Hornbill Natural History and Conservation* (HNHC) newsletter/journal.  
Status: Achieved

**T-007** Publish a book on the status and conservation (state of current knowledge) of the world's hornbills.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-009** Prepare – or share existing – ‘advice’ on release/reintroduction of (e.g. confiscated) Hornbills into the wild.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Organise Red List assessment workshops for African and some Asian species.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Conduct climate change assessment for Southern Ground Hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*).  
Status: On track

**T-012** Encourage some national-level assessments/action plans.  
Status: On track

**T-013** Compile and publish bibliography of Hornbill publications.  
Status: Achieved

**T-021** Obtain better range-wide population and habitat assessments for global population estimates based on science to inform Red List threat category.  
Status: On track

**T-022** Identify threatened species priority areas.

Status: Not initiated

**T-034** Revise and publish the Hornbill research training manual online.  
Status: On track

**T-050** Document research projects and compile case studies by HSG members and others on Hornbills and create knowledge database.  
Status: On track

**T-060** Liaise with the Green Status of Species Task Force to test this approach for ~2-5 threatened Hornbill species.  
Status: On track

**PLAN**

**T-014** Update, review and implement existing plans.  
Status: On track

**T-015** Publish multi-species Visayan Action Plan and ensure collaboration between groups.  
Status: Achieved

**T-016** Publish range-wide action plan for the Plain-pouched Hornbill (*Rhyticeros sub-ruficollis*).  
Status: Not initiated

**T-017** Publish range-wide action plan for Northern Ground Hornbill (*Bucorvus abyssinicus*).  
Status: On track



Vulnerable Southern Ground Hornbill  
(*Bucorvus leadbeateri*), Lagos Zoo, Portugal  
Photo: Carlos Pontes

**T-018** Publish Action Plan for the Mindoro Hornbill (*Penelopides mindorensis*).  
Status: Not initiated

**T-019** Publish range-wide action plans – with adequate government representatives/all relevant stakeholders – for at least a few Vulnerable and Endangered species (Sunda Hornbills, Indo-Chinese and Philippine endemics).  
Status: Not initiated

**T-020** Assess 2 Plan (A2P) for African Hornbill species.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-054** Push for precautionary CITES listing/trade issues for *Bycanistes*, *Ceratogymna*, *Bucorvus*, Sulu Hornbill (*Anthracosceros montani*), follow up on Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*).  
Status: On track

**T-055** Motion for new names/taxonomy.  
Status: Not initiated.

**T-056** Develop an IUCN motion (resolution) on the importance of Hornbills for habitat – especially forest – restoration (UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration).  
Status: Not initiated

**T-057** Hold a Helmeted Hornbill update/side event and ‘All Hornbills’ side event at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2021.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-058** Convention on Migratory Species: support inclusion of the case of the Plain-pouched Hornbill.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-059** Submit phylogeny recommendation to BirdLife.  
Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-025** Finalise and share ‘Hornbill Basic Care Guidelines’.  
Status: Achieved

**T-027** Collect data and analyse trade in Hornbills; assist in preparation and lobbying of CITES listings for (African) Hornbills, e.g. *Ceratogymna* spp. and perhaps *Bycanistes* spp.  
Status: On track

**T-028** Continue to drive/support existing action plans.  
Status: On track

**T-029** Continue with field surveys that assess the status of Hornbills in the wild (e.g. hotspots for protection/management).  
Status: On track

**T-030** Engage with governments on Hornbill conservation issues.  
Status: On track

**T-031** Develop and publish sustainability best practices guidelines.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-032** Develop best practices guidelines on community engagements: lessons from existing projects, with nest guardian programmes.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-033** Encourage establishment of conservation actions/programmes in countries with less work undertaken or poor information: collaborations/training.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-044** Provide land use guidelines.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-045** Support rural communities involved in species conservation: nature tourism/nest guardians.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-046** Undertake more policy-level work with governments that leads to real change.  
Status: Not initiated

#### NETWORK

**T-001** Explore having a government liaison for Indochinese countries that we can work with.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-002** Compile and profile HSG members, organisational affiliations, projects, publications, contributions, skills and expertise.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Provide training in Red List assessment for members: representatives from different range countries.  
Status: On track

Female individual of Vulnerable Wreathed Hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*)  
Photo: Aparajita Datta



**T-004** Provide training in scientific research skills/writing/data analysis: workshop needed for members/students.

Status: On track

**T-005** Build conservation capacity and competency, both individual and organisational, i.e. Conservation Planning Specialist Group training, e.g. using Asian Species Action Partnership approach.

Status: On track

**T-023** Build partners/networks in range countries that are poorly represented or with information gaps (Indo-China and most of Africa).

Status: On track

**T-024** Explore Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) opportunity to enhance collaboration between different taxon Specialist Groups and field partners, etc.

Status: On track

**T-035** Improve and increase communication and functioning with existing HSG members and the Steering Committee.

Status: On track

**T-036** Harness members' skills and delegate tasks to more members: increase engagement and involvement of members in actions/activities.

Status: On track

**T-037** Re-invite members; ensure representation and diversity.

Status: Achieved

**T-038** Build relationships with non-Hornbill groups and promote successful outcomes (SNAPP Opportunity).

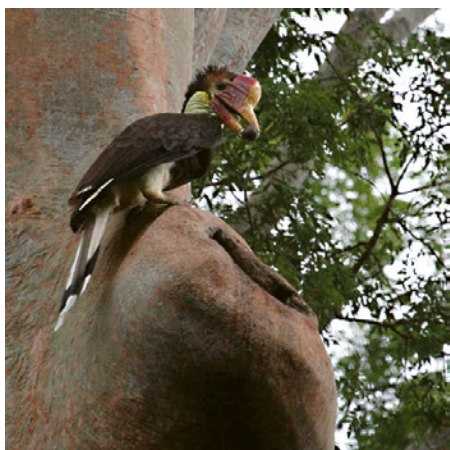
Status: On track

**T-039** Encourage our members to contribute to global/regional databases: iNat, eBird, etc.

Status: On track



Malaysian Nature Society hornbill guardians in action  
Photo: Yeap Chin Aik



Critically Endangered Helmeted Hornbill  
(*Rhinoplax vigil*), nesting  
Photo: Yeap Chin Aik

**T-040** Approach Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a regional intergovernmental organisation.

Status: Not initiated

**T-041** Engage with potential large funders for highlighting threats to Hornbills and seeking partnerships for support.

Status: On track

**T-042** Look at engaging relevant industry partners in conservation partnership.

Status: On track

**T-043** Concession land management: engage with relevant government stakeholders (regional/federal).

Status: Not initiated

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-047** Establish a blog on the website where members can write, contribute, host podcasts.

Status: Not initiated

**T-048** Host online events and/or talks by members on their work (engagement and mentoring): invite partners, funders, SSC main office, Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), etc.

Status: On track

**T-049** Improve quality and frequency of communications through websites, social media and listserv.

Status: On track

**T-051** Organise International Hornbill Conference, Bhutan 2022.

Status: On track

**T-052** Manage the implementation of a communication strategy (social media and events).

Status: On track

## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Research activities

**T-006** Continue to publish and share *Hornbill Natural History and Conservation (HNHC) newsletter/journal*. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 1

Result description: We published one newsletter in July 2022: Vol 3 as planned.

The volume includes discussions on Hornbill welfare in Thai zoos, nesting in the Anamalai Hills, India, reintroduction in Singapore, unusual nesting in Kenya, unique foraging in Narcondam Hornbills and notable sightings of Indian Grey Hornbill (*Ocyroceros birostris*) and Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Ocyroceros griseus*) in India.

### Acknowledgements

All of us are working in a voluntary capacity for the HSG and we thank our members, Advisory Board, Steering Committee, the Editorial Board of the journal (*Hornbill Natural History and Conservation*) and those in the IUCN SSC Chair's office for their support, especially Jafet Nassar and Mayerlin Ramos. We thank Samuel Ivande, Bird Conservation Co-ordinator of the Global Centre for Species Survival for his interest, advice and support.

The key partner organisations who have supported the activities undertaken are the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mandai Nature, Hornbill Research Foundation, Rangkong Indonesia, Attica Zoological Park, Malaysian Nature Society, Disney Animal Kingdom, Kasetsart University, EAZA

Hornbill Tag, Maguari-One Zoo and Wildlife Consultants, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Individuals from several other institutions such as TRAFFIC, North Carolina Zoo, PhilBio, Birdlife International, Talarak Foundation, and the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group have helped during the conservation action planning workshops and/or participated or worked in collaboration with the HSG. We thank the Hornbill Research Foundation in Thailand for supporting the Programme Officer. We thank Maitreyi Hegde and Elizabeth Zadnik for their work on the hornbill bibliography database and website, Janhavi Rajan (NCF) for work on the website and the journal and Yoki Hadiprakarsa, Elsia Yuanti and the communication team at Rangkong Indonesia for their work on the social media communications of the HSG.

### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 57

**Geographic regions:** 1 America, 44 Africa, 52 Asia, 2 Europe

**Actions during 2022:**

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

