



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:

Allen, JL and Yahr, R. 2023. 2022 Report of the Lichen 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.

IUCN SSC Lichen Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

23

Mission statement

Promote studies assessing lichen diversity, population dynamics and conservation genetics in order to evaluate the conservation status of lichen species according to IUCN Criteria.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Lichen Specialist Group is currently building networks of people in order to improve capacity across all aspects of the species conservation cycle.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct global assessment of African, Asian and European leafy Parmelioid lichens in the family Parmeliaceae.
Status: On track

T-002 Assess key lichen species that are harvested for food, medicine and other uses globally.
Status: Not initiated

T-005 Assess lichens endemic to the Galápagos Islands.
Status: Not initiated

T-006 Conduct global assessments of key lichen species that characterise the arctic/alpine biota.
Status: Not initiated

T-007 Conduct global assessments of lichens endemic to Colombia.
Status: Not initiated

T-014 Conduct research on lichen conservation and threatened species.
Status: On track

T-016 Assess threatened and near threatened lichen species worldwide.
Status: On track

T-019 Publish a global Red List assessment for 100 lichen species.
Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-009 Hold an open house for lichen conservation: a free networking and Q&A session to promote good practice in on-the-ground action.
Status: Not initiated

T-018 Support Lichen Specialist Group members in applying for SSC internal grants.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-004 Recruit four new active members from underrepresented regions (Asia, South America, Africa).
Status: Not initiated

T-011 Recruit and train five additional active members to the SSC from established lichen conservation networks.
Status: Not initiated

T-012 Internally structure the Specialist Group to add regional or thematic leads.
Status: Not initiated

T-017 Host red listing workshops.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-010 Build a lichen SSC website to highlight key projects and actions.
Status: Not initiated

T-015 Communicate findings of research on rare and threatened lichens to local, national and international stakeholders.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-016 Assess threatened and near threatened lichen species worldwide. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 6

Result description: A total of six new Red List assessments were published for threatened lichens: two species Critically Endangered (CR), three Endangered (EN), and one Vulnerable (VU).



Temperate rainforest in Scotland, one of the strongholds of the threatened lichen *Leptogium hibernicum*. This specimen is growing on *Corylus*, allowing colonization from older stems to new growth as the tree grows and microhabitats on the bark shift
Photo: Rebecca Yahr



Leptogium hibernicum, a very locally-distributed lichen of the Atlantic temperate rainforests. It is threatened by loss of habitat, particularly European ash trees, and changes in management and climate
Photo: Rebecca Yahr

T-019 Publish a global Red List assessment for 100 lichen species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 10

Result description: Ten new Red List assessments for lichenised fungi were published in 2022.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-012 Internally structure the Specialist Group to add regional or thematic leads. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in communication skills: 4

Result description: We have initiated inviting specific members to lead activities in Southeast Asia, South America, the Arctic, and North America.

T-017 Host red listing workshops. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 20

Result description: In June 2022, we hosted a two-day meeting of the Lichen Specialist Group. During this workshop, we discussed in detail the challenges and best practices for applying Red List criteria to lichen assessments. Speakers from multiple countries were invited to share their perspectives and advice on relevant topics. A manuscript summarising the results of this workshop is in preparation.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-015 Communicate findings of research on rare and threatened lichens to local, national and international stakeholders. (KSR 12)

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

Result description: The exTRICATE project leaders have done an exceptional job of communicating the progress and results of their research on *Lethariella extricata* (<https://applied-lichenology.com/en/extricate-project/>). They have produced substantial and consistent social media content to engage a global audience in their project.

Acknowledgements

The Lichen Specialist Group Co-Chairs are grateful for the support from their respective institutions, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and Eastern Washington University. As well, for the continued support from the Red List Unit which has been instrumental in the Group's ability to increase the number of published Red List

assessments, and we thank James Westrip in particular for his help. Finally, the Global Fungal Red List Initiative has substantially benefited our Red List progress, including technical support from Michael Krikorev and advice from Greg Mueller.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 16

Geographic regions: 12 Global, 1 Africa, 4 America, 1 Asia, 1 Europe

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

