



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:

Rakotoarivivo, M. 2023. 2022 Report of the Madagascar Plant 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 Madagascar Plant Specialist Group



CHAIR

Mijoro Rakotoarinivo

Plant Biology and Ecology Department, Faculty of Sciences, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar

RED LIST AUTHORITY

COORDINATOR

Sylvie

Andriambololonera

Missouri Botanical Garden, Madagascar Program – Research Unit, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

60

Mission statement

The mission of the Madagascar Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) is to increase the knowledge on Madagascar plant diversity (flora and habitats) by assessing and/or reviewing their conservation status (especially for IUCN and CITES), and promote their conservation by identifying conservation priorities, giving recommendations for their survival and reinforcing people's efforts toward the conservation of plant diversity.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By providing basic information on species threats and human pressure, the SSC MPSG contributes to the protection of plant diversity and promotes biodiversity conservation in Madagascar. As more and more species face extinction in the wild, efforts to protect wildlife are becoming increasingly fundamental.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of the endemic and native flora of Madagascar.
Status: On track

T-005 Increase the knowledge of plant status in Key Biodiversity Areas.
Status: On track

ACT

T-007 Promote the use of indigenous and endemic trees in ecosystem restoration.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-004 Enhance the membership and the capacity of the SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-002 Develop a national strategy for plant conservation in Madagascar.
Status: On track

T-006 Propose scientific basis for national legislation and policy on the conservation of the Malagasy flora.
Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of the endemic and native flora of Madagascar. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 76

Result description: The conservation status of 76 plant species has been published on the IUCN Red List website after evaluation according to the required criteria and categories. These plant species are mostly trees providing precious wood, of the genus *Diospyros* (Ebenaceae), but there are also various plant species from other plant families (e.g. Fabaceae, Anacardiaceae). The *Diospyros* assessments were conducted with support from the G3D project, Sustainable Management of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia*, conducted by the University of Antananarivo Consortium and the Missouri Botanical Garden. In addition, the SSC MPSG also conducted assessments of approximately 40 species of threatened orchids found in the Ambatovy mining areas (MBG's COMALO Project) as well as 49 taxa from monotypic genera, i.e. genera that include only one species at a time,



Threatened wetland in northwest of Madagascar
Photo: Botovao Auguste Ramiandrisoa

for a total of 49 species (Edge for the Flora of Madagascar Project). The evaluations of these 89 species could not be published in 2022 and are currently pending.

Research activities

T-005 Increase the knowledge of plant status in Key Biodiversity Areas. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: Assessments of the conservation status of wetlands in north-western Madagascar (Mahajanga, Ankarafantsika, Ambato Boeny and Marovoay) were conducted by the University of Mahajanga team, during which 94 native species were surveyed. These wetland habitats are currently threatened with extinction due to grazing and conversion of these lands to agricultural plots. About 3/4 of the 94 species are native and nearly half of all these species have not yet been assessed for extinction. Of the species assessed according to the IUCN Red List, the majority are classified as Least Concern (LC). However, the study concluded that these wetlands in north-western Madagascar are threatened, not only through the conversion

of the banks and inside the wetland but the lack of renewing of water because of the low rate of precipitation. Most of the wetlands are temporary and victims of the drought. The aquatic ecosystem is permanently disturbed. The risk of extinction of the endemic species is high.

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 Enhance the membership and the capacity of the SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 10

Result description: The SSC MPSG is now composed of about 60 members, mostly botanists but including also miscellaneous researchers and conservationists from plant sciences such as foresters, ecologists or agronomists. In addition, a blog for the SSC MPSG has been created in order to promote the work of the group; the site is now available at <https://relationsgspm.wixsite.com/blog>. The website describes the activities and acts also as a repository of the documents that the group has published in the past.

Acknowledgements

The SSC MPSG would like to express its gratitude to the partners and collaborators for their support. We also thank IUCN SSC internal grants and the Re:Wild Foundation for its funding of a project on the wetland status in the northwest of Madagascar and the SSC EDGE programme for supporting the EDGE project in Madagascar. Finally, our sincere thanks to the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar for their encouragement and interest in the conservation of Madagascar's plants.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Africa

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

