



# 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:

Leaman, D, and Timoshyna, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Medicinal 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 Medicinal Plant Specialist Group



**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**  
Twitter: @PlantSsc



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

107

**Mission statement**

The Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) is a global network of specialists contributing within our own institutions and in our own regions, as well as worldwide, to the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. The MPSG was founded in 1994 to increase global awareness of conservation threats to medicinal plants, and to promote sustainable use and conservation action.

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

A significant increase in knowledge of the conservation status of priority species of medicinal and aromatic plants, planning and actions to conserve and sustainably use these species, and broader industry and consumer awareness of and participation in the conservation of threatened species.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-001** Complete global assessments of all North American medicinal plant species.  
Status: On track

**T-008** Complete re-assessment of European medicinal and aromatic plants.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Complete Red List assessments of all CITES-listed medicinal and aromatic plants.  
Status: On track

**PLAN**

**T-004** Contribute technical expertise to policy development and implementation for medicinal plant conservation and sustainable use.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Develop medicinal plant conservation plans/strategies for priority taxa and regions that apply A2P processes, identify KBAs, and incorporate sustainable use.  
Status: On track

**ACT**

**T-005** Contribute to sustainable use of priority species of medicinal plants.  
Status: On track

**NETWORK**

**T-002** Maintain six formal partnerships providing in-kind support to MPSG targets 2021–2025.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Expand capacity for applying IUCN assessment tools within MPSG membership.  
Status: On track

**COMMUNICATE**

**T-006** Contribute to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CITES CoP19) and 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP15) side events.  
Status: Achieved

**T-010** Spotlight medicinal and aromatic plants conservation and sustainable use issues in media and with multiple stakeholders.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Make MAPROW (Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the World) database secure and accessible.  
Status: Not initiated



Arnica des montagnes (*Arnica montana*)  
in Schwäbisch-Fränkischer Wald, Germany  
Photo: Bernd Haynold (CC BY-SA 2.5)



## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Red List

#### T-008 Complete re-assessment of European medicinal and aromatic plants. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List assessments completed: 100

Result description: Substantial progress was made toward reconciling taxonomic structure of MAPs to align global, European, and National Red Lists currently in progress. One hundred of the re-assessments were completed.

### COMMUNICATE

#### Communication

#### T-010 Spotlight medicinal and aromatic plants conservation and sustainable use issues in media and with multiple stakeholders. (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 6

Result description: Numerous articles in The New York Times (NYT) have shed light on Trillium. Notable resources available on the WildCheck.info platform including a Project Brochure, WildCheck Report, and a National Geographic article. These materials provide valuable insights into the initiative's goals and accomplishments. Additionally, several relevant communication products related to the 19th CITES CoP were produced: (1) A side-event flyer, accessible via side-event flyer link, underscores the importance of sustainable trade in medicinal and aromatic plants to benefit both ecosystems and people; (2) Detailed insights into CITES CoP19's proceedings, particularly its focus on medicinal and aromatic plants, can be found at CITES CoP19 Medicinal and Aromatic Plants; (3) A summary of the key outcomes of CITES CoP19 can be accessed via CITES CoP19 Summary. As well, the initiative and the conference garnered attention on social media platforms (Tweet 1, Tweet 2, Tweet 3, Tweet 4).

### Scientific meetings

#### T-006 Contribute to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CITES CoP19) and 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP15) side events. (KSR 12)

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 3

Result description: In 2022, the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) attended and contributed to the CITES CoP19 and side events. The CITES CoP19 side-event Saving Plants that Save Lives was organized, led by the Co-Chair of the IUCN MPSG, with contributions from members of MPSG, government CITES representatives, and members of the private sector. The intervention was given on behalf of TRAFFIC and the IUCN Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, welcoming the then-draft Decisions included in Annex I of Document 82. The intervention noted that CITES provides an important form of regulation of international trade in medicinal and aromatic plants, with over 800 of these species listed in Appendix II. While these species are representative of varied taxonomic groups, there are distinctive common features of their trade that warrant continued consideration as a group within CITES. The IUCN and TRAFFIC supported the intervention of the European Union – regarding the inclusion of the term 'and aromatic' in any further Resolutions regarding this group of species. The intervention also drew the attention of Parties to a range of specialized tools for medicinal and aromatic plants trade, developed specifically to support CITES implementation. These include the FairWild Standard and the 9-Step Guidance on NDFs for Perennial Plants. A recent joint FAO, IUCN and TRAFFIC report 'WildCheck: Assessing the Risks and Opportunities of Trade in Wild Plant Ingredients', and the accompanying platform at WildCheck.org could support the implementation of the proposed draft Decisions 19 AA a) and 19 BB a) in CoP19 Doc. 8.2. The platform

aims to enhance awareness of MAPs value chains and of CITES regulations and trade interventions, and encourages sustainable use and legal trade in MAPs. TRAFFIC and IUCN called on Parties, and other stakeholders, to join the collaborative WildCheck platform. Parties were also invited to join a side event at CITES CoP19. Under the agenda item of CITES and Livelihoods, Draft Guidance on maximising benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities from trade in CITES-listed species developed pre-CoP19, but Parties at SC did not agree to the adoption of the draft guidance produced and called for further review of the document by the Working Group. Report on certification standards and marks drafted but not reviewed yet. A new set of case studies on CITES and Livelihoods were developed by IUCN SULI, TRAFFIC and other authors – presented at a side event. The MPSG also attended and contributed to the CBD CoP15 and side events; the Kunming-Montreal GBF has been agreed in December 2022, including the specific focus on the commitment for sustainable use and trade in wild species, in Targets 5 and 9, among others. The presentation was also delivered at a WHO workshop on the margins of CBD CoP15, focussing on the trade in wild species and the nexus of conservation and health.

### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 11

Geographic regions: 9 Global, 2 America, 2 Europe

#### Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

#### Overall achievement 2021–2025:

