



Species

ISSUE 62

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:

Ozman-Sullivan, S. 2023. 2022 Report of the Mite 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 Mite Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
74

Mission statement

The mission of the Mite Specialist Group (MSG) is to increase knowledge of the taxonomic, ecological and conservation status of mites and to promote their conservation and protect their habitats globally.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased profile and action in mite conservation in association with all invertebrates.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct global Red List assessment of 10 species.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 To have two Red List assessment coordinators.
Status: On track

T-003 Grow membership to 100 members.
Status: On track

T-004 Maintain regular contact with the Wet Tropics Management Authority.
Status: On track

T-005 Establish a partnership with Saving Nature to restore habitat in a tropical environment.
Status: On track

T-006 Educate the public about the importance of invertebrate communities.
Status: On track

T-007 Contact five new organisations outside the SSC to seek their cooperation in pursuing specific conservation and/or educational outcomes.
Status: On track

T-008 Request that the five advisory groups develop and implement at least one programme that generates specific education and/or conservation outcomes.
Status: On track

T-009 Gain a second conservation organisation as an advisory group and project partner.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-010 Deliver four presentations on Mite Specialist Group activities.
Status: Achieved

T-011 Establish social media accounts.
Status: Achieved

T-012 Produce four publications on threatened species of mites.
Status: Achieved

T-013 Continue to provide advice to MarineBio.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Conduct global Red List assessment of 10 species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: We compiled a list of 100 threatened host-specific species, including ticks, and then selected five species for Red List assessment. Four draft assessments are awaiting approval by the Red List Unit.

NETWORK

Membership

T-003 Grow membership to 100 members. (KSR 1)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: In 2022, we recruited two new persons.

Synergy

T-004 Maintain regular contact with the Wet Tropics Management Authority. (KSR 1)

Number of in kind partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: We maintained contact with the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) (<https://www.wettropics.gov.au/>) in Australia to promote and protect mite and other invertebrate diversity and act in an advisory capacity.



Mite courses in Nature School, Samsun, Turkey
Photos: Sebahat Ozman-Sullivan

T-005 Establish a partnership with Saving Nature to restore habitat in a tropical environment. (KSR 1)

Number of in kind partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: We maintained relationship with the conservation charity Saving Nature (<https://savingnature.com/our-board-of-directors/>).

T-006 Educate the public about the importance of invertebrate communities. (KSR 2)

Member institutional affiliation distribution: Ongoing.

Result description: To gain SSC funding for a European mite inventory we gave two radio presentations and advice for two newspaper articles regarding biological control, organic farming and Integrated Pest Management in Turkey.

T-007 Contact five new organisations outside the SSC to seek their cooperation in pursuing specific conservation and/or educational outcomes. (KSR 2)

Member expertise distribution: 1

Result description: Our expertise now includes acarology, botany, biogeography, ecology, conservation planning, conservation area management, lobbying, media communication.

T-008 Request that the five advisory groups develop and implement at least one programme that generates specific education and/or conservation outcomes. (KSR 1)

Number of in kind partnerships established and maintained: 5

Result description: In 2022, partnerships with five acarology societies as advisory groups were maintained.

T-009 Gain a second conservation organisation as an advisory group and project partner. (KSR 3)

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: 2

Result description: We maintained one conservation organisation (Saving Nature, USA) as an advisory group (and vice versa), and continued giving classes at the Nature School in Samsun, Turkey.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-010 Deliver four presentations on Mite Specialist Group activities. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: A nature school programme was delivered in Samsun, Turkey, with a mite education component.

T-011 Establish social media accounts. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: Information is being compiled for a new website.

T-012 Produce four publications on threatened species of mites. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 8

Result description: In 2022, we delivered eight presentations at different international events. As part of the symposium 'Conservation of mites' organized by the Chair Sebahat Ozman-Sullivan, Gregory T. Sullivan and Owen Seeman, within the XVI International Congress of Acarology, six presentations were given: 1) "IUCN, SSC, Mite Specialist Group"; 2) "Global acarine diversity is in crisis: what can we do about it?"; 3) "Mite conservation: which species should we care about – and should we care at all?"; 4) "Water mites (Acariformes, Hydrachnidia) of Siberia: DNA-based species identification for global climate change monitoring programs"; 5) "Endangered feather mites sampled from the last two Crested Ibises, *Nipponia nippon* (Temminck, 1835) (Pelecaniformes: Threskiornithidae, lived in Japan"; (6) "A new species of *Hannemania* (Trombidiformes: Leeuwenhoekidae) parasitizing the endemic and Endangered Frog, *Atelognathus reverberii* (Anura: Batrachylidae) from Argentinian Patagonia". Additionally, we participated in the IX Symposium of the European Association of Acarologists (July 2022, Bari, Italy) with the IUCN SSC Mite Specialist

Group presentation. Finally, we also participated in the XXVI International Congress of Entomology (July 2022, Helsinki, Finland) with the presentation "Conservation initiatives on privately owned and leased land can greatly benefit invertebrate fauna: a case study from Australia" made by Gregory T. Sullivan and the Chair of the group.

T-013 Continue to provide advice to MarineBio. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: We provided advice to the MarineBio Conservation Society on marine mites and contribution to the website, and to Saving Nature regarding invertebrate conservation.

Acknowledgements

The MSG would like to thank MarineBio Conservation Society (<https://www.marinebio.org/>); Saving Nature (<https://savingnature.com/>); Anna Walker from the New Mexico BioPark Society (<https://www.bioparksociety.org/main/>); Sergio Henriques of the Global Center for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo, and Axel Hochkirch of the IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee, for their assistance.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 13

Geographic regions: 4 Global, 1 America, 6 Asia, 2 Europe

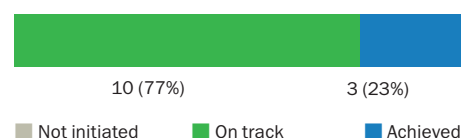
Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Network: 7 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 4 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Legend: ■ Not initiated ■ On track ■ Achieved