



# 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:

Kovacs, KM. 2023. 2022 Report of the Pinniped 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 Pinniped Specialist Group



**CHAIR**

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Research and  
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Adelaide, Australia

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

20

**Mission statement**

The mission of the Pinniped Specialist Group is to promote awareness regarding conservation threats to pinnipeds worldwide and to actively take a role in ensuring good management practises that ensure healthy, robust pinniped populations.

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

Completion of our status and threats assessment in combination with the ongoing update of the Red List will: (1) identify knowledge gaps; (2) identify threats and potential mitigation tactics, and (3) provide accurate information to national and international management bodies that can promote and enact pinniped conservation.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-001** Conduct Red List reassessment of the South American Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis* [Zimmermann, 1783]).  
Status: On track

**T-002** Conduct Red List reassessment of the New Zealand Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri* [Lesson, 1828]).  
Status: On track

**T-003** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Galápagos Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis* [Heller, 1904]).  
Status: On track

**T-004** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazella* [Peters, 1876]).  
Status: On track

**T-005** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Juan Fernández Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus philippii* [Peters, 1866]).  
Status: On track

**T-006** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Afro-Australian Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus* [Schreber, 1775]).  
Status: On track

**T-007** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Subantarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis* [Gray, 1872]).  
Status: On track

**T-008** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Northern Fur Seal (*Callorhinus ursinus* [Linnaeus, 1758]).  
Status: On track

**T-009** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus* [Schreber, 1776]).  
Status: On track

**T-010** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea* [Peron, 1816]).  
Status: On track

**T-011** Conduct Red List reassessment of the South American Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia* [Blainville, 1820]).  
Status: On track

**T-012** Conduct Red List reassessment of the New Zealand Sea Lion (*Phocarctos hookeri* [Gray, 1844]).  
Status: On track



Moulting Caspian Seals (*Pusa caspica*) gather among reed beds in a remote area of the North East Caspian Sea, Kazakhstan. Caspian seals (Endangered), which are endemic to the landlocked Caspian Sea, are threatened by high levels of mortality due to entanglement in illegal fishing gear set for sturgeon poaching, and habitat loss and degradation. Climate heating is set to pose an increasing threat, by causing declines in the winter sea ice Caspian seals use for breeding, and by driving reductions in the Caspian Sea sea level  
Photo: Simon Goodman, University of Leeds

**T-013** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Californian Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus* [Lesson, 1828]).  
Status: On track

**T-014** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Japanese Sea Lion (*Zalophus japonicus* [Peters, 1866]).  
Status: On track

**T-015** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Galápagos Sea Lion (*Zalophus wollebaeki* [Sivertsen, 1953]).  
Status: On track

**T-016** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus* [Linnaeus, 1758]).  
Status: On track

**T-017** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hooded Seal (*Cystophora cristata* [Erleben, 1777]).  
Status: On track

**T-018** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Bearded Seal (*Erignathus barbatus* [Erleben, 1777]).  
Status: On track

**T-019** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus* [Fabricius, 1791]).  
Status: On track

**T-020** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ribbon Seal (*Histiophoca fasciata* [Zimmerman, 1783]).  
Status: On track

**T-021** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Leopard Seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx* [Blainville, 1820]).  
Status: On track

**T-022** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Weddell Seal (*Leptonychotes weddellii* [Lesson, 1826]).  
Status: On track

**T-023** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Crabeater Seal (*Lobodon carcinophaga* [Hombron and Jacquinot, 1842]).  
Status: On track

**T-024** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina* [Linnaeus, 1758]).  
Status: On track

**T-025** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Northern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga angustirostris* [Gill, 1866]).  
Status: On track

**T-026** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus* [Hermann, 1779]).  
Status: On track

**T-027** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Caribbean Monk Seal (*Neomonachus tropicalis* [Gray, 1850]).  
Status: On track

**T-028** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Neomonachus schauinslandi* [Matschie, 1905]).  
Status: On track

**T-029** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ross Seal (*Ommatophoca rossii* [Gray, 1844]).  
Status: On track

**T-030** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harp Seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus* [Erleben, 1777]).  
Status: On track

**T-031** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina* [Linnaeus, 1758]).  
Status: On track

**T-032** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Spotted Seal (*Phoca largha* [Pallas, 1811]).  
Status: On track

**T-033** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida* [Schreber, 1775]).  
Status: On track

**T-034** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Caspian Seal (*Pusa caspica* [Gmelin, 1788]).  
Status: On track

**T-035** Conduct Red List reassessment of the Baikal Seal (*Pusa sibirica* [Gmelin, 1788]).  
Status: On track

PLAN

**T-036** Produce a global pinniped conservation strategy.  
Status: On track



Southern Sea Lions (*Otaria byronia*)  
Photo: Vince Smith (CC BY-SA 2.0)

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## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Red List

**T-005 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Juan Fernández Fur Seal (*A. philippii* [Peters, 1866]).** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: The expert Dr Renato Fco. Borrás Chávez was included as a member to initiate this assessment.

**T-016 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Walrus (*O. rosmarus* [Linnaeus, 1758]).** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2022, the walrus Red List assessment was completed for Europe. This represents significant progress towards the target of updating the global Red List assessment for this species. The assessment found a mixed population trend, but generally increasing numbers. However, climate change remains a threat. There is still a process from this point through to the acceptance at the global mammal office.

**T-017 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hooded Seal (*C. cristata* [Erleben, 1777]).** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2022, the Hooded Seal Red List assessment was completed for Europe. This represents significant progress towards the target of updating the global Red List assessment for this species. The assessment found a continuing decline in the west ice population despite a complete ban on commercial hunting. There is still a process from this point through to the acceptance at the global mammal office.

**T-018 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Bearded Seal (*E. barbatus* [Erleben, 1777]).** (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: The European assessment for Bearded Seals is almost done.

**T-019 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Grey Seal (*H. grypus* [Fabricius, 1791]).** (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2022, the Grey Seal Red List assessment was completed for Europe. This represents significant progress towards the target of updating the global Red List assessment for this species. The assessment found that ice-breeding populations were in decline, but land-breeding populations were stable. There is still a process from this point through to the acceptance at the global mammal office.

**T-026 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*M. monachus* [Hermann, 1779]).** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2022, the Mediterranean Monk Seal Red List assessment was completed for Europe and the global assessment has made significant progress.

**T-030 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harp Seal (*P. groenlandicus* [Erleben, 1777]).** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2022, the Harp Seal Red List assessment was completed for Europe. This represents significant progress towards the target of updating the global Red List assessment for this species. The assessment found declines in pup production. Climate change remains a serious concern for the species. There is still a process from this point through to the acceptance at the global mammal office.

**T-031 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harbour Seal (*P. vitulina* [Linnaeus, 1758]).** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: The European assessment for Harbour Seal is almost done.

**T-033 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ringed Seal (*P. hispida* [Schreber, 1775]).** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2022, the Ringed Seal Red List assessment was completed for Europe. This represents significant progress towards the target of updating the global Red List assessment for this species. The assessment found Saima Ringed Seal increased slightly while the Ladoga Ringed Seal and Baltic Ringed Seal were in decline. The status of the Arctic Ringed Seal is unknown, but the decline is suspected. There is still a process from this point through to the acceptance at the global mammal office.

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## Acknowledgements

The Pinniped Specialist Group thanks the employers of all our scientific experts who permit us to do this important work within the context of our jobs.

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## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 36

**Geographic regions:** 36 Global

**Actions during 2022:**

Assess: 9 (KSR 6)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

