



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:

Carmachahi, P. 2023. 2022 Report of the South American Camelid 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 South American Camelid Specialist Group



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Twitter: @GrupoGeCS
Website: www.camelid.org

CHAIR

Pablo Carmanchahi

Grupo de Investigación en Ecofisiología de Fauna Silvestre. GIEFAS – INIBIOMA – CONICET – UNCOMA, Asentamiento Universitario de San Martín de los Andes, Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Neuquén, Argentina

RED LIST AUTHORITY

COORDINATOR

Pablo Acebes

Department of Ecology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

35

Mission statement

To promote the conservation and sustainable use of (wild) South American Camelids in their area of geographic distribution.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The planning established internally in our Group aims to provide by 2025 an important advancement in the reduction of the threats currently faced by South American wild camelids. In this sense, we will work to reduce the risk of local extinction of some populations that are currently highly threatened and have a high degree of fragmentation. To this end, we intend to strongly influence public policies, such as the International Convention for the Conservation of the Vicuña and the National Management and Conservation Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. Through the active participation of members, we will work to reduce the conflict between South American wild camelids and human activities in those populations that currently show signs of recovery and are abundant. Through the generation of new information,

we will begin a process of precise evaluation of the populations on a regional scale for local classification into conservation categories. Through dissemination and communication actions, we will try to give visibility to the threats to vulnerable populations, as well as to the possibility of use of our species. We will continue to support the sustainable use of species for the benefit of local communities, and we will generate actions to confront poaching and illegal trade in order to reduce their impact on natural populations. We are convinced that both conservation initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of the species, combined with communication and education programmes, will have a positive impact on the attitudes of communities throughout the range of South American wild camelids.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-011 Complete Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) subspecies assessment for the Red List. Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-006 Participate in the development of a management and conservation plan for Vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*) in Argentina. Status: Not initiated

T-007 Participate in the development of a conservation plan for Guanaco in Perú. Status: Not initiated

T-008 Review the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. Status: On track

T-009 Update Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American wild camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for wild Guanacos and Vicuñas. Status: On track

T-010 Develop an animal welfare protocol applied to commercial hunting. Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-003 Elaborate a report about mange disease in Vicuña. Status: Achieved

T-013 Develop a position statement about commercial hunting. Status: Not initiated



T-014 Participate in the annual meeting of the Vicuña International Convention.
Status: On track

T-016 Provide advice to the National Parks Administration of Argentina on the rewilding of wild Guanacos in El Impenetrable National Park, Chaco.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-004 Update the GECS membership protocol and develop a membership cancellation protocol.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Publish one GECS Newsletter per year and obtain the GECS Newsletter ISSN.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Develop a communication strategy for the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS, for Grupo Especialista en Camélidos Sudamericanos) and update the GECS website by 2021.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

PLAN

Planning

T-009 Update Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American wild camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for wild Guanacos and Vicuñas. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/ strategies: 0

Result description: In issue N° 9 of our Group's magazine, *GECS News*, an update on the protocol of good management practices for wild Guanacos was presented. This update incorporates recommendations from publications as well as personal experiences of members. An attempt will be made during 2023 and 2024 to generate an update of the protocol of good practices for Vicuña management.

Policy

T-008 Review the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: In 2022, members of our group continued to participate in the revision of the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. Members actively participated in 10 workshops that addressed various aspects related to the conservation and sustainable use of this species. These sectoral workshops brought together different actors from both the public and private sectors. With the inputs obtained from this work, the National Biodiversity Office prepared a diagnostic document that will be used to advance in the modification of the National Plan.

ACT

Technical advice

T-014 Participate in the annual meeting of the Vicuña International Convention. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: It has been four years since the Technical Meeting of the International Vicuña Convention, of which the GECS is an overseer, was held. For this reason, our group continues to collaborate



Bachelor group of Wild Guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*) in La Payunia Reserve. Mendoza province, Argentina
Photo: Julie Maher



Wild Guanaco management in La Payunia Reserve. Mendoza province, Argentina
Photo: Antonella Panebianco



Guanaco fiber yarn produced by the Payun Matrú Cooperative. Mendoza province, Argentina
Photo: Pablo Carmanchahi

with the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Convention to promote the holding of the meeting. In addition, the members of the group have been in contact with the focal points of different signatory countries to support the continuity of the Convention, as we believe it is a vitally important tool for the conservation of this species.

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 Update the GECS membership protocol and develop a membership cancellation protocol. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: In 2022 we implemented the new admission protocol that was developed by the membership committee. During this year, three applications were submitted to GECS, two of which were admitted. Currently, GECS has 35 members, of which 16 are women. Geographically, the members are distributed as follows: 16 in Argentina, three in Bolivia, seven in Chile, five in Peru, one in Spain, two in the US and one in Switzerland.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-002 Develop a communication strategy for the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS, for Grupo Especialista en Camélidos Sudamericanos) and update the GECS website by 2021. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: From an SSC Internal Grant we have been able to develop a communication plan for the IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS) that included redesigning and updating the website and systematising the publication of the GECS journal so that an annual issue is published. This action will contribute to the Species Conservation Cycle through a communication process aimed at a broad audience through strategic and targeted communications to ensure the effectiveness of GECS conservation work. Since the journal edition had continuity and a high quality of content, it has been possible to obtain its ISSN, an internationally recognized numerical code for the identification of serial publications. This code is a basic element in all the processes of information, communication, control, and management related to publications and is the necessary preliminary step to achieve the indexing of the journal. In this way, we intend to publish a journal that, with time, will have greater recognition and will allow us to continue disseminating the knowledge generated about these species. On the GECS website, you can read volume N° 9 of GECS News edited during 2022.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 13

Geographic regions: 13 America

Actions during 2022:

Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

