



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:

Khamis Al Sariri, TS. 2023. 2022 Report of the West Asia Arabian 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

IUCN SSC West Asia Arabian Plant Specialist Group



CHAIR
Thuraya Said Khamis
Al Sariri
Ministry of Environ-
ment and Climate
Affairs, Muscat, Oman

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
25

Mission statement

The group aims to bring interested parties together to address the targets for plants and habitat conservation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This Group will help, through the involvement of experts, to investigate, develop and provide solutions for issues facing the conservation of plant species in West Asian Arabian Region. It will agree standards, and protocols and share best practices for individual countries to achieve targets for the conservation and preservation of their plant diversity. Building Developing the capacity of botanists and conservationists in our region.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The group aims to bring interested parties together to address the targets for plants and habitat conservation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This Group will help, through the involvement of experts, to investigate, develop and provide solutions for issues facing the conservation of plant species in the West Asian Arabian Region. It will agree standards, protocols and share best practices for individual countries to achieve targets for the conservation and preservation of their plant diversity, as well as build capacity of botanists and conservationists in our region.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Ensure global assessments for Arabian endemic plants and trees are made available in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) database.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Apply IUCN conservation planning on a targeted set of the most threatened and flagship plant species in the West Asia and Arabian region.
Status: Not initiated

T-005 Develop a report on the conservation status and strategy for conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) in the region.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Carry out West Asia and Arabian region-specific online plant IUCN Red List training courses.
Status: On track

T-006 Increase the network capacity on communication through the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-003 Ensure global assessments for Arabian endemic plants and trees are made available in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) database. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 5

Result description: Endemic species are one of the most important components of ecosystems in the Arabian region. The number of endemic plant species varies depending on the sensitivity of the environment. These species appear only in distinct ecosystems with unique geological structures or microhabitats of a special nature. This makes endemic species more sensitive due to the uniqueness of the species as well as that of the associated ecosystem. There is a real gap in the Arabian region in assessing the conservation status of endemic plant species according to the rules and conditions of the IUCN Red List. Most conservationists of new researchers are not familiar with Red Lists and species assessment methods. Information and data about endemic species are also insufficient because of the lack of experts able to access those sensitive microhabitats or the difficulty of procedures that enable researchers to reassess the species. In this regard, the West Asian Arabian Plants



Dragon's Blood Tree (*Dracaena cinnabari*) in Socotra Island
Photo: Rod Waddington (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Cucumber Tree (*Dendrosicyos socotrana*) in Yemen
Photo: Gerry and Bonni (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Specialists Group (WAAPSG) evaluates endemic species as follows: Upgrading the capabilities of the new conservationists by conducting workshops in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Committee (IUCN SSC) on Red Lists and coordinating with the regional protected areas and institutions to study the endemic plant species. However, this effort is being carried out individually by the researchers. A proposal is currently underway to study and review the conservation status of endemic species in the royal nature reserves of Saudi Arabia to assess the current situation.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Develop a report on the conservation status and strategy for conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) in the region. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 2

Result description: Recently, the term “endangered plants” has become increasingly widespread, indicating that wild plants are under threat of extinction but with no scientific proof based on the assessment rules approved by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The West Asian Arabian Plants Specialist Group (WAAPSG) is coordinating with the Qur’anic Botanic Garden (QBG) in Qatar to start a project that aims to produce a vegetation map of wild plants of the flora of Qatar by conducting a comprehensive botanical survey of the various habitats in the region. This collaboration aims to monitor and assess wild plants in terms of rarity and conservation status according to the IUCN Red List Criteria, as well as document the status of wild plants by making a comprehensive vegetation map for all wild plant species in Qatar and solve taxonomic issues among wild plant species by making

the taxonomic key. Some members of the WAAPSG who are part of the QBG team have started the evaluation of the habitats in Qatar. An initial database on the flora has been produced for the last season. Now, the teams are working on data analysis to evaluate the rarity status of the flora and produce the plant’s list of Rawdat Ecosystem.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-002 Carry out West Asia and Arabian region-specific online plant IUCN Red List training courses. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 40

Result description: The Group held a workshop on Red List in West Asia in collaboration with SSC on 26th November 2022 through Zoom where around 40 participants attended from the region.

T-006 Increase the network capacity on communication through the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in communication skills: 5

Result description: Workshop on the Red List at the Gulf of Aqaba in Jordan was organised by the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan in 2022. A presentation was made on the Red List, and the West Arabian Plants Specialist Group. A workshop on biodiversity in Palestine was held by EcoYouth Palestine. A presentation was provided on the West Asian Arabian Plant Specialist Group and SSC in West Asia. A workshop organised by IUCN ROWA regarding the national protected areas network was also held in Palestine. The Chair led this workshop and provided information on the SSC and the establishment of the West Asian Arabian Plant Specialist Group.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-001 Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub. (KSR 12)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: In 2022, a group logo was printed, and a WhatsApp group was established for easier communications.

T-001 Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub. (KSR 13)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 3

Result description: The Group developed a logo for the group and some additional printed posters.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mr Ehab Eid from the SSC committee for his great contribution and support for the group’s achievements. We also thank IUCN ROWA and the group members for their efforts and cooperation.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Asia

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

