



# 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:

Gollock, M. 2023. 2022 Report of the Anguillid Eel 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 Anguillid Eel Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
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**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
**David Jacoby**  
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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
10

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES**

Website: <https://www.zsl.org/what-we-do/projects/iucn-anguillid-eel-specialist-group-aesg>

## Mission statement

Coordinate effective conservation and management activities for the benefit of eel species, as well as acting as advocates and increasing awareness of the threats to them.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

The Anguillid Eel Specialist Group (AESG) will continue to engage in management and policy fora relating to anguillid eels in order to ensure these are best informed by Red List assessments and other evidence-based sources.

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

**T-001** Complete Red List assessment of the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).  
Status: On track

**T-003** Increase knowledge of four Data Deficient species.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Complete European regional assessment for the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*).  
Status: On track

**T-013** Assess the Green Status of the European Eel.  
Status: Not initiated

## PLAN

**T-004** Lead the development of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Action Plan for the European Eel.  
Status: On track

**T-005** Ensure robust science relating to anguillid eels is fed into CITES meetings, working groups and decisions.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Engage with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group on Eel on annual advice and associated ad hoc workshops.  
Status: On track

**T-008** Maintain representation on the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission Eel-focused activities/assessments.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Continue engagement with the 'Informal Consultation' on the Japanese Eel (*Anguilla japonica*).  
Status: On track

**T-011** Maintain engagement with the Sargasso Sea Commission.  
Status: On track

## NETWORK

**T-002** Recruit four new members to cover regional and thematic gaps.  
Status: On track

**T-014** Represent on the Freshwater Conservation Committee.  
Status: On track

**T-015** Represent on the Marine Conservation Committee.  
Status: On track

## COMMUNICATE

**T-009** Organise three public presentations to communicate the conservation work of the AESG and how Red List assessments are developed.  
Status: On track

**T-012** Hold annual knowledge-sharing webinars with Maori representatives in relation to the New Zealand Long-fin Eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) in New Zealand.  
Status: Not initiated

## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Red List

**T-001** Complete Red List assessment of the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). (KSR 6)  
Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The assessment was submitted in April 2022. Due to the backlog, it was not published in 2022; our understanding is that it will be published in 2023.

**T-007** Complete European regional assessment for the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 1

Result description: The AESG's input was submitted to the Red List Unit which is now working to finalise the assessment.

### Research activities

#### T-003 Increase knowledge of four Data Deficient species. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: We sought funding for work in the Philippines where one of the four Data Deficient species is found but this was unsuccessful.

### Green List

#### T-013 Assess the Green Status of the European Eel. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 1

Result description: We had meetings with colleagues who are leading the effort in conducting Green Status Assessments to discuss the challenges of applying the framework to anguillid eels. We are waiting for a follow-up on how we might progress.

### PLAN

#### Planning

#### T-010 Continue engagement with the 'Informal Consultation' on the Japanese Eel (*Anguilla japonica*). (KSR 9)

Workshop held to engage Japanese Eel range states: 1

Result description: Two members of the AESG attended the first Scientific Meeting of Japanese Eel Range States.

### Policy

#### T-004 Lead the development of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Action Plan for the European Eel. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) secretariat contacted the AESG to continue working on the action plan, and we are expecting a contract to be issued in the first half of 2023.

#### T-005 Ensure robust science relating to anguillid eels is fed into CITES meetings, working groups and decisions. (KSR 9)

Number of MEA meetings attended by the SSC group: 4

Result description: AESG members were in attendance for the 74-76th CITES Standing Committee meetings. There was also representation at CITES CoP19 with several interventions given relating to anguillid eels and associated cross-cutting themes.

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 0

Result description: The AESG is represented on the CITES Non-Detriment Findings Technical Advisory Group. In 2023 there will be a large programme of work relating to Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs)

and the AESG is expecting to be involved in the working group focusing on aquatic species.

#### T-006 Engage with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group on Eel on annual advice and associated *ad hoc* workshops. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 3

Result description: The AESG was represented at the ICES Working Group on Eel meeting to develop the annual report: (1) Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, Joint EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eels (WGEEL), (2) European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) throughout its natural range. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee. The second workshop was held to evaluate the EU Eel Management Plans by country (WKEMP3), the report of which can be found here: [https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Workshop\\_for\\_the\\_Technical\\_evaluation\\_of\\_EU\\_Member\\_States\\_Progress\\_Reports\\_for\\_submission\\_in\\_2021\\_WKEMP3\\_/19768585](https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Workshop_for_the_Technical_evaluation_of_EU_Member_States_Progress_Reports_for_submission_in_2021_WKEMP3_/19768585).

#### T-008 Maintain representation on the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission Eel-focused activities/assessments. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: This activity is currently in progress. The Chair of the IUCN ASEG joined a session of the first ICES Working Group for the American Eel (WGAMEEL) - [https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Working\\_Group\\_on\\_American\\_Eel\\_WGAMEEL\\_outputs\\_from\\_2022\\_meeting\\_/21762842](https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Working_Group_on_American_Eel_WGAMEEL_outputs_from_2022_meeting_/21762842).

#### T-010 Continue engagement with the 'Informal Consultation' on the Japanese Eel (*Anguilla japonica*). (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: We continue to engage with the Japanese Government in the context of the Informal Consultation.

#### T-011 Maintain engagement with the Sargasso Sea Commission. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: Engagement is ongoing with the Sargasso Sea Commission and AESG members have fed into the newly secured GEF grant.

### NETWORK

#### Membership

#### T-002 Recruit four new members to cover regional and thematic gaps. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: Due to capacity constraints, there have been delays in the recruitment process, but our aim is to pursue this in 2023.

#### T-014 Represent on the Freshwater

#### Conservation Committee. (KSR 3)

Membership on Freshwater Conservation Committee: 1

Result description: Mathew Gollock has continued to engage with the Freshwater Conservation Committee. A joint session for the IMPAC5 conference was proposed by the Marine Conservation Committee and Freshwater Conservation Committee on the linkages between marine and freshwater protection.

#### T-015 Represent on the Marine Conservation Committee. (KSR 3)

Membership on Marine Conservation Committee: 1

Result description: We continue to engage with the Marine Conservation Committee. A joint session for the IMPAC5 conference was proposed by the Marine Conservation Committee and Freshwater Conservation Committee on the linkages between marine and freshwater protection.

### COMMUNICATE

#### Communication

#### T-009 Organise three public presentations to communicate the conservation work of the AESG and how Red List assessments are developed. (KSR 12)

Number of virtual meetings: 1

Result description: We received funding to establish the UK Eel Forum, where interested parties can come together to discuss matters relating to the European Eel. The first meeting was held in December 2022.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Monni Bohm for her support over the past 12 months and Laura Perry who has begun engaging in the work we are carrying out with the Japanese Eel.

### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 15

Geographic regions: 10 Global, 1 America, 1 Asia, 1 Europe, 1 Oceania, 1 Body of water

#### Actions during 2022:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 8 (KSR 9)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

#### Overall achievement 2021-2025:

