



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:

Byers, O. 2023. 2022 Report of the Conservation Planning 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. 8 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
 242

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @ConservationPlanningSG
 Instagram: @iucn_conservationplanningsg
 Twitter: @IUCN_CPSG
 Website: www.cpsg.org

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. For over 40 years, we have accomplished this by using scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyse positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums, as well as other wildlife organisations.

Projected impact 2021–2025

To increase the number of effective conservation plans for threatened species.

Targets 2021–2025

PLAN

- T-001** Help groups to select species for conservation planning attention, by providing ready access to relevant approaches, tools, and case studies.
Status: On track
- T-002** Accelerate identification and activation of pathways to effective conservation for selected species – including, but not limited to, those threatened with extinction.
Status: On track

- T-003** Make Assessing to Plan (A2P) more effective in activating pathways and more useful to a wider range of planning practitioners and situations.
Status: On track
- T-004** Strengthen the tools and processes used for single-species conservation planning activities.
Status: On track
- T-005** Carry forward the A2P process pathways to effective action and create an effective methodology for integrated multi-species conservation planning.
Status: On track
- T-006** Increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library.
Status: On track
- T-007** Provide tools and processes for evaluating and, where appropriate, incorporating *ex situ* options into species conservation and collection planning.
Status: On track
- T-008** Develop and deliver effective training in the design and facilitation of species conservation planning processes.
Status: On track
- T-009** Scale up a coaching and mentoring programme for more competent and confident species conservation planning process designers, facilitators and technical

- experts able to lead in threatened species planning processes globally.
Status: On track
- T-010** Demonstrate a scaling up of effective species conservation planning occurring globally.
Status: On track
- T-011** Establish a professional learning network of species conservation planners, enabling the ongoing capacity growth and the development and refinement of planning guidelines, tools, and processes.
Status: On track
- T-012** Encourage inclusion of species conservation planning in national, regional, and global policies.
Status: On track
- T-013** Support national commitments to achieving biodiversity targets by providing direct species conservation planning and capacity-building support to national governments and indigenous communities.
Status: On track
- T-014** Improve ability to provide tailored support to governments and indigenous communities on species conservation planning matters.
Status: On track
- T-015** Maintain suitable systems for evaluating the impact of conservation planning on species.
Status: On track



Adult female of Eastern Chimpanzee
(*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*)
Photo: Ikiwaner (GFDL 1.2)

T-016 Maintain a database and library of planning information for CPSG and the wider SSC.

Status: On track

T-017 Explore the assembly and integration of an expanded body of information that will enhance the species conservation planning process.

Status: On track

T-018 Collaborate with appropriate information sources to implement and promote open and accessible data sharing for enhanced species conservation planning.

Status: On track

T-019 Collaborate with the information technology community and other sectors where appropriate to construct new tools and methods for interdisciplinary data assembly and analysis.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

PLAN

Planning

T-001 Help groups to select species for conservation planning attention, by providing ready access to relevant approaches, tools, and case studies. (KSR 8)

Library of tools and case studies to support groups to prioritise species for planning and action: 1

Result description: In addition to the broader CPSG Tools Library update, CPSG published two reports documenting Assess to Plan (A2P) workshop processes for European Hoverflies (2020) and threatened terrestrial vertebrates of the Philippines (2022). The Philippines workshop provided a forum to continue our refinement and improvement of the A2P process as a tool to generate broad recommendations for action-based species planning.

Updated CPSG tools library: Ongoing.

Result description: Work on the Tools Library update continues, including a major revision to the classification of specific tools in the context of CPSG's Principles for Conservation Planning. In addition, discussions began with local website developers to modernize the CPSG website to better present the Tools Library content.

T-002 Accelerate identification and activation of pathways to effective conservation for selected species – including, but not limited to, those threatened with extinction. (KSR 8)

Increase the number of CPSG teams delivering A2P analyses and planning workshops: 4

Result description: Four teams now delivering A2P (Multi-species Planning): CPSG HQ, CPSG Europe, CPSG SE Asia and CPSG Brazil.

Promote A2P to Specialist Groups and governments: Ongoing.

Result description: Ongoing promotion resulting in collaborative projects, the 2022 A2P projects with SGs included: Nepenthes (with Carnivorous Plant SG), and Pelagic Sharks (with the Shark Specialist Group). The 2022 A2P projects with governments included threatened trees of Ghana.

T-004 Strengthen the tools and processes used for single-species conservation planning activities. (KSR 8)



2022 CPSG Annual Meeting in Tenerife, Canary Islands
Photo: CPSG

An expert workshop or internal review designed to evaluate existing conservation planning processes for the applicability of selected components to CPSG's species conservation planning methodology: 1

Result description: An internal document has been generated to identify key requirements and conditions for prospective projects that could serve as test cases for integrating diverse data on human behavioural profiles, demographics, etc. with biological data as part of species viability assessments and conservation planning.

Continued collaboration with the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative (SCTI): Ongoing.

Result description: Development proceeded with the novel use of the individual-based modelling software Vortex in simulating hybridisation as a threat to species persistence. Proper simulation of this process requires refinements to software code in order to properly portray the process of hybridization.

T-005 Carry forward the A2P process pathways to effective action and create an effective methodology for integrated multi-species conservation planning. (KSR 8)

A specific case study in which a candidate set of tools/processes can be tested for applicability to effective multi-species planning: 6

Result description: Six case studies are now available (on the CPSG website) demonstrating the customised use of CPSG's single-species planning tools, along with A2P tools, to deliver multi-species plans. In 2022, a new tool to assist multi-species planning for trees was developed and tested in a workshop, in close collaboration with BGCI.

A workshop or internal review to evaluate existing multi-species conservation planning tools and processes on the basis of applicability to CPSG's species conservation planning methodology: 1

Result description: Superseded by multi-species planning trials which provided a better route to the desired outcomes.

T-006 Increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library. (KSR 8)

A web design firm is employed to redesign and improve the look and feel of the existing CPSG Tools Library: Ongoing.

Result description: We continue to work on the redesign of the tools library and have budgeted for its development. We intend for it to be on our website before the GSAP online platform is live so it can link to our site.

T-007 Provide tools and processes for evaluating and, where appropriate, incorporating ex situ options into species conservation and collection planning. (KSR 8)

Document process for conducting the evaluation of *ex situ* conservation options for a single species and produce supporting materials to aid conservation planners: Ongoing.

Result description: This process is documented in the ECA online course, which provides supporting materials to aid conservation planners. These include an overview presentation template (pptx); potential data resources; *ex situ* conservation roles, definitions and examples, and sample workshop agendas for stand-alone or integrated single-species ECAs. The CPSG advanced these targets without collaborating with IUCN or non-IUCN bodies.

Document process for conducting a multi-species evaluation of *ex situ*

conservation options for a group of related taxa to support existing *in situ* conservation plans, produce supporting materials to aid planners: Ongoing.

Result description: This process is documented in the ECA online course, which provides supporting materials to aid conservation planners. These include an overview presentation template (pptx); potential data resources; *ex situ* conservation roles, definitions and examples, and sample workshop agendas for multi-species ECAs. The CPSG advanced this target without the collaboration of IUCN or non-IUCN bodies.

Document process for conducting rapid multi-species evaluation of *ex situ* options for a group of taxa to support collection planning for the zoos, aquaria and botanic gardens; produce supporting materials to aid planners: Ongoing.

Result description: This process is documented in the ECA online course, which provides supporting materials to aid conservation planners. These include an overview presentation template (pptx format); potential data resources; *ex situ* conservation roles, definitions and examples, and sample workshop agendas for a rapid, multi-species ECA using the Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) process to support *ex situ* collection planning. The CPSG collaborated with the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to advance this target.

Develop online course on *ex situ* conservation assessment and planning, based on the decision process of the IUCN SSC Guidelines for the Use of *Ex Situ* Management for Species Conservation: 1

Result description: A seven-module (~20 hours) online *Ex Situ* Conservation Assessment training course was developed



2022 Annual Report of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group front page
Photo: CPSG

in 2022, with a scheduled pre-launch for January 2023 and a full course launch in March 2023. The CPSG collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which provides the virtual platform for this course.

T-008 Develop and deliver effective training in the design and facilitation of species conservation planning processes. (KSR 8)

Establish training courses accessible to SSC members and beyond for all CPSG planning processes and tools: Ongoing.

Result description: Three courses were launched and served to demonstrate how to put into practice associated IUCN planning guidelines. The new Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis (WDRA) course has been launched and feedback on the course will be collated to inform future developments. The course was run again in October 2023. The *Ex Situ* Conservation Assessment online training course is in development and was launched at the end of 2022; this course is complementing existing training courses in Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops and the WDRA.

Create a certification scheme to provide explicit recognition of knowledge gained by those individuals who have completed the training successfully: Ongoing.

Result description: Certification scheme already in place. More than 1,200 individuals have now successfully completed at least one Conservation Planning Specialist Group training course since the program was established in 2018. This represents 75% of our target for the quadrennium.

Number of training courses established: 3

Result description: Three online training courses are now established.

T-009 Scale up a coaching and mentoring programme for more competent and confident species conservation planning process

designers, facilitators and technical experts able to lead in threatened species planning processes globally. (KSR 8)

Planner and Technical Development Path mentoring programs in place and able to respond to a scaling up of capacity need as required: Ongoing.

Result description: We now have 17 mentees on the development path (DP), four of which are on the Technical DP, learning how to lead on PVA processes and the rest moving towards becoming species conservation planners and facilitators. We look forward to recognizing four planner DP mentees as CPSG planners, able to lead their own species conservation planning processes at CPSG's annual meeting in October 2023.

T-010 Demonstrate a scaling up of effective species conservation planning occurring globally. (KSR 8)

Processes in place to monitor and evaluate the enhancement of professional development factors in those individuals we train and mentor: Ongoing.

Result description: The 2022 training survey was completed by 58 trainees. Feedback highlights the impact of the training on their competence and confidence as facilitators of collaborative processes, ranging from internal interactions with fellow employees to the management of multi-stakeholder planning processes.

Systems in place to monitor and evaluate increase in species conservation planning occurring as a result of increased training; the goal of ensuring 10,000 species are covered by conservation plans: 92

Result description: In 2022, a total of 92 species plans were reported to have been completed by the 58 trainees who completed the survey. If this figure were to be extrapolated across the 1,200 individuals

who had completed the training since 2018, approximately 1,900 species conservation plans may have been produced by trainees to date.

Develop and undertake deeper periodic assessments of the impacts of this planning work on the status of the species covered by these plans: Ongoing.

Result description: The most cited action implemented to improve species status by the trainees who completed the 2022 survey was species-focused conservation in the wild. The second and third most cited actions implemented were: Outreach/Education to raise awareness by relevant individuals or groups, and Improved Monitoring and Evaluation of Wildlife Conservation Efforts, respectively.

Customized training programs developed for national governments to enable them to build and maintain the capacity of their staff to put planning principles and steps into practice: Ongoing.

Result description: In 2022 CPSG began providing planning support and capacity building to Natural England, the statutory body for species conservation in England. This work is continuing into 2023.

T-011 Establish a professional learning network of species conservation planners, enabling the ongoing capacity growth and the development and refinement of planning guidelines, tools, and processes. (KSR 8)

CPSG-Connect network providing a platform on which a community of planning practice can be developed: Ongoing.

Result description: More than 550 members of CPSG Connect now exist, consisting of individuals who have completed one or more CPSG training courses.

Planning guidance and additional resources informed by and communicated through the expanding planning community: Ongoing.

Result description: Planning Clinic ran in the first quarter of 2022, with updates provided from the previous planning clinic (November 2021) and four new projects brought forward for expert advice-planning to prevent primate trafficking in Colombia, Freshwater Turtle conservation planning in Canada, and Humpback Dolphin conservation planning in South Africa. In 2022 Virtual Planning Guidelines linked to application of the CPSG planning principles were drafted. The guidelines will be completed in 2023.

T-012 Encourage inclusion of species conservation planning in national, regional and global policy. (KSR 8)

Help develop a Global Species Action Plan to serve as a guide for implementation of post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets and to include a section on species planning and CPSG principles and steps: Ongoing.

Result description: CPSG played a vital role in the IUCN Global Species Action Plan Working Group. Our species planning tools and training courses are included in the GSAP and will be available to all GBF Signatories and Partners through the GSAP Online Knowledge Platform.

T-012 Encourage inclusion of species conservation planning in national, regional, and global policies. (KSR 9)

Contribute species conservation planning content to, and where appropriate participate in, a minimum of three international policy meeting side events annually: 3

Result description: CPSG participated as a member of the IUCN delegation to COP 15 and contributed to two side events on the Global Species Action Plan and supported another side event on genetic diversity conservation.

T-013 Support national commitments to achieving biodiversity targets by providing direct species conservation planning and capacity-building support to national governments and indigenous communities. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/ strategies: 1

Result description: Several documents, one general and several specifically tailored to a partner's needs, have been developed to support the development of species conservation plans.

T-013 Support national commitments to achieving biodiversity targets by providing direct species conservation planning and capacity-building support to national governments and indigenous communities. (KSR 9)

Produce and distribute documents introducing CPSG tools, processes and capacity development opportunities: Ongoing.

Result description: CPSG produced the Get to Know CPSG document introducing all we have to offer in terms of species conservation planning tools, processes and training. This was distributed to all IUCN national and regional offices, thanks to the assistance of IUCN HQ.

Respond to requests from regional, national and indigenous governments for planning assistance: 14

Result description: CPSG has responded to eight requests for planning assistance from South Korea (three projects), Beavers in Scotland, Mala in Australia, Monarch and Red Wolf in the US, and Eastern Loggerhead Shrike in Canada. In addition, CPSG Brazil conducted six projects in response to requests from the government.

Pursue long-term relationships with governments requesting assistance: Ongoing.

Result description: In Scotland, England and South Korea, CPSG has a commitment to long-term planning assistance as well as training and coaching to develop capacity in species conservation planning in those countries.

Incorporate Species Conservation Planning Focal Points within National Species Specialist Groups with CPSG RRCs and/ or CSSs; develop a strategy for supporting these individuals in planning: Ongoing.

Result description: CSS onboarding materials have been developed in collaboration with CPSG and CSS planners are invited to become members of CPSG's Development Path mentoring program. Species Planning Focal Points have all been invited to join CPSG and to take our planner course free of charge.

T-014 Improve ability to provide tailored support to governments and indigenous communities on species conservation planning matters. (KSR 9)

Collaborate with at least one national government to develop country-specific guidance and training materials and promote these as an option to other national governments: 3

Result description: We have been working with the South Korean government to develop processes that work for their purposes. We have developed guidance and begun training and mentoring. We have similar projects in place in England and Scotland.

Use expanding contact with governments to build knowledge of the planning approaches, systems, and resources available in each country and any gaps in those: Ongoing.

Result description: We have been working with the wildlife agencies of South Korea, Scotland, England and other national governments to understand their needs and co-develop species planning approaches based on SSC CPSG's best practice.

T-015 Maintain suitable systems for evaluating the impact of conservation planning on species. (KSR 8)

Track and evaluate short- and medium-term impacts on species: Ongoing.

Result description: Post-planning survey of stakeholders drafted in 2022 to look at short-term impacts of planning and planning products on species outcomes. Due to be rolled out in 2023 with results from projects around the world collated centrally.

Track and capture impact of planning on species conservation stakeholders: Ongoing.

Result description: Post-planning survey of stakeholders instated in 2022 to look at immediate experience of and satisfaction with the planning process. This now applies to all CPSG species planning projects with results from around the world collated centrally. A second survey was drafted in 2022 to look at the impacts of planning and planning products on species conservation stakeholders 12-24 months after planning. Due to be rolled out in 2023.

T-016 Maintain a database and library of planning information for CPSG and the wider SSC. (KSR 8)

Readily accessible statistics on the scale, diversity, and trends of past CPSG projects: 1

Result description: The desired database has been constructed and will allow us to conduct a number of valuable analyses as well as to apply the methodology used in the Lees *et al.* paper to measure the impact of CPSG planning on species status.

T-017 Explore the assembly and integration of an expanded body of information that will enhance the species conservation planning process. (KSR 8)

Develop a specific case study that offers opportunities for creating an expanded information set for enhanced planning: 1

Result description: CPSG returned to Liberia in 2022 to continue our involvement in expanded action planning for chimpanzee conservation that includes explicit integration of human behavioural data into the quantitative risk assessment process. The 2022 workshop was designed to generate a detailed spatial analysis of humans hunting chimpanzees in southeast Liberia, focusing on the various players in the hunting process and the ultimate destination of various forms of bushmeat removed from the forests in the region. The experience will be central for CPSG and collaborators in our exploration of the strengths and weaknesses of the desired integrative approach.

Create a better understanding of the specific information sets necessary for inclusion in the enhanced case study: Ongoing.

Result description: Our collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute and Impact by Design on chimpanzee action planning in Liberia has resulted in detailed insights on key elements that lead to the success or failure of this complex and data-intensive process. Reflections on our work in Liberia are helping us choose appropriate species targets in regions of the world that will facilitate efficient and effective communication and data collection for better planning.

Identify appropriate disciplines and fields that can contribute critical information to the enhanced planning process: Ongoing.

Result description: Ongoing implementation of existing planning projects (e.g., chimpanzees in southeast Liberia) and initial organization of upcoming candidate projects (e.g., Hungarian Meadow Viper) have been important for us to explore a wide range of datasets and experts for complex planning projects. In particular, we are beginning to tap into a range of online databases that include future country-level projections of human population abundance, age-class distribution, age structure and socioeconomic status that can be used to inform threats to species and methods for proper mitigation.

Engage key representatives from identified disciplines to collaborate with CPSG for the purpose of developing more integrated conservation planning tools and processes: Ongoing.

Result description: We are beginning to engage with experts in the climate science community around the concept of shared socioeconomic pathways (SSPs) and their potential for application to traditional methods of population viability analysis.

T-018 Collaborate with appropriate information sources to implement and promote open and accessible data sharing for enhanced species conservation planning. (KSR 8)

Identify potential obstacles to integrating diverse sources of information and data: Ongoing.

Result description: We are developing an internal document that summarizes our experiences with designing and implementing an expanded species conservation planning process in SE Liberia on chimpanzees. We have identified a number of issues – both conceptual and practical – that make integration of diverse disciplines and information more difficult.

Develop collaborative solutions for overcoming potential obstacles to integrating diverse sources of information and data for enhanced conservation planning: Ongoing.

Result description: We have initiated conversations with interested parties in the marine mammal conservation community to identify potential projects that could be used to test different strategies for improving the efficacy and efficiency of complex conservation planning projects featuring the integration of diverse data and expertise.

Acknowledgements

We thank Global Conservation Network, the donors who make this network make everything we do possible.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 19

Geographic regions: 19 Global

Actions during 2022:

Plan: 41 (KSR 8, 9)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

