



# 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:

Sadovy, Y, and Craig, M. 2023. 2022 Report of the Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group. In: Nassar, JM, García, L, Mendoza, L, Andrade, ND, Bezeng, S, Birkhoff, J, Bohm, M, Canteiro, C, Geschke, J, Henriques, S, Ivalde, 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 Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group



**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Website: <https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/fishes/grouper-and-wrasse>



**CO-CHAIR**

**Yvonne Sadovy**

The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong



**CO-CHAIR**

**Matthew Craig**

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, California, US

**RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR**

**Matthew Craig**

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, California, US

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

29

**Mission statement**

The Mission of the Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group is to promote the conservation, management and wise use of groupers and wrasses, and to enhance awareness of the vulnerability of this group of fishes, which includes the groupers (family Epinephelidae) and wrasses (family Labridae), and of the habitats upon which they depend.

**Projected impact 2021–2025**

The Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group (GWSG) anticipates that our target activities will positively impact the conservation status of these important species by enhancing the foundational understanding of the Red List process, increasing awareness of common threats and how to mitigate them, and supporting the implementation of conservation strategies.

**Targets 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-001** Complete Red List species assessments for species of elevated conservation concern (family: Labridae).  
Status: On track

**T-003** Publish a global review on grouper management in place and its effectiveness.  
Status: On track

**T-005** Develop a management and conservation strategy for Camouflage Grouper (*Epinephelus polyphekadion*).  
Status: On track

**PLAN**

**T-008** Support spawning site conservation initiatives with NGOs and national government.  
Status: On track

**ACT**

**T-009** Provide support letters, technical consultations and other input on management and conservation plans for NGOs and governments.  
Status: On track

**NETWORK**

**T-006** Increase Specialist Group member diversity geographically.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Ensure 15% of Specialist Group members are formally trained in species conservation planning by 2024.  
Status: On track

**COMMUNICATE**

**T-002** Produce annual newsletter and upkeep GWSG website.  
Status: On track

**T-004** Organise seminars on groupers in India.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Raise awareness with both policy-makers and coastal fishing communities on the value of groupers in ecosystems through creative communication materials in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.  
Status: Not initiated

**Activities and results 2022**

**ASSESS**

**Red List**

**T-001** Complete Red List species assessments for species of elevated conservation concern (family: Labridae). (KSR 6)  
Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Planning is on track to complete assessments for species of elevated concern.





Groupers on retail food sale in Hong Kong  
Photo: Y. Sadovy

## Research activities

**T-003 Publish a global review on grouper management in place and its effectiveness.** (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: In 2022, we had one publication: Sadovy, YJ. *et al.*, 2020. 'Valuable but vulnerable: Over-fishing and under-management continue to threaten groupers so what now?' *Marine Policy* 116(2020):103909. It can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2020.103909>.

## NETWORK

### Capacity building

**T-007 Ensure 15% of Specialist Group members are formally trained in species conservation planning by 2024.** (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 5

Result description: Five members of the GWSG have participated in the Red List Unit criteria training program.

## Membership

**T-006 Increase Specialist Group member diversity geographically.** (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: Membership in the GWSG now includes participants from three additional countries as compared to the 2017-2020 quadrennium. We have also increased the number of women participating in the specialist group.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

**T-002 Produce annual newsletter and upkeep GWSG website.** (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 2

Result description: The annual newsletter is currently in preparation for dissemination and website managers have been working closely with IUCN technical team to update and maintain the website.

**T-004 Organise seminars on groupers in India.** (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: A virtual grouper taxonomy workshop was organized and held by GWSG member Dr Rekha Nair of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India, in 2021. An in-person workshop is currently being planned for this year or 2023.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025: 10**

**Geographic regions:** 6 Global, 1 Asia, 3 Body of water

### Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 13)

### Overall achievement 2021–2025:

