



Species

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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:

Mast, R, and Casale, P. 2023. 2022 Report of the Marine Turtle 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

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
 Website: seaturtle.org;
<https://www.iucn-mtsg.org>

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

260

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group is to develop and support strategies, set priorities and provide tools that promote and guide the conservation of marine turtles and their ecological roles and habitats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

During the 2021–2025 quadrennium, the Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) will disseminate essential knowledge about the status of sea turtles globally through reports and networking that will inform scientific publications, management strategies and action plans. The group will also update Regional Management Units (RMUs) and conservation priorities for sea turtles, which guide IUCN Red Listing as well as conservation and management strategies at local, national and international levels. The MTSG’s work over the quadrennium will provide sea turtle researchers and conservationists with the most up-to-date and essential information to take the most effective action to protect sea turtles and their habitats at regional or local levels, thereby benefiting the status of sea turtles all over the world.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete global and subpopulation Red List assessments of the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Flatback (*Natator depressus*) turtles.
 Status: On track

T-002 Produce 10 Regional Reports (at least partially completed) covering over 80% of countries where sea turtles occur.
 Status: On track

T-003 Plan, fundraise, conduct pre-workshop analyses and implement the 7th MTSG ‘Burning Issues’ Workshop (BI-7) focused on validating RMUs, re-assessing vulnerability of all taxa and creating a framework for ‘Important Marine Turtle Areas’.
 Status: Achieved

T-004 Publish three Regional Reports through IUCN.
 Status: Not initiated

T-005 Update Renew Regional Management Units (subpopulations).
 Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Communicate results of the Conservation Priorities Portfolio.
 Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Complete global and subpopulation Red List assessments of the Olive Ridley (*L. olivacea*), Green (*C. mydas*), Hawksbill (*E. imbricata*) and Flatback (*N. depressus*) turtles. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2022, we were finalizing the Red List assessment for the North Atlantic Green Turtle and the global assessment, as well as drafts, for Flatback Turtle subpopulations and global are on their way.

T-005 Update and renew Regional Management Units (subpopulations). (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support RL assessments/reassessments: 0

Result description: The new Regional Management Units (RMUs) will be used for future sub-population Red List assessments. Because the RMUs were created using the most up-to-date data possible, they will facilitate more accurate RLAs.

Research activities

T-002 Produce 10 Regional Reports (at least partially completed) covering over 80% of countries where sea turtles occur. (KSR 5)

Olive Ridley Turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) nesting during an arribada on Playa Escobilla, Mexico
Photo: Ashleigh Bandimere



A Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) hatchling hatches on Matura Beach, Trinidad
Photo: Ashleigh Bandimere

Post-nesting Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Colola, Mexico
Photo: Ashleigh Bandimere



A Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) finishes nesting at one of the most important nesting beaches in Trinidad
Photo: Ashleigh Bandimere

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 9

Result description: In 2017 the IUCN-SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group launched a regional reporting initiative that aims to harness the collective power of our global expert members to compile and summarise the most relevant data for conservation of sea turtles in each of the 10 MTSG regions and their respective marine turtle Regional Management Units (RMUs). Through this initiative, the MTSG aims to publish annual Regional Reports that summarise all known published data and pertinent unpublished data (at the authors' discretion) for each country and region in which sea turtles occur. Our hope is that the information in these Regional Reports will become a valuable reference for conservationists worldwide, and will moreover facilitate the production of future Red List assessments, a process that heretofore has been painstaking. In short, the Regional Reports are intended to: 1) help the MTSG fulfil its role as the global authority on sea turtles, and 2) spread the labour of Red List assessments to a broader force of MTSG members. In 2022 we completed nine draft reports that cover 83% of the countries where sea turtles occur. Four of these reports are considered complete and are in the publication process through the IUCN.

T-005 Update and renew Regional Management Units (subpopulations). (KSR 6)

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

Result description: The core organisers of this project conducted an extensive literature review of all the published sea turtle geospatial data, mapped all the spatial information, and created a brand-new collaborative mapping system that allowed MTSG members to make edits to the newly drawn boundaries of the Regional Management Units. There were multiple rounds of review with the group and all the edits were synthesised to update all Regional Management Units (RMUs). The results are being published by Endangered Species Research and are under review now.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

