



# 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:

Varghese, A, and Watve, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Western Ghats Plan 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 Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group



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Maharashtra, India

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

59

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Facebook: The Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group

Instagram: @iucn\_wgpsg

## Mission statement

The mission of the Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group (WGPSG) is to improve current knowledge on taxonomy and ecology of plants of the entire region of the Western Ghats and thereby enhance their conservation status in the long term.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

Our mission is to improve the conservation status of wild plants in the Western Ghats. There are several experts working on plant conservation in this region and the WGPSG gives us a common platform. Population-level assessments of the Critically Endangered and endemic flora are urgently needed to assess threats. We will collate regional assessments of threats to plants and bring that information into the Red List database. This will help raise awareness about the major threats to plants in this region, to prioritise and recommend conservation actions and to implement species recovery programmes.

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

**T-001** Facilitate extinction risk assessments following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species methodology for several key genera and species of Western Ghats and publish the finalised assessments on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Status: On track

**T-002** Facilitate assessments following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species methodology for selected genera and species with high diversity in Western Ghats (e.g., *Ceropegia*, *Impatiens*) and publish the finalised assessments on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Status: On track

**T-011** Assess threats to habitats in collaboration with local research NGOs, especially to estimate the status of invasive species.

Status: On track

**T-012** Identify Key Biodiversity Areas for Plants in collaboration with Forest departments, local NGOs, citizen groups and others. Support declaration of Important Plant Conservation Areas.

Status: On track

### ACT

**T-004** Undertake *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation efforts in collaboration with scientifically managed nurseries, arboreturns, and botanical gardens.

Status: On track

**T-008** Undertake documentation of sustainable use practices for species, plants, and livelihood linkages (wild plants in use for self and market).

Status: On track

### NETWORK

**T-010** Conduct regular field courses in plant taxonomy and conservation science for graduate-level students. Conduct regular courses for citizens and professionals in related fields for biodiversity conservation action.

Status: On track

### COMMUNICATE

**T-003** Advocate for more plant conservation work across the region among educational institutions, local/regional governments, and corporate bodies.

Status: On track

**T-013** Maintain an email distribution list for workshops planned/held. Maintain a Whatsapp group and social media presence with a focus on local language campaigns.

Status: On track



*Pinda concanensis* Near Threatened  
Endemic species of Western Ghats  
Photo: Aditya Gadkari



*Ceropogia jainii* Endemic  
to Northern Western Ghats  
Photo: Sanjay Thakur

## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Red List

**T-001 Facilitate extinction risk assessments following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species methodology for several key genera and species of Western Ghats and publish the finalised assessments on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Specie.** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 11

Result description: In 2022, we completed 29 assessments of endemic and non-endemic species of the Western Ghats hotspot region. Six of them are monotypic genera. Internal grant-supported collaborative assessment work from IUCN SSC and EDGE carried out by the Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group and Freshwater Plant Specialist Group. Additionally, we have supported the Global Tree Assessments and the Freshwater Plants Specialist Group in conducting and reviewing assessments of Western Ghat endemic trees and freshwater genera. The conservation plan of genus *Cryptocoryne* has been published. We are working on assessments of narrowly endemic and threatened tree species of Western Ghats.

**T-002 Facilitate assessments following the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species methodology for selected genera and species with high diversity in Western Ghats (e.g. *Ceropogia*, *Impatiens*) and publish the finalised assessments on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.** (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 3

Result description: Helped with review and assessments of trees of Western Ghats.

#### Research activities

**T-012 Identify Key Biodiversity Areas for Plants in collaboration with Forest departments, local NGOs, citizen groups and others. Support declaration of Important Plant Conservation Areas.** (KSR 6)

Number of new Key Biodiversity Areas confirmed in the World Database of KBAs: 0

Result description: A list of KBAs identified in the Western Ghats region was prepared from the KBA database and the Indian government's database of KBAs. We are working with the AZE and KBA groups to identify potential KBAs, especially for the tree taxa.

#### ACT

##### Technical advice

**T-004 Undertake *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation efforts in collaboration with scientifically managed nurseries, arboretums, and botanical gardens.** (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: We are working with the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary, Naoroji Godrej Centre for Plant Research, Pranjal Nursery and Empress Botanical Garden to develop a nursery of threatened tree species.

**T-008 Undertake documentation of sustainable use practices for species, plants, and livelihood linkages (wild plants in use for self and market).** (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 0

Result description: We have identified certain wild edible species and agrobiodiversity with the potential for sustainable utilization. Funding is sought for further action on the same.

#### NETWORK

##### Capacity building

**T-010 Conduct regular field courses in plant taxonomy and conservation science for graduate-level students. Conduct regular courses for citizens and professionals in related fields for biodiversity conservation action.** (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 5

Result description: Five students were supported in the learning of the Red List process through online training. They were able to undertake pre-assessment at the Master's level.

#### COMMUNICATE

##### Communication

**T-003 Advocate for more plant conservation work across the region among educational institutions, local/regional governments, and corporate bodies.** (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 2

Result description: Short videos were created by MahaMTB, a media house, in Marathi language on rare and threatened species of plants in the Northern Western Ghats: (1) Dhokache Phul (*Dipcadi concanense*), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA2HTOv4UTQ&t=341s>; and (2) *Ceropogia* spp., [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7Zk\\_iDQv1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7Zk_iDQv1Y).

**T-013 Maintain an email distribution list for workshops planned/held. Maintain a Whatsapp group and social media presence with a focus on local language campaigns.** (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: A digital poster was created for monotypic genera assessed under the IUCN Edge grant.

#### Acknowledgements

We thank the IUCN SSC EDGE grant for the year 2022 for the assessment of monotypic taxa and Dr Richard Lansdown for help and support in the assessments and reviews.

#### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9**

**Geographic regions: 9 Asia**

**Actions during 2022:**

Assess: 3 (KSR 6)

Act: 2 (KSR 10, 11)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 13)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

