



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 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 and Centers for Species Survival (CSS) each year. Each SSC and CSS 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 and CSS Stand-alone Reports

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC and CSS. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

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### Title of the 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, Program Officers, Species Survival Directors, and Species Survival Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the 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 or CSS 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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Chapple, D. 2024. 2023 Report of the Skink Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

# IUCN SSC Skink Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
David Chapple  
School of Biological  
Sciences, Monash  
University, Australia

**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
Shai Meiri  
School of Zoology,  
Faculty of Life  
Sciences, The  
Steinhardt Museum  
of Natural History,  
Tel Aviv University,  
Tel Aviv, Israel

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
160

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**  
Twitter: @skinks\_IUCN  
Website: <https://www.skinks.org>

## Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Skink Specialist Group aims to complete Red List assessments for all Skink species to identify species with high extinction risk, determine the factors underlying high extinction risk, develop strategies to manage risk, improve the status of threatened Skink species, and coordinate conservation management for threatened Skink species.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we anticipate having assessed all remaining non-assessed species, coordinating reassessments of species as their assessments expire, and coordinating the assessment of newly described species. We aim to promote and foster collaboration among the world's Skink experts and provide an avenue for regular interaction and collaboration – annual newsletter, website, email list, assessment workshops, and Skink conferences. We aim to: (i) conduct analyses to determine the factors underlying extinction risk in Skinks; (ii) identify regions, and

taxonomic groups within Skinks that have elevated extinction risk; and (iii) determine the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that are associated with extinction risk in Skinks. This will be communicated via scientific publications, regional assessment reports, our website, and through popular media.

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

**T-001** Complete assessment of all described Skink species.  
Status: On track

**T-002** Complete reassessment of all Skink species with expired assessments.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Complete assessments for all newly described Skink species.  
Status: On track

### PLAN

**T-006** Determine the biogeography of Skink globally.  
Status: On track

### ACT

**T-007** Assist Skink conservation efforts globally.  
Status: On track

## COMMUNICATE

**T-005** Maintain a website and Twitter account.

Status: On track

**T-008** Create and update a listserv for all Skink Specialist Group members.

Status: On track

## Activities and results 2023

### ASSESS

#### Red List

**T-001** Complete assessment of all described Skink species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 5

Result description: The Skink Specialist Group has ca. 150 assessments or reassessments that are currently in progress, intending to submit them during 2024.

#### SSC Grant awarded

**T-002** Complete reassessment of all Skink species with expired assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 5

Result description: A large number of reassessments are currently in progress.





Olive Tree Skink (*Dasia olivacea*), climbing young Rubber Tree. From jungle rubber plantation (agroforest) in Merangin, Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia  
 Photo: Wibowo Djatmiko (CC BY-SA 3.0)

**T-003 Complete assessments for all newly described Skink species.** (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 5

Result description: The Skink Specialist Group has made progress on several assessments during this year. A further ca. 150 assessments are currently in progress, intending to submit them during 2024.

SSC Grant awarded

**PLAN**

**Planning**

**T-006 Determine the biogeography of Skink globally.** (KSR 9)

Increased knowledge of the distribution and diversity of Skink species: 25%

Result description: A project led by the Skink Specialist Group is underway to investigate the biogeography of the world's Skinks. A database has been created of the distribution of all species, and SSG

members have provided trait data on Skink species worldwide, which we are going to use to examine several ecogeographical rules. Progress on this project was made during 2023, and it is anticipated that data analysis and manuscript preparation will take place in 2024.

**ACT**

**Technical advice**

**T-007 Assist Skink conservation efforts globally.** (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 50

Result description: This is an ongoing goal. The Skink Specialist Group has supported conservation actions in Australia, the Philippines, South Africa, New Zealand and the Seychelles. This important work will continue in the upcoming years.

**COMMUNICATE**

**Communication**

**T-005 Maintain a website and Twitter account.** (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 100

Result description: The Skink Specialist Group maintains a [website](#), Twitter account (@skinks\_IUCN), and email list. These are used regularly to communicate with members, the general public, and a range of other stakeholders. This work is ongoing.

**T-008 Create and update a listserv for all Skink Specialist Group members.** (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 4

Result description: The Skink Specialist Group maintains an email list, and regularly sends email updates and news to the specialist group members. This includes opportunities to be involved in research activities and red listing activities.

**Acknowledgements**

The Skink Specialist Group wishes to thank Craig Hilton-Taylor, Phil Bowles, Julia Geschke, and Monash University.

**Summary of achievements**

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 Global

Actions during 2023:

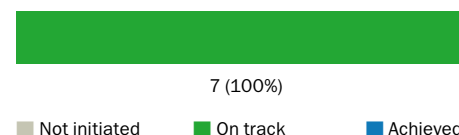
Assess: 3 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:





*Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus*  
Photo: Csenge Nagy



*Tetra Parnaiba*  
Photo: Karina Molina



*Trioceros hoehnelii*  
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson



*Sternberia lutea*  
Photo: Hayri Duman



*Egretta rufescens*  
Photo: Ernesto Gómez



*Lactifluus neotropicus*  
Photo: Aida Vasco



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)  
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf