



Species

ISSUE 64

2023 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 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.

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.

Title of the group

Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

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.

Logo of the 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 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).

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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

Example for the recommended citation:

Burfield, I. 2024. 2023 Report of the Bird Red List Authority. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Bird Red List Authority



**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Ian Burfield

BirdLife International,
Cambridge, UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
142

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: [@BirdLifeInternational](#)

Instagram: [birdlife.international](#)

X: [@BirdLife_News](#)

Website: <https://www.birdlife.org>

YouTube: [BirdLife International](#)



Wangi-wangi White-eye (*Zosterops paruhbesar*), described in 2022, endemic to Indonesia's Wangi-wangi Island, with <1,000 mature individuals. Threatened by trapping for the songbird trade and habitat loss, was classified as Endangered in 2023
Photo: Adyah Ningtyas (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Mission statement

The BirdLife Partnership strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Reassessing the global extinction risk of all bird species by 2025, to inform the prioritisation and allocation of conservation resources.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete comprehensive global Red List reassessment of all ca. 11,000 bird species by 2025.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Complete comprehensive global Red List reassessment of all ca. 11,000 bird species by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 503

Result description: During 2023, BirdLife International's Red List Team produced 503 global Red List reassessments for birds, which were published by IUCN and BirdLife in December. These included 164 species downlisted to lower threat categories (four of which were genuine improvements) and 19 species uplisted to higher threat categories (11 of which were genuine deteriorations). There were also 15 first assessments of newly recognised taxonomic entities and five categorisations of species previously listed as Data Deficient. The latter included Spangled Owlet-nightjar (*Aegotheles tatei*), whose assessment was funded by an SSC EDGE Internal Grant, along with reassessments of 20 other Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) bird species.

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*) ranges across South and South-East Asia. Population exceeds 20,000 mature individuals, and appears to be increasing due to conservation efforts. It was reclassified from Near Threatened to Least Concern in 2023
 Photo: Charles J. Sharp (CC BY-SA 4.0)



Acknowledgements

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Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*) ranges in New Guinea and NE Australia. Evidence suggests severe decline, especially in Australia. Slow breeding and habitat loss led to reclassification from Least Concern to Near Threatened in 2023
 Photo: Doug Janson (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Violet-throated Metaltail (*Metallura baroni*) has a very small range in the Andes of southern Ecuador, where its remaining habitat is being lost and degraded for agricultural purposes. Consequently, it was reassessed as Vulnerable in 2023
 Photo: Francesco Veronesi (CC BY 2.0)

Summary of achievements

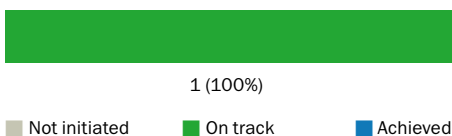
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 1

Geographic regions: 1 Global

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

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