



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:

LaPolla, J. and Feitosa, R. 2024. 2023 Report of the Ant Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Ant Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
John LaPolla
Towson University,
Towson, Maryland, US



CO-CHAIR
Rodrigo Feitosa
Universidade Federal
do Paraná, Brazil

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATORS**
Gabrielle Flinn
Private consultant

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
14

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Ant Specialist Group is to assess and monitor the conservation status of ant species around the world.

Projected impact 2021–2025

For ants, one of the most important groups of terrestrial invertebrate animals, our efforts will first and foremost raise their profile in conservation decision-making. This will begin by assessing the Red List status of various ant species. Critically, this will include a significant training component to involve as many Ant SG members as are interested in the process, with the aim of making it easier for members to take part in future Red List assessment efforts. With a group as diverse and globally distributed as ants, it is critical to build a network of members who will further the goal of having ants included in conservation planning. In turn, this training effort will impact the ability to include ants in conservation planning at both national and regional scales. We will also target particular groups of ants that are currently of conservation concern and use these species as ambassador species to present to the public the fact that even animals such as ants can warrant conservation concern and become threatened by human activities.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess the global Red List status of 50 ant species and reassess the Red List status of 50 ant species by 2025.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Compile a conservation strategy for ants found in Sekhukhuneland, South Africa by 2025.
Status: On track

ACT

T-003 Protect habitat for conservation of *Boloponera ikemkha*.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Hold an Ant SG conference at the biennial Simpósio de Mirmecologia in Brazil.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Establish an Ant SG website and other social media presence.
Status: On track

T-006 Design an Ant Specialist Group logo.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Assess the global Red List status of 50 ant species and reassess the Red List status of 50 ant species by 2025. (KSR 7)

Number of countries that have done the National Red List Index (NRLI) or nationally disaggregated global RLI: 1

Result description: The species that have been assessed and reviewed/are being reviewed by the Ant SG are the following: 21 *Linepithema* species, and eight *Prionopelta* species.

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 Hold an Ant SG conference at the biennial Simpósio de Mirmecologia in Brazil. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 1

Result description: We sponsored a roundtable discussion at the Symposio de Mirmecologia held in Manaus, Brazil (October 22-26, 2023). The roundtable was on October 24th. It was entitled: 'Ant Conservation and the IUCN Ant Specialist Group', and the organizers were the ASG Co-Chairs, John LaPolla and Rodrigo Feitosa. The talks presented were: (1) 'Nature's Guardians in Danger: Assessing the conservation status of Ants in Brazil's



Jaqueline Paes extracting a leaf-litter sample at the Ilha Grande National Park basecamp
Photo: Rodrigo M. Feitosa



Jaqueline Paes sorting leaf-litter ants collected with Winkler extractors at the Ilha Grande National Park basecamp
Photo: Rodrigo M. Feitosa



Members of the Ant Conservation and the IUCN SSC Ant Specialist Group round table at the International Ant Meeting, Manaus, Brazil. From left to right: Rodrigo M. Feitosa, Rachelle Adams, Amanda M. Dias, and John Lattke
Photo: Otávio Silva

biodiversity hotspots' by Rodrigo Feitosa, Universidade Federal do Paraná; (2) 'Endangered Giants: The concerning conservation status of the *Dinoponera* ants' by Amanda Martins Dias, Universidade Federal do Paraná; (3) 'On sniffing out ants in trouble: The role of revisions' by John Lattke, Universidade Federal do Paraná, and (4) 'Preservation of the Mercenary ant's species network' by Rachelle Adams, Ohio State University.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-005 Establish an Ant SG website and other social media presence. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: The group is still striving to build an independent webpage, as well as engage with group members towards having an online presence on at least one social media platform.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 4 Global, 2 Africa

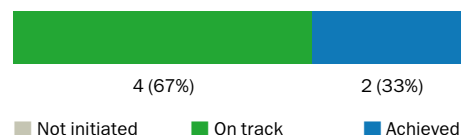
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 7)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 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