



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:

Hirsch, C. and Johnson, D. 2024. 2023 Report of the Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

IUCN SSC/CEESP Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force



CO-CHAIR
Carina Hirsch
Margaret Pyke Trust



CO-CHAIR
David Johnson
Margaret Pyke Trust

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
25

Mission statement

Removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning can strengthen conservation outcomes and contribute to climate change adaptation and resilience building. By implementing WCC-2020-Res-072 ‘Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning’, this inter-Commission Task Force will operate for two IUCN quadrennial periods, commencing in 2021 and ending in 2028. The overarching objective of the Task Force is to support IUCN in embedding the importance of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning in relevant processes, policies, and guidance materials.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Individuals representing IUCN, its Commissions, Members and other constituent parts have increased knowledge of the importance of rights-based voluntary family planning, including the complementary benefits for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation and resilience, and of meeting the reproductive needs of women and girls. Policies and procedures of IUCN begin to change to recognise that SDG target 3.7, “ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning,

information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes” is critical not only for health, wellbeing and empowerment targets, but can also strengthen conservation outcomes.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Develop a work plan on how to support the process of seeking changes to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in general and/or a work plan on changing a specific NBSAP.
Status: On track

T-011 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” included in the Global Species Action Plan.
Status: Achieved

T-012 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” included in the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan.
Status: Achieved

T-022 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” or references to PHE in the *Cercocebus* and *Mandrillus* conservation action plan 2023–2027.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-005 Develop (a) an education and training programme on how improved reproductive health benefits women’s and girls’ health and empowerment, reduces pressures on ecosystems and ecosystems services, and enhances sustainable development, and how such issues can be included in project planning; and (b) a delivery plan on the roll-out of such training programme to benefit not fewer than 1,000 IUCN representatives.
Status: On track

T-013 Establish a Working Group on the Conservation Classification Scheme.
Status: Achieved

T-014 Establish a Working Group on ‘Family Planning 2030 commitments’ – enabling conservation organisations to formalise their work to integrate and/or promote reproductive health.
Status: Achieved

ACT

T-021 Establish a working group tasked with influencing and providing technical inputs into the Global Species Action Plan.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-001 Finalise Task Force Terms of Reference, following best international practice in relation to the Task Force membership in terms of geographical, gender



Task Force Co-Chairs and colleagues from Family Planning 2030 and Family Health International 360 prepare for the IUCN Pavilion side event at COP28 on reproductive health, conservation and climate resilience
Photo: Carina Hirsch



Carina Hirsch, Task Force Co-Chair, presenting at the IUCN Pavilion at COP28, Dubai, December 2023
Photo: Carina Hirsch

and relevant topical diversity, and that no fewer than 20 experienced individuals are admitted to the Task Force.

Status: Achieved

T-002 Formalise relationship with Focal Points at the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), SSC and other relevant IUCN bodies and establish a plan on how those Commissions and bodies can further the work of the Task Force.

Status: Achieved

T-003 Establish a formal partnership with organisation(s) which can be used as the relevant national focal point to work with the Task Force to seek influencing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan(s).

Status: On track

T-016 Train biodiversity and climate practitioners to acquire improved knowledge of reproductive choice as a component of biodiversity conservation action and as a climate adaptation/resilience-building approach.

Status: On track

T-020 Establish cross-sectoral partnerships aimed at promoting and furthering the implementation of Population, Health and Environment (PHE) programmes in at least five countries.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Share publication promoting the Task Force with conservation and health organisations.

Status: Achieved

T-007 Share one publication on rights-based reproductive health indicators.

Status: Not initiated

T-008 Produce a publication reporting on the importance of broader applicability of barriers to family planning needs.

Status: On track

T-009 Deliver the education and training programme on family planning and biodiversity.

Status: On track

T-010 Promote the outcome of the Task Force's NBSAP work plan.

Status: Not initiated

T-015 Establish and develop a new Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force website by 2024.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Planning

T-022 Undertake work to include "removal of barriers to family planning" or broader reference to links between "biodiversity and family planning" or references to PHE in the *Cercocebus* and *Mandrillus* conservation action plan 2023–2027 (KSR 5)

Number of species within the plan where PHE and barriers to family planning are assessed as relevant: 5

Result description: The pre-publication final draft of the conservation action plan highlights that barriers to family planning are relevant conservation issues for five species: (1) Tana River Mangabey (*Cercocebus galeritus*); (2) Sanje Mangabey (*Cercocebus sanjei*); (3) Golden-bellied Mangabey (*Cercocebus chrysogaster*); (4) White-naped Mangabey (*Cercocebus lunulatus*), and (5) Sooty Mangabey (*Cercocebus atys*).

Policy

T-011 Undertake work to include "removal of barriers to family planning" or broader reference to links between "biodiversity and family planning" included in the Global Species Action Plan (KSR 5)

Number of publications that reference this topic specifically: 1

Result description: The Global Species Action Plan (GSAP) contains references to 'removal of barriers to family planning' as well as references to integrated programming to respond to complex health, gender, livelihood, conservation, and climate challenges at the community level, namely Population, Health and Environment or PHE programmes. One of the Task Force Co-Chairs, Carina Hirsch, is also expressly named and thanked in the GSAP for providing contributions on behalf of the Task Force. As the document is extremely large, please find the link [here](#).

T-012 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” included in the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (KSR 5)

Number of publications that reference this topic specifically: 1

Result description: The latest pre-publication draft of the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan includes multiple references as hoped for, with publication anticipated in the coming months.

Research activities

T-004 Develop a work plan on how to support the process of seeking changes to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in general and/or a work plan on changing a specific NBSAP. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: An outline has been developed for a guidance publication on how to influence/input into the NBSAP update process that countries are required to undertake throughout 2024. The publication will be published in 2024.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Develop (a) an education and training programme on how improved reproductive health benefits women’s and girls’ health and empowerment, reduce pressures on ecosystems and ecosystems services, and enhance sustainable development, and how such issues can be included in project planning; and (b) a delivery plan on the roll-out of such training programme to benefit not fewer than 1,000 IUCN representatives. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: Consultations with Task Force members were held to develop an outline on a second training module that

will contain an introduction to Population, Health and Environment programming, guidance on developing impactful partnerships, and the benefits of such cross-sectoral work in achieving impact across gender, health, livelihood, conservation, and climate resilience areas of community development.

T-013 Establish a Working Group on the Conservation Classification Scheme. (KSR 8)

Recognition and inclusion of ‘barriers to family planning’ or related reference in the Conservation Classification Scheme: 0

Result description: The Working Group has been established. The group currently consists of three experts, all of which are SSC Members. This working group supports the broader work of the Conservation Measures Partnership, which in turn consists of about 15 conservation experts.

Policy

T-014 Establish a Working Group on “Family Planning 2030 commitments” –enabling conservation organisations to formalise their work to integrate and/or promote reproductive health. (KSR 9)

Number of conservation organisations who have made an FP2030 commitment: 1

Result description: Thanks to the support of this Task Force Working Group, an additional conservation organisation, the International Crane Foundation has made an FP2030 commitment formalising their work on the integration and promotion of reproductive health as an integral part of conservation.

ACT

Technical advice

T-021 Establish a working group tasked with influencing and providing technical inputs into the Global Species Action Plan. (KSR 10)

Working group established to input/influence the Global Species Action Plan: 4

Result description: The working group consists of four members who have

collectively, and successfully, ensured the GSAP refers to barriers to family planning, PHE and references to the Task Force.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-003 Establish a formal partnership with organisation(s) which can be used as the relevant national focal point to work with the Task Force to seek influencing a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan(s). (KSR 3)

Number of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans influenced: 0

Result description Work is ongoing with national agencies and partners to influence NBSAPs so that they include references to ‘removal of barriers to family planning’ and Population, Health and Environment (PHE) programmes as part of a cross-sectoral response to complex community development challenges. Informal partnership (which will hopefully become formal) have been created in Madagascar and Rwanda.

T-016 Train biodiversity and climate practitioners to acquire improved knowledge of reproductive choice as a component of biodiversity conservation action and as a climate adaptation/resilience-building approach. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in other fields: 530

Result description: Through a variety of training initiatives and events, in person and virtually, 530 biodiversity and climate practitioners have been trained.

Membership

T-001 Finalise Task Force Terms of Reference, following best international practice in relation to the Task Force membership in terms of geographical, gender and relevant topical diversity, and that no fewer than 20 experienced individuals are admitted to the Task Force. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 6

Result description: Additional SSC Task Force members recruited in 2022 means

we have now met the planned number of SSC members recruited, in addition to the CEESP members.

T-002 Formalise relationship with Focal Points at the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), SSC and other relevant IUCN bodies and establish a plan on how those Commissions and bodies can further the work of the Task Force. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: We are delighted to report that we have continued close collaboration with SSC and CEESP focal points to achieve results. In the reporting period, we were invited to present at and participate in the CEESP Executive Committee meeting on the importance of integrating reproductive health/rights-based, voluntary family planning as part of integrated, gender-sensitive and human-rights based conservation action and policy. Furthermore, we collaborated closely with SSC colleagues to achieve the integration of voluntary, rights-based family planning and reference to cross-sectoral programming that addresses reproductive and primary health, gender, livelihood, conservation, and climate resilience concerns (also known as Population, Health and Environment or PHE programmes) into specific species action plans and global conservation policy. Unfortunately, despite considerable efforts on behalf of the Task Force Co-Chairs, we have not been successful in securing a new Task Force Focal Point at the IUCN Secretariat. This remains an ongoing challenge that we are doing our utmost to address.

Synergy

T-020 Establish cross-sectoral partnerships aimed at promoting and furthering the implementation of Population, Health and Environment (PHE) programmes in at least five countries. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 2

Result description: Two cross-sectoral partnerships, between conservation and health organisations, have already been established in two focus countries (Mozambique and Zambia) aimed at further developing and implementing a PHE approach to respond to complex health, gender, livelihood, conservation, and climate challenges faced by remote rural communities as identified by technical experts from the conservation and health perspectives.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-008 Produce a publication reporting on the importance of broader applicability of barriers to family planning needs. (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: We have successfully inputted references on the broader applicability of barriers to family planning needs into several conservation publications. Firstly, the Global Species Action Plan relevant to all species. Secondly, the *Cercocebus* and *Mandrillus* Action Plan where 'removal of barriers to family planning' was included as a relevant action for five taxa.

Scientific meetings

T-006 Share publication promoting the Task Force with conservation and health organisations. (KSR 12)

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 1

Result description: We have engaged a large number of health organisations in the past year, not least at COP28, including in our event at the IUCN pavilion, as well as our official Side Event.

T-009 Deliver the education and training programme on family planning and biodiversity. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events in which the members participated: 6

Result description: We have attended and presented at six policy and programmatic focused events on these issues.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 19

Geographic regions: 18 Global, 1 Africa

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5)

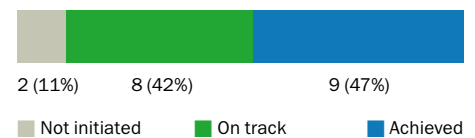
Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 3 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated

■ On track

■ Achieved



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