



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:

Sillero-Zubiri, C. and Werhahn, G. 2024. 2023 Report of the Canid Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Canid Specialist Group



CHAIR

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

159

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @Canidconservation

Instagram: @iucncanidsg

X: @WildCanids

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

YouTube: @wildcanids8547

Mission statement

Our mission is to promote the long-term conservation of all wild Canidae species throughout their ranges.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we aim to make advances in reducing the extinction risk of key threatened canid species. Our focus will be on species currently classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened. This aim will be achieved through the implementation of the objectives listed below: (1) to compile, synthesise and disseminate information on the conservation and status of all canid species across their range, with particular emphasis on species which are threatened or rare; (2) to provide and improve technical information and advice on all matters concerning wild canids, including their status in the wild, the threats they face and their conservation requirements, biology and natural history to all relevant bodies – range state government agencies; non-governmental organisations, including national and international organisations and potential funding bodies; inter-governmental organisations, e.g. IUCN, CITES; field projects concerned with canid conservation; (3) to promote and catalyse conservation activities benefiting wild canids, to be carried out

by the above, prioritising and coordinating efforts of researchers and conservationists worldwide; (4) to help raise funding for canid research and conservation and undertake research directly when necessary or appropriate; (5) to improve management of the common and sometimes troublesome species; (6) to build capacity through the exchange of ideas, information and technical expertise among the members of the Group.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Generate and maintain information on Dhole (*Cuon alpinus*) distribution and identify subpopulations and connectivity to ensure viable populations.
Status: On track

T-010 Conduct Red List reassessments for all threatened canids.
Status: On track

T-012 Carry out regional assessment of Asian Wolves.
Status: On track

T-016 Complete Green Status assessment for several key species.
Status: On track

T-018 Conduct survey of Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) and Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*) research and conservation efforts.
Status: On track

T-020 Ensure more effective engagement within Maned Wolf Working Group through developing collaborative actions.
Status: On track

T-022 Conduct regional assessment for Dingoes (Australia).
Status: On track

T-023 Conduct regional assessment for New Guinea Singing Dog/Highland Wild Dog (New Guinea).
Status: Not initiated

T-026 Review of canid taxonomy with expert taskforce.
Status: On track

T-027 Conduct survey of Dhole research and conservation efforts across species distribution range.
Status: On track

T-028 Improve conservation status of the Arctic Fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) through implementation of effective, collaborative, and practical approaches.
Status: On track

T-029 Conduct reassessment of Bush Dogs (*Speothos venaticus*) and Short Eared Dogs (*Atelocynus microtis*).
Status: On track

PLAN

T-001 Implement regional strategies and support new national action plans under



Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus ssp. chanco*)
Photo: Geraldine Werhahn

the Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs.
Status: On track

T-014 Contribute to the new document on guidance to species conservation of the European Commission.
Status: Achieved

T-019 Contribute to developing the national conservation action plan for Darwin's Fox (*Lycalopex fulvipes*).
Status: On track

ACT

T-002 Protect Ethiopian Wolves (*Canis simensis*) from disease through an integrated disease management strategy, with One Health benefits.
Status: On track

T-013 Rescue Ethiopian Wolves through conservation translocations.
Status: On track

T-017 Advance recovery of Red Wolf (*Canis rufus*) under the US Endangered Species Act.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-015 Organise annual Island Fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) group meeting.
Status: On track

T-025 Develop methods to integrate the results of the Global Integrated Collection Assessment and Planning (ICAP) Workshop for Canids and Hyaenids Report.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-004 Develop context-specific methods for estimating Dhole abundance, demographic and ecological requirements.
Status: Achieved

T-005 Compile Dhole publications and post on Dhole Conservation Fund website.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Develop range-wide health canid monitoring capacity and response.
Status: On track

T-007 Evaluate human-Dhole conflict and relevant mitigation methods for use across Dhole distribution range.
Status: On track

T-008 Establish Amazonian Canids listserv.
Status: Achieved

T-009 Develop Amazonian Canids section in canids.org.
Status: Achieved

T-021 Endorse and contribute to Arctic Fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) conference in Svalbard.
Status: On track

T-024 Create an Oceanic Canid listserv.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-012 Carry out regional assessment of Asian Wolves. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 1

Result description: The Red List assessment for the Himalayan Wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*) was published in 2023. The Red List assessment for the Indian Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*) is in progress.

T-022 Conduct regional assessment for Dingoes (Australia). (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 0

Result description: We are planning to start the process soon, with completion likely aligned with the taxonomy review. Work on this target is ongoing and set to be finished by 2025.

T-023 Conduct regional assessment for New Guinea Singing Dog/Highland Wild Dog (New Guinea). (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 0

Result description: The NGSD review has not been started and we are currently discussing the ListServ.

Research activities

T-026 Review of canid taxonomy with expert taskforce. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 0

Result description: A canid taxonomy expert meeting was held in Edinburgh in September 2023 to develop a framework to revise the taxonomy of the Canidae.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-015 Organise annual Island Fox (*U. littoralis*) group meeting. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: Tim Coonan along with the Santa Barbara Zoo organised and held the annual Island Fox coordination meeting, and they plan to continue doing so in the future.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-006 Develop range-wide health canid monitoring capacity and response. (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 0

Result description: The range-wide health canid monitoring document is in progress.

Acknowledgements

The IUCN SSC Canid Specialist Group is hosted by the WildCRU, part of the Department of Biology at the University of Oxford. We are grateful to the many sponsors, including Born Free Foundation, Fondation Segré, IUCN SoS, Wildlife Conservation Network, Wildlife Conservation Society, and many other that have supported key wild canid conservation actions. We are grateful to the many colleagues who assisted in the Red List reassessment and attended the Dhole and canid taxonomy meetings.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 28

Geographic regions: 3 Global, 4 Africa, 7 Asia, 8 America, 2 Europe, 4 Oceania

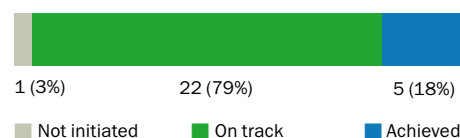
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 1)

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