



# 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:

Nakhutsrishvili, G. and Batsatsashvili, K. 2024. 2023 Report of the Caucasus Plant 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 Caucasus Plant Red List Authority



**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**

George Nakhutsrishvili  
Institute of Botany,  
Ilia State University,  
Tbilisi, Georgia



**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**

Ketevan Batsatsashvili  
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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

30

### Mission statement

The mission of the Caucasus Plant Red List Authority (RLA) is to contribute to increasing current knowledge on the taxonomy and ecology of the species in the Caucasus and promote their long-term conservation.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

The major activities of the group during the current quadrennium will focus on ecosystem Red List status assessment. Hence, a yet indirect future impact is anticipated on species whose threatened status is at least partly related to habitat loss/degradation. Namely, identification of Important Plant Areas (particularly with the criteria B and C), which will be possible after ecosystem red listing, will enable decision makers to properly determine effective measures for *in situ* conservation of the mentioned pool of threatened plant species.

### Targets 2021–2025

**ASSESS**

**T-002** Complete the Caucasian Flora Conspectus and further develop its website.

Status: On track

**T-003** Assess plant species based on field studies of rare plant populations.

Status: On track

**T-004** Re-assess plant species based on field studies of rare plant populations.

Status: On track

**T-005** Identify threatened ecosystems and assess risk severity in the Caucasus.

Status: On track

**PLAN**

**T-006** Organise a Regional Workshop to further strengthen international cooperation within the RLA.

Status: Not initiated

**NETWORK**

**T-001** Enhance collaboration with relevant IUCN member specialists for advice on the Ecosystem Red Listing process.

Status: Not initiated

### Activities and results 2023

**ASSESS**

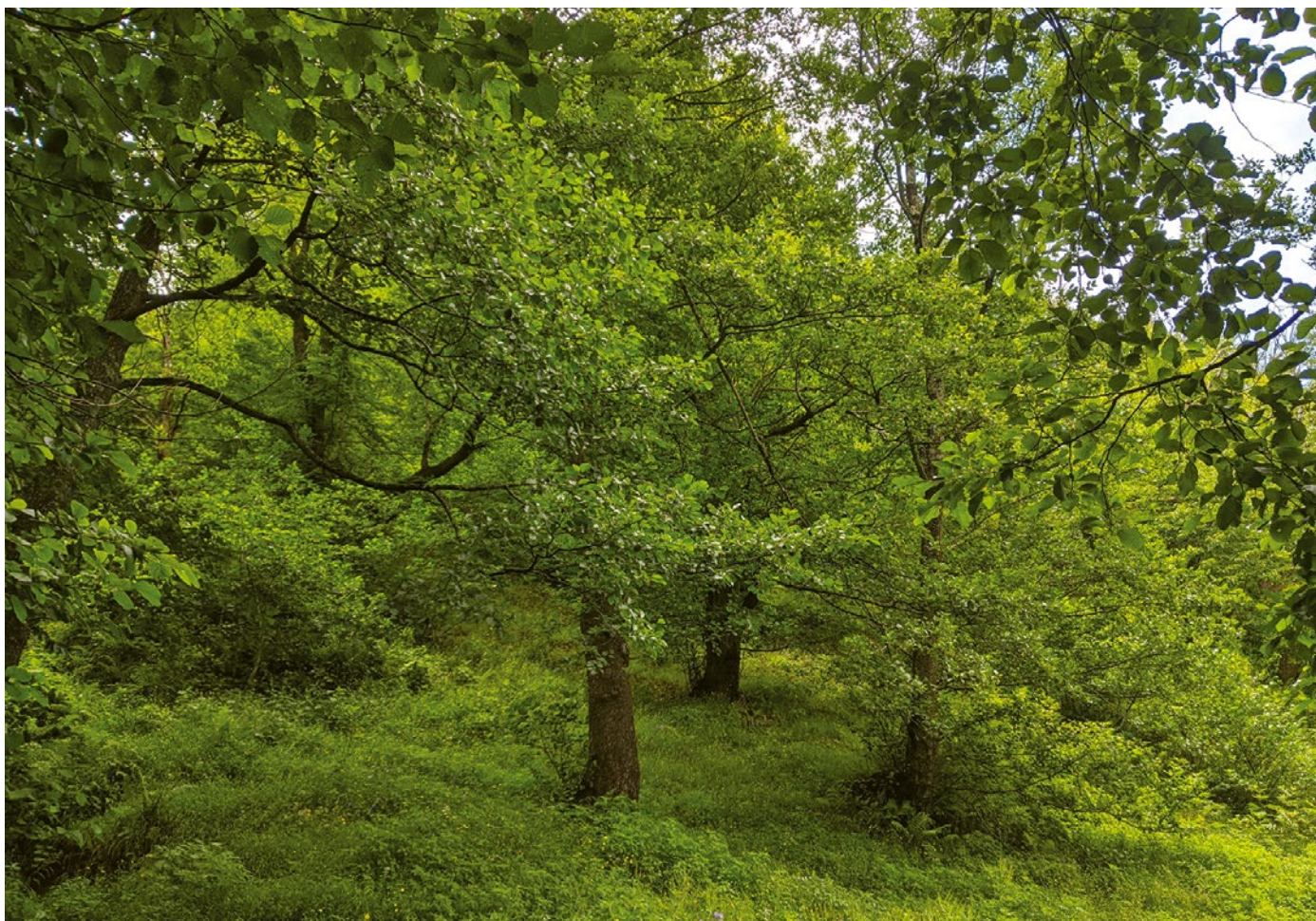
**Research activities**

**T-005** Identify threatened ecosystems and assess risk severity in the Caucasus.

(KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: The book *Natural Forests of Georgia (the South Caucasus)* by Nakhutsrishvili, G, Abdaladze, O, Batsatsashvili, K, and Dzadzamia, L, was published by Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia, in 2023. The book is devoted to one of the most pressing issues of botanical science in Georgia – the study of the current state of natural forests. It presents a large amount of factual material collected in reports of phytosociological and forestry research of the major forest formations of western and eastern Georgia. Attention is focused on rare, relict forests and ecosystems subject to transformations as a result of the ongoing global climate change, e.g., the treeline ecotone. Field research was carried out and the book was published with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), within the framework of the project ‘Enabling the Implementation of Georgia’s Forest Sector Reform – ECO. Georgia’. The book’s electronic version is available on request from the coordinators of the Caucasus Plant RLA. Using the book will further help in red listing of the Caucasus Forest ecosystems as a part of a larger regional ecosystem red listing work. The national teams of the six countries of the Caucasus will be asked to identify and assess the most threatened forest



*Alnus barbata* forest in West Georgia, at 1060 m a.s.l.  
Photo: Arsen Bakhia



Presentation of the book *Natural Forests of Georgia* in December, 2023  
Photo: Ilia State University

ecosystems of their countries based on the standard method within the next years of the quadrennium as the first step toward the comprehensive regional red listing. Email communication with small-scale online meetings will be used instead of the initially planned whole-group online meeting of the Caucasus Plant RLA. Experts in the IUCN will be contacted for help if needed.

### Acknowledgements

We thank the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ GmbH for the support of the four-year research of Georgia's natural forests (2019-2022) and the publication of the book in Georgian and English languages (2023).

### Summary of achievements

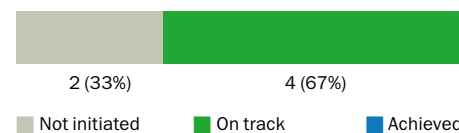
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Asia

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Legend: ■ 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