



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:

González, S. and Werner, N. 2024. 2023 Report of the Deer 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 Deer Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR

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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

Mariano Giménez Dixon
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

106

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Instagram: [iucn_deerspecialistgroup](https://www.instagram.com/iucn_deerspecialistgroup)

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

Mission statement

The mission of the Deer Specialist Group (DSG) is to contribute to biodiversity conservation through improvement of the welfare and sustainability of deer populations around the world. Our challenge is to find conservation alternatives to mitigate conflict, thus enabling rare and threatened species to survive.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The DSG has a qualified membership specialising in and researching on several of these target species. To achieve our targets, it will be crucial to establish collaboration and partnerships with funding agencies to support research studies and data collection.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Collect data on the existing effects and estimate possible effects of global warming on cold-climate DSG species.
Status: On track

T-006 Complete taxonomic studies, using molecular methods, of priority species (Indochinese Hog Deer, *Axis porcinus annamiticus*; Annamite Muntjac, *Muntiacus truongsonensis*; *Mazama* spp.).
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Create protocols to mitigate human-deer conflict in various South American habitats and regions, such as the Pampas, the Cerrado, open grasslands, as well as several forested regions.
Status: On track

T-007 Develop and publish deer conservation translocation guidelines by the end of 2022.
Status: On track

ACT

T-010 Capture Pampas Deer males to inseminate females of the captive centre.
Status: Achieved

T-011 Conservation Genomic of the Pampas Deer.
Status: On track

T-014 Conduct a training workshop for Latin American conservationists.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Establish a Climate Change Working Group.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Continue to grow the membership of the group.
Status: On track

T-012 Conduct a training workshop for Latin American conservationists.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Develop a new Deer Specialist Group website by the end of 2021.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Establish DSG's visibility in social media platforms by mid-2021.
Status: Achieved

T-013 Improve communication on social media and website.
Status: On track



Pampas Deer (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*)
in Uruguayan countryside
Photo: Susana González

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Research activities

T-001 Collect data on the existing effects and estimate possible effects of global warming on cold-climate DSG species. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: During the last semester of 2023 Noam Werner has initiated this target but is looking for support to collect the baseline information.

T-001 Collect data on the existing effects and estimate possible effects of global warming on cold-climate DSG species. (KSR 6)

Number of new climate change vulnerability assessments completed: 1

Result description: During the past two years it was difficult to advance because we did not have the opportunity to identify an Old-World Red List coordinator. We have an open call for applications on the membership, but we did not identify a person involved with the Red List and with the old deer species.

T-006 Complete taxonomic studies, using molecular methods, of priority species (Indochinese Hog Deer, *A. porcinus annamiticus*; Annamite Muntjac, *M. truongsonensis*; *Mazama spp.*). (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: We establish a new collaboration with Dr Aaron Shafer, from Trent University, Canada. This collaboration to advance conservation genomics applied to determine conservation Pampas Deer conservation genetics units in Latin America. Once we adjust this robust methodology will be useful to understand and apply it to deer species with taxonomic uncertainties.

PLAN

Planning

T-007 Develop and publish deer conservation translocation guidelines by the end of 2022. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: We need to move forward in Asia and Latin America; those regions are

the hot spots for deer diversity as well as for vulnerable, endangered species and ecosystems. We are looking forward to advancing during 2024 in at least one species of each region to have them as a model to continue and advance in the Action Plan.

Policy

T-004 Create protocols to mitigate human-deer conflict in various South American habitats and regions, such as the Pampas, the Cerrado, open grasslands, as well as several forested regions. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: A legal National framework policy was approved to provide legal protection in Uruguay.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-010 Capture Pampas Deer males to inseminate females of the captive centre. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 0
Result description: In 2023 the male radio collars dropped off and we recovered them on the field with valuable data to understand the Pampas Deer home range requirements and the successful survival after the capture and handling.

T-011 Conservation Genomic of the Pampas Deer. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 1

Result description: This new collaboration between Dr Aaron Shafer from Trent University and Dr Susana González from Instituto Clemente Estable and Deer Specialist Group was approved and funded by December 2023. The project will begin during 2024.

NETWORK

Membership

T-009 Continue to grow the membership of the group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: In 2023 we published the Newsletter number 34. We continue updating the website information. As a result of our effort, we increased our membership to 106.

Synergy

T-009 Continue to grow the membership of the group. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 2

Result description: During the year we maintain the basic support of the Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable and the Instituto de Conservación Neotropical.

T-009 Continue to grow the membership of the group. (KSR 3)

Build and strengthen collaboration with relevant non-IUCN stakeholders: Ongoing.

Result description: We continue to maintain our website and moderate activity on social media. We need to contract a social media manager to improve and motivate the membership to produce content for Instagram.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-003 Develop a new Deer Specialist Group website by the end of 2021. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: We updated the website and renewed the domain. The Newsletter 34 was uploaded.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable, the Instituto de Conservación Neotropical, the University of Trent Canada, and the Programa de Desarrollo de Ciencias Básicas (PEDECIBA).

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 13

Geographic regions: 8 Global, 5 America

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

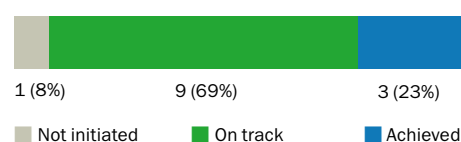
Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

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



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf



Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco