



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 trans-versal 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:

Leandro Rivel, C. and Vaz de Mello, F. 2024. 2023 Report of the Dung Beetle 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 Dung Beetle Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
24

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Instagram: [@dungbeetle.iucn](https://www.instagram.com/dungbeetle.iucn)
Facebook: [DungBeetleIUCN](https://www.facebook.com/DungBeetleIUCN)

Mission statement

Not stated yet.

Projected impact 2021–2025

This is a newly formed group whose initial aims were set around gathering relevant specialists, understanding the process for SSC specialist group formation, and implementing it, all of which were achieved successfully.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-007 Conduct Red List assessment of 400 species of southern African species.
Status: On track

T-008 Conduct Brazilian Dung Beetle assessments.
Status: On track

ACT

T-004 Development of multimedia packs for educational purposes.
Status: Not initiated

T-005 Connect with professionals from the agropastoral world.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Recruit new members for the specialist group.
Status: On track

T-006 Expanding the Dung Beetle SG network.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Create social media accounts for the specialist group.
Status: Achieved

T-003 Generate social media content.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Research activities

T-007 Conduct Red List assessment of 400 species of southern African species. (KSR 6)
Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 100
Result description: Compilation of the data was carried out in the second semester of 2022 mainly by three members of the DBSG: Adrian Davis, Gimo Daniel, and Christian Deschodt. The Red List Unit provided help for the creation of envelope maps for the assessments. An online workshop took place in June 2023; the DB specialists were trained by Red

List coordinator of the DBSG Catherine Numa, and the workshop was mediated by Phil Bowles and Neil Cox. The aim was the revision of 100 species in the Least Concern category.

T-008 Conduct Brazilian Dung Beetle assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0
Result description: A young Brazilian Dung Beetle specialist has been hired by Fernando Vaz-de-Mello. After the training and meeting with the Dung Beetle Red List authority, she created a partial list with 157 species that are currently under assessment.

ACT

Synergy

T-005 Connect with professionals from the agropastoral world. (KSR 10)

Number of meetings or encounters: 3
Result description: In 2023, meetings were held with Claudia Medina through various projects in Colombia, as the '[Ganaderia Regenerativa](#)', and with William Perrin and Pierre Jay-Robert, through the PLACENETT project in south-western France, different conferences were delivered and meetings with breeders, vets and conservation stakeholders were held.



Basque country pastoral zone, France
Photo: William Perrin



Coprimorphus scrutator
Photo: William Perrin



Gymnopleurus sturmis
Photo: William Perrin

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 Recruit new members for the specialist group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 8
Result description: In 2023, eight new members officially joined our group through the IUCN membership portal: naturalists, researchers, and students, they are more than welcome! Moreover, we have five others who have joined our mailing list and might want to join us officially in the years to come.

T-006 Expanding the Dung Beetle SG network. (KSR 2)

Number of communications inviting to join the DBSG: 2

Result description: In March 2023, the Dung Beetle SG Co-Chairs Camila Leandro and Fernando Vaz de Mello published a paper in *Oryx* entitled '[Dung beetle conservation now on the IUCN agenda](#)'. In November, Alfonsina Arriaga made an oral presentation entitled 'The importance of red listing for Australian entomofauna: the case of dung beetles' at the Australian Entomological Society Scientific Conference.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-003 Generate social media content. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 8

Result description: Eight different posts were published on social media (Facebook and Instagram) about Dung Beetle curiosities, such as their presence in films and football ceremonies, or other morphological or taxonomical facts.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Sergio Henriques for his guidance and Kelly Griese for the logo design, both from the Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival. Moreover, we would like to thank *Oryx* Journal for the opportunity to publish a 'news' section on the creation of the Dung Beetle SG.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 1 Africa, 1 America

Actions during 2023:

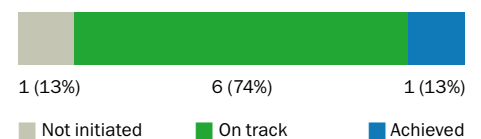
Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (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