



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:

Grace, M. and Long, B. 2024. 2023 Report of the Green Status of Species - SSC Integration Task Force. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Green Status of Species - SSC Integration Task Force



CO-CHAIR
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
23

Mission statement

Ensure the Green Status of Species and its derivative products are further developed, refined, and implemented with the support and input of the SSC network.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Launch and implement the Green Status of Species (GSS) to quantify species recovery and conservation impact.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Launch the Green Status of Species.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Establish Green Status team within the Red List Unit of IUCN.
Status: On track

T-003 Update Red List infrastructure (IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) and website) to provide integrated delivery of Red List and Green Status assessments.
Status: On track

T-005 Complete 5,000 GSS assessments by 2025.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-004 Develop GSS assessment training materials and delivery method.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Green List

T-002 Establish Green Status team within the Red List Unit of IUCN. (KSR 6)

Team of at least two people hired: 1

Result description: Magdalena Cygan has been hired within the IUCN Red List Unit to manage GSS assessments.

T-003 Update Red List infrastructure — IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) and website — to provide integrated delivery of Red List and Green Status assessments. (KSR 6)

SIS and Red List website able to hold GSS data and assessments: 1

Result description: The IUCN SIS and Red List website can hold GSS data and assessments. The final modules are in preparation and will be completed in 2024.

T-005 Complete 5,000 GSS assessments by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 64

Result description: In 2023, Magda Cygan was hired at the Red List Unit which has increased the processing volume of assessments. Several Specialist Groups and Red List Authorities committed to conducting assessments and exploring the use of students/interns to increase assessment workflow.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-004 Develop GSS assessment training materials and delivery method. (KSR 2)

Training materials developed and online training videos produced: Achieved

Result description: All 10 training modules were completed and are online; with online exam and translations by May 2024.

Acknowledgements

The IUCN SSC Green Status of Species Working Group gratefully acknowledges the support of the Lyda Hill Foundation in developing online tools, including the Green Status of Species online training course, and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance in supporting our work to develop programme-level assessments.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 5

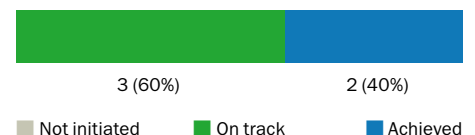
Geographic regions: 5 Global

Actions during 2023:

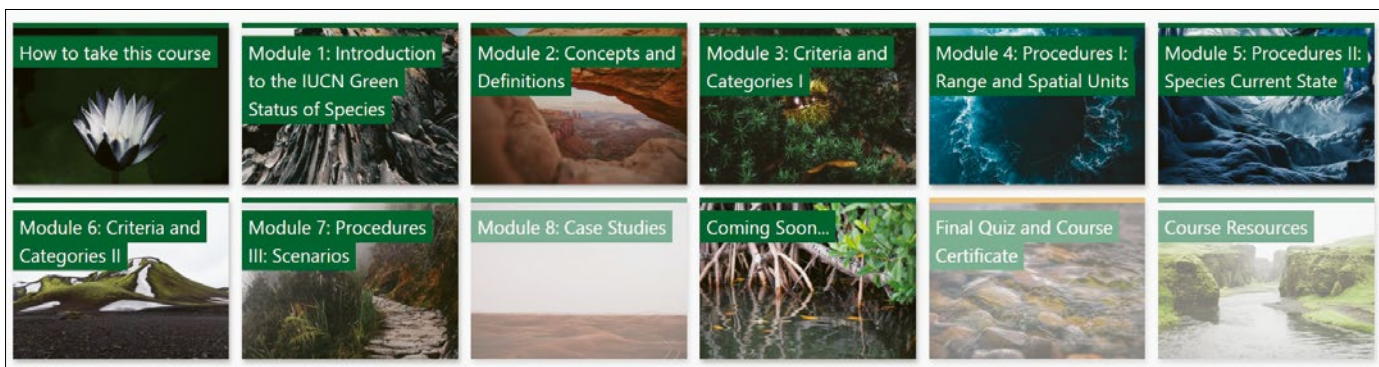
Assess: 3 (KSR 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated ■ On track ■ Achieved



Beta version of the IUCN Green Status of Species online training course at conservationtraining.org
Photo: Molly Grace

ANIMALIA – MAMMALIA	Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	↓ Decreasing	Global	<NT>	<LD>
ANIMALIA – AVES	Cheer Pheasant	<i>Catreus wallichii</i>	↓ Decreasing	Global	<VU>	<LD>
ANIMALIA – CHONDRICHTHYES	White Shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	↓ Decreasing	Global	<VU>	<MD>
ANIMALIA – MALACOSTRACA	Giant River Prawn	<i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i>	Unknown	Global	<LC>	<ND>
ANIMALIA – MAMMALIA	Pygmy Hog	<i>Porcula salvania</i>	Unknown	Global	<EN>	<CD>
ANIMALIA – MAMMALIA	Royle's Pika	<i>Ochotona roylei</i>	— Stable	Global	<LC>	<SD>
ANIMALIA – AVES	Mauritius Kestrel	<i>Falco punctatus</i>	↓ Decreasing	Global	<EN>	<CD>
ANIMALIA – REPTILIA	Jamaican Rock Iguana	<i>Cyclura collei</i>	↑ Increasing	Global	<CR>	<CD>
ANIMALIA – MAMMALIA	Saiga	<i>Saiga tatarica</i>	↓ Decreasing	Global	<CR>	<LD>
ANIMALIA – AMPHIBIA	Mountain Chicken	<i>Leptodactylus fallax</i>	↓ Decreasing	Global	<CR>	<CD>
ANIMALIA – MAMMALIA	Alpine Ibex	<i>Capra ibex</i>	— Stable	Global, Europe	<LC>	<MD>
ANIMALIA – MAMMALIA	Vicuna	<i>Vicugna vicugna</i>	↑ Increasing	Global	<LC>	<MD>
ANIMALIA – AVES	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	↓ Decreasing	Global	<EN>	<LD>
ANIMALIA – AVES	Pale-headed Brush-finch	<i>Atlapetes pallidiceps</i>	— Stable	Global	<EN>	<CD>
ANIMALIA – AVES	Greater Prairie-chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	↑ Increasing	Global	<NT>	<LD>

A sample of the species with published Green Status assessments on iucnredlist.org
Photo: Molly Grace



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