



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:

Pasachnik, S. and Knapp, C. 2024. 2023 Report of the Iguana Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
94

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group (ISG) is to prioritise and facilitate conservation, science and awareness programmes that help ensure the survival of wild iguanas and their habitats. To achieve this we implement, advise, and fundraise for programmes that include population surveys, protected areas management, invasive species control, field research, genetic studies, education, and captive breeding/head-starting initiatives. Headstarting, in which hatchling iguanas are raised in a safe, captive environment until they reach a larger, less vulnerable size, is proving invaluable in rescuing several Critically Endangered iguanid taxa from the brink of extinction.

Projected impact 2021–2025

We will increase *in situ* conservation action, advance conservation action plans, hold annual meetings, complete additional Red List assessments and Green Status of Species assessments, increase the use of our specialist group listserv, add resources to our virtual library, and publish protocols and papers focusing on iguanas.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Complete Red List assessment updates.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Complete species conservation action plans.
Status: On track

T-005 Update conservation action plans.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Develop rapid response protocol for hurricanes.
Status: On track

ACT

T-009 Compile and curate outreach assets.
Status: On track

T-011 Execute actions outlined in the action plans.
Status: On track

T-012 Conserve and manage threatened iguanas prior to action plan development.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-003 Hold annual meetings.
Status: On track

T-015 Increase our efforts to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the membership and our collaborators.
Status: On track

T-016 Establish a mentorship program.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Increase publications in the ISG virtual library.
Status: On track

T-008 Maintain and increase the use of the ISG listserv.
Status: On track

T-013 Publish scientific and other literature on iguanas.
Status: On track

T-014 Establish a dedicated Facebook page and group for our membership and friends to be able to more easily communicate.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-004 Complete species conservation action plans. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: No new action plans were completed in 2023; however, we did hold a planning workshop to create the conservation action plans for the Motagua Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura palearis*) and *Cachryx* species which should be completed in 2024.



Field Officer releasing Jamaican Rock Iguana (*Cyclura collei*) back to its native range in the Hellshire Hills
Photo: Stesha Pasachnik

T-010 Develop rapid response protocol for hurricanes. (KSR 8)

Protocol completed: 0

Result description: We have a draft working document and hope to complete this task this year.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-011 Execute actions outlined in the action plans. (KSR 10)

Percentage of actions within conservation plans completed: 0%

Result description: We have formed a working group and are gathering data to inform this target.

T-012 Conserve and manage threatened iguanas prior to action plan development. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 2

Result description: In 2023, the Marine Iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*) and the Guerreran Spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura pectinata*) were added to the list of species benefiting from *in situ* conservation actions.

Synergy

T-009 Compile and curate outreach assets. (KSR 10)

Number of resources compiled: 0

Result description: We are still working to organise this target but have identified two new volunteers to help.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-016 Establish a mentorship program. (KSR 2)

Number of people mentored: 0

Result description: We have set up a strategy for this initiative and surveyed the group to determine those interested in participating. We are in the process of gathering more interest and pairing individuals.

Synergy

T-003 Hold annual meetings. (KSR 2)

Number of meetings: 1

Result description: We held our 2023 meeting in person in Guatemala and are in the planning stages of our 2024 meeting.

T-015 Increase our efforts to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the membership and our collaborators. (KSR 2)

Number of actions promoting diverse audiences: 4

Result description: Using the results from the 2022 discussions we initiated a mentorship program, an ISG Facebook page, more interactive icebreakers, and tried to ensure dual language opportunities for the meeting country in 2023.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-007 Increase publications in the ISG virtual library. (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative: 4

Result description: In 2023, we added four new publications to our library.

T-008 Maintain and increase the use of the ISG listserv. (KSR 12)

Number of emails sent annually: 56

Result description: In 2023, 41 threads and 56 total emails were sent.

T-013 Publish scientific and other literature on iguanas. (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 9

Result description: Our members have published nine papers focusing on iguanas.

T-014 Establish a dedicated Facebook page and group for our membership and friends to be able to more easily communicate. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: We created a dedicated Facebook page and private group, but it has not been used as much as we would like. We are working to promote its use.

Acknowledgements

We thank the International Iguana Foundation (IIF) and their donors for the financial support of four projects awarded for the 2023/2024 cycle, totalling \$34,790, focused on iguana conservation in Central America, the Caribbean, and Fiji; the Fort Worth Zoo for supporting Stesha Pasachnik's role in the ISG; the Shedd Aquarium for supporting Charles Knapp's role in the ISG, and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for supporting Tandora Grant's role in the ISG. We also thank those members who made donations in 2023 to our ISG fund for future meetings, contributed to assessments and action plans, and participated in other ISG activities. Lastly, we thank all those who attended our annual meeting in Guatemala for presenting project updates, taking part in lively discussions, contributing to important discussions on diversity and inclusion within our group and the greater conservation community, and participating in workshops to aid in the creation of conservation plans for Guatemalan iguanas.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 14

Geographic regions: 14 Global

Actions during 2023:

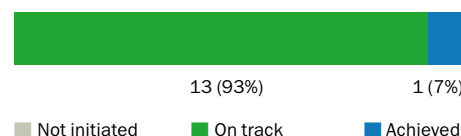
Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 4 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ 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