IUCN SSC Species Survival Commission

Species

ISSUE 64

2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat

Stand-alone report
IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee

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 standalone 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 Authory 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:
Hochkirch, A. 2024. 2023 Report of the Invertebrate Conservation Committee. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat.* Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee

CHAIR
Axel Hochkirch
Trier University, Germany

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
11

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @IUCN.SSC.ICC

Mission statement

The mission of the Invertebrate Conservation Committee (ICC) is to foster the conservation of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates and their habitats around the world. We assess their conservation status, raise awareness and engage in practical conservation of these most species rich taxonomic groups on Earth.

Projected impact 2021–2025

We aim to expand coverage of biodiversity within the IUCN SSC by adding more Specialist Groups for invertebrate taxa and raise the profile of invertebrates on the international conservation agenda.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-008 Conduct Dung Beetle Red List assessments.
Status: Achieved

T-011 Assess South African Millipedes.
Status: Achieved

T-016 Develop the European Red List of Insect Taxonomists.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-007 Develop three conservation strategies for threatened European pollinators.
Status: Achieved

T-023 Developing a Rare and Threatened Species Monitoring Module for the European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme.
Status: On track

ACT

T-004 Conduct an integrative multi-taxon Assess-Plan-Act Project in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (India).
Status: On track

T-005 Publish an article on how Red List assessments lead to conservation action.
Status: Not initiated

T-006 Send an Intervention Letter regarding Ayyalon Cave.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-002 Increase the number of Invertebrate Specialist Groups.
Status: Achieved

T-003 Organise an international congress on invertebrate conservation.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Establish a Dung Beetle Specialist Group.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Expand the scope of the Butterfly Specialist Group to include moths.
Status: Achieved

T-013 Formation of an IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group.
Status: Achieved

T-014 Organise an All Invertebrate Conservation Meeting.
Status: Achieved

T-017 Organise a symposium on Insect Conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-018 Expand the scope of the Mid Atlantic Island Invertebrates Specialist Group to an Atlantic Island Invertebrate Specialist Group.
Status: Achieved

T-019 Instigate the formation of an IUCN SSC Woodlouse Specialist Group.
Status: On track

T-021 Increase capacity on invertebrate conservation in a developing country through a tailored workshop.
Status: Not initiated

T-024 Provide strategic advice to Invertebrate Conservation Projects.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Develop Guidelines for Invertebrate Conservation in Protected Areas.
Status: On track

T-015 Develop a microhabitat standard for invertebrates.
Status: Not initiated

T-020 Publish an article on the European Red Lists.
Status: Achieved

T-022 Develop an article on Climate Change and Insects.
Status: Achieved

Baccha elongata is an European hoverfly species, which typically occurs in forests. This species is assessed as Least Concern. Its larvae are feeding on aphids
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

Pieris cheiranthi, an Endangered butterfly species, endemic to the Canary Islands, is one of the target species of the European Action Plan for Canary Islands endemic pollinators of the Laurel Forest zone
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-008 Conduct dung beetle Red List assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 400

Result description: A total of 400 Red List assessments for South African Dung Beetles has been completed and submitted to the IUCN Red List Unit.

PLAN

Planning

T-007 Develop three conservation strategies for threatened European pollinators. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 3

Result description: The three conservation action plans for European threatened pollinators have been published on the website of the European Commission.

Policy

T-023 Developing a Rare and Threatened Species Monitoring Module for the European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 1

Result description: A Rare and Threatened Species Monitoring Module (RaTS) has been developed in the context of the European Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (EuPoMS). The development of the module is completed and expected to be published in 2024.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-004 Conduct an integrative multi-taxon Assess-Plan-Act Project in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (India). (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 0

Result description: Red List assessments of Orthoptera from the Nilgiri Mountains are currently under review.

NETWORK

Membership

T-018 Expand the scope of the Mid Atlantic Island Invertebrates Specialist Group to an Atlantic Island Invertebrate Specialist Group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 10

Result description: The IUCN SSC Mid Atlantic Island Invertebrates Specialist Group has been expanded to cover all Atlantic Islands and has been renamed 'Atlantic Islands Invertebrates Specialist Group'.

T-019 Instigate the formation of an IUCN SSC Woodlouse Specialist Group. (KSR 2)

Number of new SSC groups established: 0

Result description: Two virtual meetings with Isopoda specialists were conducted in 2023. Pallieter de Smedt (Ghent University, Belgium) has been a key actor in this process and will coordinate the formation of the group.

Synergy

T-003 Organise an international congress on invertebrate conservation. (KSR 3)

Congress successfully held: 0

Result description: After the postponement of the congress organisation due to COVID 19, a new initiative will be started in 2024.

T-024 Provide strategic advice to Invertebrate Conservation Projects. (KSR 3)

Number of memberships on advisory boards for conservation projects: 3

Result description: The Chair Axel Hochkirch is a member of the advisory boards of the LIFE Beetles project, the LIFE Snails project as well as the LIFE SOS Crau Grasshopper project.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-001 Develop Guidelines for Invertebrate Conservation in Protected Areas. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: The draft manuscript of the guidelines for invertebrate conservation are well advanced and likely to be completed in 2025.

T-020 Publish an article on the European Red Lists. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 20

Result description: An Article on the Red List status of European biota has been published in *PLOS ONE* (Hochkirch *et al*. 2023). This article highlights the status of numerous taxa in Europe as well as their distribution and threats. The article had an enormous media coverage around the planet.

T-022 Develop an article on Climate Change and Insects. (KSR 12)

Number of articles published: 1

Result description: The article 'Scientists' warning on climate change and insects' was published by Harvey *et al*. (2023) in *Ecological Monographs* .

Acknowledgements

We thank the SSC Chairs office and the Center for Species Survival (Sergio Henriques) for constant support. We also would like to thank the IUCN European Regional office for fruitful collaboration.

Summary of achievements

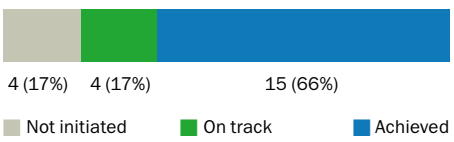
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 23

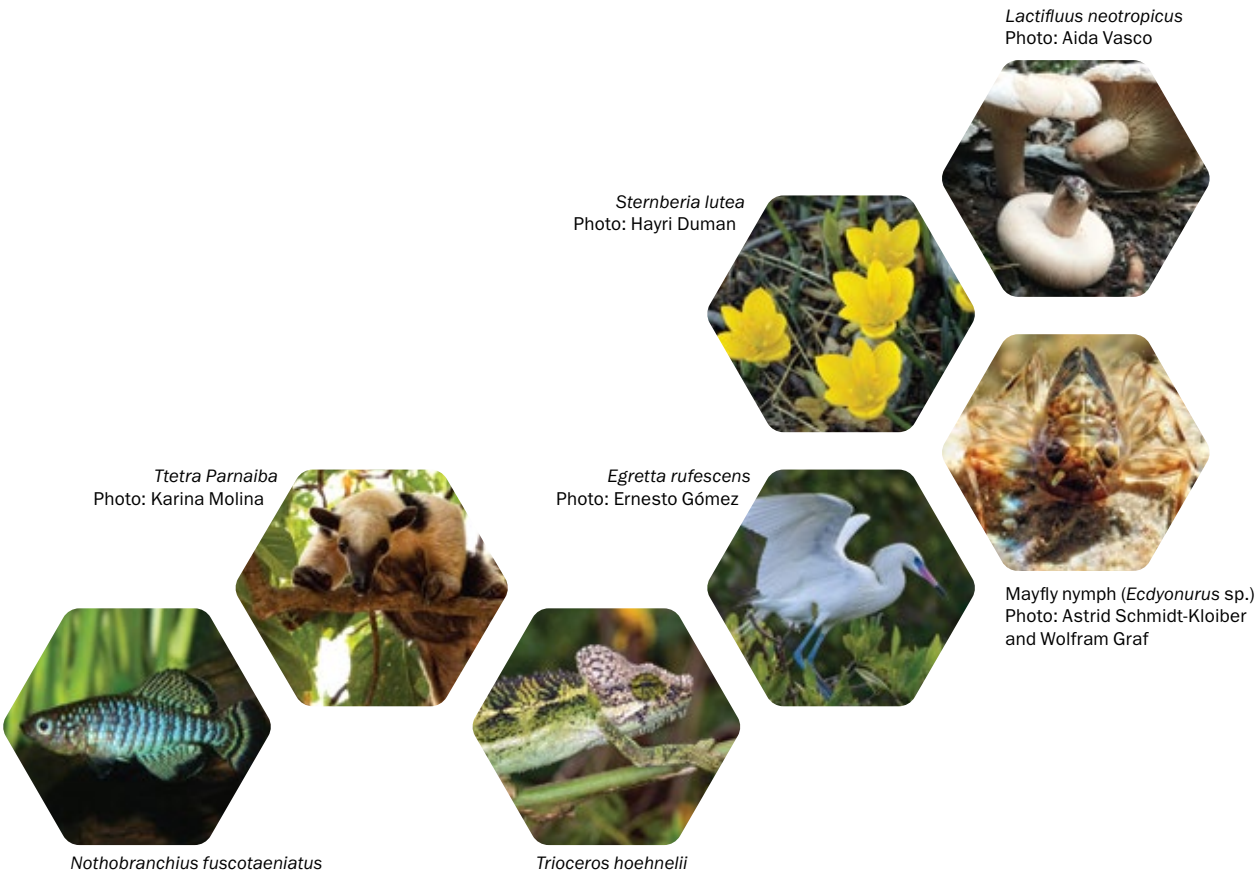
Geographic regions: 14 Global, 1 Africa, 2 Asia, 5 Europe, 1 America

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)
Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)
Act: 1 (KSR 10)
Network: 4 (KSR 2, 3)
Communicate: 3 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:





Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco

Sternberia lutea
Photo: Hayri Duman

Ttetra Parnaiba
Photo: Karina Molina

Egretta rufescens
Photo: Ernesto Gómez

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

Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus
Photo: Csenge Nagy

Trioceros hoehnelii
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson