



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:

Mast, R. and Casale, P. 2024. 2023 Report of the Marine Turtle 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 Marine Turtle Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
308

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Website: seaturtle.org;
<https://www.iucn-mtsg.org>

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) is to develop and support strategies, set priorities and provide tools that promote and guide the conservation of marine turtles and their ecological roles and habitats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

During the 2021-2025 quadrennium, the Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) will disseminate essential knowledge about the status of sea turtles globally through reports and networking that will inform scientific publications, management strategies and action plans. The group will also update Regional Management Units (RMUs) and conservation priorities for sea turtles, which guide IUCN Red Listing as well as conservation and management strategies at local, national, and international levels. Through 'Regional Reports' and other publications and reports, the group will continue to provide sea turtle researchers and conservationists with the most up-to-date and essential information to enable them to take the effective actions to protect sea turtles and their habitats at regional or local levels, thereby benefiting the status of sea turtles all over the world.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete global and subpopulation Red List assessments of the Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*).

Status: On track

T-002 Produce 10 Regional Reports (at least partially completed) covering over 80% of countries where sea turtles occur.

Status: Achieved

T-003 Plan, fundraise, conduct pre-workshop analyses and implement the 7th MTSG 'Burning Issues' Workshop (BI-7) focused on validating RMUs, re-assessing vulnerability of all taxa and creating a framework for 'Important Marine Turtle Areas'.

Status: Achieved

T-004 Publish three Regional Reports through IUCN.

Status: Not initiated

T-005 Update Renew Regional Management Units (subpopulations).

Status: Achieved

T-008 Complete a «conservation priorities portfolio» – a risk and threat assessment for all sea turtle subpopulations (regional management units) updated from 2010.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Communicate results of the Conservation Priorities Portfolio.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Complete global and subpopulation Red List assessments of the Olive Ridley Turtle (*L. olivacea*), Green Turtle (*C. mydas*), Hawksbill Turtle (*E. imbricata*) and Flatback Turtle (*N. depressus*). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 4

Result description: In 2023, we completed and published assessments for the subpopulations of the Green Turtle: (1) Mediterranean; (2) East Pacific; (3) Central South Pacific; and (4) Southwest Indian Ocean. Draft assessments for subpopulations in the Southwest Pacific and East Indian /West Pacific are being reviewed by members. Also, draft assessments are in progress for subpopulations of the West Central Pacific, and North Atlantic, as well as for the global assessment.



A Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) nesting in Trinidad
 Photo: Ashleigh Bandimere

T-005 Update and renew Regional Management Units (subpopulations). (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support RL assessments/reassessments: 1

Result description: The newly published regional management units will now form the framework for subpopulation Red List assessments. All new assessments will use updated boundaries and subpopulation delineations published in the updated RMUs.

Research activities

T-002 Produce 10 Regional Reports (at least partially completed) covering over 80% of countries where sea turtles occur. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 27

Result description: Nine reports were published each year and or updated making a total of 27 reports and we have now reached the goal of 80% coverage.

T-005 Update and renew Regional Management Units (subpopulations). (KSR 5)

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

Result description: The process of updating regional management units was completed by MTSG members and results were published in a peer-reviewed article.

T-008 Complete a “conservation priorities portfolio”– a risk and threat assessment for all sea turtle subpopulations (regional management units) updated from 2010. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: An analysis of sea turtle risk and threats has been conducted by over 135 experts using newly published sea turtle regional management units. The assessments have been analysed and preliminary results are being shared with the MTSG for comment before publication.

Summary of achievements

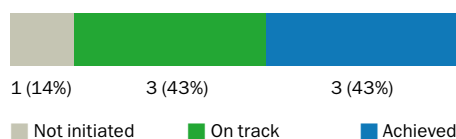
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 Global

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

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