



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:

Tatayah, V. and Baret, S. 2024. 2023 Report of the Mascarene Islands Plant 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 Mascarene Islands Plant Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
Vikash Tatayah
Mauritian Wildlife
Foundation, Vacoas,
Republic of Mauritius



CO-CHAIR
Stéphane Baret
Société Publique
Locale Écologie et
Développement
Durable des Espaces
Naturels, La Réunion,
France

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Kersley Pynee
National Parks and
Conservation Service,
Ministry of Agro-
Industry and Food
Security, Réduit,
Republic of Mauritius

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
30

Mission statement

To conserve native plants of the Mascarene Islands.

Projected impact 2021–2025

For La Réunion island: Set up a system for automatic assessment of the status of protected plant populations, according to the different concrete actions (new plantations), at (1) the level of managed areas and (2) the island scale.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct Red List assessment for 25 endemic plants of Mauritius and Rodrigues by 2025.
Status: On track

T-006 For La Réunion island: to update the IUCN status of protected plants and initiate the implementation of an automatic evaluation system, based on the different concrete actions.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Update the IUCN status of threatened plants at the Mascarene scale.
Status: On track

T-008 Produce publications on plant conservation.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-003 Produce or update at least one site or species management plan per year.
Status: On track

ACT

T-004 Identify threatened species to initiate conservation measures.
Status: On track

T-009 Include new protected plants in *ex situ* arboretum.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Recruit three new members annually in Mauritius and Rodrigues.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Produce publications on plant conservation.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Conduct Red List assessment for 25 endemic plants of Mauritius and Rodrigues by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 4

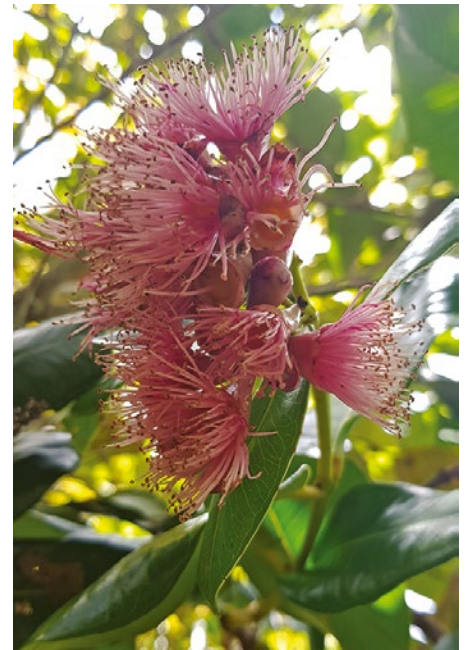
Result description: At least 20 Red List assessments of endemic Mauritius and Rodriguan plants, and Reunion species (mainly *Diospyros* spp.), have already been published during the quadrennium, at least nine have been submitted to IUCN before 2022, and 4 four related taxa assessments (*Dictyosperma album* and its varieties) have been submitted. We propose to conduct at least one new plant assessment per year in Mauritius.

T-006 For La Réunion island: to update the IUCN status of protected plants and initiate the implementation of an automatic evaluation system, based on the different concrete actions. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 1

Result description: In 2023, we published an updated version of the Red List for La Réunion, with 41% of species assessed as threatened: 395 species are threatened among 962 indigenous plant species; 142 are Critically Endangered (CR), 124 Endangered (EN), and 129 Vulnerable (VU).

T-007 Update the IUCN status of threatened plants at the Mascarene scale. (KSR 6)



Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: The Mascarene Flora has been finalized by the *Orchids* volume published in 2023 after the first volume was written in 1976 (Goodeniaceae and Campanulaceae).

Research activities

T-008 Produce publications on plant conservation. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 3

Result description: In 2023, one strategy and two publications were produced as part of the local GECOBIO seminar. A strategy for *ex situ* conservation has been written. A publication on the dynamic of *Euphorbia golliana*, and another on *in vitro* culture and mycorrhizal strain identification on *Oceoclades borbonica* and *O. versicolor*.

PLAN

Planning

T-003 Produce or update at least one site or species management plan per year. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: In 2023, a Conservation Management Plan for Mondrain was produced, as well as one Species Management Plan (*Syzygium pyneei*). A few species management plans will be produced in 2024 (*Ochrosia borbonica* and *Pandanus iceryi*) and several for Rodrigues will be updated.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-004 Identify threatened species to initiate conservation measures. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 3

Result description: Comments to Environmental Impact Assessments were provided on proposed developments at two sites, Roche Noires and Ferney Valley. In addition, trees of threatened trees (*Polyscias rodriguesiana*, *Foetidia rodriguesiana*, *Diospyros diversifolia* and *Terminalia bentzoë* ssp. *rodriguesiana*) that would be affected by the new runway were prepared for their translocation.

T-009 Include new protected plants in *ex situ* arboretum. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *ex situ* conservation action: 38

Result description: In 2023, 38 different protected plants species, corresponding to 284 individuals were benefited from

ex situ conservation actions. Species are the following: *Abutilon exstipulare* (Cav.) G. Don, *Acanthophoenix rousselii* N. Ludw., *Aloe macra* Haw, *Camptocarpus mauritianus* (Lam.) Decne., *Cissus anulata* Desc., *Coptosperma borbonicum* (Hend. et Andr.Hend.) De Block, *Croton mauritianus* Lam., *Dictyosperma album* (Bory) H. Wendl. et Drude ex Scheff., *D. borbonica* I. Richardson, *Dombeya acutangula* Cav. subsp. *acutangula* var. *acutangula*, *D. populnea* (Cav.) Baill., *Fernelia buxifolia* Lam., *Foetidia mauritiana* Lam., *Gouania mauritiana* Lam., *Heliotropium foertherianum* Diane et Hilger, *Hernandia mascarenensis* (Meisn.) Kubitzki, *Heterochaenia borbonica* Badré et Cadet, *Hibiscus liliiflorus* Cav., *H. ovalifolius* (Forssk.) Vahl, *Latania lontaroides* (Gaertn.) H.E. Moore, *Liparis ochracea* Ridl., *Lobelia parva* Badré et Cadet, *Mucuna gigantea* (Willd.) DC., *O. borbonica* J.F. Gmel., *Persicaria poiretii* (Meisn.) K.L. Wilson, *P. aemiliguineae* Bernardi, *P. cutispongia* (Lam.), Baker, *Pyrostria commersonii* J.F. Gmel., *Psathura borbonica* J.F. Gmel. var. *borbonica*, *Rubus apetalus* Poir. var., *glaber* (Cordem.) F. Friedmann, *Scolopia heterophylla* (Lam.) Sleumer, *Sideroxylon majus* (C.F. Gaertn.) Baehni, *Stillingia lineata* (Lam.) Müll.Arg., *Tabernaemontana persicariifolia* Jacq., *T. bentzoë* (L.) L. f., *Tournefortia arborescens* Lam., *Volkameria heterophylla* Vent., *Ceodes lanceolata* (Poir.) E.F.S. ossetto et Caraballo.

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 Recruit three new members annually in Mauritius and Rodrigues. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: Some members have been recruited in 2023, but more are planned in 2024. There are still difficulties for some potential members to access the portal to register.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-005 Produce publications on plant conservation. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 6

Result description: At least one peer-reviewed publication was published, one article in preparation; and at least five social media articles were produced (see [Mauritian Wildlife Foundation Annual Report 2023](#)).

Acknowledgements

We thank the Mascarin National Botanical Conservatory (CBNM), National Park and Forestry Service (SPL EDDEN, ONF, NGO: Plant Ali, APN, IRI), the researchers (University and CIRAD) of La Reunion Island for their implication, but also a specific annual seminar (Ambition Planète) to identify and implement concrete joint actions for the future. In Mauritius, to the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, National Parks and Conservation Service, Forestry Service, Ferney Valley, Ebony Forest Ltd, Mauritius Herbarium, University of Mauritius. In Rodrigues, to the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, Forestry Service, François Leguat Reserve. In the Republic of Mauritius, to funders and scientific supporters: Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Franklinia Foundation, Conservatoire Botanique de Brest/ Arche aux Plantes–France, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew–UK, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Hawaii, Missouri Botanical Garden–US, and the Naples Botanical Garden, Florida (US).

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Africa

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

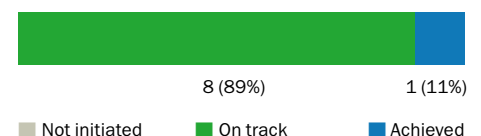
Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (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



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



Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco