



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:

Couvreur, T. 2024. 2023 Report of the Palm Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Palm Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
22

Mission statement

To conserve palms by assessing the threats that they face and developing programmes to protect palm species for the future.

Projected impact 2021–2025

We envision to have increased Red Listing of palm species worldwide, in particular species with Least Concern status.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Expedite red listing of Least Concern palms.

Status: On track

T-002 Conduct red listing of western Ecuadorian palm species.

Status: On track

T-003 Conduct red listing of Indian palms for Indian palm website.

Status: Not initiated

T-004 Generate population and distribution data to support red listing of Brazilian palms.

Status: Not initiated

T-006 Rapid inventory of palms, especially rattans, in National Parks of Côte d'Ivoire using UAV (drone).

Status: Achieved

T-007 Conduct red listing of New Guinea palms.

Status: On track

T-008 Conduct red listing of Vanuatu palm species.

Status: On track

T-009 Conduct red listing of Hispaniolan *Coccothrinax* palms.

Status: On track

ACT

T-005 Ecology and phenology of the threatened rattan species *Eremospatha dransfieldii* in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Expedite red listing of Least Concern palms. (KSR 5)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: The red listing of palms in Least Concern (LC) category has continued in 2023. One article on the conservation status of palm in the Choco region was accepted. We are working on the assessment of species now.

[SSC Grant awarded]

T-002 Conduct red listing of western Ecuadorian palm species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 10

Result description: Preliminary assessments were undertaken and published for all West Ecuadorian palms. We are now in the process of generating full assessments.

[SSC Grant awarded]

T-007 Conduct red listing of New Guinea palms. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: For this region, all species have been published, submitted, near submission and preliminary assessments.

T-009 Conduct red listing of Hispaniolan *Coccothrinax* palms. (KSR 5)

Number of Hispaniolan *Coccothrinax* palm species assessed: 0

Result description: A red listing workshop was held at the Jardín Botánico Nacional de la República Dominicana on palms in general. Fieldwork was undertaken to assess populations of threatened species of *Coccothrinax*. The red listing *per se* is delayed because we needed to delimit species first based on molecular data.



Hydriastele biakensis, Biak, Puapa, New Guinea
Photo: William Baker

A preliminary phylogeny was generated but we found we needed to include a few more samples to properly define species; we are nearly there now but we first must do this work to make good assessments. We assessed populations of Guano del Lago (*Coccothrinax jimenezii*) and found a new population, on which we are preparing a publication.

[SSC Grant awarded]

ACT

Conservation actions

T-005 Ecology and phenology of the threatened rattan species *E. dransfieldii* in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. (KSR 11)

Number of threatened species benefited directly or indirectly by sustainable use programmes: 0

Result description: Monitoring of this rattan was carried out in 2023 in the Hein classified forest in Ivory Coast and the Ankassa Conservation Area in Ghana. Unfortunately, we were unable to find any individuals in flower or fruit. On the other hand, in the Hein classified forest, we

found several juveniles near an adult individual. In Ghana, we were able to find in the vicinity of Ankassa around 10 individuals (almost adults) of the species which had been planted there. The property is a silvicultural plantation with tree species such as *Tieghemella heckelii* (Sapotaceae) and *Terminalia ivorensis* (Combretaceae). This shows that *E. dransfieldii* can be cultivated and grown in a silvicultural or even agroforestry system. The trees raised served as tutors for the individuals of *E. dransfieldii*.

Acknowledgements

We thank the SSC Internal Grants scheme, as well as several other institutions such as the Montgomery Botanical Garden, Biodiversity in a Changing Climate (BECC) at the University of Gothenburg; European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program (grant agreement No. 865787); Tiberius Jimbo of the Indonesian Plant Specialist Group, and the Global Tree Assessment project (BGCI).

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

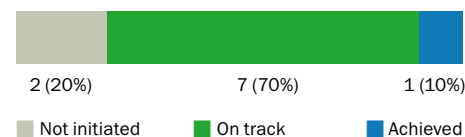
Geographic regions: 1 Global, 2 Africa, 3 America, 1 Asia, 2 Oceania

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

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