



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:

Bohm, M. and Gerlach, J. 2024. 2023 Report of the Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

X: @tirla1



RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

Monika Bohm

Global Center for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, US



RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

Justin Gerlach

Peterhouse, Cambridge, UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

38

Mission statement

To support the expansion of invertebrates assessed for the IUCN Red List.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Through increases in species Red List assessments, improve the awareness on threatened invertebrates and provide the basis for species conservation plans. Improve capacity for species assessments through networking with academic and other institutions.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Facilitate (lead, review, support) at least 50 invertebrate Red List assessments per year for invertebrate species not currently covered by any Specialist Group. Status: On track

T-004 Fill gaps in invertebrate Red List coverage and priorities and opportunities based on available expert networks. Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Build a global network of invertebrate experts, covering at least 30 countries and several taxa, to drive

assessments of species not covered by existing Specialist Groups.

Status: On track

T-003 Engage effectively with the Invertebrate Conservation Committee to establish new priorities for the Red List Authority.

Status: On track

T-007 Develop a model to increase Red List output for Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority (TIRLA) via engagement of new members and student assessors.

Status: On track

T-008 Provide access to Red List training workshops to TIRLA members and partners.

Status: On track

T-009 Hold a Red List workshop in the Philippines to attract new members and collaborators.

Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Build a presence on Twitter about invertebrates.

Status: On track

T-006 Produce – or assist the production of – regular outreach relevant to invertebrate conservation.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 Facilitate (lead, review, support) at least 50 invertebrate Red List assessments per year, for invertebrate species not currently covered by any Specialist Group. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 67

Result description: In 2023, with collaborators from the IUCN Red List Unit, and TIRLA members from the US and Philippines, 67 Red List assessments were published, e.g. Korean National Red List endemics; Philippines beetles; soil invertebrates. A TIRLA member, Oliver Cowan submitted an IUCN SSC Internal EDGE grant to conduct Red List assessments on the Colophons, an endemic and threatened stag beetle group from South Africa (22 species), but this was unsuccessful. As well, TIRLA Chair Monni Bohm collaborated with the IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group to produce distribution maps for 26 Land Crab Red List assessments and review corresponding assessments for consistency; these will be submitted in 2024.



TIRLA Coordinator Monni Bohm presents about the group's work at the Indiana Academy of Sciences Annual meeting, March 2023
 Photo: Kelly Griese
 (Global Center for Species Survival)

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-007 Develop a model to increase Red List output for TIRLA via engagement of new members and student assessors. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 15

Result description: Since the beginning of this engagement project in 2022, around 15 students and collaborators have undergone online IUCN Red List training. As part of this project, Dave Waldien presented TIRLA's work to students at Christopher Newport University (January 2023) and William and Mary (August 2023), with guest lectures/workshops by Monika Bohm (e.g. GIS training for red listing, to students at CNU and Kutztown University; guest lecture uses of IUCN Red List data, William and Mary). In addition, Monika Bohm took part in the first annual meeting in February 3-5, 2023 of the [Status of Insects Research Coordination Network](#) at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, specifically representing this project. Dave Waldien talked about the project in Bat workshops in Southeast Asia (virtual — August 2023) and Namibia (in-person — September 2023).

T-009 Hold a Red List workshop in the Philippines to attract new members and collaborators. (KSR 2)

Number of workshop participants: 0

Result description: In 2022, we applied for an SSC Internal grant to organise a Red List workshop to coincide with the December 2023 Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines conference in Bicol but were unsuccessful. Achieving this target is funding-dependent, and we may try again in the future.

Membership

T-001 Build a global network of invertebrate experts, covering at least 30 countries and several taxa, to drive assessments of species not covered by existing Specialist Groups. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: Two new members were invited to the group in 2023. The group membership now covers 20 countries.

T-003 Engage effectively with the Invertebrate Conservation Committee to establish new priorities for the Red List Authority. (KSR 3)

Membership on Invertebrate Conservation Committee: 0

Result description: We continued working with Axel Hochkirch, Chair of the Invertebrate Conservation Committee (ICC) and Vicky Wilkins, Co-Chair of Mid-Atlantic Island SG and member of ICC on finalising a book chapter on conservation planning for an Insect Conservation Handbook. This will be published in 2024. We also continued to work with the ICC on Guidelines for Invertebrate Management for Conservation which will also be completed in 2024. In addition, TIRLA supported the IUCN SSC Dung Beetle Specialist Group and partners in prioritising Dung Beetle species for assessment; TIRLA attended several meetings of the Specialist Group and meetings with Specialist Group partner organisations (ZSL) and the IUCN assessment team involved in Dung Beetle Red Listing.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-005 Build a presence on Twitter about invertebrates. (KSR 13)

Social media accounts created for Philippines outreach project, with at least 50 posts per year: 0

Result description: We applied for an SSC Internal grant to organise a training and/or assessment workshop in the Philippines to drive forward invertebrate — especially beetle — assessments, but the funding bid was unsuccessful. Achieving this target is funding-dependent, and we may try again in the future.

T-006 Produce – or assist the production of – regular outreach relevant to invertebrate conservation. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: We spent less time focusing on digital communication outreach in 2023, while we were busy finalising a book chapter on conservation planning for invertebrates, with Invertebrate Conservation Committee (ICC) Chair Axel Hochkirch and ICC member and Mid-Atlantic Island Invertebrate SG Co-Chair Vicky Wilkins. In March, we presented our efforts to increase species assessments through partnerships with academic institutions and students at the 138th Annual Meeting of the Indiana Academy of Sciences, which was covered on social media by the [Global Center for Species Survival](#). We also worked with colleagues in the Red List Unit on a paper on the Red List assessment of Giant Millipedes and Enariid Beetles from Madagascar. Once this is published, we will formulate some social media outreach around this.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our members for their continued engagement in TIRLA, and all our collaborators, especially our students, who are supporting our assessment work.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 1 Asia, 8 Global

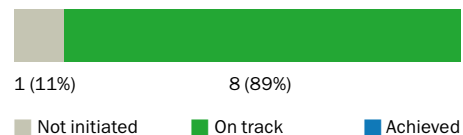
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Network: 4 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 2 (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



Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco



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