



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### 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

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Kingston, T. and Medellin, R. 2024. 2023 Report of the Bat Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

## 2023 Report

# IUCN SSC Bat Specialist Group



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
75

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @IUCNBatSpecialistGroup

Website: <https://www.iucnbsg.org>

### Mission statement

- (1) To contribute to the mission and goals of IUCN SSC.
- (2) To ensure the maintenance or recovery of populations of threatened bat populations.
- (3) To ensure that other bat species remain at a favourable conservation status.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-006** Trade in Bat Species Working Group (TBS WG): gather data to support application to CITES for two distinctive ‘souvenir’ species.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Conduct Red List Assessments of Old World Bats.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Conduct Red List Assessments of New World Bats.  
Status: On track

**T-012** Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group advises the BSG on taxonomy.  
Status: On track

#### PLAN

**T-002** Human Dimensions of Bat Conservation Working Group (HDBC WG): develop strategies to manage human attitudes and behaviours towards bats in the post-COVID-19 era.  
Status: On track

**T-004** Bats and One Health Working Group (OH WG): provide advice to the research and conservation community about safe practices for bat research and the role of bats in emerging infectious diseases.  
Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-007** Trade in Bat Species Working Group (TBS WG): work with CITES representatives to submit applications for two distinctive species.  
Status: Not initiated

#### NETWORK

**T-001** Establish a Human Dimensions of Bat Conservation Working Group (HDBC WG).  
Status: Achieved

**T-003** Establish a Bats and One Health Working Group (OH WG).  
Status: Achieved

**T-005** Establish a Trade in Bat Species Working Group (TBS WG).  
Status: Achieved

**T-008** Develop an online Red List assessment training pipeline specific to bats.  
Status: Achieved

**T-011** Establish a Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group.  
Status: Achieved

### Activities and results 2023

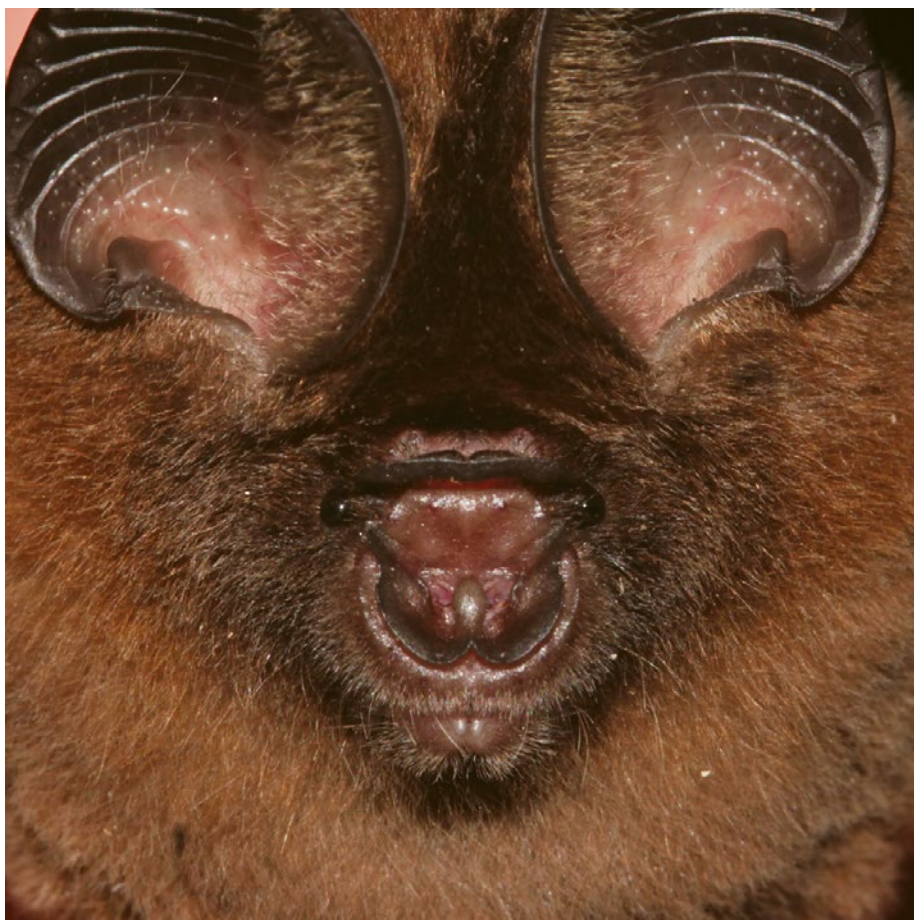
#### ASSESS

##### Planning

**T-006** Trade in Bat Species Working Group (TBS WG): gather data to support application to CITES for two distinctive ‘souvenir’ species. (KSR 5)

Number of CITES applications: 0





Described bat diversity continues to grow - here and in the following page are three of the species described in 2023, including *Hipposideros kingstonae* named for Co-Chair Tigga Kingston  
Photo: Pipat Soisook

*Hipposideros kingstonae* male holotype  
Photo: Pipat Soisook



Result description: In 2023, a survey of online trade in Painted Woolly Bat (*Kerivoula picta*) was completed in Spring 2023, and findings were presented at the 2023 meeting of the North American Society for Bat Research (NASBR) and submitted for publication in 2023. This study was reported on in February 2023 by Dina Fine Maron, for *National Geographic Magazine* and by Joy M O'Keefe, Joanna Coleman, and Nistara Randhawa in January 2024 for the *Wildlife Professional Magazine*.

#### Red List

##### T-009 Conduct Red List Assessments of Old World Bats. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 13

Result description: Thirteen assessments were published in 2023. Over 100 assessments are underway for planned submission in July or September 2024. The updated bat taxonomy from [batnames.org](https://batnames.org) (the Bat SG and Red List taxonomic authority for bats) is continuing to be reviewed and submitted to the Red List

for updating in SIS. Approximately 130 changes have been submitted, triggering the need for new assessments.

#### Research activities

##### T-010 Conduct Red List Assessments of New World Bats. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0  
Result description: Researchers have committed to updating assessments in the second half of 2024, with submissions expected for September 2024. Outreach to promote engagement with the red listing process in Latin America included presentations at local mammal meetings and training of novice assessors.

##### T-012 Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group advises the BSG on taxonomy. (KSR 5)

Number of species in the IUCN Red List reflects community taxonomic opinion: 12  
Result description: In 2023, the Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group (GBTWG) worked to summarise recent taxonomic revisions and resolve taxonomic problems, resulting in the addition of a dozen new species to the list of world bat species. The GBTWG

also published an opinion on the taxonomy of a widespread and problematic taxon, *Lasiurus*.

#### PLAN

##### Planning

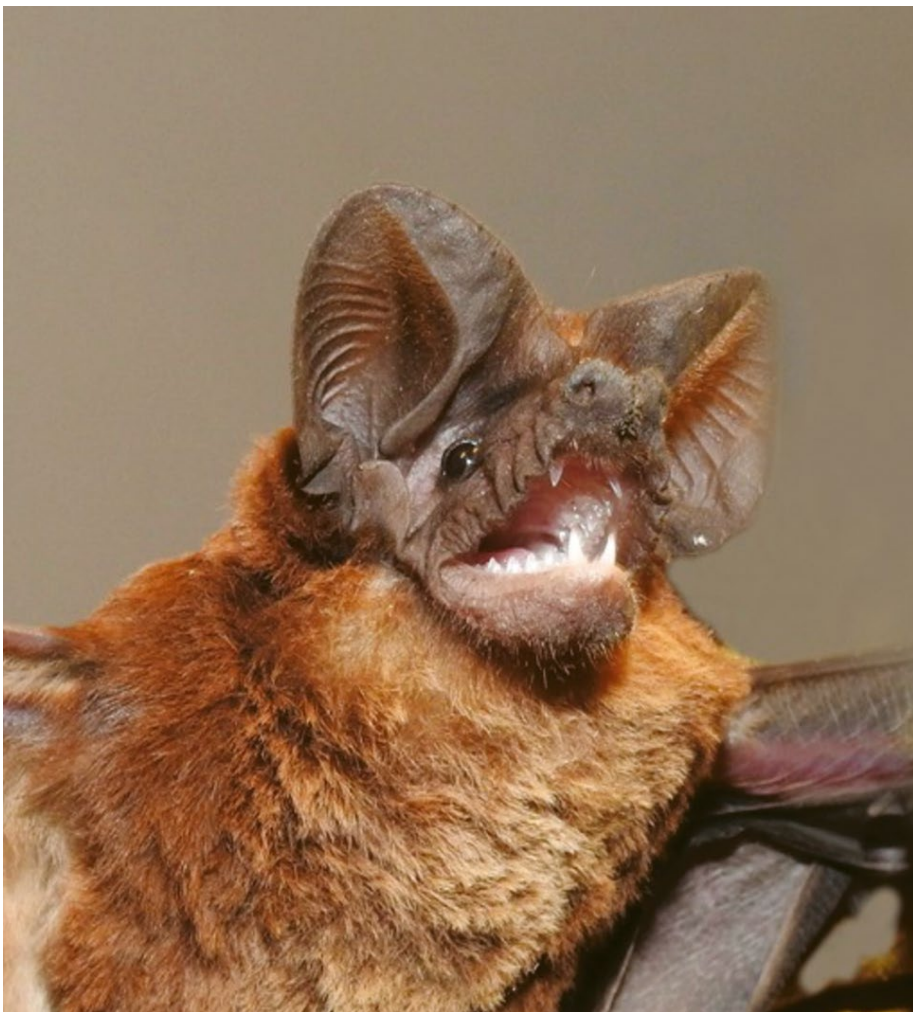
##### T-004 Bats and One Health Working Group (OH WG): provide advice to the research and conservation community about safe practices for bat research and the role of bats in emerging infectious diseases. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: The OH Working Group implemented a global survey of barriers to and drivers of uptake of field hygiene practices in 2022. We received responses from approximately 1,000 researchers from around the world. The analysis was conducted in 2023 and will be submitted for publication in 2024. Findings will inform the strategy for rolling out the new guidelines (Target ID 004) in 2024. Led by Dr Straka, the OHWG also submitted a study of the impact of emotions on people's attitudes towards bats during COVID-19.



*Myotis nustrale*  
Photo: Yann Le Bris



*Nyctinomops mbopicuare*  
Photo: Jerónimo Torresín





Red List Training and Assessment Workshop for 28 participants at Swakopmund, Namibia, 15-17 September 2023  
Photo: David L. Waldien

## Policy

**T-002 Human Dimensions of Bat Conservation Working Group (HDBC WG): develop strategies to manage human attitudes and behaviours towards bats in the post-COVID-19 era.** (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 0

Result description: New guidelines for working safely with bats are in the final draft, ready for completion and dissemination in 2024. In 2023 the Group also developed a survey of people involved in guano harvesting, aiming to gather information on conservation, sustainability, and disease risks.

## NETWORK

### Capacity building

**T-008 Develop an online Red List assessment training pipeline specific to bats.** (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 66

Result description: In 2023, a multifaceted Red List training program was established which includes the integration of Red List training into university classes, virtual workshops, and in-person workshops. As of December 2023, academic classes at two US universities have training and assessments as a central theme in each, where students are trained to complete assessments; six students from Christopher Newport University and 12 students from the College of William and Mary have been trained and assessments are in progress. This initiative will continue in 2024. On August 15, 2023, a virtual Red List Assessment workshop was held for 20 senior researchers, conservationists, and

students in Southeast Asia. Julie Senawi, PhD, is the regional coordinator for the Southeast Bat Conservation Research Unit and species are currently being assigned to trained assessors. On September 15-17, 2023, we held an in-person Red List Training and Assessment Workshop immediately before the 14<sup>th</sup> African Small Mammal Symposium, Swakopmund, Namibia. A total of 28 participants from 12 countries attended; 20 of the participants were from nine countries in Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, and South Africa). Participants were organised into five regional teams and are assessing >35 species for submission in December 2023. Additional people are being recruited to this initiative and additional species will be assigned once an assessment is completed.

**T-011 Establish a Global Bat Taxonomy Working Group.** (KSR 2)

Working group created and maintained: Ongoing.

Result description: The GBTWG was established and is active; in 2023 we established a [website](#).

## Acknowledgements

The Red List Workshop for Old World Bats benefitted from the generous support of several funding organisations, including: the Rufford Foundation through an award to Bats without Borders, the Woodtiger Fund through Lubee Bat Conservancy, the Greater Houston Community Foundation through Cullen Geiselman, Oppenheimer Generations through Ara Monadjem, and

the National Science Foundation through Texas Tech University. Special appreciation goes to the workshop's strategic partners: Bats Without Borders, Bat Conservation Africa, the IUCN Red List Authority, the Bat Specialist Group, the Global Union of Bat Diversity Networks, Lubee Bat Conservancy, and the University of Namibia (local host of the African Small Mammal Symposium). We would also like to acknowledge the pivotal role of Ara Monadjem from the University of Eswatini in the planning and execution of the workshop. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members and contributors of the Human Dimensions Working Group, One Health Working Group, Bat Trade Working Group, and Global Bat Taxonomy Group for their dedicated efforts.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025: 12**

**Geographic regions: 11 Global, 1 America**

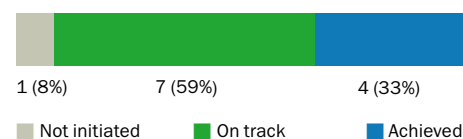
### Actions during 2023:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

### 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