



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:

López-Gallego, C. and Castellanos-Castro, C. 2024. 2023 Report of the Colombian 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 Colombian Plant Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
26

Mission statement

To generate baseline information to support decision-making for plant conservation by different stakeholders in Colombia.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Our Specialist Group will provide important input to the National Strategy for Plant Conservation of Colombia, in terms of Red List assessments and inclusion of threatened species in legislation, use of plant information to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and contribute to other spatial conservation planning, and concrete actions in our conservation plans for strategic groups – timber, Palms, Cycads, Orchids, Magnolias, Cacti and others.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-005 Design at least four conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.
Status: On track

T-006 Contribute to national policy instruments focused on species conservation.
Status: On track

ACT

T-002 Update the four existing conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.
Status: Not initiated

T-003 Incorporate at least 50% of identified threatened species in projects to identify and validate priority areas for plant conservation – e.g. KBAs, Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) and others.
Status: On track

T-007 Generate knowledge to support the sustainable use of plant species.
Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-004 Design at least four concrete products that relevant stakeholders could use for plant conservation decision-making in the country – e.g. technical reports and communications with recommendations, among others.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

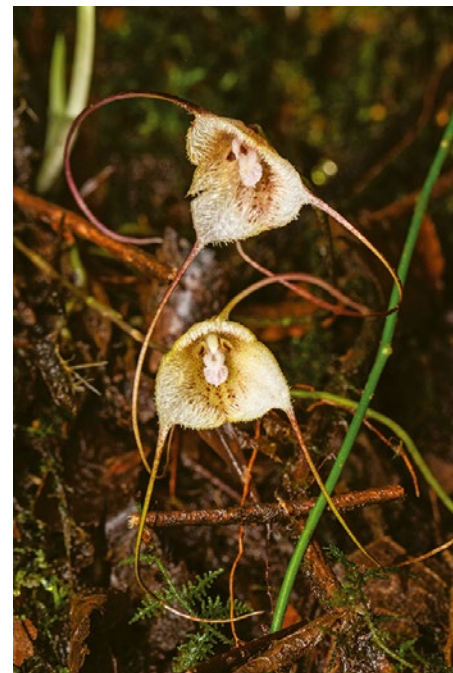
ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 567

Result description: We submitted to the Red List Unit 307 Red List assessments on tree species present in Colombia and neighbouring countries, as a contribution to the [Global Tree Assessment](#) within the framework of an agreement with the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). We coordinated the completion of the Red List of the orchid genus *Dracula*, a total of 130 species in South America, within the framework of a collaboration with the Orchid SG and financing by the On the EDGE Conservation (including 60 additional species present in Colombia but not endemic); these assessments are under review. We also serve as advisors for 200 Red List assessments of epiphytic species of the country, within a project funded by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) initiative: these assessments are under review.



Number of new national Red List assessments completed: 307

Result description: We published 307 Red List assessments at the global level for tree species present in Colombia in the IUCN Red List portal.

Research activities

T-001 Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 2

Result description: We published an academic paper in a special issue of the 'Global Tree Assessment' in the Journal *Plants, People, Planet* analysing results from previous projects on Red List assessments for all the endemic tree species of Colombia (PPP 5:617). We also published a divulgation paper to promote *Dracula's* orchid conservation in the bulletin of the American Orchid Society (Orchids 92:434).

PLAN Planning

T-005 Design at least four conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 1

Result description: We carried out a project (funded by the IUCN Global Species Survival Center of Indianapolis Zoo) to use all Red List assessments and other available

information to perform a conservation gap analysis, an identification of key stakeholders, a diagnosis of past conservation actions and a prioritisation scheme as foundation for a conservation action plan for the trees of Colombia.

Policy

T-006 Contribute to national policy instruments focused on species conservation. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: The Colombian Plant SG coordinated the inclusion of Red List assessments for plants in the national resolution for threatened species of Colombia, the main legislative tool for species conservation in the country.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-003 Incorporate at least 50% of identified threatened species in projects to identify and validate priority areas for plant conservation – e.g. KBAs, Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) and others. (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 10

Result description: We continued to lead the incorporation of plant species for KBA identification in Colombia, within the project 'Advancing Key Biodiversity Areas in the Tropical Andes' in Colombia. We used more than 100 plant species as trigger species in existing or new proposals for KBA in the country. The two Co-Chairs of the CPSG are now part of the National Committee for KBA in the country.

Acknowledgements

The Colombian Plant Specialist Group thanks the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for serving as a host institution for the Colombian Plant SG, and the Humboldt Institute and University of Antioquia for supporting the work of the Co-Chairs. We thank all institutions that have provided financial and technical support for the various initiatives of the group, including Botanic Gardens Conservation International, On the Edge Foundation, and the SSC Global Species Survival Center of Indianapolis Zoo.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 America

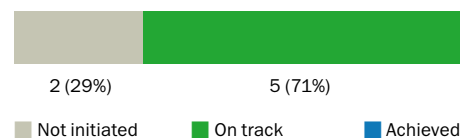
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated

■ On track

■ Achieved



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