



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:

Segelbacher, G. and Hunter, M. 2024. 2023 Report of the Conservation Genetics Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Conservation Genetics Specialist Group



CONSERVATION GENETICS
SPECIALIST GROUP

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://www.cgsg.uni-freiburg.de>



CO-CHAIR
Gernot Segelbacher
University of Freiburg,
Germany



CO-CHAIR
Margaret E. Hunter
US Geological Survey,
Wetland and Aquatic
Research Center, US

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
80

Mission statement

The Conservation Genetics Specialist Group (CGSG) establishes guidance for pressing genetic policy and management issues. The CGSG also provides genetic advice on policy and management within IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) and expert knowledge and assistance to SSC Specialist Groups. The CGSG facilitates a fuller appreciation, evaluation and conservation of genetic diversity and resources at all levels, providing a forum for all stakeholders to value and conserve this crucial element of Planet Earth's life systems.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Develop a guidance document for the use of genetics in red listing.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-001 Publish an IUCN Guidance document for monitoring changes in genetic diversity.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Develop a guidance document on biobanks and planning for conservation of intra-specific genetic diversity.
Status: On track

T-005 Develop a policy brief on Digital Sequence Information (DSI).
Status: Achieved

T-006 Develop a guidance document on how to include hybrids in conservation planning.
Status: On track

T-009 Prepare an issue brief on eDNA methods and standards.
Status: On track

ACT

T-004 Publish a position statement for the use of genetics in defining conservation units.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Raise awareness of the importance of genetic diversity in policy.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-009 Prepare an issue brief on eDNA methods and standards. (KSR 8)

Issue published: Ongoing.

Result description: The issue brief on eDNA methods and standards was submitted to the IUCN Press office and is set to be published in April 2024.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 Raise awareness of the importance of genetic diversity in policy. (KSR 12)

Inclusion of genetic diversity in CBD and international documents/strategies: Ongoing.

Result description: Genetic Diversity Assessment through genetic indicators have been put forward through the G-BiKE workshop in summer 2023 and input to CBD.

Acknowledgements

The Cost Action G BiKE held a workshop in Trento where many CGSG members could attend.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

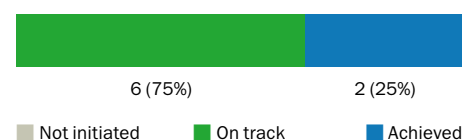
Geographic regions: 8 Global

Actions during 2023:

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:





Participants of the Genomic Biodiversity Knowledge
for Resilient Ecosystems (G-BIKE) meeting in
San Michele d'Adige, Italy, July 2023
Photo: Maggie Hunter



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