



Species

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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:

Rakotoarinivo, M. 2024. 2023 Report of the Madagascar 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 Madagascar Plant Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
60

Mission statement

The mission of the Madagascar Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) is to increase the knowledge on Madagascar plant diversity (flora and habitats) by assessing and/or reviewing their conservation status (especially for IUCN and CITES) and promote their conservation by identifying conservation priorities, giving recommendations for their survival and reinforcing people's efforts toward the conservation of plant diversity.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By providing basic information on species threats and human pressure, the SSC MPSG contributes to the protection of plant diversity and promotes biodiversity conservation in Madagascar. As more and more species face extinction in the wild, efforts to protect wildlife are becoming increasingly fundamental.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of the endemic and native flora of Madagascar.
Status: On track

T-005 Increase the knowledge of plant status in Key Biodiversity Areas.
Status: On track

ACT

T-007 Promote the use of indigenous and endemic trees in ecosystem restoration.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-004 Enhance the membership and the capacity of the SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-002 Develop a national strategy for plant conservation in Madagascar.
Status: Not initiated

T-006 Propose scientific basis for national legislation and policy on the conservation of the Malagasy flora.
Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of the endemic and native flora of Madagascar. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 240

Result description: About 240 species of vascular plants were assessed in 2023 by

the SSC MPSG, and the data on the extinction risk of these plants are now submitted to the IUCN Red List and waiting for official publication. Evaluated species are mainly from two distinct projects: the 'Today's Flora Tomorrow' (TFT) of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the COKETES program 'Conservation of Keys, Threatened Endemic and Economically Valuable Species', led by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. The 200 species come from the project of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 'Today's Flora Tomorrow' whose main goal is to give digital access to and work towards the conservation of plants and fungi of Madagascar while training the next generation. Species from COKETES are mostly useful trees for timber such as rosewoods or ebonies. In 2023, 83 species were successfully published on the IUCN Red List website, thus giving 4,915 Malagasy flora species to be reviewed and published now under the IUCN Red List categories.

[SSC Grant awarded]

Research activities

T-005 Increase the knowledge of plant status in Key Biodiversity Areas. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1



Borassus madagascariensis, a threatened species in the north-western Madagascar
Photo: Botovao Auguste Ramiandrisoa

Coptosperma madagascariense, a threatened species in the north-western Madagascar
Photo: Botovao Auguste Ramiandrisoa



Result description: A project entitled 'Ecological study of two threatened species in north-western Madagascar for the conservation' has been supported by the SSC Internal grants, under the number SMA-G00-GG-0000000568. This project focused on the effect of anthropogenic activities on the population decrease of two threatened species *Borassus madagascariensis* (Arecaceae) and *Coptosperma madagascariense* (Rubiaceae). The regeneration of *B. madagascariensis* is now limited as fruits are being harvested mainly for its sweet fibrous parts that are chewed while the remaining available seeds in the wild have very low rate of germination and take time to germinate. For *C. madagascariensis*, the surveys show the frequent usage of stems for facial masks and other like medicine and in a magico-spiritual way.

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 Enhance the membership and the capacity of the SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 60

Result description: The SSC MPSG has around 60 permanent members, mainly botanists but also various researchers and

plant science curators such as foresters, ecologists, and agronomists. The [Group's blog](#) allows members to share their activities and publications. In 2023, around ten young researchers under the age of 35 joined the SSC MPSG after raising awareness among this age group.

Acknowledgements

The SSC MPSG would like to express their gratitude to their partners and collaborators for their support. We are very grateful to the IUCN SSC internal grants and to the Re:wild Foundation for funding the project on the status of wetlands in northwest Madagascar. Our 2023 red listing activities were supported primarily by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, through its Today's Flora Tomorrow project; we sincerely thank the staff, in particular Dr Isabel Larridon, for her willingness to fully include the SSC MPSG in the extinction risk review process. We would also like to thank the Madagascar Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development for its interest in the conservation of Madagascar's plants.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

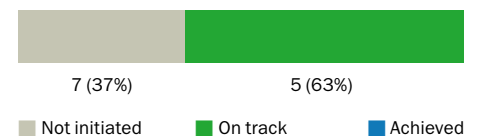
Geographic regions: 6 Africa

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (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