



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:

Mueller, G.M. 2024. 2023 Report of the Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball 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 Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
36

Mission statement

The mission of the Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group is to advance fungal conservation by raising awareness of the importance of fungi and the need to conserve them, building capacity among the mycological community, and greatly increasing the number of fungi on national and the global Red Lists.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Fewer than 2% of described mushrooms, bracket and puffball fungi have had their conservation status assessed at the start of the quadrennium. Completing and publishing Red List assessments is a key activity of the Specialist Group to identify species in need of conservation action. Completing assessments is not the only activity of the Specialist Group, as efforts across the full Conservation Cycle will be undertaken to raise the profile of fungi, have fungi included in policies and action plans, and mitigate the decline of endangered species.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Produce and submit 1,600 global assessments for the IUCN Red List.
Status: On track

T-002 Produce global, comprehensive assessments of genus *Cantharellus*.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Raise awareness on the importance of fungi and their conservation among young people, and engaging students into pursuing a career in Mycology.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

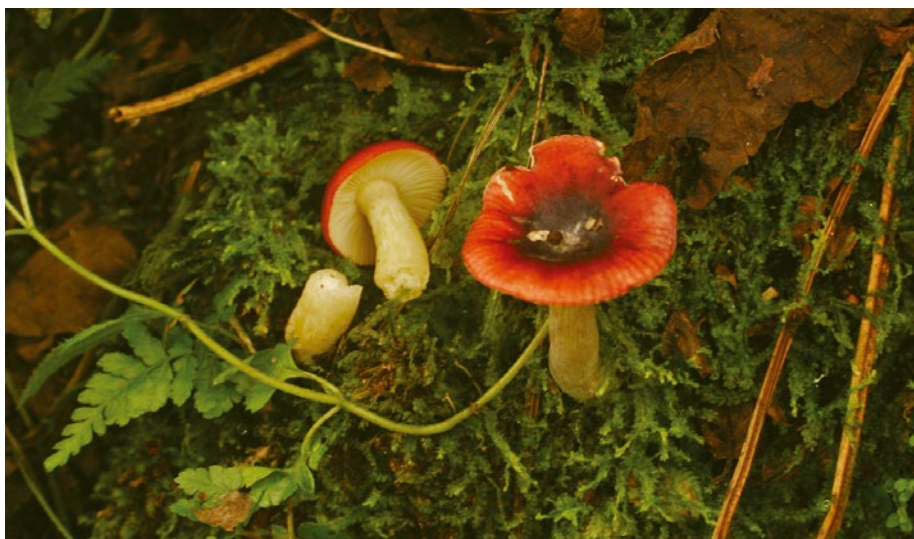
T-001 Produce and submit 1,600 global assessments for the IUCN Red List. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 107

Result description: There were 107 new assessments of mushrooms and related fungi published on the 2023 Red List update bringing the total number on the Red List to 602. Another approximately



Bondarzewia loguercaie, classified as Critically Endangered (CR A3c). Polypore fungus known only from southern Brazil
Photo: Drechsler-Santos



Russula alnijorullensis, classified as Vulnerable (VU A3c; C2a(ii)). Endemic species of the Montane Forests of the southern Yungas in Argentina and Brazil
Photo: Nicolas Niveiro



Descolea archeureta, classified as Endangered (EN A2c). Puffball endemic to southern Chile
Photo: Matthew Smith

400 assessments are complete or nearly complete and await review and publication with another over 1,000 assessments in progress.

T-002 Produce global, comprehensive assessments of genus *Cantharellus*. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 71

Result description: Seventy-one new assessments were published in 2023 bringing the total published to 126. All the remaining species have been preliminarily assessed and await final review and publication.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-003 Raise awareness on the importance of fungi and their conservation among young people, engaging students into pursuing a career in Mycology. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed: 60

Result description: Information on fungi, stories about specific amazing fungi, and updates on red listing and other fungal conservation actions were highlighted on social

media posted by the FunCC, Global Center for Species, Survival, and Specialist Group members.

Number of SSC members' presentations developed: 65

Result description: Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group members are active participants and presenters at conferences, workshops, and public events. Presentation topics included updates on biodiversity surveys, ecology, taxonomic treatments, conservation initiatives and general talks to the public highlighting the importance of fungi and the need to conserve them. In addition to seminars, talks to the public, and sessions at national scientific meetings, multiple presentations were made during the Latin American Mycological Congress in Panama, Congress of European Mycologists in Italy, NESS International Symposium in China, and State of the World's Plants and Fungi Symposium organized by Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Acknowledgements

The Mushroom Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group acknowledges the collaboration and support of the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, the IUCN Red List Unit, the Global Center for Species Survival, the IUCN SSC Chair's office, On the EDGE, and the Indianapolis Zoo.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 3

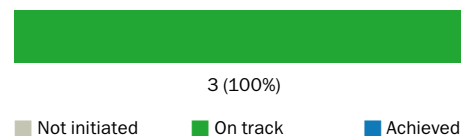
Geographic regions: 3 Global

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

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