



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:

Wood, J. and Cerbini, C. 2024. 2023 Report of the Pigeon and Dove 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 Pigeon and Dove Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
Joe Wood

Toledo Zoo, Toledo,
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CO-CHAIR

Charles Cerbini

Wildlife Conservation
Society/Bronx Zoo,
Bronx, New York, US

RED LIST AUTHORITY

COORDINATOR

BirdLife International
(Simon Bruslund)

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

44

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @IUCNSSCPigeonandDove

Instagram: @iucn_pigeons

X: @IUCN_Pigeons

Mission statement

Our mission is to assess and monitor the status of Columbiform species, work to raise the profile of threatened pigeons and doves, and convene expertise for their conservation. We work with partner organizations to draft action plans for priority species, assist with sourcing the funding required for the implementation of these plans, and prioritize monitoring and evaluation of conservation efforts.

Projected impact for 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we will have established the Pigeon and Dove Specialist Group as a global force for the conservation of Columbiformes. This will include growing the Group's membership (with a particular emphasis on increasing representation from the Global South), collaborating with the Bird Red List Authority to identify species for updated assessment, and developing a communications strategy. A current priority is the Manumea (*Didunculus strigirostris*). We will be assisting with the implementation of a Recovery Plan for this species, beginning with the coordination of a Captive Breeding Feasibility Study.

Targets for 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Produce four annual submissions to BirdLife International, the Bird Red List Authority, which collate information relevant to the assessment of Columbiform species. Status: On track

T-004 Identify 10 species for updated assessment on the IUCN Red List by 2022. Status: On track

PLAN

T-005 By 2024, convene a workshop to review and update the *Conservation Assessment and Management Plan for Pigeons and Doves* (CBSG & ICBP, 1993). Status: Not initiated

T-006 Work with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group to organise at least one planning workshop for a priority species and draft the subsequent action plan by 2024. Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-008 Based on existing EDGE and IUCN Red List priorities, assist with the implementation of the Manumea Recovery Plan (Samoan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources – MNRE – and SCS, 2020), with an emphasis on mounting a large-scale search for Manumea (*D. strigirostris*) by 2023 and progressing the other set goals. Status: Achieved

T-009 Produce a feasibility study relating to an *ex situ* programme for Manumea by 2022.

Status: Achieved

T-010 Initiate direct support for at least two additional programmes focused on priority species by 2024.

Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-001 Recruit at least 40 new members by 2025, with a focus on increasing representation from the Global South.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-012 Establish an active social media presence by 2022.

Status: Achieved

T-013 Produce the first Specialist Group newsletter by 2022, with subsequent editions released every six months thereafter.

Status: Not initiated

Activities and results for 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 Produce four annual submissions to BirdLife International, the Bird Red List Authority, which collate information relevant to the assessment of Columbiform species. (KSR 6)



Pacific Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula pacifica*), Samoa
Photo: Kasper Berg

Tongan Ground Dove (*Pampusana stairi*), Samoa
Photo: Kasper Berg



Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 1

Result description: PDSG Members, via the Red List Coordinator, contributed to discussions on Columbiform species being considered for reassessment under IUCN Red List Criteria during 2023.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-008 Based on existing EDGE and IUCN Red List priorities, assist with the implementation of the Manumea Recovery Plan (MNRE and SCS, 2020), with an emphasis on mounting a large-scale search for Manumea (*D. strigirostris*) by 2023 and progressing toward the other set goals. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: By August 2023 the implementation phase of this project was underway.

T-009 Produce a feasibility study relating to an *ex situ* programme for Manumea by 2022. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: A draft of this document, compiled by Specialist Group members, was submitted for review by the MNRE. The MNRE have now provided their comments, indicating their agreement with the recommendations made. Work on a

final version of the Feasibility Study, incorporating feedback from all stakeholders, is now underway.

T-010 Initiate direct support for at least two additional programmes focused on priority species by 2024. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: Support for efforts to establish a captive population of Blue-eyed Ground Doves (*Columbina cyanopsis*) was continued in 2023 when the active phase of this project was initiated. Members of the PDSG contributed to an expert advisory group. Joe Wood travelled to Brazil, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Group, and played a key role in the successful rearing of the first two chicks hatched under human care. The PDSG has endorsed a proposal submitted to the Indianapolis Saving Species Fund regarding a planned reintroduction of Socorro Doves (*Zenaida graysoni*; IUCN EW). Toledo Zoo has agreed to provide grants of up to USD 30,000 to projects nominated by the PDSG Steering Committee, and the availability of this funding has been announced in *Oryx*.

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 Recruit at least 40 new members by 2025, with a focus on increasing representation from the Global South. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: Three new members were admitted to the specialist group in 2023.

Acknowledgements

The Specialist Group would like to acknowledge Toledo Zoo for their role in supporting the group's activities and extend our sincere thanks.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 10

Geographic regions: 8 Global, 2 Oceania

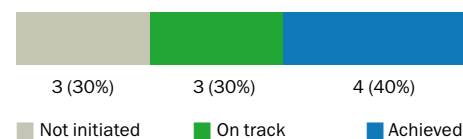
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

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