



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:

Wilcox, D. and González-Maya, J.F. 2024. 2023 Report of the Small Carnivore 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 Small Carnivore Specialist Group



IUCN SSC
Small Carnivore
Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
Daniel Wilcox
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ProCAT Colombia,
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**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Will Duckworth
Bath, UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
85

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @SmallCarnivores

X: @IUCN_SCSG

Website: www.smallcarnivore.org

Mission statement

The mission of the Small Carnivore Specialist Group (SCSG) is to build capacity among small carnivore researchers and conservationists, provide a venue to publish new knowledge, maintain the most up-to-date status assessment for the species and engage in active research and conservation related to small carnivores.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Projected impacts for the 2021-2025 period are: better public awareness of the priority of small carnivores for conservation; better awareness of the links between carnivore trade/use and zoonotic diseases and updated Red List assessments for the group's 170+ species with a particular focus on small carnivore species distributed in North, Central and South America and Madagascar.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-006 Complete Red List assessments for all of the Group's species by 2025.

Status: On track

T-008 Maintain an annual issue of the Group's peer-reviewed journal, *Small Carnivore Conservation*.

Status: On track

T-011 Publish a special issue on the Malagasy small carnivores in the group's peer-reviewed journal *Small Carnivore Conservation*.

Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-010 Provide mentorship to the Owston's Civet programme coordinator, based at Save Vietnam's Wildlife, Vietnam.

Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-005 Implement the One Plan Approach conservation strategy for Malagasy carnivores.

Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-002 Develop a working group to coordinate Owston's Civet conservation between the Group's members, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and local NGOs in range countries.

Status: Not initiated

T-003 Develop a working group to coordinate European Mink (*Mustela lutreola*) conservation among the Group's members, EAZA and local NGOs in range countries.

Status: Not initiated

T-004 Develop a working group to coordinate the conservation of Malagasy carnivores among the Group's members, EAZA and local NGOs in range countries.

Status: Not initiated

T-007 Develop a multi-language species record database for mainland Southeast Asia (Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar).

Status: Not initiated

T-009 Increase membership from priority countries or regions: Madagascar, Southeast Asia, West Africa and Central Africa.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Establish a new website for the Small Carnivore Specialist Group to highlight the Group's conservation priorities and the work of its membership.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-006 Complete Red List assessments for all of the Group's species by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 18

Result description: In 2023, we began the reassessments for the Group's 18 species of small carnivores distributed in North America.



California Raccoon (*Procyon lotor psora*) climbing a tree in Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge
 Photo: David Menke (CCO)

Research activities

T-008 Maintain an annual issue of the Group's peer-reviewed journal *Small Carnivore Conservation*. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 1

Result description: The 2022 issue was completed, following migration to the new journal platform.

COMMUNICATE
Communication

T-001 Establish a new website for the Small Carnivore Specialist Group to highlight the Group's conservation priorities and the work of its membership. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: The website for the Specialist Group and its journal were completed and are up-to-date: (a) [Website](#); (b) [Journal](#).

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 11

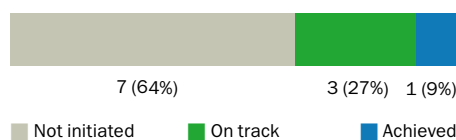
Geographic regions: 4 Global, 3 Africa, 3 Asia, 1 Europe

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

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