



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:

Carmachahi, P. 2024. 2023 Report of the South American Camelid Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

X: @GrupoGeecs

Website: www.camelid.org

CHAIR

Pablo Carmanchahi

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RED LIST AUTHORITY

COORDINATOR

Pablo Acebes

Department of Ecology, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

35

Mission statement

To promote the conservation and sustainable use of (wild) South American Camelids in their area of geographic distribution.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The planning established internally in our Group aims to provide by 2025 an important advancement in the reduction of the threats currently faced by South American Camelids. Hence, we will work to reduce the risk of local extinction of some populations that are currently highly threatened and have a high degree of fragmentation. To this end, we intend to strongly influence public policies, such as the International Convention for the Conservation of the Vicuña and the National Management and Conservation Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. Through the active participation of members, we will work to reduce the conflict between South American Camelids and human activities in those populations that currently show signs of recovery and are abundant. Through the generation of new information, we will begin a process of precise evaluation

of the populations on a regional scale for local classification into conservation categories. Through dissemination and communication actions, we will endeavour to give visibility to the threats to vulnerable populations, as well as to the possibility of use of our species. We will continue to support the sustainable use of species for the benefit of local communities, and will generate actions to confront poaching and illegal trade in order to reduce their impact on natural populations. We are convinced that both conservation initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of the species, combined with communication and education programmes, will have a positive impact on the attitudes of communities throughout the range of South American Camelids.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-011 Complete Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) subspecies assessment for the Red List. Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-006 Participate in the development of a management and conservation plan for Vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*) in Argentina. Status: Not initiated

T-007 Participate in the development of a conservation plan for Guanaco in Perú. Status: Not initiated

T-008 Review the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. Status: On track

T-009 Update Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American Wild Camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for Wild Guanacos and Vicuñas. Status: On track

T-010 Develop an animal welfare protocol applied to commercial hunting. Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-003 Elaborate a report about mange disease in Vicuña. Status: Achieved

T-013 Develop a position statement about commercial hunting. Status: Not initiated

Wild Vicunas (*Vicugna vicugna*)
in Paso San Francisco, Catamarca, Argentina
Photo: Pablo Carmanchahi



T-014 Participate in the annual meeting of the Vicuña International Convention.

Status: On track

T-016 Provide advice to the National Parks Administration of Argentina on the rewilding of wild Guanacos in El Impenetrable National Park, Chaco.

Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-004 Update the GECS membership protocol and develop a membership cancellation protocol.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Publish one GECS Newsletter per year and obtain the GECS Newsletter ISSN.

Status: Achieved

T-002 Develop a communication strategy for the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS, for Grupo Especialista en Camélidos Sudamericanos) and update the GECS website by 2021.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-009 Update Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American Wild Camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for Wild Guanacos and Vicuñas. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: During 2023 we began a process of updating the protocol for good management practices for wild Vicuñas, which we hope will be published in the next edition of our group's journal.

Policy

T-008 Review the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: During 2023, members of the GECS participated in different events to advance in the modification of the National Guanaco Management Plan, in addition to holding meetings with

the Director of Biodiversity and technicians from the same Office. However, the changes that had been defined in the 10 workshops held in 2022 and the diagnostic document prepared as a result of those meetings have not been achieved due to the change of government in Argentina in December.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-003 Elaborate a report about mange disease in Vicuña. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: The report prepared by GECS members on mange in Vicuñas will be presented at the next technical meeting of the International Convention of Vicuña Management and Conservation to be held in Bolivia during the first half of 2024.

Technical advice

T-014 Participate in the annual meeting of the Vicuña International Convention. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 0



Sustainable use of wild Guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*)
in La Payunia Reserve, Mendoza, Argentina
Photo: Antonella Panebianco

Result description: Since 2022 we have been holding meetings with different scientific organisations and authorities related to the conservation and management of fauna to give continuity to the meetings of the International Convention for the Management and Conservation of the Vicuña. To this end, during the First Argentine Conference for the Conservation and Management of South American Wild Camelids, a statement was made formally requesting Argentina's Focal Point for the Convention and the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its capacity as Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Convention, to take the corresponding diplomatic and technical steps to make the XXXV Ordinary Meeting of the Technical-Administrative Commission of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña a reality. At the end of 2023, a first organisational meeting was held where it was decided that Bolivia and Peru would be the host countries for the technical and administrative meetings of the Convention during the first semester of 2024.

T-016 Provide advice to the National Parks Administration of Argentina on the rewilding of wild Guanacos in El Impenetrable National Park, Chaco. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 0



Guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*)
in La Payunia Reserve, Mendoza, Argentina
Photo: Sergio Aguirre

Result description: During the First Conference on Conservation and Management of Wild South American Camelids, a declaration was drafted requesting the Secretariat of Environmental Policy on Natural Resources and the Biodiversity Directorate of the National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the provincial enforcement authorities through COFEMA and the National Parks Administration to: (1) Urgently produce an approved regulatory framework where the public procedures to be followed before, during and after a translocation are established, based on clear and transparent grounds; (2) Apply the precautionary principle to translocation projects, until an adequate and agreed upon regime is developed and put into effect, given that this implies multiple risks that must be duly evaluated and foreseen, avoiding reversible or irreversible impacts on species, ecosystems and the socio-environment in general; (3) Call for the formation of an *ad hoc* Committee of Experts to address the ongoing applications in order to evaluate these projects, as well as to implement public information and consultation procedures to ensure transparency in the decisions that may be taken; (4) Adhere to the regulatory framework and actions contemplated in translocation events as guidelines in the National

Sustainable Management Plan for the Guanaco and the plans that govern Vicuñas in the different regions.

NETWORK Membership

T-004 Update the GECS membership protocol and develop a membership cancellation protocol. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3
Result description: In 2023, three new members joined the South American Camelid Specialist Group, one each from Argentina, Peru and Chile. Currently, GECS has 35 members, of which 16 are women. Geographically, the members are distributed as follows: 16 in Argentina, three in Bolivia, seven in Chile, five in Peru, one in Spain, two in the US and one in Switzerland.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-001 Publish one GECS Newsletter per year and obtain the GECS Newsletter ISSN. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 0
Result description: A new edition of *GECS News* was published in April 2023. Given the continuity of publication for more than

three consecutive years, we will aim to achieve the indexing of the journal in different portals to have a greater impact.

T-002 Develop a communication strategy for the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS, for Grupo Especialista en Camélidos Sudamericanos) and update the GECS website by 2021. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: The Group's website was updated, and new communication actions are being developed to achieve greater impact through social networks.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025:13

Geographic regions:13 America

Actions during 2023:

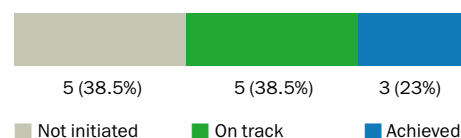
Plan:2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 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