



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:

Gopi Sundar, K.S. and Cano Alonso, L.S. 2024. 2023 Report of the Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill 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 Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://storkibisspoonbill.org>



CO-CHAIR
K.S. Gopi Sundar
Waterbirds Society,
US



CO-CHAIR
Luis Santiago Cano Alonso
Grupo de Investigación
en Biología Evolutiva
y de la Conservación,
Universidad Complu-
tense de Madrid,
Madrid, Spain

RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR
BirdLife International

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
39

Mission statement

The Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group (SIS-SG) is a global network of scientists, conservationists, governmental and non-governmental institutions, and people committed to the scientific understanding and conservation of SIS species and their habitats.

Projected impact for 2021–2025

We expect to assess the Green Status of six species of the group.

Targets for 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Publish yearly the peer-reviewed online open access publication *SIS Conservation*.
Status: On track

T-002 Assess the Green Status of at least six stork, ibis and spoonbill (SIS) species.
Status: On track

T-003 Contribute to the publication of the global Green Status of Species.
Status: On track

T-008 Publish at least one new special publication.
Status: Achieved

T-009 Write and publish scientific articles including SIS species biology, ecology and behaviour, threats and conservation issues by at least one author with affiliation to SSC.
Status: Achieved

ACT

T-006 Organise at least a technical consultation to support conservation actions for organisations and institutions engaged with SIS species research and conservation.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-004 Identify focal experts for species in the Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered categories.
Status: On track

T-005 Review membership and expand the taxonomic and geographic representation for the group by inviting 10 new experts, with emphasis on increasing the representation of members from the Americas and Africa and aiming for female members.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Compile a list of relevant news and documents and make them publicly available on the SIS-SG website.
Status: On track

Activities and results for 2023

ASSESS

Green Status

T-002 Assess the Green Status of at least six stork, ibis and spoonbill (SIS) species. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 0

Result description: We have invited experts and established a specialist team to assess the Northern Bald Ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) and we expect to accomplish the assessment in 2024.

T-003 Contribute to the publication of the global Green Status of Species. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 0

Result description: We could not complete the assessment of new species in 2023 due to lack of time, though there is a plan to finalise two more in 2024.

Research activities

T-001 Publish yearly the peer-reviewed online open access publication *SIS Conservation*. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0



Black-faced Ibis (*Theristicus melanopis*) looking for food in El Calafate, Argentina
Photo: José Luis Tellería Jorge

Result description: A new issue of *SIS Conservation* will be published for 2023 and 2024; this 2-year issue will be published at the end of 2024.

T-008 Publish at least one new special publication. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: We published [Special Publication number 3](#) of the IUCN SIS-SG.

This is the second Special Publication devoted to the Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*). This new Special Publication showcases the enormous work of the Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group (ESIEG). This Special Publication compiles the proceedings, including original articles, extended abstracts and summaries of presentations and posters, given during the X workshop of the Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group (ESIEG) that took place in October 3-7, 2022 in Zadar, Croatia.

T-009 Write and publish scientific articles including SIS species biology, ecology and behaviour, threats and conservation issues by at least one author with affiliation to SSC. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: We have a new publication which acknowledge SSC affiliation. We published the short note '[Intestinal](#)

[Parasites in Populations of the Endemic Abyssinian Wattled Ibis \(*Bostrychia carunculata*\)](#)' in *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, in collaboration with the Department of Evolutionary Ecology, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas and Addis Ababa University, College of Natural and Computational Sciences.

NETWORK Membership

T-004 Identify focal experts for species in the Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered categories. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: This year we did not recruit any new experts in species under a threatened category. We are devoting efforts in 2024 to achieve this target at the end of the quadrennium 2021-2025.

T-005 Identify focal experts for species in the Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered categories. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 38

Result description: The number of members has not increased this year. We will increase the efforts in promoting the network and the membership by increasing the communication among members and potential members. We will contact former members to understand why they did not renew their membership in this quadrennium.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-007 Compile a list of relevant news and documents and make them publicly available on the SIS-SG website. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: We have posted [news on the website](#), and relevant research on the connectivity of one of the most iconic migratory birds between the Palearctic and Africa.

Acknowledgements

We want to express our sincere gratitude to all authors and reviewers of the articles submitted to *SIS Conservation*. We thank also Alejandro Torés for helping as webmaster of the website and Molly K. Grace for her support in the Green Status assessment of species.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

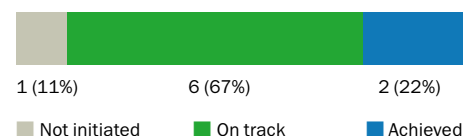
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (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