



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:

Chaskda, A. and Danmalla Bello, A. 2024. 2023 Report of the CSS Nigeria - APLORI. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

CSS Nigeria - APLORI



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Mission statement

The Center for Species Survival Nigeria, established in 2023, is a strategic partnership between the IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI), University of Jos, Nigeria. Our mission is to address the urgent need for a regional level understanding of birds and biodiversity status and lead concerted efforts for their conservation. We are committed to enhancing capacity building in West Africa and supporting the species conservation cycle through research, training, rigorous Red List assessments, and strategic conservation planning and action. Our ultimate goal is to publish the first comprehensive National Red List in the region, facilitating improved conservation measures and promoting a harmonious coexistence between humans and the natural world.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct a comprehensive systematic review of the state of knowledge on endemic and threatened bird species in West Africa.
Status: On track

T-002 Assess the protection status of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in West Africa.
Status: On track

T-003 Conduct an analysis of assessed species on the IUCN Red List and perform a gap analysis for Nigeria.
Status: On track

T-004 Initiate the development of National Red List for Nigeria, focusing on endemic, rare, and threatened bird species as flagship species.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-008 Develop a conservation plan for assessed priority bird species.
Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-009 Initiate collaborative efforts to protect priority species, such as threatened raptors, the Endangered Ibadan Malimbe, and Nigeria's national bird, the globally Vulnerable, Black-crowned Crane (subject to change based on the national red list outcome).
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-005 Establish formal partnerships with key conservation organisations (e.g. Nigerian Conservation Foundation) and the Center.
Status: On track

T-007 Build capacity among conservation researchers, practitioners, and students

in Nigeria and the West Africa region in conducting IUCN Red List assessments and implementing effective conservation planning strategies.
Status: Not initiated

T-010 Connect and establish relationships with different experts and gather momentum for the long-term National Red List project.
Status: On track

T-011 Establish a minimum of two new partnerships aimed at delivering financial and institutional support.
Status: On track

T-015 Enhance the visibility of the Center for Species Survival Nigeria and fortify existing partnerships while forging new ones through active engagement in pivotal scientific gatherings.
Status: On track

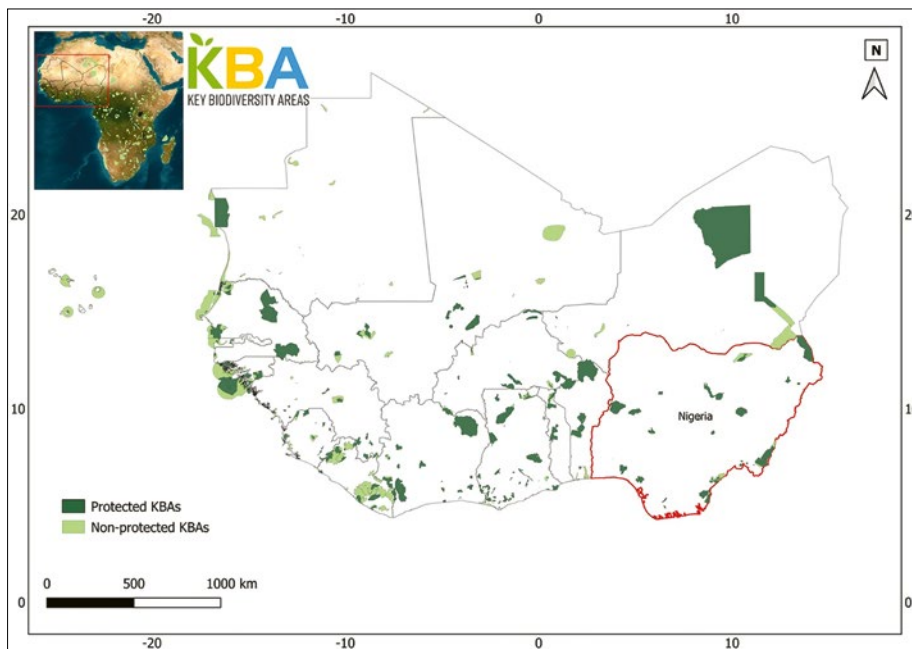
COMMUNICATE

T-006 Develop branding including logo, website and brochure for the CSS.
Status: On track

T-012 Promote gap analysis results.
Status: Not initiated

T-013 Promote the findings of the assessment and planning to relevant stakeholders.
Status: Not initiated

T-014 Publish Annual Newsletters and Reports.
Status: On track



Visualization of the protection status of KBAs in West Africa. The dark green areas represent protected KBAs, and the light green areas represent non-protected KBAs in the region
Photo: CSS Nigeria



Ibadan Malimbe (*Malimbus ibadanensis*)
Photo: A.P. Leventis

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Research activities

T-003 Conduct an analysis of assessed species on the IUCN Red List and perform a gap analysis for Nigeria. (KSR 5)

Number of research and technical documents produced: 1

Result description: We accessed the IUCN Red List Application for Programming Interface (API) and extracted the list for Nigeria. As of November 2023, there are 5,213 species in Nigeria on the IUCN Red List. Of these, 503 (10%) species are classified in the threatened category, i.e. Critically Endangered (CR), 13%; Endangered (EN), 32%, and Vulnerable (VU), 55%. Another 162 (3%) of the 5,213 species are considered Data Deficient (DD). The taxonomic distribution of the 503 threatened species includes plants (54%), fishes (21%), mammals (11%), birds (5%), reptiles (3%), amphibians (3%), insects (1%), and crustaceans (1%). Bivalves, cephalopods, and gastropods make up the remaining 1%.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-009 Initiate collaborative efforts to protect priority species, such as threatened raptors, the Endangered Ibadan Malimbe, and Nigeria's national bird, the globally Vulnerable, Black-crowned Crane – subject to change based on the national red list outcome. (KSR 3)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: In October 2-4, 2023, the CSS Nigeria participated in a workshop

hosted by APLORI with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and IITA's (International Institute for Tropical Agriculture) Forest Center, Nigeria, to develop a conservation action plan for Nigeria's rarest endemic and endangered bird, the Ibadan Malimbe as part of the Saving Species Challenge. The conservation action plan details strategies to downlist the species from its current status as an EN species to the VU category. Proposed conservation actions are aimed at restoring and expanding suitable habitats, advocating for effective local biodiversity laws and policies, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and engaging communities in conservation efforts.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-005 Establish formal partnerships with key conservation organisations, e.g. Nigerian Conservation Foundation, and the Center. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 3

Result description: Formally in partnership with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), we support the formation of a National Species Specialist Group for Nigeria and foster a close working relationship with the African Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation and the Coalition for Biodiversity Conservationists of Nigeria (CBCN).

T-015 Enhance the visibility of the Center for Species Survival Nigeria and fortify existing partnerships while forging new ones through active engagement in pivotal scientific gatherings. (KSR 3)

Number of scientific events attended: 1

Result description: Bello Adamu Danmallam, CSS Species Survival Officer of the Center for Species Survival Nigeria delivered a presentation at the 8th Biodiversity Conservation Conference hosted by the Nigeria Tropical Biology Association and the Nigeria Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology, held at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, from November 20-23, 2023. The talk, titled 'Bridging Gaps and Prioritizing Species Survival - Insights from the IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival Nigeria' effectively raised awareness about the newly established Center and its initiatives. Furthermore, it facilitated collaborative opportunities with indigenous conservation organizations present at the conference, thereby advancing partnerships and outreach efforts.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 15

Geographic regions: 15 Africa

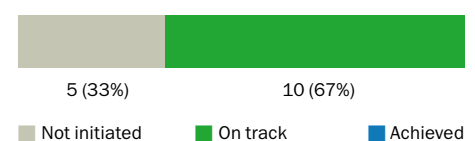
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 3)

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