



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### 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

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Whitnall, L. and Dempsey, A. 2024. 2023 Report of the CSS United Kingdom: Hertfordshire Zoo. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

## 2023 Report

# CCS United Kingdom: Hertfordshire Zoo



**DIRECTOR**  
Lynn Whitnall  
Hertfordshire, UK



**SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER**  
Andrea Dempsey  
Hertfordshire, UK

### Mission statement

Established in 2019 in Hertfordshire, this Centre hired a species officer, Andrea Dempsey to create a central database of all native conservation efforts by all parties and to highlight gaps in the conservation cycle for a species in need. The Centre's focus is to create and maintain a stakeholder's map of all key actors in native species conservation across the UK and by doing so identify gaps in conservation efforts. It is then the Centre's objective to work closely with the British Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria (BIAZA) to engage its members in filling these identified gaps, supporting one or all three elements of the conservation cycle assess-plan-act. Members of BIAZA are an untapped resource of experts, finances and educational space which when mobilised can all contribute to the Reverse the Red movement.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Review Red List assessments made through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) review process.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-002** Complete National Red List assessments.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-014** Undertake a gap analysis in four stages; endemic and threatened, endemic, native and threatened, native.  
Status: On track

#### PLAN

**T-003** Participate in Conservation Specialist Planning Group (CSPG) planning workshops to develop action plans for onsite action in the Hertfordshire area.  
Status: Not initiated

#### ACT

**T-004** Undertake up to 20 native species projects around site including bug hotels, badger monitoring, hedgehog rehabilitation and release, conservation grazing, water for wildlife and breed/release programmes.  
Status: On track

#### NETWORK

**T-005** Create and maintain a comprehensive native species database, itemising all native species conservation work in the UK and NI.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-006** Provide support to BIAZA members to participate in the Species Conservation Cycle.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Deliver Red List training or information-only presentations.  
Status: On track

**T-008** Facilitate and host CSPG planning workshops for national conservation organisations including BIAZA members.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-009** Attend quarterly Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) meetings.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-010** Support the National Red List website database.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Participate in quarterly Species Survival Working Group meetings.  
Status: On track

**T-012** Share a comprehensive native species database, itemising all native species conservation work in the UK and NI.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-013** Engage with European SSC members with a UK focus to support the database and contribute to the Red List National Database.  
Status: On track

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-015** Develop and improve CSS wording throughout our website and social media channels.  
Status: On track

**T-016** Further enhance the frequency of digital content pushed out to our followers which features activities of the CSS.  
Status: On track

**T-017** Use our press contacts to spread awareness of the Centre's work and what other Centres are doing.  
Status: On track

**T-018** Include our native species conservation goals/targets and achievements in our internal magazine.  
Status: On track



CCS:UK Species Survival Officer, Andrea Dempsey, at the BIAZA Conservation Conference delivering a presentation on the CSS:UK gap analysis  
Photo: Jessie Boylan



Red List Workshop being given by SSC CSS:UK Species Survival Officer at the BIAZA Native Species Conference  
Photo: Andrea Dempsey

**T-019** Transfer/Communicate all our digital content to the relevant IUCN/SSC websites pages, publications and social media.  
Status: On track

## Activities and results 2023

### ASSESS

#### Red List

**T-002 Complete National Red List assessments.** (KSR 7)

Number of assessments submitted to the Red List Unit: 0

Result description: Several meetings have been held with Sophie Ledger who is managing the National Red List website and we have discussed how the Centre can help in terms of signposting but also supporting their assessments by providing support and venue space.

#### Research activities

**T-014 Undertake a gap analysis in four stages; endemic and threatened, endemic, native and threatened, native.** (KSR 5)

Gap analysis completed: Ongoing.

Result description: A questionnaire has been sent to registered charities/NGOs, BIAZA members and IUCN UK members to gather data on work being carried out for endemic threatened species.

### ACT

#### Conservation actions

**T-004 Undertake up to 20 native species projects around site including bug hotels, badger monitoring, hedgehog rehabilitation and release, conservation grazing, water for wildlife and breed/release programmes.** (KSR 10)

Number of projects implemented: 10

Result description: The Centre is coordinating efforts for Hertfordshire Zoo to run or participate in local native species action. On-site, we have a native species trail which has 3m high, 1 m wide bug hotels, swallow boxes, bee-friendly planting, butterfly-friendly planting bird boxes and numerous

native species plants/trees. Within the trail, there are three vivariums housing sand lizards, a northern frog pool and adders. Some of these species will be bred for release. The Centre has also coordinated a bat survey and will be collecting data for the local recording centre. The Centre is also working with the Herts and Middx Badger Group and has held one training session with another planned for 2024. The Centre has installed a water for wildlife programme around the site and recently supported a hedgehog survey using footprint tunnels.

### NETWORK

#### Agreements

**T-006 Provide support to BIAZA members to participate in the Species Conservation Cycle.** (KSR 4)

Number of BIAZA members supported: 2%

Result description: The Centre sits in the BIAZA Native Species Working Group and the BIAZA Conservation Directors Group and has been championing zoos to reach out to the local council to discuss participating in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and also supporting BIAZA members to acknowledge their disappointed in not being included in the NBSAP and if not included discussions have been held how the Centre can support BIAZA members to upload data to the CBD Action Agenda.

#### Capacity building

**T-007 Deliver Red List training or information-only presentations.** (KSR 2)

Number of training sessions delivered: 2

Result description: The Centre co-delivered a three day workshop for mollusc red listing and gave an introduction to the Red List workshop at the 2023 BIAZA Native Species Conference. It was very well received.

#### Synergy

**T-009 Attend quarterly Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) meetings.** (KSR 4)

Number of meetings attended: 8

Result description: JNCC felt it was no longer necessary for the Centre or a member of the Red List Team and would rather reach out to us when needed.

**T-011 Participate in quarterly Species Survival Working Group meetings.** (KSR 3)

Number of meetings attended: 8

Result description: Meetings have been held throughout the year, with an increase towards the end of the year and we discuss and coordinate a Conservation Translocation for Mitigation webinar. This webinar will take place in June 2024.

### COMMUNICATE

#### Communication

**T-015 Develop and improve CSS wording throughout our website and social media channels.** (KSR 13)

Website and social media content regularly updated: Ongoing.

Result description: Wording as well as photo/video content is constantly being updated.

**T-018 Include our native species conservation goals/targets and achievements in our internal magazine.** (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 2

Result description: The Centre has been mentioned in two publications of the internal zoo magazine.

## Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 19

Geographic regions: 19 Europe

Actions during 2023:

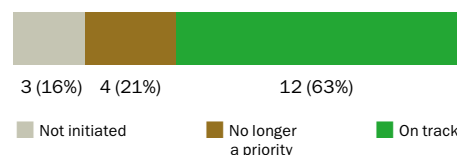
Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 7)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 4 (KSR 2, 3, 4)

Communicate: 2 (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