



# 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:

Anderson, C.V. 2024. 2023 Report of the Chameleon 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 Chameleon Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
Christopher V.  
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**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
Krystal Tolley

South African National  
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(SANBI), Applied  
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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
24

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: [IUCN SSC Chameleon Specialist Group](#)  
X: [@IUCNchameleons](#)

### Mission statement

The mission of the Chameleon Specialist Group is to improve the conservation status and sustainable use of wild chameleons.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Provide an evidence-based approach and scientific knowledge directed at the implementation of conservation actions and public policies that lead to the reduction of the extinction risk for members of this enigmatic lizard family.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Assess newly described chameleon species for the IUCN Red List within two years of description, with publication of assessments within three years of description.

Status: On track

**T-002** Undertake the reassessment of species with IUCN Red List assessments that are a minimum of 10 years old.

Status: On track

**T-007** Publish results of fieldwork undertaken by the group in response to assessment findings.

Status: Achieved

#### PLAN

**T-003** Support implementation of CITES.  
Status: Achieved

#### NETWORK

**T-004** Expand membership to improve geographic coverage and representation of taxonomic experts.

Status: On track

**T-006** Locate and establish a relationship with a host financial institution.

Status: Not Initiated

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-005** Establish and develop a new website for the group.

Status: On track

### Activities and results 2023

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-001** Assess newly described chameleon species for the IUCN Red List within two years of description, with publication of assessments within three years of description. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: We have the assessments for 24 new species in draft that should be completed in 2024 or early 2025.

**T-002** Undertake the reassessment of species with IUCN Red List assessments that are a minimum of 10 years old. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: We have re-assessments for 168 species in draft that should be completed in 2024 or 2025. We have been working with a mapping specialist to improve our abilities to update range maps for reassessments more effectively from various source data.

#### PLAN

##### Policy

**T-003** Support implementation of CITES. (KSR 9)

Number of policies and implementation decisions where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: We worked with the IUCN Species Sustainable Use and Trade Program to provide technical input on trade issues relating to chameleons.

*Trioceros jacksonii* (Least Concern)  
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson



*Calumma linotum* (Least Concern)  
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson

## NETWORK

### Membership

**T-004 Expand membership to improve geographic coverage and representation of taxonomic experts.** (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: Increased our membership to 26 members, expanding our geographic expertise and strengthening regional coverage with high degrees of endemism.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

**T-005 Establish and develop a new website for the Group.** (KSR 13)

Development of a new website for the Chameleon Specialist Group to communicate the Group's efforts: 0

Result description: We have started designing our new website and it should be live by late spring 2024.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our membership for the donation of their time and expertise, and to everyone who has assisted with our Red List assessment efforts in 2023.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7**

**Geographic regions: 6 Global, 1 Africa**

**Actions during 2023:**

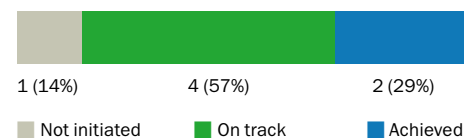
Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Network: 1 (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



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)  
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf



*Lactifluus neotropicus*  
Photo: Aida Vasco