



# 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.

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.

Example for the recommended citation:

Byers, O. 2024. 2023 Report of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

## 2023 Report

# IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
**Onnie Byers**  
Global Conservation  
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Johnny Cake Ridge  
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Minnesota 55124, US

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
242

### Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. For over 40 years, we have accomplished this by using scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyse positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums, as well as other wildlife organisations.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

To increase the number of effective conservation plans for threatened species.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### PLAN

**T-001** Help groups to select species for conservation planning attention, by providing ready access to relevant approaches, tools, and case studies.  
Status: On track

**T-002** Accelerate identification and activation of pathways to effective conservation for selected species – including, but not limited to, those threatened with extinction.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Make Assessing to Plan (A2P) more effective in activating pathways and more useful to a wider range of planning practitioners and situations.  
Status: On track

**T-004** Strengthen the tools and processes used for single-species conservation planning activities.  
Status: On track

**T-005** Carry forward the A2P process pathways to effective action and create an effective methodology for integrated multi-species conservation planning.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Provide tools and processes for evaluating and, where appropriate, incorporating *ex situ* options into species conservation and collection planning.  
Status: Achieved

**T-008** Develop and deliver effective training in the design and facilitation of species conservation planning processes.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Scale up a coaching and mentoring programme for more competent and confident species conservation planning process designers, facilitators and

technical experts able to lead in threatened species planning processes globally.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Demonstrate a scaling up of effective species conservation planning occurring globally.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Establish a professional learning network of species conservation planners, enabling the ongoing capacity growth and the development and refinement of planning guidelines, tools, and processes.  
Status: On track

**T-012** Encourage inclusion of species conservation planning in national, regional and global policies.  
Status: On track

**T-013** Support national commitments to achieving biodiversity targets by providing direct species conservation planning and capacity-building support to national governments and indigenous communities.  
Status: On track

**T-014** Improve ability to provide tailored support to governments and indigenous communities on species conservation planning matters.  
Status: On track

**T-015** Maintain suitable systems for evaluating the impact of conservation planning on species.  
Status: On track

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @ConservationPlanningSG  
Instagram: @iucn\_conservationplanningsg  
X: @IUCN\_CPSG  
Website: [www.cpsg.org](http://www.cpsg.org)





**T-016** Maintain a database and library of planning information for CPSG and the wider SSC.

Status: On track

**T-017** Explore the assembly and integration of an expanded body of information that enhances the species conservation planning process.

Status: On track

**T-018** Collaborate with appropriate information sources to implement and promote open and accessible data sharing for enhanced species conservation planning.

Status: On track

**T-019** Collaborate with the information technology community and other sectors where appropriate to construct new tools and methods for interdisciplinary data assembly and analysis.

Status: On track

**T-020** Threatened species that need a conservation plan are covered by a conservation plan.

Status: On track

## Activities and results 2023

### PLAN

#### Planning

**T-001** Help groups to select species for conservation planning attention, by providing ready access to relevant approaches, tools and case studies. (KSR 8)

Updated CPSG tools library: Ongoing.

Result description: CPSG was awarded an IMLS grant that will cover the cost of a new and improved CPSG website, which will include an updated Species Conservation Planning Tools Library.

**T-006** Increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library. (KSR 8)

A web design firm is employed to redesign and improve the look and feel of the existing CPSG Tools Library: Ongoing.

Result description: CPSG staff have been working with a web design team to update

and improve the CPSG website and Species Conservation Planning Tools Library. Completion is expected in 2024.

New and appropriate materials developed by CPSG are added to the Species Conservation Planning Tools Library: Ongoing.

Result description: New and appropriate materials are continually added to the Species Conservation Planning Tools Library.

**T-007** Provide tools and processes for evaluating and, where appropriate, incorporating *ex situ* options into species conservation and collection planning. (KSR 8)

Document process for conducting the evaluation of *ex situ* conservation options for a single species and produce supporting materials to aid conservation planners: Achieved.

Result description: This process is documented in the CPSG *Ex Situ* Conservation Assessment online training course.

Document process for conducting a multi-species evaluation of *ex situ* conservation options for a group of related taxa to support existing *in situ* conservation plans, produce supporting materials to aid planners: Achieved.

Result description: This process is documented in the CPSG *Ex Situ* Conservation Assessment online training course.

Document process for conducting rapid multi-species evaluation of *ex situ* options for a group of taxa to support collection planning for the zoos, aquaria and botanic gardens; produce supporting materials to aid planners: Achieved.

Result description: This process is documented in the CPSG *Ex Situ* Conservation Assessment online training course.

Develop online course on *ex situ* conservation assessment and planning, based on the decision process of the IUCN SSC Guidelines for the Use of *Ex Situ* Management for Species Conservation: 1

Result description: A seven-module (~20 hours) CPSG *Ex Situ* Conservation Assessment online training course was successfully launched in 2023.

**T-008** Develop and deliver effective training in the design and facilitation of species conservation planning processes. (KSR 8)

Establish training courses accessible to SSC members and beyond for all CPSG planning processes and tools: Ongoing.

Result description: CPSG currently offers three online training courses for species conservation planning processes: (1) CPSG's *Ex situ* Conservation Assessment online training course: An *ex situ* conservation assessment leads *in situ* and *ex situ* species experts through the five-step decision process of the IUCN SSC Guidelines on the Use of *Ex Situ* Management for Species Conservation to evaluate the conservation value and feasibility of various *ex situ* activities for a species; (2) CPSG's Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis online training course: This course is designed to equip participants with an understanding of how to put the IUCN Guidelines for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis (WDRA) into practice, and (3) CPSG's Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops online course: This is an introductory course to CPSG's species conservation planning processes and tools.

Number of training courses established: 3

Result description: New courses in conflict resolution and integration of Population Health and Environment (PHE) approaches in species conservation planning are being explored.

## Acknowledgements

We thank our family of donors and partners who make everything that we do possible! The finances of CPSG are managed by the Global Conservation Network, a USA non-profit charity whose mission is to support the conservation work of CPSG.

## Summary of achievements

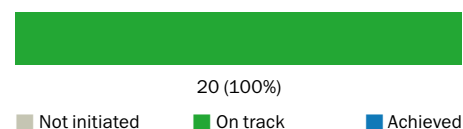
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 20

Geographic regions: 20 Global

Actions during 2023:

Plan: 9 (KSR 8)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



*Lactifluus neotropicus*  
Photo: Aida Vasco



*Sternberia lutea*  
Photo: Hayri Duman



*Tetra Parnaiba*  
Photo: Karina Molina



*Egretta rufescens*  
Photo: Ernesto Gómez



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



*Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus*  
Photo: Csenge Nagy



*Trioceros hoehnelii*  
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson

