



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:

de Montmollin, B. 2024. 2023 Report of the Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

45

Mission statement

The Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group works to advance Mediterranean plant conservation through: implementation of field conservation projects for Critically Endangered Mediterranean plants with authorities and local populations; identification of Important Plant Areas in Mediterranean countries; raising the plant conservation profile in the Mediterranean; networking with botanists and conservationists; sharing best practices in plant conservation and education, and raising awareness of the public and stakeholders at regional, national and local levels.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The objective of the Mediterranean Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) for this quadrennium is to implement *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation actions for at least 50 taxa that are in one of the highest IUCN Red List threat categories (Critically Endangered and Endangered), so as to ensure their long-term conservation, if possible, in their natural environment. Their threat categories should thus be improved in the long term.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct global Red List assessment of five Mediterranean endemic plant species by year.

St: On track

T-005 Publish scientific articles on plant conservation.

Status: On track

T-007 Produce a list by country of Mediterranean restricted range endemic plant taxa not yet assessed and potentially threatened.

Status: On track

T-008 Conduct a regional Red List for *Psammophilus* taxa.

Status: Not initiated

T-009 Identify plant Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

Status: On track

T-010 Promote and establish national Red Lists for plants.

Status: On track

PLAN

T-011 Establish plant micro-reserves.

Status: On track

T-012 Establish plant species conservation plans.

Status: On track

ACT

T-013 Implement *in situ* conservation actions.

Status: On track

T-014 Implement *ex situ* conservation actions.

Status: On track

T-015 Provide technical consultations to support conservation actions.

Status: On track

T-016 Support sustainable use practices.

Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-002 Establish and maintain partnerships with other networks.

Status: On track

T-003 Improve the geographic coverage of MPSG members (at least one member per country).

Status: On track

T-004 Collaborate with IUCN offices, National or Regional Committees.

Status: On track

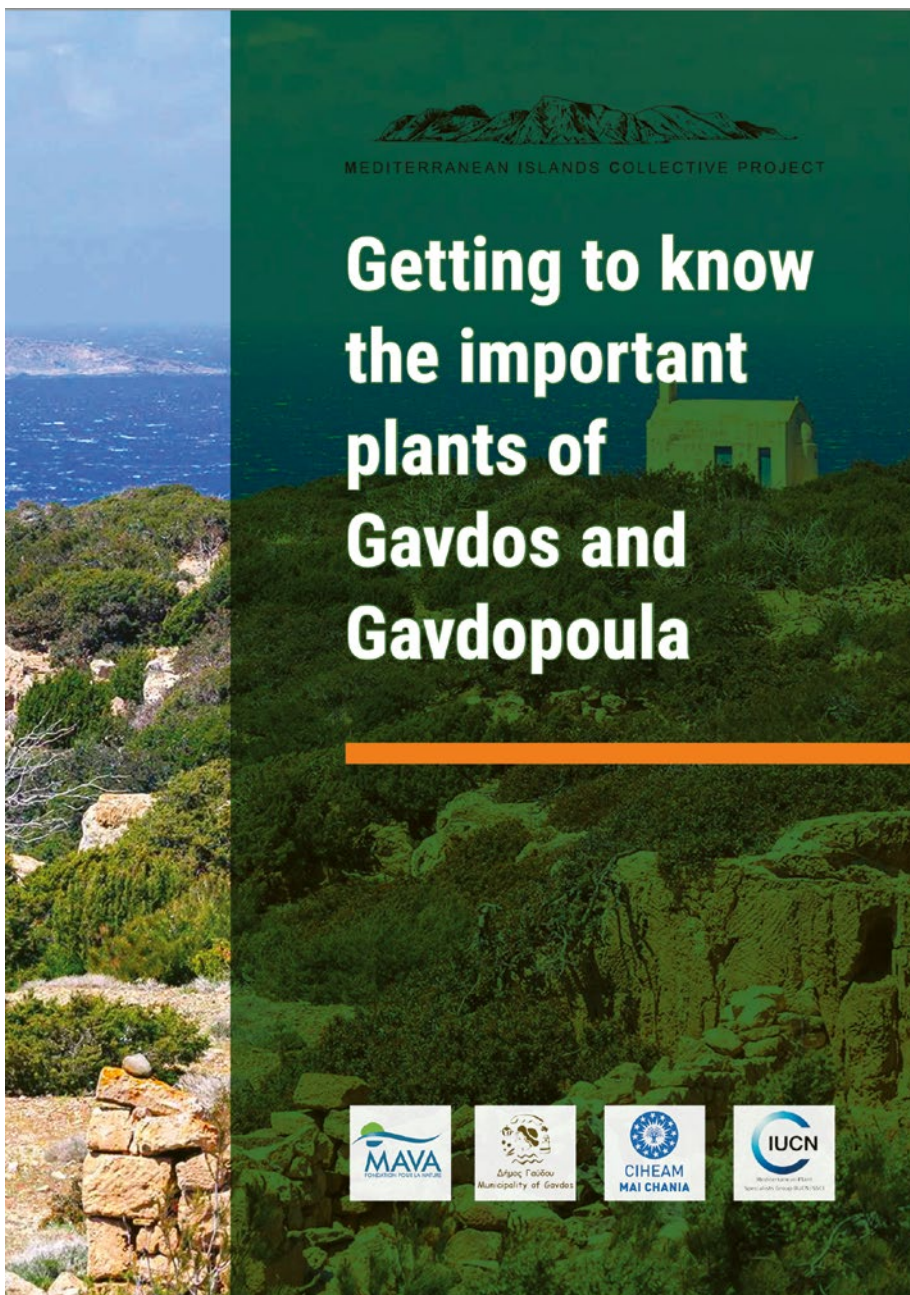
COMMUNICATE

T-017 Create and maintain a MPSG website.

Status: Not initiated

T-018 Organise the Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week every second year.

Status: On track



Booklet on important plants of Gavdos and Gavdopoula, Greece
 Photo: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece

MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS COLLECTIVE PROJECT

Getting to know the important plants of Gavdos and Gavdopoula



T-019 Present communications on Mediterranean plant conservation.
 Status: On track

T-020 Establish a photographic database for threatened or rare Mediterranean endemic plants.
 Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Planning

T-009 Identify plant Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). (KSR 6)

Number of plant KBAs identified or modified: 4

Result description: Four new plant KBAs were defined in Morocco.

Red List

T-001 Conduct global Red List assessment of five Mediterranean endemic plant species by year. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 45

Result description: Forty-five Red List assessments and reassessments were submitted to the Red List Unit.

[SSC Grant awarded]

T-007 Produce a list by country of Mediterranean restricted range endemic plant taxa not yet assessed and potentially threatened. (KSR 6)

Prokletje National Park, Montenegro
Photo: Bertrand de Montmollin



Linum capitatum Kit. Ex Schulz,
Theth National Park, Albania
Photo: Bertrand de Montmollin



Beech forest, Theth National Park, Albania
Photo: Bertrand de Montmollin



Globularia incanescens Viv. Endemic plant
of Alpi Apuane, Italy
Photo: Bertrand de Montmollin



Moltkia suffruticosa (L.) Brand Endemic plant
of Alpi Apuane, Italy
Photo: Bertrand de Montmollin

Number of technical documents provided to support RL assessments/reassessments: 1
Result description: In 2023, a list of Mediterranean restricted range endemic plant taxa not yet assessed and potentially threatened was initiated.

[SSC Grant awarded]

T-010 Promote and establish national Red Lists for plants. (KSR 6)

Number of plant national Red Lists initiated or maintained: 2

Result description: Regional plant Red Lists initiated in Sicily and Sardinia.

Research activities

T-005 Publish scientific articles on plant conservation. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 12

Result description: Twelve publications on Mediterranean plant conservation projects were published by MPSG members.

PLAN

Planning

T-011 Establish plant micro-reserves. (KSR 8)

Number of Plant micro-reserves established: 2

Result description: Two plant micro-reserves were delineated in Palestine.

T-012 Establish plant species conservation plans. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 6

Result description: Six plant conservation plans were initiated (three in Cyprus, three in Crete).

[SSC Grant awarded]

ACT

Conservation actions

T-013 Implement *in situ* conservation actions. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 12

Result description: Twelve taxa with conservation actions in the field.

T-014 Implement *ex situ* conservation actions. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *ex situ* conservation action: 23

Result description: Twenty-three species benefiting from *ex situ* conservation actions.

[SSC Grant awarded]

Technical advice

T-015 Provide technical consultations to support conservation actions. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 14

Result description: Fourteen consultations were provided to support conservation actions.

T-016 Support sustainable use practices. (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 1

Result description: Preparing a sustainable use programme with the municipality of the Island of Gavdos, Greece.

NETWORK

Membership

T-003 Improve the geographic coverage of MPSG members (at least one member per country). (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: Three new members were recruited in 2023.

Synergy

T-002 Establish and maintain partnerships with other networks. (KSR 1)

Number of in-kind partnerships established and maintained: 3

Result description: Attending Advisory Committee meetings of CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) for the Mediterranean were held in 2023. We also worked on organising plant advisory group meetings for the Med CEPF and attended GENMEDA (Network of Mediterranean Plant Conservation Centers) meetings.

T-004 Collaborate with IUCN offices, National or Regional Committees. (KSR 3)

Number of collaborations: 2

Result description: Collaboration with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and work with the WCPA in the Mediterranean has been maintained.

COMMUNICATE

Scientific meetings

T-018 Organise the Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week every second year. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events coordinated: 1

Result description: The 4th Mediterranean Plant Conservation Week was held in Valencia, Spain in October 2023. We had the participation of 250 attendees.

T-019 Present communications on Mediterranean plant conservation. (KSR 12)

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 22

Result description: Twenty-two presentations were delivered on Mediterranean plant conservation in scientific events.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 19

Geographic regions: 19 Global

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

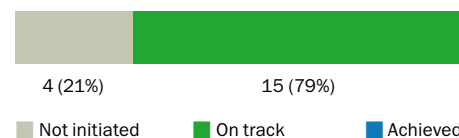
Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 4 (KSR 10, 11)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated

■ On track

■ Achieved



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