



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:

Lacher, T. and Kennerley, R. 2024. 2023 Report of the Small Mammal 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 Small Mammal Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
185

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @iucnsmg

X: @IUCN_SMSG

Website: <https://small-mammals.org>

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group (SMSG) is to serve as the global authority on the world's small mammals by developing a greater scientific understanding of their diversity, status and threats, and by promoting effective conservation action to secure their future.

Projected impact for 2021–2025

Through our Key Species work we hope to understand threats and, where possible, initiate conservation activities for at least 18 species. Through our Key Region work we plan to assess and plan for a suite of species in Mexico, Sulawesi and Ethiopia. If possible, direct conservation activities will be pursued. In addition to species within our strategy, we will also take any opportunities to assist our members in doing vital research and conservation work on species.

Targets for 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-005 Scientific peer-review publications about small mammal ecology and conservation.
Status: On track

T-006 Catalogue and publish species Red List assessments for taxonomic changes.
Status: On track

T-007 Conduct Red List assessments for certain regions (Mexico, Borneo, Ethiopia) based on new information collected during workshops.
Status: On track

T-011 Publish Green Status assessments.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Hold regional action planning workshops.
Status: On track

T-010 Write species action plans.
Status: On track

ACT

T-008 Initiate active conservation efforts for key species.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Achieve taxonomic and geographic coverage for the majority of species through a geographically diverse membership.
Status: On track

T-002 Improve gender balance in membership.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Provide grant writing training and support to members.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Keep membership updated through quarterly newsletters and an updated website.
Status: On track

T-012 Maintain general engagement and outreach through SMSG website, Facebook group and X.
Status: On track

Activities and results for 2023

ASSESS

Green Status

T-011 Publish Green Status assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 3

Result description: In 2023, the Malagasy Giant Jumping Rat (*Hypogeomys antimena*), Hispaniolan Solenodon (*Solenodon paradoxus*), and Menzbie's Marmot (*Marmota menzbieri*) assessments were completed.

Red List

T-006 Catalogue and publish species Red List assessments for taxonomic changes. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 24

Result description: In 2023, 24 Red List assessments were published. We submitted a greater number than this during



Russian Desman team on a June 2023 trip to Kazakhstan
Photo: Ros Kennerley

the year; however, delays in the Red List publication pipeline have resulted in the reassessments being pushed into 2024.

T-007 Conduct Red List assessments for certain regions (Mexico, Borneo, Ethiopia) based on new information collected during workshops. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 62

Result description: During an in-person workshop in May 2023 we drafted 62 reassessments for Sulawesi species which have been finalised ready to submit. The delay in publication is due to external issues. The work on Mexican species has been on hold, but efforts will be renewed in 2024.

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 14

Result description: During an in-person workshop in May 2023 we drafted 14 new assessments for Sulawesi species which have been finalised and are ready to submit. The delay in publication is due to the group waiting for taxonomic changes to be made to the Red List database. The submission of new assessments for Mexico has been on hold, but the work will be renewed in 2024.

Research activities

T-005 Scientific peer-review publications about small mammal ecology and conservation. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 2

Result description: The SMSG core team published two peer-reviewed publications in 2023: (1) Achmadi, A.S. *et al.* (2023). “Conservation statuses and priorities for Sulawesi’s unique small mammal fauna”. *Oryx*, vol. 57, Issue 6. pp. 690 – 691, and (2) Turvey, T.S. *et al.* (2023). “Continued survival of the elusive Seram Orange Melomys (*Melomys fulgens*)”. *Mammalia*, vol. 87, no. 3, pp. 271-275.

PLAN

Planning

T-004 Hold regional action planning workshops. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: We held a workshop for Sulawesi small mammals in May 2023. As a result of the workshop, we have identified key research themes and priority species to focus research efforts on. In 2024 we will produce a report and peer-review publication based on the results of the workshop.

T-010 Write species action plans. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: A pre-action planning workshop was held for the Iberian Desman in November 2023, with a full planning meeting expected in 2024.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-008 Initiate active conservation efforts for key species. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 5

Result description: Conservation activities in 2023 have focussed on the Cuban Solenodon, Bahaman Hutia, Russian Desman, Jamaican Hutia, and Iberian Desman.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-009 Provide grant writing training and support to members. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: 6

Result description: We provided grant writing support to members for Russian Desman, Bahamian Hutia, Baer’s Woodmouse, Fox’s Shaggy Rat, Rodents and Shrews in West Africa, and Sonnerat’s Shrew.

Membership

T-001 Achieve taxonomic and geographic coverage for the majority of species through a geographically diverse membership. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 46

Result description: We have added 46 new members in 2023, including members from countries previously unrepresented, e.g. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-003 Keep membership updated through quarterly newsletters and an updated website. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups’ newsletter editions produced: 4

Result description: Four SSC Group newsletters were produced in 2023.

T-012 Maintain general engagement and outreach through SMSG website, Facebook group and X. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 7

Result description: Seven news articles about species or regions were produced for the SMSG website.

Acknowledgements

The SMSG is extremely grateful for the continued funding and advisory support from our partner Re:wild during 2023. In particular, this has allowed the Group to have a Programme Officer to deliver much of the work alongside the Co-Chairs. We would like to thank Texas A&M and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust for logistical, financial, and technical support.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 12

Geographic regions: 11 Global, 2 Africa, 1 America, 2 Asia

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

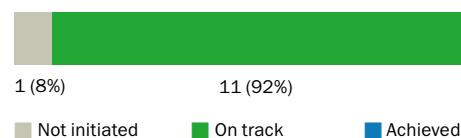
Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 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