



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:

Henriques, S. and Bushell, M. 2024. 2023 Report of the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group



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51

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Mission statement

The main objectives of the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group (SSSG) are to assess the extinction risk of a representative sample of arachnid species globally; assist with international law and agreements, e.g. Habitats Directive, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – CITES; contribute towards national and regional legislation protecting threatened species; develop scientifically sound species conservation strategies in cooperation with relevant authorities, and promote the public knowledge of arachnids.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Improving the status of Threatened arachnids by implementing conservation action based upon sound knowledge, Red List assessments and conservation planning.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of *Hypochilus bernardino* and monitor the impact of wildfires on its habitat suitability.
Status: Not initiated

T-008 Publish a new assessment of the conservation status of New Zealand spiders.
Status: Achieved

T-012 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in Asia.
Status: Not initiated

T-013 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in South America.
Status: On track

T-016 Understand how/what/when scorpions impact park rangers in Malawi and adjacent countries.
Status: Not initiated

T-017 Assess the extinction risk of the Batu Caves Trap-door Spider (*Liphistius batuensis*).
Status: Achieved

T-018 Assess the extinction risk of Malay Trap-door Spiders (Liphistiidae).
Status: Achieved

T-019 Assess the extinction risk of Segmented Trap-door Spiders (Liphistiidae) outside of Malaysia.
Status: Achieved

T-020 Assess the extinction risk of monogeneric families of spiders.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-024 Conservation action plan of the Mexican Black Velvet (*Brachypelma/ Tliltocatl schroederi*).
Status: On track

ACT

T-009 Measure the impacts of habitat restoration of a Nature Reserve, by replacing exotic for native vegetation.
Status: On track

T-014 Implement captive rearing of the Deserta Grande Wolf Spider (*Hogna ingens*).
Status: On track

T-026 Removing the main threat to the Deserta Grande Wolf Spider's habitat – the invasive *Phalaris aquatica*.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-007 Participate in an umbrella meeting of regional or habitat-specific Specialist Groups.
Status: On track

T-010 Develop strategic partnerships with cross taxa Specialist Groups.
Status: Achieved

T-015 Engage with the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group to communicate with Mexican nopal farmers on the importance of spiders as pest control for their crops.
Status: On track

T-022 Engage with local stakeholders on the remaining habitat of *Nemesia berlandi* and the best approaches to protect it.
Status: Achieved

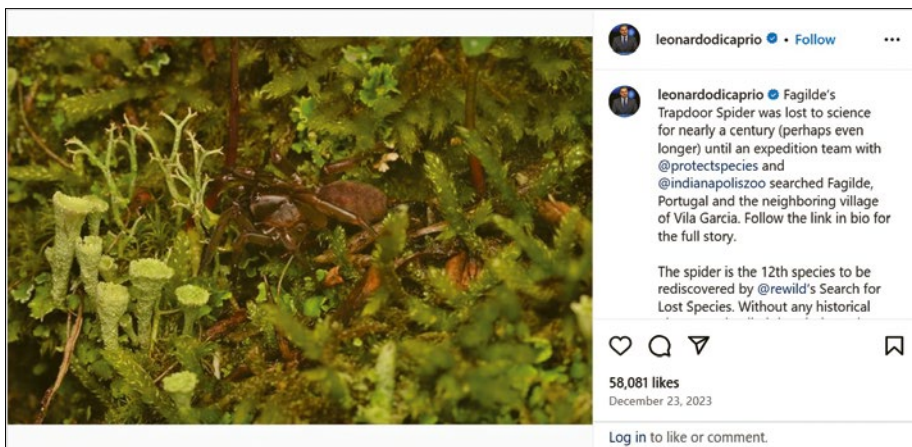


Photo of *Nemesia berlandi* by S. Henriques shared by Leonardo di Caprio
Photo: Sergio Henriques

T-023 Support funding application for young SSSG members in the global south.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Engage with local stakeholders on the remaining habitat of *Hypochilus bernardino* and the best approaches to protect it.
Status: Not initiated

T-004 Engage local school children at sites of particular conservation interest.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Promote spider conservation action on national television.
Status: Achieved

T-021 Find a 'lost species' of Portuguese Trap-door Spider.
Status: On track

T-025 Generation of a profile for the first amazing species of scorpion.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Research activities

T-013 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in South America. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: A scientific publication was written, submitted, and is set to be published in 2024 in the *Journal of Conservation Biology*.

T-013 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in South America. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0

Result description: An SSC internal grant application was written and submitted to support this project; if funded, the project will be executed and completed in 2024.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-007 Participate in an umbrella meeting of regional or habitat-specific Specialist Groups. (KSR 3)

Participation in regional/habitat specific umbrellas groups: 0

Result description: There were a number of discussions around an IUCN SSC 'Action Planning for Invertebrates', 'Protected areas for invertebrates' and 'Cave Invertebrates Meeting' gathering the leadership of several invertebrate specialist group chairs and the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, but these did not take place in 2023 and are set to take place in 2024.

T-010 Develop strategic partnerships with cross taxa Specialist Groups. (KSR 3)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 5

Result description: The Red List Authority of the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group continued working with the Mid Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group on reviewing arachnid red listing from Atlantic islands. We also engaged with the Young Professional Task Force, towards the inclusion of young professionals from the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group integrating the task force, which was successful.

There were also three collaborations at the national/regional level, one with South Korea, one with Australia and one with Southern Europe on arachnid red listing (which included the welcoming of three new members working on those projects). The specialist group also held meetings with the European Biodiversity Conservation Coordinator of the Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge Team, Centre for Science and Data IUCN and an additional partnership is expected with that group for 2024.

T-015 Engage with the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group to communicate with Mexican nopal farmers on the importance of spiders as pest control for their crops. (KSR 3)

IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: 0

Result description: This project has been delayed but should be resumed in 2024.

T-022 Engage with local stakeholders on the remaining habitat of *N. berlandi* and the best approaches to protect it. (KSR 3)

Successful engagement with all or most landowners in the area: Ongoing.

Result description: We attended local gatherings and networked extensively with landowners, forestry agents, law enforcement, community leaders and local businesses. The group presented their work at local schools and engaged with approximately 300 schoolchildren, as well as school teachers and other school staff. This target is now set as achieved although this is an ongoing relationship that is set to be maintained and grow in the future.

Activities

We would like to acknowledge Re:wild for their continued support towards the rediscovery of Fagilde's trapdoor in their Lost Species program and their remarkable outreach efforts to share this story with the world (especially Devin Murphy, Laura Moreno, Christina Biggs, Lindsay Renick Mayer and Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio). We would like to thank the South African National Biodiversity Institute for their remarkable red listing efforts. We would also like to thank Bristol Zoo for the support the *ex situ* project of *Hogna ingens* and their hosting of the group's Co-Chair. To Indianapolis Zoo for all the support in science education on spider species, their hosting of the group's Co-Chair and their financial support towards the action plan of the Mexican black velvet. Finally, we would like to thank the SSC for all their support of our group's work via internal SSC grants, the EDGE SSC Grant, and their guidance.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 23

Geographic regions: 5 Global, 2 Africa, 5 America, 5 Asia, 5 Europe, 1 Oceania

Actions during 2023:

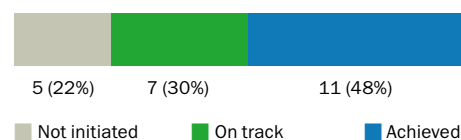
Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 3)

Communicate: 4 (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