



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:

Khamis Al Sariri, T.S. 2024. 2023 Report of the West Asia Arabian Plant 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 West Asia Arabian Plant Specialist Group



CHAIR
Thuraya Said Khamis
Al Sariri

Ministry of Environ-
ment and Climate
Affairs, Muscat, Oman

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
25

Mission statement

Not stated yet.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Group aims to bring interested parties together to address the targets for plants and habitat conservation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This Group will help, through the involvement of experts, to investigate, develop and provide solutions for issues facing the conservation of plant species in the West Asian Arabian Region. It will agree standards, protocols and share best practices for individual countries to achieve targets for the conservation and preservation of their plant diversity, as well as build capacity of botanists and conservationists in our region.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Ensure global assessments for Arabian endemic plants and trees are made available in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) database.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Apply IUCN conservation planning on a targeted set of the most threatened and flagship plant species in the West Asia and Arabian region.

Status: Not initiated

T-005 Develop a report on the conservation status and strategy for conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) in the region.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Carry out West Asia and Arabian region-specific online plant IUCN Red List training courses.

Status: On track

T-006 Increase the network capacity on communication through the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-003 Ensure global assessments for Arabian endemic plants and trees are made available in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) database. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 1

Result description: We are currently discussing with Imam Turk ibn Abd Alaziz Royal Reserve in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) the inclusion of the West Asian Arabian Plants Specialist Group (WAAPSG) in the Red List assessment of KSA plan.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Develop a report on the conservation status and strategy for conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) in the region. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The team from WAAPSG is in the process of formulating the report on wild relative crops. The group wants to start a report on medicinal plants in West Asia. A discussion on developing an action plan for the West Asia Arabian Plant Specialist group is underway.



Dragonblood Tree of Socotra
(*Dracaena cinnabari*), in the Dixam plateau
Photo: Alex38 (CC BY 4.0)

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-002 Carry out West Asia and Arabian region-specific online plant IUCN Red List training courses. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 0

Result description: During 2023 a discussion was held within the Group to agree on a priority list of training requirements and therefore training on the Red List shall be commenced in 2024; discussions are underway to organise the training program.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-001 Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub. (KSR 12)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: An active discussion is being held with the Secretariat on setting up the platform. Three meetings were planned for 2024 between the group members.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all group members for their time and effort in enhancing the group work. Special thanks to Mr. Ehab Eid for his great support and help to keep the group working to achieve their goals, and to Catia Canteiro for updating the group with the latest information on plants globally.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Asia

Actions during 2023:

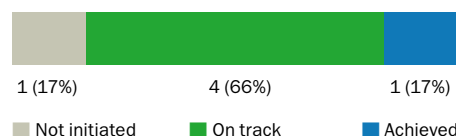
Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

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

