



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:

Biggs, J., Broadway, M., Carrizo, S. and Glasscock, G. 2024. 2023 Report of the CSS Australasia: Zoo and Aquarium Association. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

2023 Report

CCS Australasia Zoo and Aquarium Association



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Mission statement

To assess the extinction risk of threatened species in Australasia, and to facilitate collaboration on conservation planning to maximise positive impact for the long-term recovery of threatened native species.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

PLAN

T-003 Meet Australian Federal Government and SSC expectations (deliver Assess-Plan-Act projects).

Status: Achieved

T-004 Strive for best-practice conservation programs; identify gaps, facilitate conservation outcomes and document processes.

Status: Achieved

ACT

T-005 Help drive actions that are identified in the Conservation Advice and Recovery Plans by linking the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia *ex situ* management back to the CSS Australasia projects across Assess-Plan-Act.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-006 Build and maintain familiarity between Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) Australasia CSS and First Nations Organisations.

Status: Achieved

T-007 Establishment of governments and other conservation stakeholders regarding ZAA as conservation partners.

Status: Achieved

T-008 Identify opportunities to influence policy changes and participate in government policy reviews.

Status: Achieved

T-010 Source sufficient funding to sustain and expand the CSS team.

Status: On track

T-011 Connect CSS work with the IUCN specialist groups, forming relationships and supporting specialist group goals in species assessment.

Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-009 Share the story of the work of the CSS, beyond conservation organisations.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-003 Meet Australian Federal Government and SSC expectations (deliver Assess-Plan-Act projects). (KSR 8)

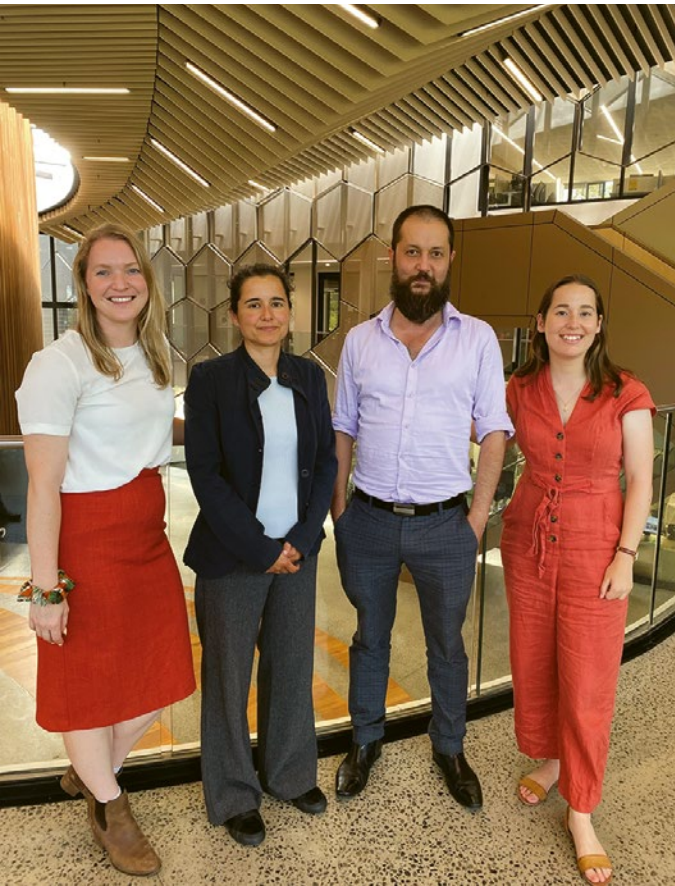
Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 10

Result description: The CSS Australasia prepared and delivered the following:

(1) A threatened species listing assessment for Fairall's Lambertia (*Lambertia*

fairallii), listed in the Critically Endangered category of the threatened species list under the national Australian government framework; (2) The redrafting of the IUCN listing assessments for the four species of Grassland Earless Dragons; (3) A threatened species listing assessment for the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*) was circulated for public consultation; (4) A threatened species listing assessment for the Broad-toothed Rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*), was listed in the Endangered category of the threatened species list under the national Australian government framework; (5) A Recovery Plan for the New Holland Mouse (*Pseudomys novaehollandiae*) was drafted for public consultation; (6) A Recovery Plan for the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby was drafted for public consultation; (7) A review of the Recovery Plan for the Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*); (8) A review of the Conservation Advice for the Eastern Quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*); (9) A Conservation advice plan was published under the Australian government processes for the Northern and Southern Corroboree Frog (*Pseudophryne pengilleyi* and *P. corroboree*), and (10) A Conservation advice plan was published under the Australian government processes for the Burrowing Bettong (*Bettongia lesueur*).

T-004 Strive for best-practice conservation programs; identify gaps, facilitate conservation outcomes and document processes. (KSR 8)



CSS Australasia team
Photo: CSS Australasia

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/ strategies: 4

Result description: In 2023, the following activities were carried out: (1) Operations manual produced for the CSS; (2) Federal government processes reviewed and comments submitted; (3) Support provided by the CSS in two key identified gap areas – First Nations consultation and Recovery Team support; (4) CSS were invited to provide additional feedback on the Australian Federal Government’s Species Profile and Threats Database.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-005 Help drive actions that are identified in the Conservation Advice and Recovery Plans by linking the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia *ex situ* management back to the CSS Australasia projects across Assess-Plan-Act. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *ex situ* conservation action: 5

Result description: Multiple actions were carried out in 2023: (1) Multiple stakeholder forums were held for collaboration on threatened species recovery. The ZAA facilitated/supported meetings for the following species: Pookila, Smoky Mouse, Spotted-tailed Quoll, Eastern Quoll, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, and Broad-toothed Rat; (2) The ZAA annual conference was held in Christchurch New Zealand, with the theme ‘Positive impacts via partnerships

and community’. The ZAA/CSS hosted two workshops on ‘Taking action to Reverse the Red on our iconic native species’; (3) Further work exploring membership conservation implementation projects stretches into 2024; (4) The annual Tasmanian Devil stakeholder meeting was held in November. It included government representatives as well as ZAA members and academics. Two of the key actions being driven at the moment are captive Population Viability Analysis and vaccine trials; (5) Finalisation of the ZAA Reptile taxon advisory group Regional Species Plan (RSP) and progression of the New Zealand Fauna, Bird and Amphibian Regional Species Plans, that will link species cared for across ZAA member institutions to legitimate conservation roles outlined in government conservation plans.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-006 Build and maintain familiarity between Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) Australasia CSS and First Nations Organisations. (KSR 3)

Established relationships: Ongoing.

Result description: The CSS established a relationship with Muru Mittiga and the CSS is actively working on a regeneration/ zoo browse project with this organisation. Also, contact has been made with 50+ organisations across several threatened species ranges – awaiting funding confirmation from the federal government prior to

proceeding with collaborations that require remuneration for First Nations organisation’s time and expertise. The CSS and ZAA office completed cultural competency training, chaired the internal First Nations Consultation Working Group, and the ZAA annual conference was held in Christchurch New Zealand, with the theme ‘Positive impacts via partnerships and community’. The conference hosted a morning of plenary sessions on the theme of ‘Cultural partnerships’, and also hosted workshops on ‘First steps in collaboration with Mana Whenua (Aotearoa)’ run by Arapata Reuben - Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and ‘First steps in collaboration with Traditional Custodians (Australia)’ run by Wayne Cornish of Muru Mittigar.

T-011 Connect CSS work with the IUCN specialist groups, forming relationships and supporting specialist group goals in species assessment. (KSR 3)

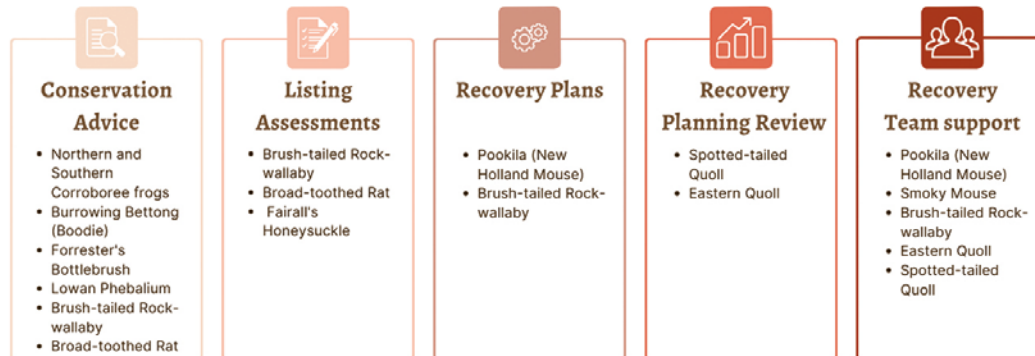
Number of IUCN specialist groups supported to develop species conservation policies: 3

Result description: In 2023, the CSS supported the goals of the Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group through recovery planning with several Australian marsupial species, and the goals of the Animal Biobanking for Conservation Specialist Group via coordination of a ZAA Wildlife Biobank Working Group comprised of external stakeholders (three meetings held in 2023). Furthermore, the four

BRUSH TAILED ROCK WALLABY



CENTER FOR SPECIES SURVIVAL AUSTRALASIA OUTPUTS



species of Grassland Earless Dragon listing assessment for the IUCN was drafted, in support of the IUCN SSC Snake and Lizard Red List Authority.

Synergy

T-007 Establishment of governments and other conservation stakeholders regarding ZAA as conservation partners. (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 2

Result description: In 2023, the partnership was maintained and strengthened with the Federal Government. This is evident from the threatened species projects assigned to the CCS team, resulting in an increase in remit. The CSS has been tasked with recovery planning for complex species requiring comprehensive stakeholder engagement. Involvement with all Australian state and territory Governments has occurred throughout 2023. Active collaborations across several national recovery teams with state/territory representatives are on track.

T-008 Identify opportunities to influence policy changes and participate in government policy reviews. (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 2

Result description: We participated in the review of the Australian Federal Government's Species Profile and Threats Database and submitted a review of Federal Government processes.

T-010 Source sufficient funding to sustain and expand the CSS team. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1

Result description: Work to source sufficient funding to sustain and expand the CSS team is on track.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-009 Share the story of the work of the CSS, beyond conservation organisations. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 5

Result description: The Centre (1) Launched its page on the ZAA website; (2) Produced the CSS funding prospectus; (3) Produced RtR posts on Threatened Species Day featuring the Australasian CSS; (4) Included feature in the WAZA RtR short guide, and (5) Featured in the SSC quarterly reports.

Acknowledgements

The IUCN Centre for Species Survival Australasia (CSS Australasia) is a partnership between the IUCN Species Survival Commission and the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA) to support the WAZA/ICUN-SSC's Reverse the Red initiative in the Australasian region. The CSS Australasia team is hosted by Taronga Conservation Society Australia and Zoos Victoria. The CSS works collaboratively with the Australian Federal Government and the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) to address assessment and conservation planning needs and is funded by the ZAA Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCF) through the ZAA Drought and Bushfire Appeal.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Oceania

Actions during 2023:

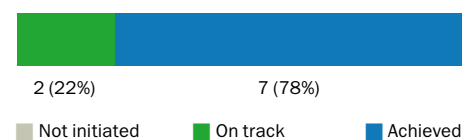
Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 3, 4)

Communicate: 1 (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