



Species

ISSUE 64

2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



Stand-alone report
CSS Southeast Asia Mandai Nature Singapore

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:

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2023 Report

CSS Southeast Asia Mandai Nature Singapore



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Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival: Southeast Asia is based in Singapore and was established through a formal collaboration between Mandai Nature and the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). Hosted by Mandai Nature, the Center hopes to unite the expertise, facilities and programmes of Mandai Nature with local and regional expert networks, tools and processes of the IUCN SSC to reverse the trends of species loss in Southeast Asia and beyond. As the first regional Center for Species Survival of its kind in Asia, the establishment of the IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival: Southeast Asia will facilitate conservation action in the region. The Center hopes to provide a platform for all conservation practitioners to network, share best practices, as well as seek support as needed, from experts and one another, to amplify the impact of species recovery efforts.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Build internal capacity within the Centre to have at least one person trained as a Red List Assessor.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-003 Facilitate the development of an ASEAN Species Conservation Plan.
Status: On track

T-004 Facilitate Assess to Plan workshops for SSC Network.
Status: On track

T-005 Develop single-species action plan workshops for threatened species in SEA.
Status: On track

T-011 Identify and prioritise a list of ASAP species that will benefit from *ex situ* intervention.
Status: On track

ACT

T-012 Catalyse an *ex situ* species recovery project for ASAP species.
Status: On track

T-013 Established conservation funds for neglected ASAP species.
Status: On track

T-014 Provide technical advice to support the conservation actions of ASAP Partners.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-015 Establish a partnership for conservation of ASAP fishes.
Status: On track

T-016 Increase ASAP Partnership to at least 230 partners.
Status: Achieved

T-017 Hold at least FOUR training sessions for ASAP partners in skills to build capacity for species conservation.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Develop logo identity and application guidelines for the Center for Species Survival: Southeast Asia.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Publish media release on CSS to communicate its objectives and impacts.
Status: Not initiated

T-008 Report in the IUCN SSC quarterly report on CSS activities.
Status: On track

T-009 Raise awareness of conservation efforts for threatened species through various platforms.
Status: On track

T-010 Joint communications campaigns to highlight CSS work.
Status: On track

T-018 Raise the profile of ASAP species partners and projects through various platforms.
Status: On track

T-019 Publish four ASAP newsletters annually.
Status: On track



Mekong Giant Catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*), one of the largest freshwater fish in the world
Photo: Mandai Wildlife Group



Betta cracens, a peat swamp forest freshwater fish species from Indonesia, identified to have high potential for successful *ex situ* conservation
Photo: Wentian Shi

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-003 Facilitate the development of an ASEAN Species Conservation Plan. (KSR 9)

Number of species conservation plan for ASEAN member states: 0

Result description: Workshop held in June 2023 and an initial draft plan being developed for review by the ASEAN Working group for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity.

T-004 Facilitate Assess to Plan workshops for SSC Network. (KSR 8)

Number of Assess to Plan workshops conducted to the SSC Network through taxonomic specialist groups: 0

Result description: Worked with the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group on Assess to Plan multi-species conservation planning workshop for eight species of hornbills in Sabah, Malaysia. We also worked with the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group on an Assess to Plan workshop for 20 species of *Presbytis* langurs.

T-011 Identify and prioritise a list of ASAP species that will benefit from *ex situ* intervention. (KSR 8)

List of ASAP species requiring *ex situ* intervention identified: Ongoing.

Result description: The process to identify and prioritise ASAP Species that would benefit from *ex situ* intervention was developed and the initial list of species was identified.

Staff from MOEF and BBKSDA conducting a health check on a Roti Snake-necked Turtle (*Chelodina mccordi*) at the breeding facility in Kupang, Indonesia
 Photo: Directorate of Biodiversity, Species and Genetics Conservation (KKHSG)



ACT

Conservation actions

T-012 Catalyse an *ex situ* species recovery project for ASAP species. (KSR 10)

Number of projects bring implemented: 0

Result description: Facilitated conservation of Rote Snake-necked Turtle by building up insurance population in Kupang for release into the wild. Assisted in breeding and maintenance of assurance colony for Negros Bleeding-heart (*Gallicolumba keayi*) in Singapore and the Philippines. Rehabilitation of rescued Sunda Pangolins (*Manis javanica*) in Singapore that require veterinary intervention as part of the national action plan for Sunda Pangolin.

T-013 Established conservation funds for neglected ASAP species. (KSR 10)

Number of projects funded: 12

Result description: ASAP supported 12 projects across seven countries benefiting the conservation of 20 ASAP Species. Approximately SGD 200,000 was disbursed in species conservation grants. Mandai Nature provided grants for *in situ* conservation of over 18 neglected ASAP species in 2023.

Technical advice

T-014 Provide technical advice to support the conservation actions of ASAP Partners. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 6

Result description: In 2023, we did field visits to ASAP Partners and gave online support to Partners as requested.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-015 Establish a partnership for conservation of ASAP fishes. (KSR 1)

Number of conservation partners engaged in action for ASAP fishes: 2

Result description: Partnership established between ASAP, SHOAL and Mandai Nature. Under the partnership a small grants programme has been set up and grants disbursed.

T-017 Hold at least four training sessions for ASAP partners in skills to build capacity for species conservation. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation skills: 20

Result description: In 2023, essentials of NGO management training were completed for ASAP partners over more than four sessions. Twenty participants were trained.

Membership

T-016 Increase ASAP Partnership to at least 230 partners. (KSR 4)

Number of SSC members recruited: 230

Result description: In 2023, 230 members were recruited for the ASAP Partnership.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 Publish media release on CSS to communicate its objectives and impacts. (KSR 12)

Media mentions generated: Ongoing.

Result description: CSS SEA conservation work and impact is communicated under Mandai Nature's and IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership's media releases, blog articles, social media postings, and other online and offline channels which highlight milestones and successes in species conservation work according to the Assess-Plan-Act framework.

T-009 Raise awareness of conservation efforts for threatened species through various platforms. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 5

Mandai Nature and Mandai Wildlife Group colleagues with government and partner representatives at a ceremonial repatriation event for the Rote Snake-necked Turtle in Kupang, Indonesia
Photo: Mandai Wildlife Group



Result description: The Centre produced more than five digital communications outputs in relation to specific taxonomic groups, including: (1) Media announcement on projected population growth for Raffles' Banded Langurs in Singapore; (2) Report, media announcement and webinar on strategic framework for freshwater fish in Southeast Asia; (3) Blog post on interview with ZSL and Asian Turtle Program for World Frog Day on ASAP website; (4) Blog post on local community collaboration in search to save the Javan Blue-banded Kingfisher on ASAP website, and (5) Social media posts on Reverse the Red day highlighting how Mandai Nature and ASAP Assess-Plan-Act for species in Southeast Asia.

T-010 Joint communications campaigns to highlight CSS work. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 3

Result description: At least three digital communication outputs were developed, including: (1) IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group published two issues of their newsletter 'Dawn Chorus' which highlighted CITES COP19 uplisting of

two songbird species, Straw-headed Bulbul and White-rumped Shama; (2) Social media postings on National Bird Day, World Tiger Day, Love Hornbills Day, World Biodiversity Day on online platforms to highlight partnerships with regional partners in conservation work for threatened species in the region.

T-018 Raise the profile of ASAP species partners and projects through various platforms. (KSR 13)

ASAP species profile improved: Ongoing.

Result description: Ongoing social media posts, six social media campaigns and 7 ASAP website articles. Webinar on 'Securing a Future for Freshwater Fishes in Southeast Asia' alongside the release of 'A strategic framework to accelerate urgent conservation action for ASAP Freshwater Fishes in Southeast Asia'.

T-019 Publish four ASAP newsletters annually. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs on ASAP species: 3

Result description: The Centre produced 3 newsletters in 2023.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 18

Geographic regions: 3 Global, 15 Asia

Actions during 2023:

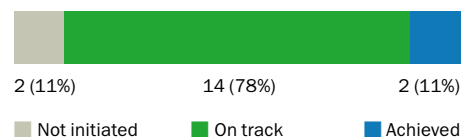
Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 6 (KSR 12, 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

