



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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 trans-versal 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### 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

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Fisher, D. and Woinarski, J. 2024. 2023 Report of the Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme 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 Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
36

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**  
X: @OzMMSSG

### Mission statement

To enhance the long-term conservation outlook for the marsupials and monotremes of Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Major focal areas in the 2021–2025 period will be: further increasing conservation efforts for marsupials and monotremes in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, and completing conservation status assessments for species needing updated assessment, particularly species affected by extensive and severe wildfires in eastern and southern Australia in 2019–2020. The group will also contribute to recovery of fire-affected species, those at risk from other climate change-related events such as increasing heatwaves and flooding, and promote research on the status of Data Deficient species and recently described species.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Undertake new assessments for the species most affected by the catastrophic 2019–2020 Australian wildfires.  
Status: On track

**T-002** Undertake new assessments for poorly known marsupials in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, including Peleng Cuscus (*Strigocuscus pelengensis*).  
Status: Achieved

**T-003** Undertake assessments of a set of taxonomically re-defined Australian marsupial species, e.g. Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) and Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*).  
Status: Achieved

**T-004** Undertake new Red List assessments for high-profile Australian marsupials (Koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus*) and monotremes (Platypus, *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*), based on new information.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Prepare Red List assessments for all Australian marsupial and monotreme taxa for which the most recent assessment is less than 10 years old.  
Status: On track

#### PLAN

**T-005** Develop conservation action plan (and survey) for *Zaglossus* species.  
Status: Achieved

#### NETWORK

**T-006** Enhance or expand group membership, including an annual or biennial meeting.  
Status: Achieved

### COMMUNICATE

**T-008** Hold annual or biennial meetings of SSC members.  
Status: On track

### Activities and results 2023

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-002** Undertake new assessments for poorly known marsupials in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, including Peleng Cuscus (*S. pelengensis*). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 3

Result description: Assessment projects were completed in the field for two Critically Endangered (CR) species in West Papua and Indonesia (*Zaglossus bruijnii*, *Ailurops melanotis*) and one Endangered (EN) species that our new information suggests maybe Critically Endangered (CR) (*Phalanger alexandrae*). Updates to Red List accounts are drafted for these species. There are currently eleven species of CR marsupials and monotremes in Papua New Guinea (PNG), West Papua and Indonesia (*A. melanotis*, *Z. bruijnii*, *Z. attenboroughi*, *Spiloglossus wilsoni*, *S. rufoniger*,





Newly described *Planigale kendricki*  
Photo: Roy Teale

*Phalanger matanim*, *Dendrolagus mayri*, *D. scottae*, *D. pulcherrimus*, *Petaurus abidi*, and *Dorcopsis atrata*). Only two others (in PNG) have current conservation monitoring programmes (*Dendrolagus scottae* and *D. pulcherrimus*). *Zaglossus attenboroughi* has also recently been confirmed on camera traps and is likely to be surveyed further. We have summarised information in our major review of the conservation of Australasian marsupials completed in 2023, publication Woinarski, J.C.Z., and Fisher, D. O. (2023). 'Conservation biogeography of modern species of Australasian marsupials'. In: 'American and Australasian Marsupials: an evolutionary, biogeographical, and ecological approach'. (Eds NC Cáceres and CR Dickman). pp. 1319-1366. Springer Nature, Cham, Switzerland.

[SSC Grant awarded]

**T-003 Undertake assessments of a set of taxonomically re-defined Australian marsupial species, e.g. Greater Glider (*P. volans*) and Sugar Glider (*P. breviceps*).** (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 22

Result description: Draft Red List accounts compiled for the 22 species subject to recent taxonomic review, including the newly recognised *Planigale tealei*, *P. kendricki*, *P. maculata*, *P. ingrami*, *Antechinus*

*argenteus*, *A. arktos*, *A. mimetes*, *A. mysticus*, *A. vandycki*, *A. flavipes*, *A. swainsonii*, *Chaeropus yirratji*, *Isoodon fusciventer*, *I. peninsulae*, *Perameles fasciata*, *P. myosuuros*, *P. notina*, *P. pallescens*, *P. papillon*, *Petaurus ariel*, *P. notatus*, and *Petrogale wilkinsi*. These draft Red List assessments are complete. The number of new species described over this period was greater than we initially estimated.

#### PLAN

##### Planning

**T-005 Develop conservation action plan (and survey) for *Zaglossus* species.** (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: One set of surveys, and a community conservation project involving awareness building and a conservation plan on the Bird's Head Peninsula were completed. Part of the area could not be accessed due to unforeseen military conflict at sites in West Papua. A second set of surveys and community awareness activities (funded by an SSC internal grant) is underway, covering new areas with reports of this species.

[SSC Grant awarded]

#### NETWORK

##### Membership

**T-006 Enhance or expand group membership, including an annual or biennial meeting.** (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 23

Result description: Total membership includes PNG and Indonesian members, and the *ex situ* conservation focal person is now James Biggs.

##### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

Geographic regions: 3 Asia, 8 Oceania

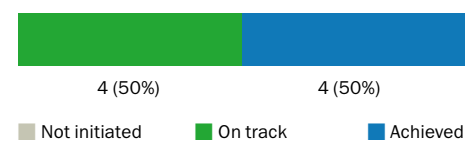
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

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