



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:

Minter, D. 2024. 2023 Report of the Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies 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 Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies Specialist Group



CHAIR
David Minter
CAB International,
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**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
David Minter
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
11

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: www.cybertruffle.org.uk/ascos/index.htm

Mission statement

To promote the conservation of ascomycete fungi by raising awareness that they have vital roles as nutrient recyclers, mutualistic symbionts of animals and plants, and as checks and balances in freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and that like animals, plants, and other fungi, they are endangered by climate change, habitat destruction, persecution and pollution.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Train two collaborators in Red List Authority work.

Status: Achieved

T-002 Complete IUCN Red List assessments for five species of desert truffles.

Status: On track

T-003 Complete IUCN Red List assessments for three species of European truffles. Status: Not initiated

T-004 Produce a document listing recommended sources of information for assessing non-lichen-forming ascomycetes.

Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-006 Engage with the Fungal and Plant Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival to enhance interaction between this Specialist Group and other areas of IUCN and relevant initiatives. Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Finalise the first version of the Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies (CFTA) Specialist Group website.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 Complete IUCN Red List assessments for five species of desert truffles. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Ten desert truffle species description sheets have been completed and are published on CABI's website. Further work will be done in 2024 to translate this information into a format compatible with the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Microscope image of ascus and ascospores of the desert truffle *Terfezia alshekhii*
Photo: David Minter



Ascomata of desert truffle *Terfezia* sp.
Photo: David Minter



Desert truffles from the *Terfezia* genus being sold in a local market in Abu Dhabi
Photo: David Minter

T-004 Produce a document listing recommended sources of information for assessing non-lichen-forming ascomycetes. (KSR 7)

Coverage of existing data by Red List evaluators improved: 0

Result description: Software has been developed to mine information from different online sources related to species distribution and automatically feed it into an offline repository and produce components for CABI's species description sheets. Further work will be done in developing a similar tool to produce information outputs that can be uploaded into the IUCN Red List.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-006 Engage with the Fungal and Plant Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival to enhance interaction between this Specialist Group and other areas of IUCN and relevant initiatives. (KSR 3)

Number of online virtual meetings: 2

Result description: The Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies Specialist Group kept regular engagement with the Plants and Fungi Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival, mainly through regular meetings of the Fungal Conservation Committee and for administrative support when needed.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

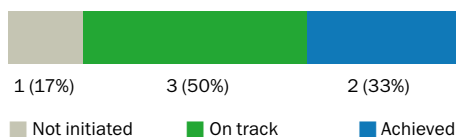
Geographic regions: 6 Global

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6, 7)

Network: 1 (KSR 3)

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