



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:

Hochkirch, A. and Umbers, K. 2024. 2023 Report of the Grasshopper Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
130

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: [IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group](#)

Mission statement

The mission of our group is to foster the conservation of orthopteroid insects, i.e. grasshoppers, katydids, crickets, mantids, stick insects, and their habitats around the world. We assess their conservation status, raise awareness, and engage in practical conservation of this amazing and highly diverse group of insects.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Improving the status of threatened Orthoptera by implementing conservation action based upon sound knowledge, Red List assessments and conservation planning.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Complete Red List assessments of 200 Tanzanian Orthoptera species.
Status: Not initiated

T-003 Complete Red List Assessments of 80 Mediterranean mantises.
Status: Not initiated

T-004 Complete Red List assessments of Razor-Backed Bush-Hoppers (Xyronotidae).
Status: On track

T-005 Complete Red List assessments of Tanoceridae Grasshoppers.
Status: On track

T-006 Complete Red List assessments of 100 Malagasy Grasshoppers.
Status: On track

T-007 Complete Sampled Red List Index for Orthoptera.
Status: On track

T-008 Develop monitoring standards for Orthoptera in Europe.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Complete Red List assessments of Socotran Endemic Orthoptera.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Complete Red List assessments of Dichoroplini Grasshoppers from South America.
Status: On track

T-011 Complete Red List assessments of Grasshoppers from the Western Ghats (India).
Status: On track

T-016 Complete Red List assessments of Orthoptera species from Pakistan.
Status: On track

T-017 Complete Red List assessments of North American Mantises.
Status: Not initiated

T-019 Complete Red List assessments of Anatolian *Saga* species.
Status: On track

T-020 Examine the effects of land use changes in dry karst regions on threatened Orthoptera.
Status: Not initiated

T-021 Examine the effects of wildfires on the Madeiran Green Bush-cricket (*Psalmatophanes barretoii*).
Status: Achieved

T-022 Examine the effects of wildfires on Australian Orthoptera.
Status: Achieved

T-023 Complete Red List assessments of Cameroon endemic Orthoptera species.
Status: On track

T-030 Complete Red List assessments of Vietnamese Mantodea.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-018 Develop a conservation strategy for Bei-Bienko's Plump Bush-cricket (*Isophya beybienkoi*) in Slovakia.
Status: Achieved

T-025 Update the conservation strategy for Crau Plain Grasshopper (*Prionotropis rhodanica*).
Status: Achieved

ACT

T-012 Implement the conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) in Italy.
Status: On track



Metaplastes ornatus, male
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

T-013 Implement the conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Z. marmorata*) in Slovenia.

Status: On track

T-014 Conduct population monitoring for the Atlantic Beach-cricket (*Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*) in the British Isles.

Status: On track

T-024 Implement guidelines for the protection of the Giant-cricket (*Brachytrupes megacephalus*).

Status: Not initiated

T-026 Implement the conservation strategy for Crau Plain Grasshopper (*P. rhodanica*).

Status: On track

T-027 Translocate the Common Field-cricket (*Gryllus campestris*) in Cologne.

Status: Achieved

T-028 Develop and implement habitat management for the Common Saw Bush-cricket (*Barbitistes serricauda*).

Status: On track

T-032 Implement the conservation strategy for the Cika Mountain Grasshopper (*Peripodisma ceraunii*).

Status: On track

T-038 Submission for legal protection of Mt. Buffalo Skyhopper (*Kosciuscola restrictus*) on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBCA).

Status: Not initiated

T-039 Implement conservation measures for the Albanian Saddle Bush-cricket (*Uromenus dyrrhachiacus*).

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Organise the Third European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation.

Status: Achieved

T-033 Hold virtual meetings of the Grasshopper Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

T-034 Expand the membership of the Group by adding more phasmid experts.

Status: Achieved

T-036 Organise a symposium on *Prionotropis* conservation.

Status: Achieved

T-040 Expanding membership in Asia.

Status: Achieved

T-041 Organise the 2nd Symposium on Grasshoppers.

Status: Achieved

T-042 Conduct a summer school on Orthoptera taxonomy and conservation in Greece.

Status: Achieved

T-043 Organise the Orthoptera Conservation Symposium at the 14th International Congress on Orthopterology.

Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-015 Performance of the Locust Opera at the WCC in Marseille.

Status: Not initiated

T-029 Publish the next volume of the *Newshopper*.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-018 Develop a conservation strategy for Bei-Bienko's Plump Bush-cricket (*I. beybi-enkoii*) in Slovakia. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: The conservation action plan for Bei-Bienko's Plump Bush-cricket was completed in 2023 and a funding proposal was submitted to the Indianapolis Zoo 'Saving Species Challenge'.

T-025 Update the conservation strategy for Crau Plain Grasshopper (*P. rhodanica*). (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 1

Result description: A translocation strategy for the Crau Plain Grasshopper was developed during a workshop in Saint-Martin-de-la-Crau, France (March 20-21, 2023) and finalised in December 2023.



Saga hellenica, female, one of the largest bush-crickets
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

ACT

Conservation actions

T-012 Implement the conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Z. marmorata*) in Italy. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 10

Result description: The conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket has been partially implemented. The area in Lisert is now protected as a “biotope”, and the area in Spigolo is protected from grazing by fences.

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 1

Result description: As a consequence of conservation measures, the population of Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket has increased, and a new population has been initiated based upon a translocation. The long-term success of this translocation remains to be studied during the next years.

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 0

Result description: In 2023, the translocated population was monitored. The results show that the species has successfully reproduced at the site and expanded to the south.

T-013 Implement the conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Z. marmorata*) in Slovenia. (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 2

Result description: Our partners (Ljubljansko barje Krajinski Park) have bought 70 ha of meadows to improve conservation management for the Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket in Slovenia. The conservation status of the species is currently quite stable and the area where the species is present remains similar to previous years.

T-026 Implement the conservation strategy for Crau Plain Grasshopper (*P. rhodanica*). (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 0

Result description: A translocation strategy has been compiled in 2023 and is planned to be carried out in 2024.

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0
Result description: As a consequence of fencing, the population size of the most highly threatened population of the Crau Plain Grasshopper increased considerably (more than 10 x) during recent years.

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 0

Result description: The LIFE project for the Crau Plain Grasshopper has been carried out with numerous actions leading to an improvement of the status of the species.

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 0

Result description: Grasshopper-friendly management has continued to be carried out on the Peau de Meau site.

T-028 Develop and implement habitat management for the Common Saw Bush-cricket (*B. serricauda*). (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 1

Result description: Two former forests (spruce and Douglas fir) have been logged and replaced by native broadleaved trees. A second forester has pledged to restore natural oak/hornbeam forests in the Eifel mountains.

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: The monitoring in 2023 showed that the species had a very high population density, probably caused by recent climatic fluctuations. The response of the species to the conservation action implemented in 2023 will probably take some years.



DEST Summer School on Orthoptera taxonomy and conservation, Konitsa, Greece
Photo: Axel Hochkirch



Breeding facility for conservation breeding of *Psophus stridulus*, Nordens Ark, Sweden
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: Foresters in Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia have been encouraged to restore oak/hornbeam forests. Some foresters have started to engage in these actions.

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: Guidelines for sustainable forest restoration to support the Common Saw Bush-cricket will be developed in 2024.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-041 Organise the 2nd Symposium on Grasshoppers. (KSR 2)

Workshop conducted: Ongoing.

Result description: A virtual symposium on conservation of *Prionotropis* grasshoppers was held on February 10, 2023.

T-042 Conduct a summer school on Orthoptera taxonomy and conservation in Greece. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in other fields: 20

Result description: A summer school on Orthoptera taxonomy and conservation with 20 participants was held on July 17 to 23, 2023 in Konitsa, Greece. The students were trained in Orthoptera taxonomy, ecology and conservation.

T-043 Organise the Orthoptera Conservation Symposium at the 14th International Congress on Orthopterology. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in other fields: Achieved

Result description: On October 19, 2023, a symposium on Orthoptera Conservation was held at the 14th International Congress on Orthopterology (Mérida, Mexico).

Acknowledgements

We thank the SSC Chair's Office for the constant support, including SSC grants. Furthermore, we would like to thank Sergio Henriques for his engagement. We also would like to thank the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for its support of our projects.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 36

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 3 Africa, 4 America, 6 Asia, 15 Europe, 2 Oceania

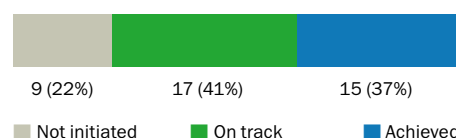
Actions during 2023:

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 12 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (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