



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:

Genovesi, P. and Pagad, S. 2024. 2023 Report of the Invasive Species Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group



CHAIR
Piero Genovesi
ISPRA Institute
for Environmental
Protection and
Research, Rome, Italy



DEPUTY CHAIR
Shyama Pagad
University of Auckland,
New Zealand

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
183

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @IUCNSSCISSG
X: @IUCN_ISSG

Mission statement

The Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) aims to reduce threats to natural ecosystems and the native species they contain by increasing awareness of invasive alien species, and of ways to prevent, control or eradicate them.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The ISSG promotes and facilitates the exchange of invasive species information and knowledge across the globe and ensures the linkage between knowledge, practice and policy so that decision-making is informed. The two core activity areas of the ISSG are policy and technical advice, and information exchange through our online resources and tools and through networking.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS): Carry out 2022 scheduled updates of all national check-lists.
Status: Achieved

T-003 Enhance the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS).
Status: Achieved

T-007 Update Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicator 15.8.1.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-002 Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS): Expand networks of country editors.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-004 Complete integration of the Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT) on the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD).
Status: On track

T-005 Populate EICAT assessments, finalising at least 100 assessments in 2022.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Contribute to discussion on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework in what concerns Invasive Alien Species (IAS).
Status: Achieved

T-009 Completion of the integration of EICAT on the GISD.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Publication of newsletter on invasion biology.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-004 Complete integration of the Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT) on the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD). (KSR 12)

EICAT framework visible on the GISD website; species assessments online: 25%
Result description: All assessments are displayed in GISD. GISD allows the search and display of all EICAT assessments.

T-005 Populate EICAT assessments, finalising at least 100 assessments in 2022. (KSR 12)

Number of assessments online: 212
Result description: In 2023, 212 EICAT assessments were completed—other assessments are under evaluation, and publication is expected in 2024.

T-006 Contribute to discussion on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Global Biodiversity Framework in what concerns Invasive Alien Species (IAS). (KSR 12)

Engagement with the CBD and key persons: 100%

Result description: Meetings with CBDs were held in 2023. Chair attended the SBSTTA meeting in Nairobi and discussed



Chair of ISSG, with Kevin Smith, Programme Officer Invasive Species of IUCN, Alison Hutchinson ISSG member, and the programme officers of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at SBSTTA 25 in Nairobi
Photo: Piero Genovesi

collaboration with CBDS. Contributed to the discussion on the GBF and the enforcement of Target 6 on IAS.

T-009 Completion of the integration of EICAT on the GISD. (KSR 12)

EICAT framework visible on the GISD website; species assessments online: 100%

Result description: In 2023, the GISD website fully displays EICAT assessments, therefore, integration was complete.

T-010 Publication of newsletter on invasion biology. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 100%

Result description: In 2023, we started discussing collaborations to publish a newsletter.

Summary of achievements

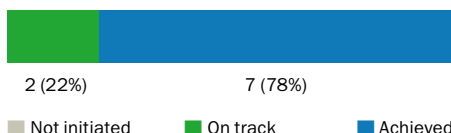
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2023:

Communicate: 5 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Chair of ISSG at IPBES plenary, where the Thematic assessment on IAS was adopted
Photo: Piero Genovesi



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