



# 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 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.

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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:

Vincent, A. 2024. 2023 Report of the Marine Conservation Committee. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

# IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee



**CHAIR**  
Amanda Vincent  
Project Seahorse—  
Institute for the  
Oceans and Fisheries,  
The University of  
British Columbia,  
Canada

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
10

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**  
X: @SSCmarine  
Website: [www.iucn-sscmarine.org](http://www.iucn-sscmarine.org)

## Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee is to support, enhance and mobilise expertise in marine species conservation for a better future. Its mandate is to ensure that decisions on marine species are based on sound technical knowledge and directed at long-term population health. Specifically, it helps and links volunteer experts from the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) network who have special knowledge of particular taxa or of cross-cutting concerns. It also advocates the use of SSC marine knowledge and skills in the broad global community, particularly by policy makers and resource managers.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

The Marine Conservation Committee will lead and support the creation of at least 10 new marine species Specialist Groups and a Fisheries Task Force. The committee will support new and existing species Specialist Groups by assessing best practices among marine groups and collating this information for implementation by other groups. The Conservation Planning Specialist Group will be supported by the committee in order to increase capacity in marine conservation planning. Resolutions on critical marine

issues, including emergency resolutions, will be supported for the 2024 World Conservation Congress.

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

**T-003** Represent marine issues on IUCN Red List Committee.  
Status: On track

### PLAN

**T-001** Complete Marine Conservation Committee strategic plan.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Increase capacity in marine conservation planning through the Conservation Planning Specialist Group.  
Status: Not initiated

### ACT

**T-007** Influence the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in favour of marine species conservation.  
Status: Achieved

**T-008** Generate collective action on marine bycatch.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Support submission of emergency resolutions for the IUCN World Conservation Congress.  
Status: Achieved

**T-010** Prepare new resolutions on critical marine issues for the 2024 World Conservation Congress.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-013** Provide expert input on marine issues to SSC and IUCN.  
Status: On track

**T-014** Provide expert input on marine issues for MEAs and other regional or global bodies.  
Status: On track

### NETWORK

**T-002** Host 12 marine-focused SSC seminars and workshops on special topics.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-004** Assess best practices among marine Specialist Groups.  
Status: Achieved

**T-005** Create new marine Specialist Groups and Task Forces.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Submit proposals for marine-focused events at the 2024 World Conservation Congress.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-016** Support the SSC in strengthening network capacity.  
Status: On track



A Critically Endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) rests on an algae bed in the Coral Sea, Papua Barat, Indonesia  
 Photo: Sabine Templeton



**COMMUNICATE**

**T-012** Communicate Marine Conservation Committee work to a broad audience.  
 Status: On track

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**Activities and results 2023**

**ACT**

**Technical advice**

**T-013** Provide expert input on marine issues to SSC and IUCN. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 2

Result description: MCC provided detailed comments on the UUU Fishing/Biomass fishing Situation analysis. It also participated in IUCN Ocean Community meetings, as required.

**T-014** Provide expert input on marine issues for MEAs and other regional or global bodies. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: Hosted an Aquascapes symposium at the International Marine Protected Area Congress IMPAC5, 'Integrating Marine Protections Across Aquascapes'.

**NETWORK**

**Capacity building**

**T-004** Assess best practices among marine Specialist Groups. (KSR 2)

Report on best practices among marine Specialist Groups: 10%

Result description: The [Guidelines](#) were published and can be found online. The MCC is now working with the SSC Chairs Office and the Global Center for Species Survival to publicise the guidelines throughout the SSC network.

**Membership**

**T-005** Create new marine Specialist Groups and Task Forces. (KSR 2)

Number of new SSC groups established: 2

Result description: Two Specialist Groups were established in 2023, the Marine Star Specialist Group and the Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group, the latter in conjunction with the Freshwater Conservation Committee and the Fungal Conservation Committee. Initial meetings were held for a Sponge Specialist Group – with the Freshwater Conservation Committee – and a Marine Decapod Specialist Group.

**COMMUNICATE**

**Communication**

**T-012** Communicate Marine Conservation Committee work to a broad audience. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: Rtr Aquascapes webinar '[Integrating Marine and Freshwater Protections Across Aquascapes](#)' was held on June 6, 2023.

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**Summary of achievements**

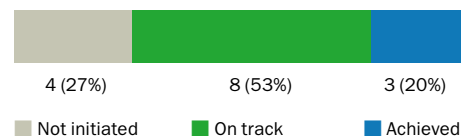
**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 15

**Geographic regions:** 6 Global, 9 Body of water

**Actions during 2023:**

Act: 2 (KSR 10)  
 Network: 2 (KSR 2)  
 Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

**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