



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:

Lobo, A. and Udyawer, V. 2023. 2022 Report of the Sea Snake 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 Sea Snake Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
24

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN Sea Snake Specialist Group (SSSG) is to promote the conservation of the world's marine and aquatic snakes (true sea snakes, sea kraits, estuarine/marine mud and file snakes). The SSSG also serves to develop a greater scientific understanding of this group's diversity, status and threats to better inform and support assessments of their conservation status. This will be accomplished by establishing and supporting a coordinated global network of members to develop capacity and achieve our shared conservation goals for this unique group of reptiles.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Elevate public awareness of marine snakes by fostering a network of experts to gather new data and bolster outreach initiatives. Assess the extinction risk for various species and formulate targeted action plans to combat the critical threats they face.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

- T-002** Reevaluate the network for global/regional/national sea snake experts.
Status: On track
- T-003** Invite individuals from other IUCN SSGs (e.g. Marine Conservation Committee, Mangrove Specialist Group, Shark Specialist Group, etc.). Many of these share similar issues (e.g. Shark Specialist Group) on bycatch and others.
Status: Not initiated
- T-004** Identify potential Regional nodes/focal points to be contacted to obtain their consent.
Status: On track
- T-005** Review and assess the status of short-range and Critically Endangered species of sea snake.
Status: On track
- T-006** Assess the status of species represented in high numbers within coastal fisheries.
Status: Not initiated
- T-007** Assess the population status and harvest rate of sea snakes across Asia and the Pacific.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

- T-008** Develop regional nodes to enable global reassessment.
Status: On track
- T-009** Assemble an organising team to support the planning process.
Status: On track
- T-010** Identify regions/species requiring urgent conservation attention/action.
Status: Not initiated
- T-014** Conduct one workshop on species conservation planning using in-the-wild species.
Status: On track

ACT

- T-011** Conduct regional and global reassessment for sea snake species.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

- T-001** Expand membership and develop an organisational framework to enable coordinated Red List assessments.
Status: On track
- T-015** Develop public-facing points of contact to help build network through scientific and industry groups.
Status: On track



Sea snake at Andaman Islands
Photo: Jaydasadia (CC BY-SA 4.0)

COMMUNICATE

T-012 Develop a website.

Status: On track

T-013 Other collaterals – Sea snake poster/factsheet which includes stats, vision/mission statements, etc.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 Reevaluate the network for global/regional/national sea snake experts. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 1

Result description: Regional experts were identified and invited to the symposium at the World Congress of Herpetology 2024 (WCH2024).

T-005 Review and assess the status of short-range and Critically Endangered species of sea snake. (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 0

Result description: Assessment of two short-range Critically Endangered species completed. One more species assessment is currently under review on the Red List.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-015 Develop public-facing points of contact to help build network through scientific and industry groups. (KSR 1)

Facing points of contact are established: 0
Result description: Website and symposium being organised for release at WCH2024.

Membership

T-001 Expand membership and develop organisational framework to enable coordinated Red List assessments. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: In 2023, three new members were identified and invited to join the Specialist Group.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-012 Develop a website. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: The website designer and content are ready; the website is near completion and will be launched at the Sea Snake Symposium at WCH2024.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 15

Geographic regions: 14 Global, 1 Oceania

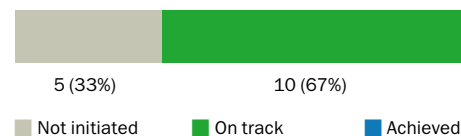
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 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