



# 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:

Molur, S. and Chowdhury, G.W. 2024. 2023 Report of the South Asia Invertebrate Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

# IUCN SSC South Asia Invertebrate Specialist Group



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
100

## Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAISG) is to encourage and assist invertebrate specialists' institutions and agencies in South Asia to conserve invertebrate taxa at species, genetic and habitat levels and to make it into a region that appreciates and conserves invertebrates.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

**T-010** Complete global Red List assessments of more than 60 tarantula species of India by 2025.

Status: On track

### ACT

**T-012** Identify important invertebrate sites and unique habitats in South Asia and promote species conservation.

Status: On track

**T-014** Direct studies on invertebrate surveys and monitoring and improving knowledge on life cycles of invertebrates.

Status: On track

**T-015** Conduct awareness sessions and build capacity for invertebrate conservation to the common public and budding wildlife enthusiasts.

Status: On track

### NETWORK

**T-016** Train wildlife conservationists on IUCN red listing process, Green List, Conservation Action Planning and facilitation skills.

Status: On track

**T-019** Develop capacity in young wildlife conservationists that helps them take up invertebrate conservation projects.

Status: On track

**T-020** Expand the SAsISG network by identifying key stakeholders who have been active in invertebrate conservation in South Asia.

Status: On track

### COMMUNICATE

**T-017** Promote and publish popular/creative/scientific articles on invertebrates every year.

Status: On track

**T-018** Create a strong social media presence of the group and to keep updating the ongoing events.

Status: On track

## Activities and results 2023

### ASSESS

#### Research activities

**T-010** Complete global Red List assessments of more than 60 tarantula species of India by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0

Result description: A list of all the tarantula experts in India has been compiled. The formation of a network is in the process.

[SSC Grant awarded]

### ACT

#### Conservation actions

**T-012** Identify important invertebrate sites and unique habitats in South Asia and promote species conservation. (KSR 10)

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

Result description: A seagrass bed in Chinnapalam, Rameswaram, Gulf of Mannar, India has been identified to be an important site as it hosts diverse and abundant marine invertebrates which however remains undocumented in literature. Recce surveys have been done to note the species diversity and work is in progress to turn the seaweed harvest here into a sustainable one and to educate the communities and school children on the importance of the site and the marine life.





Seagrass bed in Gulf of Mannar, India  
Photo: Usha Ravindra



Marine invertebrates at a seagrass bed in Gulf of Mannar, India  
Photo: Pannaga Bhatt

**T-014 Direct studies on invertebrate surveys and monitoring and improving knowledge on life cycles of invertebrates. (KSR 10)**

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 3

Result description: In 2023, landing surveys were conducted at six harbours (Chinnamuttom, Muttom, Colachel (Tamil Nadu), Sakthikulangara, Mariyanad, Vizhinjam (Kerala)) to understand the impacts of trawling on marine invertebrates. Invertebrate surveys were done at Nallusamy Check Dam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu for wetland restoration; more than 150 species of insects were recorded. Additionally, monitoring of populations of the Critically Endangered Rameshwaram Parachute Spider (*Poecilotheria hanumavilasumica*) restricted to Rameshwaram, India was assessed to be unstable by on-ground surveys and work is in progress to generate funds to do conservation work here.

**T-015 Conduct awareness sessions and build capacity for invertebrate conservation to the common public and the budding wildlife enthusiasts. (KSR 10)**

Number of sessions or activities to sensitise people on invertebrates' conservation: 7

Result description: In 2023, seven awareness activities were carried out: (1) Two nature trail walks were conducted at Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park (Part of Western Ghats, India) to 600+ corporates that highlighted the importance of insect biodiversity and our role in conserving them; (2) A 2-day workshop on understanding the importance of marine animals (with special focus on threatened and lesser-known groups) was conducted for 30 fishermen of the western coast of India. The workshop trained the fishermen to record the onboard landings of threatened and lesser-known (Invertebrates) groups; (3) The need for marine invertebrate conservation was highlighted in the 10CEAN Conference-Workshop for educators held for the teachers from 6 schools of Coimbatore city

in Tamil Nadu, India; (4) We had a series of panels on the life of Indian Siris tree (*Albizia lebbek*) exhibited at the Vaiyyam - a national art fest with wild lifers all over India, which highlighted the importance of invertebrates and their interactions with plants; (5) A talk on Marine molluscs of India, taxonomy, and their ecological importance was organised for 10 fellows of Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation in December 2023 by mollusc expert, Ravinesh R; (6) 10 fellows of Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation were taken to Valimunai island, a coral reef habitat, one of the restricted Gulf of Mannar Islands to understand the effects of global warming on these animals and the marine life composition in these beds; and (7) Awareness sessions and nature trail walks with a mix of games and activities on the importance of insects were done for rural communities around a wetland in Tamil Nadu, India.

**NETWORK**

**Capacity building**

**T-016 Train wildlife conservationists on IUCN red listing process, Green List, Conservation Action Planning, and facilitation skills. (KSR 2)**

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 11

Result description: In 2023, eleven (11) wildlife enthusiasts were trained on the IUCN Red List assessment process, Conservation Action Planning, and facilitation skills for one month as part of Ram Hattikudur Advanced Training in Conservation (RHATC), a wildlife course run by Zoo Outreach Organisation.

**T-019 Develop capacity in young wildlife conservationists that helps them take up invertebrate conservation projects. (KSR 2)**

People equipped with skills required for invertebrate conservation and trained in conservation biology: Ongoing.

Result description: In January 2023, a student was supported to do a preliminary study of the bycatch of deep-sea crabs,

being the first study to establish that these crabs are not yet in the market for active consumption although landed as bycatch and sent to poultry. This enables us to take it to the next step which is to understand the impacts of trawling on deep-sea invertebrates' landings and its scale. Also, one entomology enthusiast was supported to attend a five-day workshop on insect taxonomy by the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore, India from 24-28 July 2023. Two marine invertebrate conservationists were supported to attend a 3-day integrative taxonomy workshop on jellyfish as part of the 7th International Jellyfish Blooms Symposium at the University of Kerala, Trivandrum, India from 26-28 November 2023.

**COMMUNICATE  
Communication**

**T-017 Promote and publish popular/creative/scientific articles on invertebrates every year. (KSR 13)**

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 15

Result description: In 2023, 15 articles on invertebrates were published on Zoo's *Print* under 'Bugs are all' run by Zoo Outreach Organisation as part of SASISG.

**Summary of achievements**

**Total number of targets 2021-2025: 9**

**Geographic regions: 9 Asia**

**Actions during 2023:**

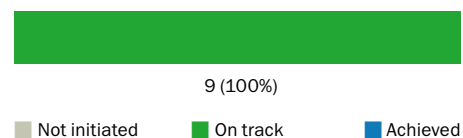
Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Act: 3 (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