IUCN SSC Species Survival Commission

Species

ISSUE 64

2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat

Stand-alone report
IUCN SSC Tapir Specialist Group

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 standalone reports.

Structure of the IUCN SSC and CSS Stand-alone Reports

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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 Authory 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.

Example for the recommended citation:

Medici, P. 2024. 2023 Report of the Tapir 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 Tapir Specialist Group

CHAIR
Patrícia Medici
IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas, Brazil

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
94

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @TapirSpecialistGroup
X: @IUCN_Tapirs
Website: https://tapirs.org/

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) is a global group of biologists, zoo professionals, researchers and advocates dedicated to conserving Tapirs and their habitat through strategic action planning in countries where Tapirs live, information sharing, and through educational outreach showing the importance of the Tapir to local ecosystems and to the world at large.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we want to have strong group representation in all Tapir range countries in Latin America and Southeast Asia and stable, long-term research and conservation programmes in several of these countries.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Establish joint Tapir research and conservation programmes including multiple Tapir species and range countries.
Status: On track

T-002 Establish a network of Tapir research and conservation programmes representing all Tapir range countries.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-003 Publish a visual, popular version of at least two TSG action plans – Baird's Tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) and Mountain Tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*) – condensed, accessible, and mobile for use.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-004 Expand the TSG fellowship.
Status: On track

T-005 Integrate our education curriculum 'Tapir Tracks' with education programmes.
Status: On track

T-006 Involve TSG members in at least three TSG strategic plan actions.
Status: On track

T-007 Obtain a minimum of 10 new alliances between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation efforts.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-008 Relaunch the Tapir conservation newsletter.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Upload at least 100 scientific articles to the TSG virtual library.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Research activities

T-001 Establish joint Tapir research and conservation programmes including multiple Tapir species and range countries. (KSR 5)

Number of joint programmes designed and established: 0

Result description: Current ongoing joint programmes, i.e. TSG and Fondation Segré (World Tapir Conservation Programme; Conservation of Latin American Tapir Species; Conservation of Malayan Tapirs); Baird's Tapir Conservation Alliance; TSG Colombia Network; Mountain Tapir Conservation Alliance.

T-002 Establish a network of Tapir research and conservation programmes representing all Tapir range countries. (KSR 5)

Network established and maintained: Ongoing.

Result description: The joint research and conservation programmes mentioned above also operate as regional and/or global networks focused on Tapir conservation.

Lowland Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*),
Cristalino River, Southern Amazon, Brazil
Photo: Charles J. Sharp (CC BY-SA 4.0)

PLAN

Planning

T-003 Publish a visual, popular version of at least two TSG action plans – Baird's Tapir (*T. bairdii*) and Mountain Tapir (*T. pinchaque*) – condensed, accessible, and mobile for use. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/ strategies updated: 0

Result description: Members of the Tapir Specialist Group are currently compiling all available action plans (global species plans and national plans).

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-004 Expand the TSG fellowship. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: 5

Result description: The TSG is currently resuming the activities of the TSG Fellowship after the COVID-19 pandemic.

T-005 Integrate our education curriculum 'Tapir Tracks' with education programmes. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation action: 0

Result description: The Tapir Tracks education curriculum is currently being applied in Brazil and Honduras. In addition, it has been used by several zoo education departments.

Synergy

T-006 Involve TSG members in at least three TSG strategic plan actions. (KSR 2)

TSG members involved: Ongoing.

Result description: We have not been able to develop a new TSG Strategic Plan since the last Tapir Symposium in Houston in 2017. We were supposed to develop a new plan in 2020, during a Tapir Symposium that was planned to be held in Colombia. The symposium did not take place due to the pandemic. We are now in the planning process for the 8th International Tapir Symposium that will be held in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, in July 7-12, 2024.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge support from the TSG Steering Committee, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Tapir Taxon Advisory Group (TAG), the Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA),the Fondation Segré, Switzerland; IPE - Institute for Ecological Research, Brazil, the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), the ProCAT Colombia, and so many others.

Summary of achievements

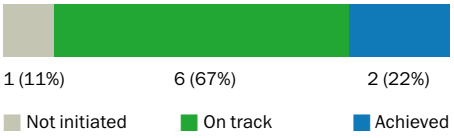
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

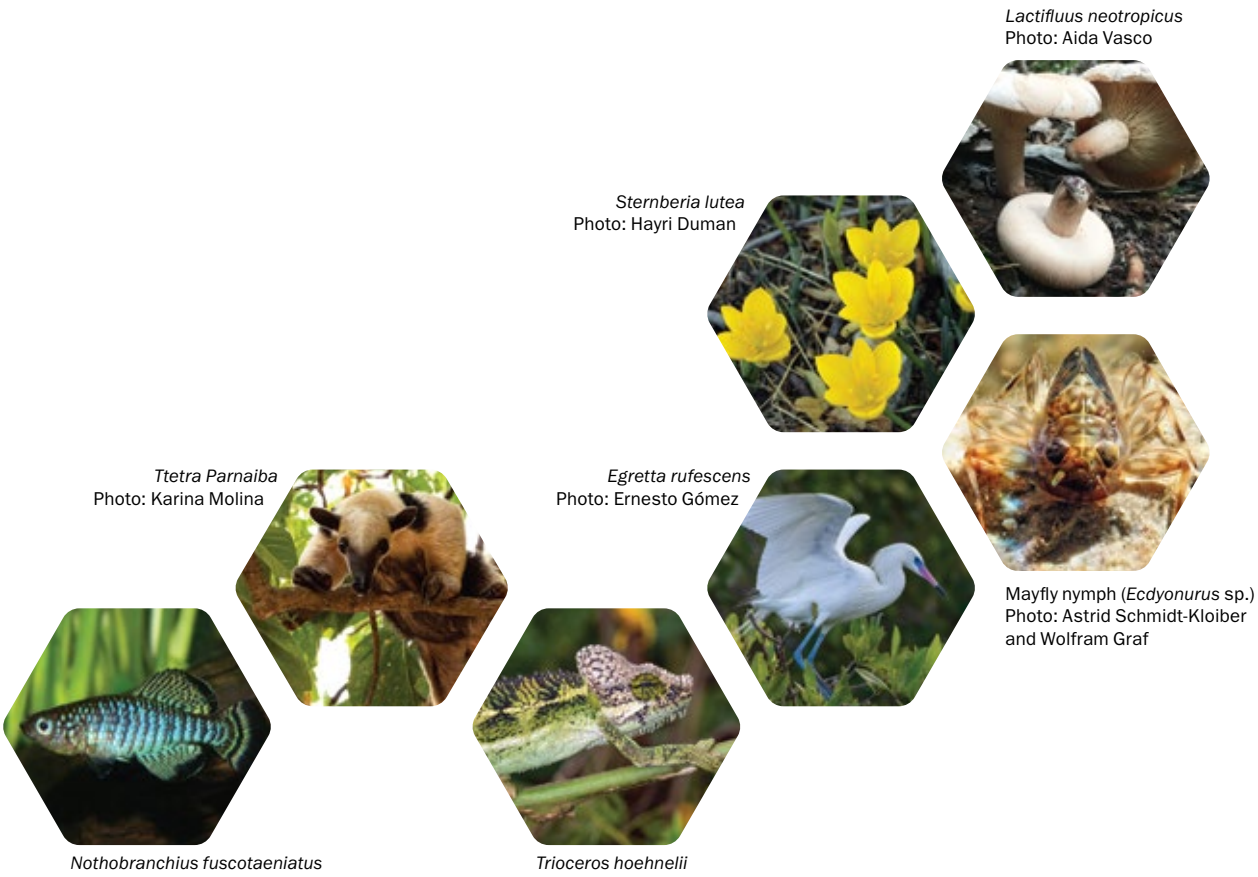
Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)
Plan: 1 (KSR 8)
Network: 3 (KSR 2)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:





Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco

Sternberia lutea
Photo: Hayri Duman

Ttetra Parnaiba
Photo: Karina Molina

Egretta rufescens
Photo: Ernesto Gómez

Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf

Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus
Photo: Csenge Nagy

Trioceros hoehnelii
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson