



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:

Gonçalves, D. 2024. 2023 Report of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group



CHAIR
David Gonçalves
Research Centre
in Biodiversity and
Genetic Resources
(CIBIO), University of
Porto, Portugal

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
BirdLife International

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
130

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://www.wetlands.org/our-network/specialist-groups/woodcock-and-snipe-specialist-group/>

Mission statement

The first aim of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group (WSSG) is to provide up-to-date knowledge on eight woodcock and 18 snipe species in the world. It is also expected to encourage new research and facilitate contacts between researchers. The WSSG plays the role of expert platform for biologists, conservationists and wildlife managers interested in woodcocks and snipes to share and exchange information. As these are game species, the final objective is to ensure the sustainable use of the populations.

Projected impact 2021–2025

With the actions that we intend to develop within the scope of the proposed targets for the quadrennium, we hope to increase knowledge about the various woodcock and snipe species and contribute to their conservation and definition of future actions.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Review the conservation status of all woodcock and snipe species.

Status: On track

T-010 Participate in the re-assessment of the IUCN Red List status of the world's birds, with BirdLife (IUCN Red List Authority for birds).

Status: On track

PLAN

T-008 Continue working closely with entities involved in the management of woodcock and snipe populations.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Review membership and expand the taxonomic and geographic representation of the group by inviting 15 new experts with emphasis on increasing the representation of members from South America, Africa, and Asia.

Status: On track

T-011 Participation in EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) Regional Collection Planning Workshop for the EAZA Charadriiformes TAG.

Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Publish the Proceedings of the 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop.

Status: On track

T-004 Publish the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group annual newsletter.

Status: On track

T-009 Organise the 9th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop.

Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-010 Participate in the re-assessment of the IUCN Red List status of the world's birds, with BirdLife (IUCN Red List Authority for birds). (KSR 6)

Number of species reassessed for the IUCN Red List status of the world's birds, with BirdLife: 0

Result description: The Group continues to collaborate with BirdLife (IUCN Red List Authority for birds) in the reassessment of woodcock and snipe.

PLAN
Policy

T-008 Continue working closely with entities involved in the management of woodcock and snipe populations. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 0

Result description: Collaboration with entities involved in the management of woodcock and snipe populations continues, for example, with the 'Fédération des Associations Nationales des Bécassiers du Paléarctique occidental' and FACE – European Federation for Hunting and Conservation.

COMMUNICATE
Communication

T-009 Organise the 9th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop. (KSR 12)

Organisation of the 9th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop: 0

Result description: The organization of the 9th workshop was discussed among some members of the group, but it was not possible to move forward this year towards its implementation.



Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) nest on Pico Island, Azores, Portugal
Photo: Rémi Fontaine

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

Geographic regions: 4 Global, 1 Africa, 2 America, 2 Asia, 2 Europe

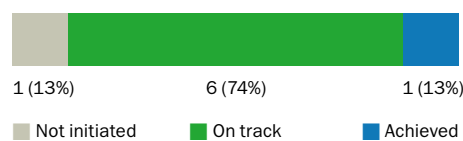
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

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