



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:

Verissimo, D.G. 2024. 2023 Report of the Behaviour Change Task Force. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC CEC Behaviour Change Task Force



CHAIR
Diogo Veríssimo
University of Oxford,
UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
12

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: www.conservationbehaviourchange.org/

Mission statement

Human choices have an impact on biodiversity loss, making it essential that social and behavioural sciences, such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, economics, and marketing, among others, that seek to understand human behaviour and influence decisions people make be taken into account in conservation interventions. Therefore, the mission of the IUCN SSC CEC Task Force on Behaviour Change is to act as a knowledge broker between the behavioural sciences and those working to conserve biodiversity. This Task Force, as a cross-commission with the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Commission for Education and Communication (CEC), will be in a unique position to drive the adoption of behavioural change science principles at scale within the biodiversity conservation community.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The IUCN SSC CEC Task Force on Behaviour Change aims to put into practice the knowledge acquired in the field of behavioural sciences for use in intervention projects. For years, these disciplines have been overlooked in conservation contexts, despite human activities being a major cause of the biodiversity loss we are currently witnessing. Therefore, this multidisciplinary group, with extensive expertise in behavioural sciences, human behaviour

and how to influence decision-making, will be in a privileged position to create best practice guidance documents that will help the community enhance the use of social sciences in biodiversity conservation intervention projects.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Produce and publish guidelines for high quality behavioural interventions in the context of biodiversity conservation.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-002 Carry out a consultation across SSC, CEC and other relevant stakeholders to identify barriers to the use of behavioural change science in conservation science, alongside what sort of support would be most valuable.
Status: On track

T-003 Map out the institutional landscape of other groups also working in behavioural science and sustainability to maximise synergies.
Status: On track

ACT

T-005 Develop freely accessible training materials and modules that can help build capacity across IUCN and more broadly in the biodiversity conservation space.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-006 Create and develop some webinars focused on behaviour change.
Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Produce an authoritative review of the knowledge in the field to be published Open Access in the journal *Annual Reviews*.
Status: On track

T-007 Create and develop a website of the IUCN SSC CEC Task Force on Behaviour Change, where outputs and activities are published.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-002 Carry out a consultation across SSC, CEC and other relevant stakeholders to identify barriers to the use of behavioural change science in conservation science, alongside what sort of support would be most valuable. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: This target began in November, with some work meetings to define which professionals in the field we would contact to participate in this needs assessment. In December we

The screenshot shows the Cambridge Core website interface. At the top, there is the Cambridge University Press logo and a 'Discover' button. Below that is the 'Cambridge Core' header with a search bar. Navigation links include 'Browse subjects', 'Publications', 'Open research', 'Services', 'About Cambridge Core', and 'Institution login'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home > Journals > Oryx > Volume 57 Issue 5 > IUCN launches Behaviour Change Task Force'. The main article title is 'IUCN launches Behaviour Change Task Force', published online by Cambridge University Press on 08 September 2023. The authors are Diogo Veríssimo and Isa Pinho. The article is categorized as 'Conservation News' and is part of 'Oryx, Volume 57, Issue 5, September 2023, pp. 555'. The DOI is https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605323000819. The abstract section states that an abstract is not available for this content. The article content list includes 'Abstract' and 'Footnotes'. The Oryx journal cover is also visible on the left side of the page.

IUCN BCTF on the *Oryx*—The International Journal of Conservation
Photo: BCTF

started sending individual invitations for these interviews to specific professionals selected by the members of this Taskforce. In order to conduct comprehensive needs assessments, and gather as much information as possible, we are aiming to interview a large number of individuals. We anticipate reaching approximately 100 professionals working in the conservation field, with different topics, frameworks and geographic areas, each with its specific complexities. Two online forms were created to ask for participation within IUCN Commission members. This call was made in December and January, through the most appropriate communication channels within the Species Survival Committee and the Commission on Education and Communication. A script for the interviews was also created in December so that the collected information was as consistent as possible. We also worked on the Ethics Review with the University of Indiana.

T-003 Map out the institutional landscape of other groups also working in behavioural science and sustainability to maximise synergies. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: This target began to be developed in September and a search was carried out of organisations working in the area of nature conservation with a specific focus on social sciences for behaviour change. At the moment there

is a preliminary document, resulting from this search, which allows us to understand with which organisations we can coordinate activities, align objectives and build synergies.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-001 Produce an authoritative review of the knowledge in the field to be published Open Access in the journal *Annual Reviews*. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 0

Result description: This target refers to the literature review that was conducted by some members of the IUCN SSC CEC Behavior Change Taskforce and which will be published in the scientific journal *Annual Reviews*. Activities to achieve this target began in mid-May by convening some working meetings between Taskforce members, to understand the best way to achieve this objective. In the following months, after the topics to be worked on had been established, a literature review was carried out on the sections to be worked on, which were as follows: Linking behaviour to biodiversity loss; Channels to deliver change; Gaps and ways forward; and The Post-2020. In the following months, the literature was reviewed, and the article was submitted to the journal at the end of October 2023 and is currently awaiting publication.

T-007 Create and develop a website of the IUCN SSC CEC Task Force on Behaviour Change, where outputs and activities are published. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: The [Taskforce website](#) was developed in July 2023, although it is currently undergoing a redesign. The objective of this website will be to publish some of the tools that will be developed by this Taskforce, as well as other pertinent information that can serve as consultation for other groups working in the area of nature conservation, with a focus on social and behavioural sciences for changing the behaviour.

Acknowledgements

The IUCN SSC CEC Behaviour Change TF is grateful for the support of Zoomarine Algarve, Portugal, and Lisbon Zoo, Portugal.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

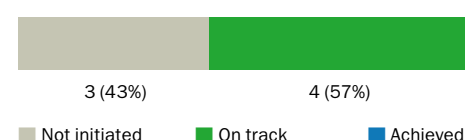
Geographic regions: 8 Global, 1 Asia

Actions during 2023:

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 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