



# 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.

Example for the recommended citation:

Yang, Y. 2024. 2023 Report of the Conifer Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

## 2023 Report

# IUCN SSC Conifer Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
**Yong Yang**  
Nanjing Forestry  
University, China

**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
**Philip Thomas**  
Royal Botanic Garden,  
Edinburgh, UK

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
32

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://threatenedconifers.rbge.org.uk>

### Mission statement

The Conifer Specialist Group (CSG) helps promote the long-term survival of the world's conifers through rigorous conservation assessments, which help to guide conservation planning and conservation action.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

The Conifer Specialist Group is in the process of re-assessing all the world's conifers for the third time and aims to have all assessments completed by June 2023. Following on from that, the Group will be focusing on producing an updated Conifer Action Plan.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-003** Review, update and revise existing taxonomic framework; add and assess new taxa.

Status: On track

**T-004** Submit 300 revised assessments with appropriate maps.

Status: No longer a priority

**T-005** Submit 500 revised existing assessments.

Status: On track

#### PLAN

**T-006** Workshop to discuss planning/outline for new Conifer Action Plan.

Status: On track

**T-007** Draft new Conifer Action Plan.

Status: Not initiated

**T-008** Publish new Conifer Action Plan.

Status: Not initiated

#### ACT

**T-009** Support funding applications from national and regional organisations for conifer conservation activities.

Status: On track

#### NETWORK

**T-001** Add 20 new members who have expertise not previously available within the Group, e.g. pathology, genetics, forest ecology, climate change.

Status: On track

**T-002** Re-invite previous members who want to be active during the next quadrennium.

Status: Achieved

**T-010** Initiate Global gap analysis of *ex situ* needs for Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable conifers.

Status: On track

### Activities and results 2023

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-003** Review, update and revise existing taxonomic framework; add and assess new taxa. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 4

Result description: No new taxa have been described in the reporting year, therefore, no new global assessments have been completed. Four Green Status assessments have been reviewed and are being revised.

**T-005** Submit 500 revised existing assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 43

Result description: Forty-three revised assessments were submitted. Fifty-six are ready for submission by April 2024.

#### PLAN

##### Planning

**T-006** Workshop to discuss planning/outline for new Conifer Action Plan. (KSR 9)

Agreement on major thematic areas to be covered: Ongoing.

Result description: Workshop delayed until the second half of 2024 due to prior commitments of CSG members.





Natural population of *Cupressus fallax*, an Endangered species of conifers, native to Daduhe River of western Sichuan  
Photo: K.S. Mao, Sichuan University

## ACT

### Conservation actions

**T-009** Support funding applications from national and regional organisations for conifer conservation activities. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 1

Result description: One funding application supported for ongoing and expanded regional conservation programmes for conifer conservation. Thirty species involved: six species endemic; thus, the regional conservation plans are equivalent to global actions.

## NETWORK

### Membership

**T-001** Add 20 new members who have expertise not previously available within the Group, e.g. pathology, genetics, forest ecology, climate change. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: In 2023, three forest ecologists were identified who may be potential members for the next quadrennium.

## Synergy

**T-010** Initiate Global gap analysis of *ex situ* needs for Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable conifers. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 2

Result description: Partnership established with Botanic Garden International (BGCI), International Conifer Conservation Programme, Bedgebury National Pinetum.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 10

**Geographic regions:** 10 Global

**Actions during 2023:**

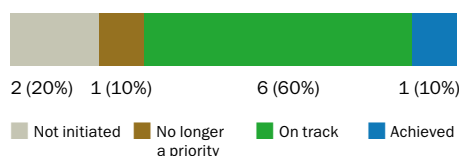
Assess: 2 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 2)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**



*Lactifluus neotropicus*  
Photo: Aida Vasco



*Sternberia lutea*  
Photo: Hayri Duman



*Tetra 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

