



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 trans-versal 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:

Carroll, J. and Kaul, R. 2024. 2023 Report of the Galliformes 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 Galliformes Specialist Group



CHAIR
John Carroll
University of
Nebraska, US



CHAIR
Rahul Kaul
Wildlife Trust, India

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
127

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @galliformessg

GSG Literature Archive: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/galliformes/>

Mission statement

The Galliformes Specialist Group is committed to the worldwide conservation and sustainable management of all native populations of Galliformes species and their habitats.

Projected impact for 2021–2025

Continue to support individual members in developing conservation research, planning and implementation.

Targets for 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-007 Support and participate in Red List reassessment efforts for relevant species of Galliformes.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-002 Prepare 10 new regional or national plans.
Status: On track

ACT

T-003 Implement on the ground 10 planned conservation projects.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Fifty new members enlisted in the Specialist Group.
Status: On track

T-004 Secure and continue to cultivate at least one beneficial partnership that supports better conservation outcomes for Galliformes.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Organise at least two annual public presentations to communicate the conservation work of the IUCN SSC Galliformes Specialist Group.
Status: On track

Activities and results for 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-007 Support and participate in Red List reassessment efforts for relevant species of Galliformes. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 7

Result description: The Galliformes SG membership supported and contributed to the reassessment process for relevant Galliformes species by the IUCN SSC Bird RLA - BirdLife International.

PLAN

Planning

T-002 Prepare 10 new regional or national plans. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: Conservation planning for one particular species (*Catreus wallichii*) was undertaken where the contours of the plan across the geographic range were discussed. It is pertinent to note here that countries like Pakistan and Nepal have already devised conservation plans for the said species and others.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-003 Implement on the ground 10 planned conservation projects. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 2

Result description: The GSG has provided logistical and fundraising support to Francis Guetse, who recently finished his MSc degree in Cameroon and is proposing to undertake research on the Mount Cameroon Francolin (*Pternistis camerunensis*). The GSG has also contributed, albeit informally – soon to be formalized – to field projects in Asia (Nepal and Pakistan).

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 Identify focal experts for species in the Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered categories. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 29

Result description: The membership today stands at 127, an increase of about 25% from the previous report. This seems to be on track, and we hope to achieve our



SSC Chair Dr Jon Paul Rodriguez at the opening of the 8th International Galliformes Symposium
Photo: Rahul Kaul



Action Planning on Cheer Pheasant (*Catreus wallichii*) in progress
Photo: Rahul Kaul

target of a 50% increase by the end of the quadrennium. The whole geographic scope within which the membership falls is divided into regions and regional leadership is being used – wherever found – to manage the affairs of the GSG. We are also in the process of signing an MoU with the World Pheasant Association which will help us reach out to a larger membership besides bringing in a different expertise into the group. The partnership will also allow us to participate in more field projects and bring in more scientific rigour.

Synergy

T-004 Secure and continue to cultivate at least one beneficial partnership that supports better conservation outcomes for Galliformes. (KSR 1)

Number of ‘in-kind’ partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: An MoU with the World Pheasant Association (WPA) is now in the final stages and a formal collaboration with WPA will allow GSG membership to engage more formally and actively with field projects funded by WPA. It will also open the possibility of hiring a part-time Programme Officer to coordinate the affairs of the Group. The understanding will also bring the two bodies closer in terms of conservation projects, taking advantage of each other’s complementary strengths – field research and conservation and conservation breeding – to bring better conservation outcomes for species.

COMMUNICATE

Scientific meetings

T-006 Organise at least two annual public presentations to communicate the conservation work of the IUCN SSC Galliformes Specialist Group. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events organized: 2

Result description: The GSG in association with the World Pheasant Association held the International Galliformes Symposium in Indonesia where 130 delegates from over 30 countries participated. Papers from diverse themes were presented and discussed. Additionally, the 15th International Grouse Symposium was held at Bialystok, Poland in September 2023. There were 43 papers presented on a wide range of topics related to grouse. There were six plenary papers on topics including parasites, human-grouse interactions, climate change, conservation genetics, behavioural ecology, and biodiversity and conservation. As would be expected there were many papers on European Grouse with Capercaillie receiving a great deal of attention. There was excellent representation from North America with many papers focusing on the biology and conservation of Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*).

Acknowledgements

The Galliformes SG would like to acknowledge and thank the World Pheasant Association (WPA) for all the support and

collaborative work in organising the 8th International Galliformes Symposium, and for the opportunity for GSG members to engage more formally and actively with field projects funded by WPA. Thanks also to the University of Białystok in Poland and other partners for the organisation and hosting of the 15th International Grouse Symposium with several GSG members’ participation.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 4 Global, 1 Africa, 2 Asia

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

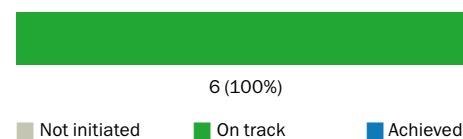
Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 2)

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