



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:

McGowan, P. 2024. 2023 Report of the Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force



CHAIR
Philip McGowan
Newcastle University,
UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
23

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force aims to provide a focus and leadership on species issues in the Kunming- Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), through coordination with the IUCN Secretariat. The Task Force seeks to do this by collating inputs and views from across the SSC network and providing scientific and technical expertise on species-related target(s).

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Continue assessment of species inputs needed into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. indicators and communication.
Status: Achieved

T-004 Assess needs that will enhance the implementation of the species components of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. capacity building, research, communication, access to expertise.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-005 Work with IUCN to promote the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric as a planning tool for countries, and other actors, to plan how to reduce species extinction risk.
Status: On track

T-008 Develop indicator for Target 4 on ensuring urgent management actions.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-001 Secure support for network coordination.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Refresh Task Force, with a view to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation, and widening the membership to include early career species conservationists.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Continual communication with the IUCN Secretariat and attendance at CBD meetings.
Status: On track

T-007 Assess the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and analyse and communicate elements related to Goal A and species-relevant targets and indicators.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Work with IUCN to promote Species Threat Abatement and Restoration as a planning tool for countries to plan how to reduce species extinction risk. (KSR 8)

Number of plans invited/endorsed by national governments/conservation authorities: 0

Result description: Considerable progress in both: (1) expanding the network of individuals and organisations that are working actively to promote and test estimated STAR in a wide range of different contexts, e.g. development projects, commercial operations, and (2) continuing to establish the scientific and technical base for STAR to be applied to freshwater and marine biomes, and to calibrated and realised contexts. Critical to this is co-chairing the STAR Committee, which brings together individuals who are developing the conceptual, scientific and analytical basis of STAR, with those individuals and organisations who are implementing, testing and evaluating STAR in business, development and policy contexts.

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 Secure support for network coordination. (KSR 2)

Increased capacity of the Task Force: Ongoing.



CBD Acting Secretary David Copper making final remarks at side event during the 26th meeting of CBD's Subsidiary body on Science Technology and Technical Advice
Photo: Philip McGowan



IUCN delegation to CBD meeting, including SSC Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force
Photo: Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force Archives

Result description: Support has been obtained from Newcastle University for a postdoctoral research associate to spend time coordinating the Task Force.

T-002 Refresh Task Force, with a view to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation, and widening the membership to include early career species conservationists. (KSR 3)

Number of policy engaged members: 10

Result description: Good progress was made in 2023, including (1) Obtaining support – from Newcastle University – for postdoctoral level coordination, which has allowed a refresh of the website, (2) Renaming of Task Force, to reflect the name of the Framework adopted at CoP15; and (3) Identification of new potential TF members, who are now to be invited.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-006 Continual communication with the IUCN Secretariat and attendance at CBD meetings. (KSR 12)

Number of contributions to IUCN position papers and responses to consultations: 1

Result description: The Task Force was on the IUCN delegation for the only CBD meeting held during 2023, SBSTTA 2025, and contributed to all requests for inputs to position papers.

T-007 Assess the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and analyse and communicate elements related to Goal A and species-relevant targets and indicators. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific publications on KMGBF: 2

Result description: In 2023, two papers were published: (1) Mair, L. *et al.* (2024). '[Corporate disclosures need a biodiversity outcome focus and regulatory backing to deliver global conservation goals](#)'. *Conservation Letters*, Vol 17, Issue 4; (2) McGowan, P. *et al.* (2024). '[Understanding and achieving species elements in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)'. *BioScience*, biae065.

Acknowledgements

We thank Newcastle University for funding that allowed postdoctoral research to be undertaken, the Task Force to be co-ordinated, and participation in the IUCN delegation to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Science, Technology and Technological Advice's 25th meeting. Also, to the IUCN Policy Unit for continual support with CBD processes and workings.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

Geographic regions: 7 Global, 1 Europe

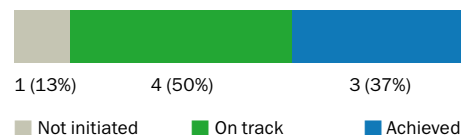
Actions during 2023:

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 2 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12)

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

