



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### 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

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Allen, J.L. and Yahr, R. 2024. 2023 Report of the Lichen 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 Lichen Specialist Group



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#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

23

### Mission statement

Promote studies assessing lichen diversity, population dynamics and conservation genetics in order to evaluate the conservation status of lichen species according to IUCN Criteria.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

The Lichen Specialist Group is currently building networks of people in order to improve capacity across all aspects of the species conservation cycle.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Conduct global assessment of African, Asian and European leafy Parmelioid lichens in the family Parmeliaceae.

Status: On track

**T-002** Assess key lichen species that are harvested for food, medicine and other uses globally.

Status: Not initiated

**T-005** Assess lichens endemic to the Galápagos Islands.

Status: Not initiated

**T-006** Conduct global assessments of key lichen species that characterise the arctic/alpine biota.

Status: Not initiated

**T-007** Conduct global assessments of lichens endemic to Colombia.

Status: Not initiated

**T-014** Conduct research on lichen conservation and threatened species.

Status: On track

**T-016** Assess threatened and near threatened lichen species worldwide.

Status: On track

**T-019** Publish a global Red List assessment for 100 lichen species.

Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-009** Hold an open house for lichen conservation: a free networking and Q&A session to promote good practice in on-the-ground action.

Status: Not initiated

**T-018** Support Lichen Specialist Group members in applying for SSC internal grants.

Status: On track

#### NETWORK

**T-004** Recruit four new active members from underrepresented regions (Asia, South America, Africa).

Status: Not initiated

**T-011** Recruit and train five additional active members to the SSC from established lichen conservation networks.

Status: Not initiated

**T-012** Internally structure the Specialist Group to add regional or thematic leads.

Status: Not initiated

**T-017** Host red listing workshops.

Status: On track

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-010** Build a lichen SSC website to highlight key projects and actions.

Status: Not initiated

**T-015** Communicate findings of research on rare and threatened lichens to local, national and international stakeholders.

Status: On track

### Activities and results 2023

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-019** Publish a global Red List assessment for 100 lichen species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 48

Result description: Forty-eight Red List assessments were published in 2023.





*Thamnolia subuliformis*  
Photo: Jessica Allen



Assorted species of Arctic lichens  
Photo: Jessica Allen

## Research activities

### T-014 Conduct research on lichen conservation and threatened species. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 3

Result description: The group supported three research projects that were completed this year, (1) 'Building Iberian conservation networks and the global Red List assessment of the regionally Vulnerable lichen *Lethariella intricata*'; (2) 'An ecological assessment of an Endangered lichen from central California: *Sulcaria isidiifera*, the Splitting yarn lichen', and (3) 'Field Exploration of 10 Rare Lichens in the Southern Rocky Mountains and Strategies for Conservation Planning and Action'.

## NETWORK

### Capacity building

#### T-017 Host red listing workshops. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 110

Result description: A virtual red listing workshop was held in November 2023. With 110 people registered, from 13 countries. Most participants were from Southeast Asia and South America.

## Acknowledgements

The Lichen Specialist Group Co-Chairs are grateful for the support from our respective institutions, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Eastern Washington University. Continued support from the Red List Unit has been instrumental in our ability to increase the number of published Red List assessments, and we thank James Westrip, in particular, for his help. We would also like to acknowledge the funding support from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, and the time dedicated by Catia Canteiro from the Global Center for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo.

## Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 16

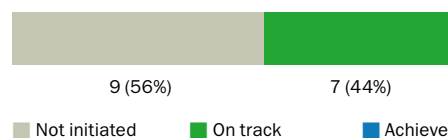
Geographic regions: 12 Global, 1 Africa, 4 America, 1 Asia, 1 Europe

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

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