



# 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:

Ozman-Sullivan, S. 2024. 2023 Report of the Mite 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 Mite Specialist Group



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
77

### Mission statement

The mission of the Mite Specialist Group (MSG) is to increase knowledge of the taxonomic, ecological and conservation status of mites and to promote their conservation and protect their habitats globally.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased profile and action in mite conservation in association with all invertebrates.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Conduct global Red List assessment of 10 species.  
Status: On track

#### NETWORK

**T-002** Have two Red List assessment coordinators.  
Status: On track

**T-003** Grow membership to 100 members.  
Status: On track

**T-005** Maintain (1) contact with the Wet Tropics Management Authority in Australia; (2) partnership with Saving Nature to restore habitat in tropical environments, and (3) relationship with the NGO Invertebrates Australia, which promotes invertebrate conservation.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Educate the public about the importance of invertebrate communities.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Contact five new organisations outside the SSC to seek their cooperation in pursuing specific conservation and/or educational outcomes.  
Status: Achieved

**T-008** Request that the five advisory groups develop and implement at least one programme generating specific education and/or conservation outcomes.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Enlist organisations to help promote the group's objectives.  
Status: On track

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-010** Deliver four presentations on Mite Specialist Group activities.  
Status: Achieved

**T-011** Establish social media accounts.  
Status: Achieved

**T-012** Produce four publications on threatened species of mites.  
Status: Achieved

**T-013** Continue to provide advice to MarineBio.  
Status: On track

### Activities and results 2023

#### NETWORK

##### Membership

**T-003** Grow membership to 100 members. (KSR 1)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: In 2023, we recruited three new members, two from England and one from Canada. Currently, our membership institutional affiliation distribution is 85% academic, 10% governmental, and 5% private sector.

##### Synergy

**T-005** Maintain (1) contact with the Wet Tropics Management Authority in Australia; (2) partnership with Saving Nature to restore habitat in tropical environments, and (3) relationship with the NGO Invertebrates Australia, which promotes invertebrate conservation. (KSR 1)

Number of in kind partnerships established and maintained: 3

Result description: In 2023, we maintained contact with the [Wet Tropics Management Authority](#) (WTMA). We also established a relationship with the NGO Invertebrates Australia, which promotes invertebrate conservation, and a partnership with [Saving Nature](#) to restore habitat in tropical environments.



Microscope activity at the Nature School in Samsun, Turkey  
Photo: Sebahat Ozman-Sullivan

**T-007 Contact five new organisations outside the SSC to seek their cooperation in pursuing specific conservation and/or educational outcomes.** (KSR 2)

Number of organisations contacted: 5

Result description: We contacted 5 organizations and they agreed to assist the group in achieving its conservation and education objectives.

**T-008 Request that the five advisory groups develop and implement at least one programme generating specific education and/or conservation outcomes.** (KSR 1)

Number of in-kind partnerships established and maintained: 5

Result description: In 2023, partnerships with five acarology societies as advisory groups were maintained.

**T-009 Enlist organisations to help promote the group's objectives.** (KSR 3)

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: 2

Result description: In 2023, we enlisted two organisations, the Persian Journal of Acarology and the journal, Acarological Studies, to assist with promotion of our objectives.

## COMMUNICATE Communication

**T-010 Deliver four presentations on Mite Specialist Group activities.** (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 11

Result description: Lessons on the conservation of mites and other invertebrates at Nature School for Children, and students of the Plant Protection Department, Faculty

of Agriculture, Ondokuz Mayıs University in Samsun, Türkiye. A presentation on the importance of protection of arachnid diversity was delivered by Agnieszka Napierela during the workshops on 'The Academic' days of the Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland. Additionally, a presentation was given at the 6th International Congress on Agriculture, Environment and Health, Türkiye and a workshop presentation for the Acarological Society of Iran on how to register a new taxon in Zoobank.

**T-012 Produce publications on mites.** (KSR 12)

Number of species publications: 15

Result description: In 2023, 15 papers were published on mite families, including Erythraeidae, Hydrachnidia, Hygrobatidae, Iolinidae, Phytoseiidae and Trombellidae, and mite conservation. In addition, five acarology journals were requested to include sections on mite conservation issues.

## Acknowledgements

The MSG expresses their thanks to [MarineBio Conservation Society](#); [Saving Nature](#); Anna Walker from the [New Mexico BioPark Society](#); Sergio Henriques of the Global Center for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo, and Axel Hochkirch of the IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee, for their cooperation and assistance.

## Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 12

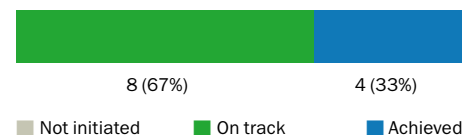
Geographic regions: 3 Global, 1 America, 6 Asia, 2 Europe

Actions during 2023:

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

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