



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:

Arafeh Dalmau, N. and Pocklington, J. 2024. 2023 Report of the Seaweed 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 Seaweed Specialist Group



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NUMBER MEMBERS
16

Mission statement

The IUCN Seaweed Specialist Group brings together leading scientists, practitioners and conservationists under the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Our mission is to increase the profile of seaweeds (marine macroalgae) and identify their conservation status and risk to prioritise conservation actions. Most seaweed species are poorly studied compared to other taxa despite their ecological and economic importance. Many are already threatened due to climate change and other anthropogenic stressors. This Group has a broad ecosystem and conservation focus, and we use our combined knowledge to inform decision-making for society and policymakers to take science-based actions for seaweed conservation.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Undertake assessment of seaweed species for the IUCN Red List. We will begin by assessing the habitat-forming kelps that are declining in the temperate regions of the world. The outcomes will allow us to contribute to policy and decision-making processes and align the actions of seaweed stakeholders around the world.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess all 112 kelp species for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
Status: Not initiated

T-002 Contribute test assessments of seaweeds to enhance Green Status protocols.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-003 Organise a workshop to plan conservation strategies for species identified as high risk.
Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-004 Organise a workshop on key actions for increased conservation, e.g. sustainable exploitation, aquaculture, and restoration.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-005 Hold regular meetings of the Seaweed SG.
Status: On track

T-006 Attend SSC Leaders' meeting in 2024.
Status: Not initiated

T-007 Provide Red List training to membership.
Status: On track

T-008 Strengthen membership of the Specialist Group.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-009 Establish a Seaweed SG website and logo.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Create social media accounts on X and Instagram.
Status: Not initiated

T-011 Communicate about the creation of the new Specialist Group.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-007 Provide Red List training to membership. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 1

Result description: The Co-Chair Dr Nur Arafah Dalmau received Red List training in 2023. We are planning for a Red List Training workshop to be provided to the membership in 2024.



Macrocystis pyrifera
Photo: Jenny Adler

Membership

T-005 Hold regular meetings of the Seaweed SG. (KSR 2)

Number of Specialist Group meetings held: 1

Result description: The Specialist Group held their first meeting in 2023.

T-008 Strengthen membership of the Specialist Group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 16

Result description: Sixteen members were recruited to the Specialist Group.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-009 Establish a Seaweed SG website and logo. (KSR 12)

Website and logo developed: Achieved.

Result description: In 2023, the Specialist Group website and logo were developed.

T-011 Communicate about the creation of the new Specialist Group. (KSR 12)

Number of journal articles mentioning the new group: 0

Result description: Members of the group worked on an Oryx news article to announce the formation of the new Specialist Group which will be published in 2024.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Nicole Mertens for kindly creating our logo.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 11

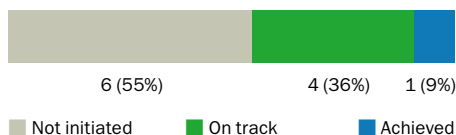
Geographic regions: 11 Global

Actions during 2023:

Network: 3 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (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