



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:

Roe, D. 2024. 2023 Report of the Sustainable Use and Livelihood Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

IUCN SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
351

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @iucnsuli

X: @IUCNSULi

Website: <https://iucnsuli.org>; Sustainable Use and Livelihoods

Mission statement

To build global understanding of the importance of sustainable use of wild species, both for nature and for people, and to guide sound decision-making by generating and disseminating high quality, evidence-based information, tools and advice, that enhance legal, sustainable, equitable wildlife management practices and draw attention to those that are illegal, unsustainable and inequitable.

Projected impact 2021–2025

A key priority is to diversify and expand SULi's membership, so we better represent, and engage with, use of wild species across all taxonomic realms and improve our representation globally. It is imperative that we bring much more attention to the use of species in the fungi, invertebrate and plants groups, all of which are frequently overlooked. The SULi SG is has developed the Species Use Database with the aim of providing reliable, trustworthy and high-quality information on the utilisation, both sustainable and unsustainable, of wild species Globally. The database records the sustainability and impacts of utilisation across five dimensions - ecological, social economic, human health, and animal health and welfare.. There are a number of technical outputs near completion or in the pipeline, including guidance on

integrating indigenous and local knowledge into Red List assessments and guidance on the harvesting of threatened species, a contribution to the CITES World Wildlife Trade report and a situation analysis on hunting. SULi will continue its engagement with the institutions, conventions and treaties that determine international wildlife policy, e.g. CITES, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and to track initiatives, enquiries and proposals opposing the utilisation of wildlife.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Publish in at least one peer-reviewed journal per year with SSC SULi affiliation.
Status: On track

T-015 Conduct ongoing research to identify and write case studies to contribute information to sustainable use database.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Develop and submit inf docs for CITES, Convention on Migratory species (CMS) and CBD as required to inform decisions on sustainable use and links to livelihoods.
Status: On track

T-005 Attend CBD and CITES Conference of the Parties (CoPs) meetings and relevant subsidiary bodies and working groups.
Status: On track

T-010 Publish hunting situation analysis informing IUCN guidelines and position statement.
Status: On track

ACT

T-006 Conduct global situation analysis of social, economic and ecological impacts of hunting.
Status: On track

T-007 Develop and test framework for assessing sustainability of wildlife uses.
Status: On track

T-008 Design sustainable use database and document at least 20 sustainable use practices per year.
Status: On track

T-009 Hold at least one event per year to build capacity amongst policy makers and project implementers to engage communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade.
Status: On track

T-011 Produce at least one new IUCN publication or other output on engaging communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade.
Status: On track

T-016 WCC-2020-Res-076: Develop a programme of work to support wildlife-based



First Line of Defence facilitators training, Nairobi, June 2023
Photos: Dilys Roe

economic development in Africa (with IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, ESARO).

Status: Achieved

T-017 Prepare emergency Motions to submit at Congress as needed to counter anti-use submissions.

Status: Achieved

T-020 (T2017-6) Roll out the First Line of Defence initiative in further East/Southern African countries.

Status: On track

T-022 Develop a SULi strategy which outlines key priorities and objectives (2021–2025).

Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-001 Establish at least one new funding partnership in 2021 and establish or maintain at least one in 2023.

Status: On track

T-002 Develop and implement at least one new initiative per year with other IUCN Commissions and/or Regional Offices and/or Members.

Status: On track

T-013 Comprehensive review of membership in advance of IUCN quadrennial renewal process to understand where efforts need to focus on achieving better balances across geographical location, age, gender and expertise.

Status: Achieved

T-014 Internal restructuring to establish sub-groups (thematic/geographic) to improve efficiency and engagement of members in delivering the SULi strategy.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-012 Produce SULi Digest at least four times per year each year.

Status: On track

T-018 Provide ongoing technical and science-based support to guide sustainable use.

Status: On track.

T-019 (T2017-1) Publish new Annex on harvesting of threatened species.

Status: Achieved

T-021 (T2019-17) Populate Communities and Illegal Wildlife Trade Learning Platform; conduct periodic analyses of lessons learnt; run learning activities including webinars.

Status: Achieved

T-023 Develop a communication strategy to guide outputs, media engagement, policy briefings, etc.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Research activities

T-003 Publish in at least one peer-reviewed journal per year with SSC SULi affiliation. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 5

Result description: Five journal articles with SULi affiliations were published in 2023: (1) Obura, D. et al. (2023). 'Prioritizing sustainable use in the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework'. *PLOS Sustain Transform* 2(1): e0000041; (2) Bolam, F.C. et al. (2023). 'Over half of threatened species require targeted recovery actions to avert human-induced extinction' *Frontiers*

in Ecology and the Environment, 21(2); (3) Clark, D.A. et al. (2023). 'Hunting trophy import bans proposed by the UK may be ineffective and inequitable as conservation policies in multiple social-ecological contexts'. *Conservation Letters*, 16(2), e12935; (4) Challender, D. et al. (2023). 'Evaluating key evidence and formulating regulatory alternatives regarding the UK's Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill'. *bioRxiv* 2023.06.13.544826; (6) Hoffmann, R. and Roe, D. (2023). 'Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group launches its Species Use Database'. *Oryx* 57(5), pp. 554.

T-015 Conduct ongoing research to identify and write case studies to contribute information to sustainable use database. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 135

Result description: We contracted a consultant to research additional case studies for the Species Use Database including records from CITES NDFs; 100 records were added in 2023. Contact was made with a number of species-specific Specialist Groups to enter their records of species use and we are currently in talks with several other partners to integrate other large datasets into the database.

PLAN

Planning

T-004 Develop and submit inf docs for CITES, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and CBD as required to inform decisions on sustainable use and links to livelihoods. (KSR 9)



15th Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife Meeting 2023, Rome
Photo: Nik Long

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 2

Result description: SULi Chair contributed to guidance on enhancing benefits to IPLCs from trade in CITES-listed species, discussed at the CITES and Livelihoods WG meeting in Peru in September 2023. The SULi Chair also contributed to guidance on NDF findings, discussed at a CITES NDF workshop in December 2023.

T-005 Attend CBD and CITES Conference of the Parties (CoPs) meetings and relevant subsidiary bodies and working groups. (KSR 9)

Number of Multilateral Environmental Agreement meetings attended by the SSC group: 2

Result description: SULi members participated in CBD SBSSTA 25 and contributed to discussions on sustainable wildlife management as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Wildlife (CPW). The SULi Chair participated in the Joint meeting of the CITES intercessional working groups on livelihoods and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in Cusco, Peru.

ACT

Technical advice

T-006 Conduct global situation analysis of social, economic, and ecological impacts of hunting. (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 1

Result description: Work on this formally started in 2022 and has continued throughout 2023. A Steering Committee was created with SULi Chair Dilys Roe in a leading role, and SULi Programme Officer

Nik Long contributing to the literature review section. Significant progress was made on the final report, with the aim being to publish in mid-2024.

T-007 Develop and test framework for assessing sustainability of wildlife uses. (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 3

Result description: Work on the five-dimensional sustainability framework is ongoing. Testing stage ongoing – the framework is being tested in three countries including game meat farming and reptile skin production.

T-008 Design sustainable use database and document at least 20 sustainable use practices per year. (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 273

Result description: The Species Use Database was launched in 2023, with several webinars conducted to promote it and demonstrate the process for entering data. It now contains 273 records. Development to increase functionality of the database and populate it with records is ongoing.

[SSC Grant awarded]

T-009 Hold at least one event per year to build capacity amongst policy makers and project implementers to engage communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade. (KSR 11)

Number of unsustainable use practices tackled: 1

Result description: Dilys Roe and Holly Dublin (SULi SC member) prepared and then ran a training course for community

conservation practitioners on how to use the First Line of Defence methodology for engaging communities in tackling illegal wildlife trade. The event was held in Nairobi in June 2023.

NETWORK

Membership

T-014 Internal restructuring to establish sub-groups (thematic/geographic) to improve efficiency and engagement of members in delivering the SULi strategy. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: Internal restructure has happened with members now organised into eight regional groups and five thematic groups, i.e. CITES working group, Plant Use Group (PUG), Fungi Use Group (FUse), Hunting group and Wildlife in Fashion Group. The regional groups are now benefiting from regional funding provided by Jamma International, three regional sub-groups now conducting activities using this funding – East and Southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

Proposal development and funding

T-002 Develop and implement at least one new initiative per year with other IUCN Commissions and/or Regional Offices and/or Members. (KSR 3)

IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates: Ongoing.

Result description: Five-Dimensional Sustainability Assessment Framework is now fully developed and in the testing phase – testing underway in a variety of use contexts globally. The framework assesses the sustainability of different

Vicuna (*Vicugna vicugna*) herd, Peru
 Photos: Dilys Roe



wildlife uses from different perspectives (ecological, social, health, economic, etc). This is a multidisciplinary project with IUCN members (TRAFFIC and Endangered Wildlife Trust) among the partners, as well as both internal (SULi) and external experts.

Synergy

T-001 Establish at least one new funding partnership in 2021 and establish or maintain at least one in 2023. (KSR 1)

Number of ‘funding’ partners established and maintained: 3

Result description: The funding partnership with Jamma is ongoing (until the end of 2025), which has allowed the group to continue to grow and develop. Jamma funding covers the salary of the SULi programme officer and comms officer, continued development of the Species Use Database, supported activities within regional groups and enabled us to develop and collaborate on technical outputs with several partners. Jamma funding is also supporting the preparation of a situation analysis on trophy hunting. Funding for the continued development and testing of the five-dimensional sustainability assessment framework has come from the UK Government’s Darwin Initiative. We are also continuing to receive funding for core activities from the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-012 Produce SULi Digest at least four times per year each year. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups’ newsletter editions produced: 4

Result description: The SULi Digest – summarising new research articles on sustainable use – was published four times in 2023. All issues are available on the SULi website.

T-018 Provide ongoing technical and science-based support to guide sustainable use. (KSR 12)

Technical and science-based support provided: Ongoing.

Result description: SULi has continued to provide advice and inputs on sustainable use issues as requested by the IUCN Secretariat including contributing to the Global Species Action Plan, answering media enquiries and drafting guidance on the harvesting of threatened species.

Acknowledgements

SULi is extremely grateful for the ongoing generous financial support of Jamma International, which is providing an invaluable contribution to the funding of core SULi staff and a diverse range of activities. SULi also acknowledges the support of IIED as the group’s host organisation.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 23

Geographic regions: 20 Global, 3 Africa

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

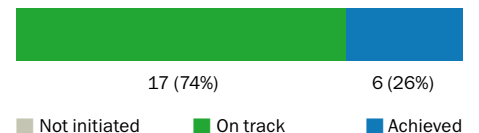
Plan: 2 (KSR 9)

Act: 4 (KSR 10, 11)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated ■ On track ■ Achieved



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