



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:

Potts, S.G. and Vandame, R. 2024. 2023 Report of the Wild Bee 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 Wild Bee Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
463

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: [Wild Bee Specialist Group](#)
X: [@IUCN_WildBeeSG](#)
Website: <https://wildbees.org/>

Mission statement

The Wild Bee Specialist Group (WBSG) aims to foster the conservation of wild bees and their habitats around the world by promoting and strengthening regional and global networks of specialists, conducting assessments of their conservation status, raising awareness among the public and policymakers, and engaging in practical conservation actions at local, regional, and global scale.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Enhanced membership and capacity of the WBSG; assessment of the conservation status of wild bee species; strengthened dialogues with international and national policymakers; a portfolio of best practice guides for wild bee conservation; and increased awareness of wild bees.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Conduct Bumble Bee working group activities.
Status: On track

T-006 Build and consolidate regional and global databases for wild bees.
Status: On track

T-007 Assess the conservation status of wild bee species.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-003 Establish and strengthen dialogues with international and national policy-makers.
Status: On track

T-004 Develop a portfolio of best practice guides for wild bee conservation.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Enhance the membership and capacity of the WBSG.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Establish a website, logo, social media presence, and a Listserv for the WBSG.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 Conduct Bumble Bee working group activities. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 153

Result description: The Bumble Bee Specialist Group (BBSG) has been very active during the last few years. The Group decided to change the strategy and assess more species, instead of reassessing previously assessed species. Therefore, the group has completed global Red List assessments for a total of 153 bumble bee species.

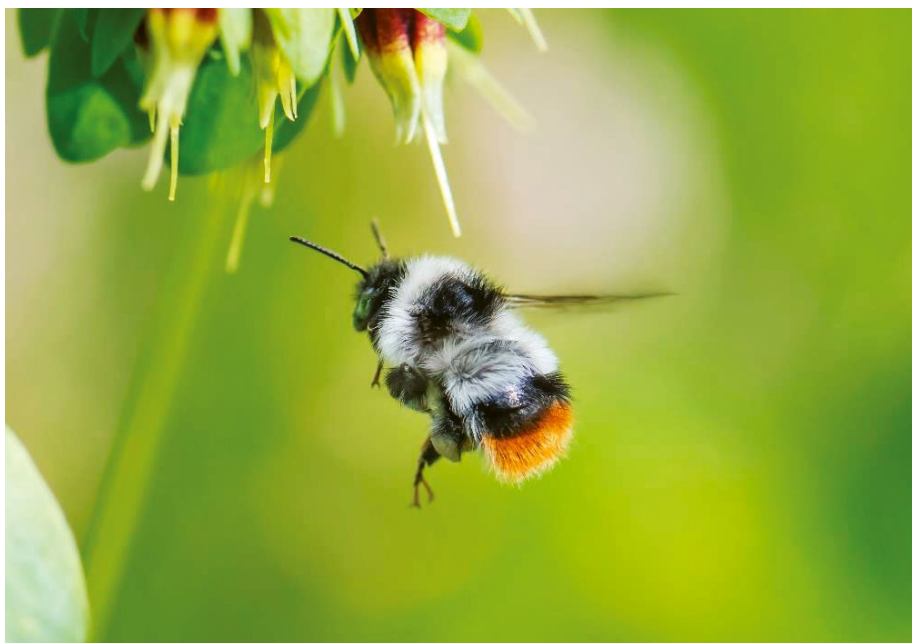
PLAN

Policy

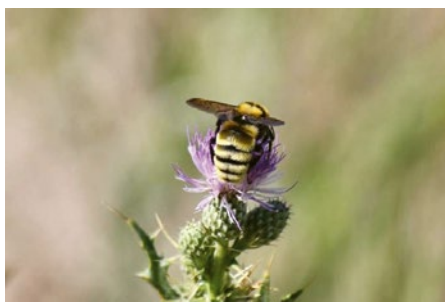
T-003 Establish and strengthen dialogues with international and national policy-makers. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 4

The Endangered and oligolectic *Bombus brodmannicus* visiting Cerinthe in the Alps
Photo: Pieter Haringsma



Vicky Campopiano with the amazing collection of older specimens of *Bombus dahlbomii* at the NHM, London. Note the size of the queens of this species, one of the world's largest bumblebees
Photo: WBSG



Male of *Bombus fragrans* at Balıkdami Sivrihisar, Eskişehir, Middle Anatolia
Photo: Burcu Daşer-Özgüşi and Çiğdem Özenirler

Result description: Martijn Thijssen, with Promote Pollinators, ran a Theory of Change Workshop to support the development of a national pollinator strategy for Portugal, Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago. One important paper was published in 2023 as well: Aizen, M.A. et al. (2023). 'Sustainable use and conservation of invertebrate pollinators'. Background Study Paper, No. 72. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome, FAO.

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 Enhance the membership and capacity of the WBSG. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 35

Result description: There are 35 additional members since 2022, giving a total membership of 463 with the following additional members recruited for: Africa (5), Asia (9), Europe (7), Latin America (6), North America (3) and Oceania (5).

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-005 Establish a website, logo, social media presence, and a Listserv for the WBSG. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 4

Result description: The [IUCN WBSG website](#) was updated; a [YouTube video](#) introducing the WBSG was published, the Facebook group has 37 followers and the X account over 57 followers.

T-005 Establish a website, logo, social media presence, and a Listserv for the WBSG. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 1

Result description: In 2023, a [YouTube video](#) introducing the WBSG was published.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 Global

Actions during 2023:

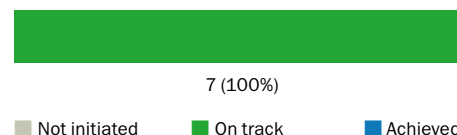
Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

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

