



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 trans-versal 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:

Kovacs, K.M. 2024. 2023 Report of the Pinniped Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Pinniped Specialist Group



CHAIR

Kit M. Kovacs

Biodiversity Research
Section Leader,
Norwegian Polar
Institute, Fram Centre,
Tromsø, Norway

RED LIST AUTHORITY

COORDINATORS

Alex Karamanlidis

Mom Hellenic Society
for the Study and
Protection of the Monk
Seal, Athens, Greece

Simon Goldsworthy

South Australian
Research and
Development
Institute, SARDI,
Adelaide, Australia

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

20

Mission statement

The mission of the Pinniped Specialist Group is to promote awareness regarding conservation threats to pinnipeds worldwide and to actively take a role in ensuring good management practices that ensure healthy, robust pinniped populations.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Completion of our status and threats assessment in combination with the ongoing update of the Red List will: (1) identify knowledge gaps; (2) identify threats and potential mitigation tactics, and (3) provide accurate information to national and international management bodies that can promote and enact pinniped conservation.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct Red List reassessment of the South American Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis* [Zimmermann, 1783]).
Status: On track

T-002 Conduct Red List reassessment of the New Zealand Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri* [Lesson, 1828]).
Status: On track

T-003 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Galápagos Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis* [Heller, 1904]).
Status: On track

T-004 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazella* [Peters, 1876]).
Status: On track

T-005 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Juan Fernández Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus philippii* [Peters, 1866]).
Status: On track

T-006 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Afro-Australian Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus* [Schreber, 1775]).
Status: On track

T-007 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Subantarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis* [Gray, 1872]).
Status: On track

T-008 Conduct Red List reassessment of the northern Fur Seal (*Callorhinus ursinus* [Linnaeus, 1758]).
Status: On track

T-009 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus* [Schreber, 1776]).
Status: On track

T-010 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea* [Peron, 1816]).
Status: On track

T-011 Conduct Red List reassessment of the South American Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia* [Blainville, 1820]).
Status: On track

T-012 Conduct Red List reassessment of the New Zealand Sea Lion (*Phocarctos hookeri* [Gray, 1844]).
Status: On track

T-013 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Californian Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus* [Lesson, 1828]).
Status: On track



T-014 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Japanese Sea Lion (*Zalophus japonicus* [Peters, 1866]).

Status: On track

T-015 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Galápagos Sea Lion (*Zalophus wollebaeki* [Sivertsen, 1953]).

Status: On track

T-016 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus* [Linnaeus, 1758]).

Status: On track

T-017 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hooded Seal (*Cystophora cristata* [Erxleben, 1777]).

Status: On track

T-018 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Bearded Seal (*Erignathus barbatus* [Erxleben, 1777]).

Status: On track

T-019 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus* [Fabricius, 1791]).

Status: On track

T-020 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ribbon Seal (*Histiophoca fasciata* [Zimmerman, 1783]).

Status: On track

T-021 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Leopard Seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx* [Blainville, 1820]).

Status: On track

T-022 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Weddell Seal (*Leptonychotes weddellii* [Lesson, 1826]).

Status: On track

T-023 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Crabeater Seal (*Lobodon carcinophaga* [Hombron and Jacquinot, 1842]).

Status: On track

T-024 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina* [Linnaeus, 1758]).

Status: On track

T-025 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Northern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga angustirostris* [Gill, 1866]).

Status: On track

T-026 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus* [Hermann, 1779]).

Status: On track

T-027 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Caribbean Monk Seal (*Neomonachus tropicalis* [Gray, 1850]).

Status: No longer a priority

T-028 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Neomonachus schauinslandi* [Matschie, 1905]).

Status: On track

T-029 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ross Seal (*Ommatophoca rossii* [Gray, 1844]).

Status: On track

T-030 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harp Seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus* [Erxleben, 1777]).

Status: On track

T-031 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina* [Linnaeus, 1758]).

Status: On track



Hawaiian Monk Seals (*Neomonachus schauinslandi*)
relaxing on a small islet remnant at French Frigate Shoals,
where terrestrial habitat loss has been most acute
Photo: NOAA, Shawn Farry



Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) adult female with pup, North Page Island, South Australia
Photo: Simon Goldsworthy

T-032 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Spotted Seal (*Phoca largha* [Pallas, 1811]).
Status: On track

T-033 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida* [Schreber, 1775]).
Status: On track

T-034 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Caspian Seal (*Pusa caspica* [Gmelin, 1788]).
Status: On track

T-035 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Baikal Seal (*Pusa sibirica* [Gmelin, 1788]).
Status: On track

PLAN

T-036 Produce a global pinniped conservation strategy.
Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS Red List

T-016 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Walrus (*O. rosmarus* [Linnaeus, 1758]). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2023, we initiated the revision of the European assessment for Walrus.

T-017 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hooded Seal (*C. cristata* [Erleben, 1777]). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2023, we initiated the revision of the European assessment for Hooded Seals. New data necessitated an extra round of revision prior to release.

T-018 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Bearded Seal (*E. barbatus* [Erleben, 1777]). (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: The European reassessment for Bearded Seals was completed in 2023.

T-019 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Grey Seal (*H. grypus* [Fabricius, 1791]). (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: The European assessment for Gray Seal was completed in 2023.

T-026 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*M. monachus* [Hermann, 1779]). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2023, the Mediterranean Monk Seal European regional Red List assessment was completed.

T-030 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harp Seal (*P. groenlandicus* [Erleben, 1777]). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2023, we initiated the revisions of the European Harp Seal Red

List assessment. New data necessitated an extra round of revision prior to release.

T-031 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harbour Seal (*P. vitulina* [Linnaeus, 1758]). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: The European assessment for Harbour Seal was completed in 2023.

T-033 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ringed Seal (*P. hispida* [Schreber, 1775]). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2023, the European assessment for Ringed Seals was completed.

Acknowledgements

The Pinniped Specialist Group thanks the employers of all our scientific experts who permit us to do this important work within the context of our jobs.

Summary of achievements

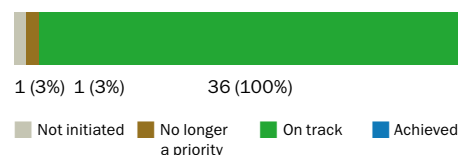
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 36

Geographic regions: 36 Global

Actions during 2023:

Assess: 8 (KSR 6)

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