



# 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:

Natusch, D. 2024. 2023 Report of the Snake Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

# IUCN SSC Snake Specialist Group



**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Facebook: @IUCNSSG

X: @IUCN\_SSG

Website: <https://www.iucnsnake.org/>

**CHAIR**  
Daniel Natusch  
EPIC Biodiversity,  
France

**PROGRAMME OFFICER**  
Jessica Lyons  
Department of Climate  
Change, Energy, the  
Environment and  
Water, Australia

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
153

## Mission statement

The Snake Specialist Group's mission is to provide expert opinion and scientific advice to IUCN and other conservation organisations, government, and non-government agencies, applicable to the conservation of snakes.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

To provide expert opinion and scientific advice on the conservation, management and sustainable use of boas and pythons. To assess and disseminate the role of boas and pythons (and other snakes) in ecosystem health and functioning, and their support to people's livelihoods. To foster and encourage research into all aspects of these taxa and provide solutions to identified problems.

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

**T-010** Re-assess priority species within the SSG's remit for the IUCN Red List.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Ensure no Red list assessments are older than 10 years at the end of the quadrennium (2025).  
Status: On track

### PLAN

**T-014** Attend and provide input to key multilateral environmental agreements, e.g. CITES, CBD, etc., to help improve science-based policy and decision-making.  
Status: On track

**T-016** Identify species at greatest conservation risk and develop conservation planning at the local, national and regional levels.  
Status: On track

### ACT

**T-015** Increase the number of technical consultations provided to support conservation and wildlife management initiatives.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-018** Increase support for scientific research and conservation action involving threatened species.  
Status: On track

**T-024** Increase the number of sustainable use initiatives supported, such that those initiatives continue to be sustainable and do not jeopardize boa and python conservation.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-025** Continue to provide technical support to sustainable use and wildlife management initiatives to ensure sustainable practices and benefits to local communities.  
Status: On track

### NETWORK

**T-001** Organise an inaugural meeting for SSG members.  
Status: On track

**T-002** Appoint two members as Red List assessors.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-003** Broaden funding base beyond private sector donations.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-009** Increase the number of governments that SSG is supporting to meet their conservation goals.  
Status: On track

**T-012** Increase representation of members from species Range States.  
Status: Achieved

**T-017** Increase financial and in-kind support to scientific research projects, such that acknowledgement of the SSG is warranted.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-019** Increase the number of early career, i.e. not older than 35 years, BPSG members.  
Status: Achieved

**T-020** Establish Thematic Working Groups and Chairs within SSG.  
Status: Achieved

# Identification Guide for Snakes of ZENADTH KES (Torres Strait)



Version Date: 3 April 2023



Please brake for snakes - they are important for healthy ecosystem function  
Photo: Jessica Lyons

Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) Snake Identification Guide (2023)  
Photo: Melissa Bruton

**T-022** Increase the number and type of stakeholders involved in implementing conservation and wildlife management plans for boas and pythons.  
Status: On track

**T-029** Explore mechanisms for diversification within the SSG.  
Status: Achieved

**T-031** Appoint one member as fundraising officer for the SSG.  
Status: No longer a priority

## COMMUNICATE

**T-007** Publish an annual newsletter for the SSG.  
Status: Achieved

**T-008** Establish a website for the SSG.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-013** Enhance social media presence through the development, rebuilding and maintenance of the SSG's social media platforms.  
Status: Achieved

**T-026** Enhance communication within the SSG and develop a formal communication strategy.  
Status: On track

**T-027** Explore the action of developing an online resource which compiles key literature on snake conservation.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-028** Contribute to the development of materials for communication and awareness-raising, by offering presentations, online webinars, workshops, etc.  
Status: On track

**T-030** Appoint two members as communication officers for the SSG.  
Status: Achieved

## Activities and Results 2023

### NETWORK

#### Membership

**T-001** Organise an inaugural meeting for SSG members. (KSR 2)

Number of meetings held: 0

Result description: In 2023, the Group started co-ordinating an inaugural meeting.

**T-029** Explore mechanisms for diversification within the SSG. (KSR 2)

Gender ratio: Ongoing.

Result description: The number of SSG members has increased, particularly for those underrepresented in the group.

## Summary of achievements

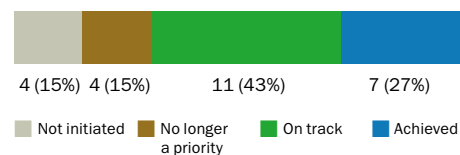
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 26

Geographic regions: 14 Global, 1 Africa, 3 Asia, 3 Oceania

Actions during 2023:

Network: 2 (KSR 2, 4)

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



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)  
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf



*Lactifluus neotropicus*  
Photo: Aida Vasco