IUCN SSC Species Survival Commission

Species

ISSUE 65

2024-2025 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat

Stand-alone report
IUCN SSC Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe Specialist Group

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 standalone 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 Authory 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 that were generated during 2024 (full year) and 2025 (first quarter), 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:
Boitani, L. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe Specialist Group

CHAIR
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
57

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @LCIEIUCN
Website: https://www.lcie.org

Mission statement

Maintain and restore, in coexistence with people, viable populations of large carnivores as an integral part of ecosystems and landscapes across Europe.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) works to improve the management of six species of large carnivores in Europe. The LCIE provides updated data on species presence and abundance and supports management through the technical guidelines on best practices to enhance the coexistence of carnivores and human economic activities.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-016 Produce a report on the greatest misconceptions/fake news concerning large carnivores.
Status: Not initiated

T-018 Update status and distribution maps of large carnivores for Europe for the period 2017–2024 and publish a report in 2025.
Status: Achieved

T-019 Streamline data collection and publication for large carnivore status and distribution in Europe.
Status: Achieved

T-030 Assess the conservation status of wolf in Europe for the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-001 Ensure regular inclusion of policy statements, guidelines, and publications on the LCIE webpage.
Status: On track

T-020 Produce an updated vision for conservation goals for large carnivores in Europe, including a vision for the nature of human-large carnivore coexistence.
Status: On track

T-021 Identify the 'neglected' populations, e.g. the Balkans, and define/plan priorities for action by LCIE and authorities.
Status: On track

T-022 In view of the continuing expansion of some wolf and bear populations, propose a more robust way to define/draw the line among different populations.
Status: On track

ACT

T-025 Hybridisation of wolves with dogs and proper dog management: provide recommendations at national levels, scientific paper with evidence of interventions, and guidelines on detection and estimation of hybrid presence.
Status: No longer a priority

T-026 Revise guidelines on how to manage "bold wolves" based on hard data and experience from different countries.
Status: Achieved

T-029 Produce a report on rehabilitation and release of large carnivores, touching on all aspects of rehabilitation of rescued animals, e.g. large carnivores injured in car accidents or snares, orphaned large carnivore young because of human activity, and guidelines, and when, where and how to help.
Status: On track

T-032 Production of a LCIE position statement on the proposed downlisting of the wolf by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention.
Status: Achieved

T-033 On request of the Bern Convention, production of two catalogues of best practices in wolf and bear management in

Endangered Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*),
El Acebuche Breeding Center, Doñana National Park,
Matalascañas (Huelva), Spain
Photo: Alexander Sliwa

Europe and two reports discussing the best practices.
Status: Achieved

T-034 Report to the European Commission on the use of the Favourable Reference Values for large carnivore conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-035 On request of the European Commission, production of a report updating numbers and distribution maps of four large carnivores in Europe.
Status: Achieved

T-036 On request by the European Commission, production of a report on the impacts of large carnivores on European ecological and socioeconomic systems.
Status: On track

T-037 On request of the European Commission, production of a report on the livestock depredation by large carnivores in Europe in 2024.
Status: On track

T-038 On request by the European Commission, production of a report on the use and efficiency of damage prevention methods in Europe.
Status: On track

T-039 Provide data and technical advice to European organisations upon request.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-005 Reach out to and engage with major European conservation NGOs and open dialogue on common goals.
Status: Not initiated

T-007 Form taxonomic and/or geographic subgroups in which each member will take part.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Implement a more effective method of communication between LCIE members.
Status: Achieved

T-011 Improve communication and collaboration with national and international authorities for large carnivore conservation and management.
Status: Not initiated

T-012 Maintain and expand the LCIE role as advisor of the European Commission on large carnivore policy.
Status: On track

T-031 Carry out LCIE Meeting of all members.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-002 Post news regularly on the LCIE Facebook page.
Status: On track

T-003 Participate in public talks and webinars on large carnivores.
Status: On track

T-040 Provide public opinions on Europeans policies related to European large carnivores to the media.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024-2025

ACT

Technical advice

T-039 Provide data and technical advice to European organisations upon request. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 10

Result description: In 2024, we provided support to the European Commission representing IUCN at the Platform on Large Carnivores and by producing a report on the status and distribution of large carnivores in Europe. We followed up on these products with presentations at meetings.

NETWORK

Documents review

T-012 Maintain and expand the LCIE role as advisor of the European Commission on large carnivore policy. (KSR 4)

Collaboration with the European Commission established: Ongoing.

Result description: The LCIE contributes with data, documents, reports and participation in meetings of the EU Platform on large carnivore conservation.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-040 Provide public opinions on Europeans policies related to European large carnivores to the media. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles/interviews mentioning IUCN Species theme: 20

Result description: We have given several interviews to journalists from most of European countries on issues about coexistence and conflicts between humans and large carnivores.

Summary of achievements

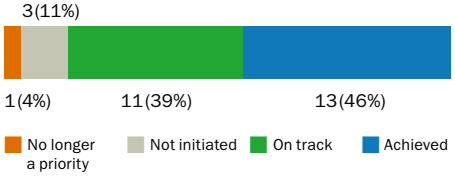
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 28

Geographic regions: 28 Europe

Actions during 2024-2025:

Act: 1 (KSR 10)
Network: 1 (KSR 4)
Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*)
Photo: Save The Rhino Trust Namibia

Marsh Cinquefoil
(*Comarum palustre*)
Photo: Magnus Goransson

Azores Nursery Spider
(*Pisaura acoreesins*)
Photo: Paulo A.V. Borges

Suweon Treefrog
(*Dryophytes suweonenis*)
Photo: Amael Borzee

Phallus aureolatus
Photo: Juliano Baltazar

Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*)
Photo: Andre Botha

Black and White Snapper
(*Macolor niger*)
Photo: David B. Snyder