



Species

ISSUE 65

2024-2025 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 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:

Carmachahi, P. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the South American Camelid Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp. ss

IUCN SSC South American Camelid Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
37

Mission statement

To promote the conservation and sustainable use of (wild) South American camelids in their area of geographic distribution.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The planning established internally in our Group aims to provide by 2025 an important advancement in the reduction of the threats currently faced by South American camelids. Hence, we will work to reduce the risk of local extinction of some populations that are currently highly threatened and have a high degree of fragmentation. To this end, we intend to strongly influence public policies, such as the International Convention for the Conservation of the Vicuña and the National Management and Conservation Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. Through the active participation of members, we will work to reduce the conflict between South American camelids and human

activities in those populations that currently show signs of recovery and are abundant. Through the generation of new information, we will begin a process of precise evaluation of the populations on a regional scale for local classification into conservation categories. Through dissemination and communication actions, we will endeavour to give visibility to the threats to vulnerable populations, as well as to the possibility of use of our species. We will continue to support the sustainable use of species for the benefit of local communities, and will generate actions to confront poaching and illegal trade in order to reduce their impact on natural populations. We are convinced that both conservation initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of the species, combined with communication and education programmes, will have a positive impact on the attitudes of communities throughout the range of South American camelids.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-011 Complete Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) subspecies assessment for the Red List.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

Participate in the development of a management and conservation plan for Vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*) in Argentina.
Status: Not initiated

Participate in the development of a conservation plan for Guanaco in Perú.
Status: Not initiated

T-008 Review the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina.
Status: On track

T-009 Update Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American Wild Camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for Wild Guanacos and Vicuñas.
Status: On track

T-010 Develop an animal welfare protocol applied to commercial hunting.
Status: Not initiated



ACT

T-003 Elaborate a report about mange disease in Vicuña.

Status: Achieved

T-013 Develop a position statement about commercial hunting.

Status: Not initiated

T-014 Participate in the annual meeting of the Vicuña International Convention.

Status: On track

T-016 Provide advice to the National Parks Administration of Argentina on the rewilding of Wild Guanacos in El Impenetrable National Park, Chaco.

Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-004 Update the GECS membership protocol and develop a membership cancellation protocol.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Publish one GECS Newsletter per year and obtain the GECS Newsletter ISSN.

Status: Achieved

T-002 Develop a communication strategy for the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS, for Grupo Especialista en Camélidos Sudamericanos) and update the GECS website by 2021.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

PLAN

Planning

T-009 Update Animal Welfare Criteria for the Management of South American Wild Camelids, and Protocol of Good Management Practices for Wild Guanacos and Vicuñas. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 1

Result description: The new Vicuña Good Management Practices Protocol will be published in issue 12 of GECS News in April 2025.

Policy

T-008 Review the National Management Plan for Guanacos in Argentina. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: In 2024, the GECS has requested meetings with the National Wildlife Office to discuss the revision of the National Management Plan for Guanacos, but we have had no response. In September, members of GECS organized the II Argentine Conference for the Conservation and Management of Wild South American Camelids, in which various topics related to this species were discussed. Within the framework of this Conference, a Round Table on Public Policies was organized, to which the Director of Natural Resources of the Nation, the CITES and CMS Management Authority of Argentina, the Director of Biodiversity of the Province of Mendoza, and the Director of Biodiversity Protection and Protected Areas of the Province of Jujuy were invited. At that meeting it was reported that the National Plan had been repealed; therefore, in Argentina there are currently no specific regulations governing guanaco management actions. The GECS is taking action to try to reverse this situation.



Shearer of the Suripujio community performing manual shearing with scissors, Jujuy, Argentina
Photo: Fabiana Sosa



Herding of wild Guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*) by members of the Cooperativa de Trabajo Payún Matrú in La Payunia Provincial Reserve, Mendoza, Argentina
Photo: Sergio Aguirre

ACT

Technical advice

T-014 Participate in the annual meeting of the Vicuña International Convention. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: On May 29 and 30, 2024, the XXI Technical Meeting of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña was held under the hybrid modality (virtual/presential) through the Zoom platform with the participation of 10 members of GECS - IUCN representing four of the countries that are members of this Convention. The first was to present the advantages and disadvantages of the different methodologies for population evaluation of the Vicuña. This presentation was given by a member of the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS-IUCN). The second thematic axis was related to the “One Health approach in the management and use of the vicuña”, whose presentations were given by three members of the GECS-IUCN. The concepts of One Health and Animal Welfare were presented, proposing to work on a future action plan for the agreement that presents an approach based on this paradigm. In this framework, the report about sarcoptic mange prepared by the GECS-IUCN-IUCN based on the application of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of the Vicuña (by Resolution No. 404/2018) was presented. This report gathers and analyses scientific knowledge and management aspects, research priorities and recommendations with the aim of preventing, diagnosing, and mitigating the disease. Information was shared on case reports – some epidemic– from the last

decade of Vicuña populations affected by sarcoptic mange in Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile. Finally, another member of GECS - IUCN presented an updated summary of the prevalence of sarcoptic mange in Vicuña populations managed in Peru, both in the wild and in captivity, highlighting recent reports of mange in regions where no cases had previously occurred. A summary of the results obtained in different experiences focused on evaluating therapeutic strategies against sarcoptic mange in Vicuñas was also presented. It is expected that during 2025 the Republic of Bolivia will organise the Administrative Meeting of the Convention.

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 Update the GECS membership protocol and develop a membership cancellation protocol. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: In 2024, two new members, both from Argentina, joined the South American Camelid Specialist Group. Currently, GECS has 37 members, of which 18 are women. Geographically, the members are distributed as follows: 18 in Argentina, three in Bolivia, seven in Chile, five in Peru, one in Spain, two in US and one in Switzerland.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-002 Develop a communication strategy for the South American Camelid Specialist Group (GECS, for Grupo Especialista en Camélidos Sudamericanos) and update the GECS website by 2021. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: The communication plan for the activities developed by GECS members continues to be active, with regular publications on social networks and the website.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 13

Geographic regions: 13 America

Actions during 2024–2025:

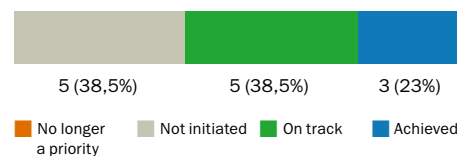
Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



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



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



Phallus aureolatus
Photo: Juliano Baltazar



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



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



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



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