



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 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 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.

Example for the recommended citation:

Cheek, M, Niang Diop, F, and Couch, C.(2025). 2024-2025 Report of the West Africa Plant Red List Authority. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC West Africa Plant Red List Authority



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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

Charlotte Couch

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

17

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC West Africa Plant Red List Authority (WAPRLA) aims to increase the number of assessments of West African plant species at a faster rate than the present. We also aim to network with West African and international specialist researchers, conservationists, policymakers and other stakeholders, communicate our Group's work to diverse audiences and contribute to conservation planning and actions, in a region that suffers one of the most dramatic losses of tropical forest in the world.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The WAPRLA aims to increase the knowledge on the extinction risk of plants in West Africa, followed by conservation planning and action, particularly in Guinea, to deliver a conservation action plan for threatened trees and work with communities to protect those species through effective collaboration and practical approaches.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Assess the extinction risk of 50 West African plant species.

Status: On track

T-003 Conduct reassessments of 25 West African tree species.

Status: On track

T-004 Publish two scientific publications acknowledging SCC affiliation.

Status: On track

PLAN

T-005 Prepare a Threatened Trees of Guinea Conservation Action Plan.

Status: Achieved

T-006 Develop nine Conservation Action Plans for endemic species of Guinea (subject to funding).

Status: Achieved

ACT

T-007 Carry out conservation of threatened trees of Guinea.

Status: Achieved

T-008 Involve six villages on the edge of Tropical Important Plant Areas in Guinea in species conservation and sustainable use (subject to funding).

Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-001 Train 20 West African collaborators in IUCN Red List assessment tools.

Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-009 Write four blog posts on threatened trees of Guinea and West African plants.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 Assess the extinction risk of 50 West African plant species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 18

Result description: In 2024, 18 assessments have been reviewed and submitted. Unfortunately, the target has not been met during the quadrennium.

T-003 Conduct reassessments of 25 West African tree species. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 11

Result description: Several assessments have been worked on in 2024; however, some have not been completed due to changes in taxonomy.



Talbotiella cheekii
Photo: Xander van der Burgt

Research activities

T-004 Publish two scientific publications acknowledging SCC affiliation. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 2

Result description: Two articles were submitted and published with SSC affiliation: (1) Publication of *Utricularia benjaminana* in *Planta Carnivora* in 2024, and (2) Publication of *Keetia magassoubana* sp.nov. *Kew Bulletin* in 2025. In addition, smaller articles in *Oryx* news section have been published with the affiliation.

PLAN

Planning

T-006 Develop nine Conservation Action Plans for endemic species of Guinea (subject to funding). (KSR 8)

Number of plans being implemented: 4

Result description: Species conservation Action Plans have been completed for *Cola baldwinii*, *Dichaetanthera echinulata*, *Napoleonaea alata* and *Gilbertiodendron tonkolili*. These are available in French on the Herbar National de Guinée website.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-007 Carry out conservation of threatened trees of Guinea. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 3

Result description: Conservation action *in situ* including monitoring and protection of area for *Omphalocarpum ahia*, *Tieghemella heckelii*, and *Allophylus samoritourei*. These species are also being grown from wild collected seeds and replanted in village community forests.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-009 Write four blog posts on threatened trees of Guinea and West African plants. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 3

Result description: In 2024, a short news article was published in *Oryx* on Threatened trees conservation action plan of Guinea and Rediscovery of *Barleria maclaudii* in the Moyen Bafing National Park. In 2025, a short article was written for Google on threatened trees of Guinea for COP16.

Acknowledgements

We thank all our partners and collaborators for all their hard work and dedication.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 1 Global, 8 Africa

Actions during 2024–2025:

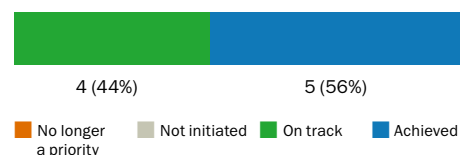
Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

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 acoreensis*)
Photo: Paulo A.V. Borges



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