



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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

Example for the recommended citation:

Segelbacher, G, and Hunter, M. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Conservation Genetics 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.

IUCN SSC Conservation Genetics Specialist Group



CONSERVATION GENETICS
SPECIALIST GROUP

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

X: @congenetics

Website: <https://www.cgsg.uni-freiburg.de>



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Gernot Segelbacher
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CO-CHAIR
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
86

Mission statement

The Conservation Genetics Specialist Group (CGSG) will establish guidance for pressing genetic policy and management issues. The CGSG also provides genetic advice on policy and management within IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) and expert knowledge and assistance to SSC Specialist Groups. The CGSG will facilitate a fuller appreciation, evaluation and conservation of genetic diversity and resources at all levels, providing a forum for all stakeholders to value and conserve this crucial element of Planet Earth's life systems.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Develop a guidance document for the use of genetics in red listing.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-001 Publish an IUCN Guidance document for monitoring changes in genetic diversity.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Develop a guidance document on biobanks and planning for conservation of intra-specific genetic diversity.
Status: Achieved

T-005 Develop a policy brief on Digital Sequence Information (DSI).
Status: Achieved

T-006 Develop a guidance document on how to include hybrids in conservation planning.
Status: On track

T-008 Define new targets for the next quadrennium and develop Action Plan.
Status: Achieved

T-009 Prepare an issue brief on eDNA methods and standards.
Status: Achieved

ACT

T-004 Publish a position statement for the use of genetics in defining conservation units.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Raise awareness of the importance of genetic diversity in policy.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

PLAN

Red List

T-003 Develop a guidance document for the use of genetics in red listing. (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 0

Result description: The CGSG has been contributing to scientific papers indicating how the assessment of Red Lists can potentially integrate genetic tools and genetic diversity.

PLAN

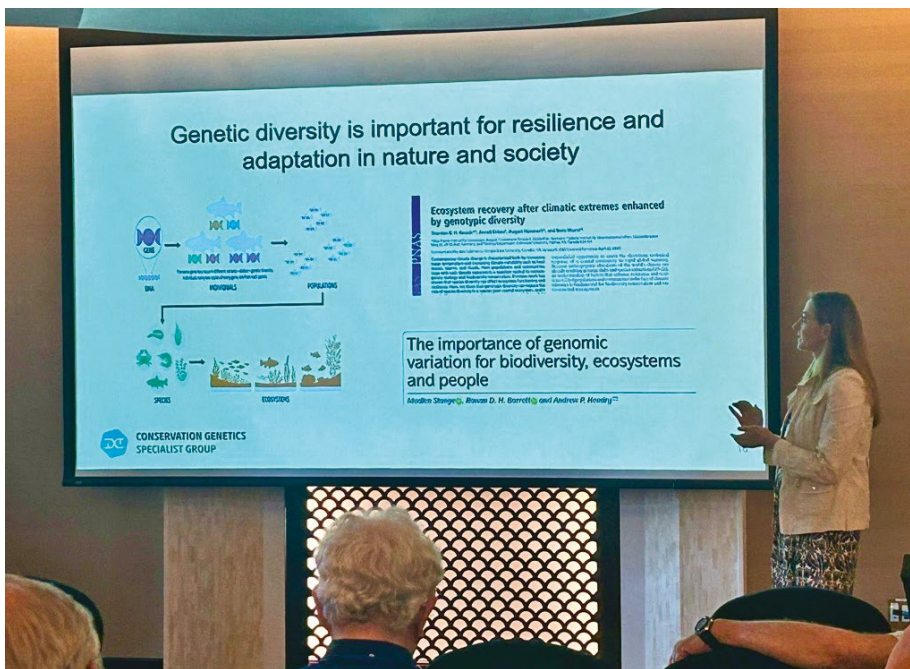
Planning

T-002 Develop a guidance document on biobanks and planning for conservation of intra-specific genetic diversity. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: Our guidance document has been finished and has been reviewed. The document is undergoing layout and will be finally published in 2025.

T-006 Develop a guidance document on how to include hybrids in conservation planning. (KSR 8)



Maggie Hunter presenting in the population genetics and eDNA tools session at the SSC Leaders Meeting, Abu Dhabi, in 2024
Photo: Maggie Hunter

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: A scientific paper is currently being revised, as it is a dedicated position statement which has been already internally assessed.

T-009 Prepare an issue brief on eDNA methods and standards. (KSR 8)

Issue published: Achieved.

Result description: The [IUCN issue brief on eDNA](#) was published in 2024.

Policy

T-005 Develop a policy brief on Digital Sequence Information (DSI). (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 0

Result description: The policy brief has been published in 2022, CGSG members are still involved in discussion in various networks.

T-008 Define new targets for the next quadrennium and develop Action Plan. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 0

Result description: Scoping has started for the next quadrennium Targets.

ACT

Policy

T-004 Publish a position statement for the use of genetics in defining conservation units. (KSR 10)

Number of position statements addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: A scientific paper and a position statement have been submitted and are undergoing review currently.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 Raise awareness of the importance of genetic diversity in policy. (KSR 12)

Inclusion of genetic diversity in CBD and international documents/strategies: Ongoing.

Result description: Preparing a motion for WCC 2025 and ongoing scientific publications and informal expertise to the GBF.

[SSC Grant awarded]

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2024-2025:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 5 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ No longer a priority
 ■ Not initiated
 ■ On track
 ■ Achieved

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