



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:

González Torres, LR. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Cuban Plant 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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group



CHAIR
Luis Roberto González
Torres

Planta! - Plantlife
Conservation Society

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Luis Roberto González
Torres

Planta! - Plantlife
Conservation Society

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:
68

Mission statement

The mission of the Cuban Plant Specialist Group (CPSG) is to contribute to the increase of current knowledge on the taxonomy and ecology of the species across the geographic range of distribution and promote their long-term conservation.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-009 Reassess by 2024 the risk of extinction of all taxa assessed before 2011.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Publish the checklist of Cuban native plants, the national Red List, and the list of invasive species online by 2021.
Status: On track

T-011 Update the checklist of native, introduced and cultivated vascular plants of Cuba by 2023.
Status: Not initiated

T-012 Update the list of invasive and potentially invasive plants.
Status: On track

T-013 Conduct and support required research to assess the risk of extinction of 10% of native species categorised as DD by 2024.

Status: Not initiated

T-014 Assess the risk of extinction of all the endemic taxa of Bryophyta, Marchantiophyta and Anthocerotophyta by 2024.

Status: Not initiated

T-015 Assess the vulnerability to climate change of selected groups, e.g. orchids and cacti, and plant communities by 2024.

Status: On track

PLAN

T-016 Develop and publish the recovery strategy for at least 20 taxa by 2024.
Status: Not initiated

T-017 Update the management plans of at least five protected areas to include the threatened plants in their conservation objectives by 2024.

Status: On track

ACT

T-018 Increase the population of 10 threatened species by 10% by 2024.

Status: Not initiated

T-019 Organise one annual workshop to promote the cultivation and sustainable use of native plants in gardening and landscaping.

Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-001 Establish two new formal partnerships that will provide in-kind support to the Specialist Group with institutions devoted to the conservation of Cuban plants by 2014.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Recruit at least two experts on management of species subject to traffic by 2021.

Status: Achieved

T-003 Recruit at least one member per province and per major families by 2021.
Status: Not initiated

T-004 Recruit at least one expert on each of the following topics: population biology, reproductive biology, climate change, population management, conservation planning, ecological restoration, and environmental law by 2021.

Status: Not initiated

T-005 Recruit at least one plant expert from each of the following Caribbean territories: Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and the Bahamas by 2021.
Status: On track



Microcycas calocoma (Zamiaceae), a monotypic genus of Cuba, in La Palma, Pinar del Río, Cuba
Photo: Luis González Torres

Conducting plant surveys along the North keys of Cuba with colleagues from the Bahamas and Cuba, studying species shared between both countries to support conservation efforts.
Photo: Luis González Torres



T-006 Train eight group members as Red List assessors by 2024.

Status: Not initiated

T-007 Train at least 10 partners and collaborators on plant identification, monitoring, and population and management by 2024.

Status: Not initiated

T-008 Establish at least five formal partnerships with protected areas by 2024.

Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-020 Develop a communication strategy for the Specialist Group by 2021.

Status: Achieved

T-021 Publish at least four articles on threatened plants by 2024.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-009 Reassess the risk of extinction of all taxa assessed before 2011 by 2024. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: In 2024, we did not conduct any new assessments. Instead, we focussed on reviewing the [list of plants of Cuba](#) to guide the work on the new National Red List.

[SSC Grant awarded]

Research activities

T-010 Publish the checklist of Cuban native plants, the national Red List, and the list of invasive species online by 2021. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 1

Result description: In December 2024, we published the [Catalogue of the Plants of Cuba](#). The Catalogue was created to provide a comprehensive reference for

plant management and conservation in Cuba. Due to limited access to regional specimens and insufficient understanding of eco-evolutionary dynamics, Cuban and Caribbean endemics are often misclassified, risking the extinction of small populations. The catalogue standardises taxonomic and ecological data, listing all scientific names attributed to Cuban flora and categorising native, endemic, and exotic species. It details plant habits, distribution, and vegetation types while following stable phylogenetic classifications for global data integration. Developed by 54 Cuban and international experts, it refines taxonomy, nomenclature, and distribution data, introduces 52 nomenclatural novelties, and includes chapters on family inventories, provincial floras, and taxonomic insights.

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 Recruit at least two experts on management of species subject to traffic by 2021. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: In October 2024, the Group organised a meeting on the trafficking of Cuban species, aiming to develop a task force on the topic. The task force is not restricted to plants. We invited members of the Cuban Society of Zoology, the Cuban Society of Botany, the Environmental Agency and the Office of Regulation and Environmental Safety.

Synergy

T-001 Establish two new formal partnerships that will provide in-kind support to the Specialist Group with institutions devoted to the conservation of Cuban plants by 2014. (KSR 1)

Number of in-kind partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: In 2024, we expanded our collaboration with the National Network of Botanic Gardens (NNBG) and engaged with the Caribbean and Central American Network of Botanic Gardens (CCANBG) to develop conservation capacities.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-020 Develop a communication strategy for the Specialist Group by 2021. (KSR 13)

Number of communication strategies published: 1

Result description: In 2024, we designed a communication strategy for the SG that aims to (1) increase awareness of Cuban plant conservation challenges and initiatives, (2) strengthen engagement with key stakeholders, including researchers, conservation practitioners, policymakers, and the public, (3) promote knowledge exchange and collaboration at national, regional, and international levels, and (4) advocate for policies and actions that support plant conservation and sustainable habitat management. The strategy will guide the Group's communication during the upcoming quadrennium.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 21

Geographic regions: 21 America

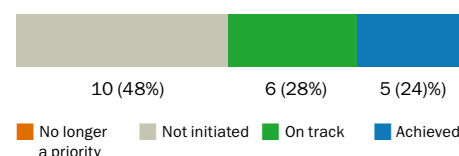
Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 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 acoreensis*)
Photo: Paulo A.V. Borges



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