



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:

Pagel, T, and Markolf, M. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the CSS Cologne Zoo. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2024-2025 Report

CSS Cologne Zoo



DIRECTOR
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SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
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Mission statement

The CSS Cologne Zoo aims to gather knowledge on the status of threatened populations, identify priority taxa for conservation, support integrated and targeted conservation planning for these priority taxa, and ultimately catalyse the most urgently needed conservation actions. The taxonomic focus of Cologne Zoo's CSS is on Asian songbirds and wild pigs.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

- T-001** Support Update of Red List assessments of wild pigs older than 5-10 years.
Status: On track
- T-004** Support Red List assessments of Asian songbirds.
Status: On track
- T-018** Publish research related to Red List assessment of wild pigs and Asian songbirds.
Status: On track

PLAN

- T-019** Support development of conservation plans for wild pigs and Asian songbirds.
Status: On track

ACT

- T-002** Support the development of *ex situ* projects for threatened pigs and Asian songbirds.
Status: On track
- T-020** Support implementation of long-term monitoring projects for Asian songbirds and wild pigs.
Status: Not initiated
- T-021** Support conservation actions for conservation of wild pigs and Asian songbirds.
Status: On track

NETWORK

- T-003** Strengthen networking and exchange among members of WPSG and ASTSG.
Status: On track
- T-006** Establish close collaboration with local partners to facilitate APA for Asian songbirds and wild pigs.
Status: On track
- T-007** Support fundraising for conservation of wild pigs and Asian songbirds.
Status: On track

- T-008** Engage in Reverse the Red activities.
Status: On track

- T-009** Collaborate with colleagues of host organisation to ensure host institutions contribution to IUCN Species Strategic Plan.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

- T-005** Develop the CSS Cologne branding.
Status: Achieved
- T-010** Communicate developments of CSS Cologne within CSS Network.
Status: On track
- T-011** Exchange results and progress of CSS Cologne with partners of CSS Network.
Status: On track
- T-012** Participate in regular informal meetings to update Cologne Zoo on status of CSS Cologne.
Status: On track
- T-013** Support communication of species conservation and IUCN Species theme at Cologne Zoo.
Status: On track
- T-014** Publish research related to conservation activities of Cologne Zoo.
Status: Achieved
- T-015** Contribute to the SSC publications.
Status: Achieved



Bali Myna (*Leucopsar rothschildi*)
at Bali Barat National Park
Photo: Matthias Markolf

T-016 Support communication of WPSG and ASTSG.

Status: Achieved

T-017 Support communication of Reverse the Red via Cologne Zoo and the CSS.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Support Update of Red List assessments of wild pigs older than 5-10 years.

(KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: In 2024, the Red List assessment for *Babirusa togeanensis* was drafted. Additionally, in the first quarter of 2025, we initiated data collection on wild pigs via online questionnaire. We also initiated planning for surveys and an in-person Red List meeting for wild pigs on Sulawesi.

T-004 Support Red List assessments of Asian songbirds. (KSR 2)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Certified Red List Training was accomplished.

Research activities

T-018 Publish research related to Red List assessment of wild pigs and Asian songbirds. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: Supported and co-authored publication in *Oryx*: Jati, AS, et al. (2024). "[Demographic status and activity patterns of the Endangered Togeian Islands babirusa: A contribution towards evaluating its conservation status](#)" (preprint).

PLAN

Planning

T-019 Support development of conservation plans for wild pigs and Asian songbirds. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: In 2024, the Group supported a concept note for Javan Warty Pig Action Plan workshop. Also, we engaged in developing species action plan for Javan Green Magpie and a translocation workshop for Asian Songbird Trade SG. We accomplished a certified training in species conservation planning with CPSG. In the first quarter of 2025, we joined the

coordination team for organizing upcoming species action plan workshops for the Javan Green Magpie and Javan Warty Pig.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-021 Support conservation actions for conservation of wild pigs and Asian songbirds. (KSR 10)

Number of guideline documents produced: 2

Result description: We co-authored the Guidelines for African Swine Fever prevention and control in facilities breeding endangered wild pig species for conservation. In the first quarter of 2025, we facilitated the submission of a motion to the IUCN World Congress 2025 called 'Urgent action to address the Asian wild pig crisis caused by African Swine Fever'.

Number of projects established: 1

Result description: In 2024, we supported a successful proposal for SOS grant for *Togian babirusa* (PKBSA, A. Jati). Additionally, a conflict mitigation project for the Togian Babirusa funded by SOS was initiated in early 2025.

Technical advice

T-002 Support the development of *ex situ* projects for threatened pigs and Asian songbirds. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: To establish *ex situ* breeding for *Sus oliveri*, a first meeting of DENR and stakeholders was held. A recommendation letter was sent to officials in Philippines. Talarak Foundation, Tamaraw Conservation Program is leading preliminary activities, preliminary location has been identified in Paluan (land owned by DENR). We also supported fundraising for establishing a rescue center for the Togian Babirusa (*Babirusa togeanensis*) (SOS proposal with Agus Jati).

T-020 Support implementation of long-term monitoring projects for Asian Songbirds and Wild Pigs. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: Held first consultations with stakeholders monitoring birds using autonomous sound recorders. Started collection of bird sounds in online databases for establishing passive acoustic monitoring for Asian songbird priority species. Finalized online protocol using KoboToolbox to collect information on wild pig species.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-003 Strengthen networking and exchange among members of WPSG and ASTSG. (KSR 2)

Maintain online and in-person meetings with ASTSG and WPSG: Ongoing.

Result description: Launched a regular network meeting with WPSG members. Organised five online webinars with the members of the IUCN Wild Pig Specialist Group in 2024, and participated on an in-person meeting of Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group in Yogyakarta in 2024. Two meetings were organized in the first quarter of 2025. On February, 14, 2025, Sabhrina Gita Aninta, Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark and Member of Society of Conservation Biology Indonesia (SCB-ID) gave a presentation about topic: 'Genomics and habitat

suitability models unveil the importance of Togeian populations for the long-term survival of babirusa in the Wallacea region'. On April 11, 2025, Stefano Focardi from Istituto dei Sistemi Complessi gave a presentation on wildlife population monitoring: 'A guide to population monitoring reconciling statistical theory and pragmatic choices'.

Proposal development and funding

T-007 Support fundraising for conservation of wild pigs and Asian songbirds. (KSR 2)

Number of proposals submitted or submission supported: 3

Result description: In 2024, we supported submission of two proposals for SOS IUCN Save Our Species Ungulate Call. One proposal submitted on behalf of WPSG/ Cologne Zoo for Sulawesi Babirusa.

Synergy

T-008 Engage in Reverse the Red activities. (KSR 3)

Number of participations to RtR events: 3
Result description: Participation at WSC 2024 with hosting local satellite event at Cologne Zoo. Participation in RtR Species Pledge. Supporting board game development by students. We participated actively at Reverse the Red Day on February 7th, 2025, and won the Reverse the Red Video contest with Cologne Zoo video on conservation of the Philippine Crocodile.

T-009 Collaborate with colleagues of host organisation to ensure host institutions contribution to IUCN Species Strategic Plan. (KSR 4)

Regular participation in meetings: 80%
Result description: IUCN relevant themes were communicated regularly within host institution. Starting preparation of a motion for wild pigs for IUCN World Congress 2025.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-005 Develop the CSS Cologne branding. (KSR 13)

Presentations, communication materials, conference or congress: 1

Result description: CSS Cologne Logo finalised and information for IUCN website and SSC data portal updated.

T-010 Communicate developments of CSS Cologne within CSS Network. (KSR 13)

Number of print, digital communications produced, number of presentations: 2

Result description: A poster was presented at the SSC Leader's Meeting in Abu Dhabi. Presentation was given during online webinar of Wild Pig Specialist Group.

T-012 Participate in regular informal meetings to update Cologne Zoo on status of CSS Cologne. (KSR 12)

Regular participation in meetings: 80%

Result description: Regular participation in informal meetings to update Cologne Zoo on status of CSS Cologne.

T-013 Support communication of species conservation and IUCN Species theme at Cologne Zoo. (KSR 13)

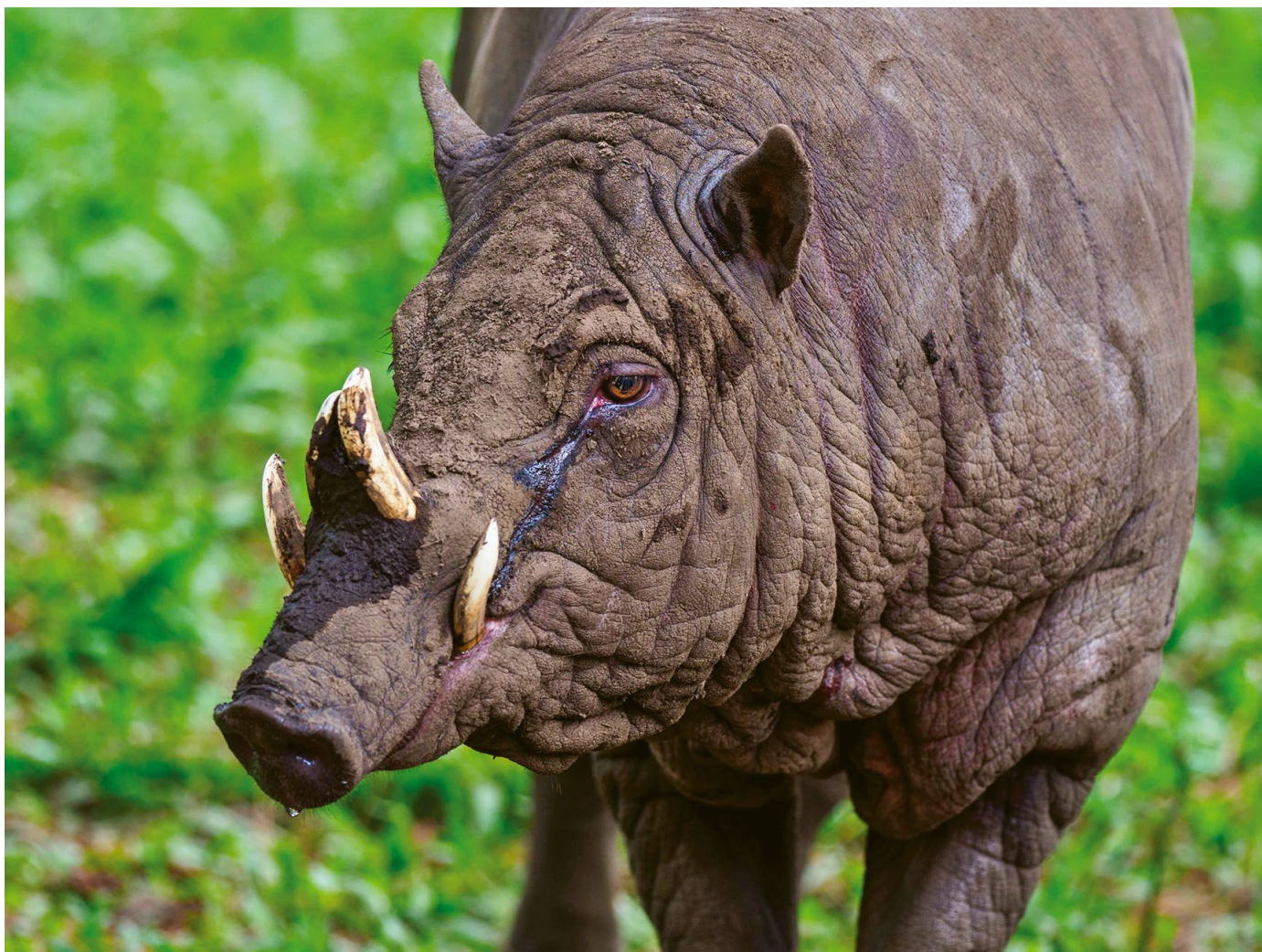
Number of public relation materials or communications produced: 7

Result description: In 2024, five Roll-Ups illustrating conservation efforts were produced at Cologne Zoo, and four presentations were held at various events at Cologne Zoo. We communicated species conservation theme during Reverse the Red Day on February 7 2025, and the Elephant Day at Cologne Zoo on March 30 2025.

T-014 Publish research related to conservation activities of Cologne Zoo. (KSR 13)

Number of publications: 5

Result description: Five publications produced in 2024: (1) Darras, KFA, et al. (2024). "[ecoSound-web: An open-source, online platform for ecoacoustics](#)". *F1000Research*, 9, 1224; (2) Darras, KFA, et al. (2024). "[Worldwide Soundscapes: A synthesis of passive acoustic monitoring across realms](#)" (preprint); (3) Jati, AS, et al. (2024). "[Demographic status and activity patterns of the Endangered Togeian Islands babirusa: A contribution towards evaluating its conservation status](#)" (preprint); (4) Jordan, C, and Markolf, M. (2024).



Sulawesi Babirusa (*Babyrousa babyrussa*)
Photo: Matthias Markolf

“Exploring the potential of occupancy modelling using passive acoustics in *Coua gigas* and *Coua coquereli*”. *Madagascar Conservation and Development*, 18(1), 39–47; and (5) Rose, A, et al. (2024). “Prioritising Ex Situ Conservation for Malagasy Mammal Species in Line with IUCN’s ‘One Plan Approach to Conservation’”. *Diversity*, 16(8), 456.

T-015 Contribute to the SSC publications. (KSR 12)

Number of contributions to SSC publications: 2

Result description: Communicated CSS Cologne in *IUCN SSC Species E-Bulletin* - January 2024 and supported German translation of *SSC Leader’s Meeting Declaration 2024*.

T-016 Support communication of WPSG and ASTSG. (KSR 13)

Regular contributions to website publications, social media and maintenance: Ongoing.

Result description: In 2024, we focused on supporting social media of the WPSG.

T-017 Support communication of Reverse the Red via Cologne Zoo and the CSS. (KSR 13)

Number of print, digital communications produced, number of presentations: 4
Result description: We supported communication of RtR along the 1st World Species Congress (social media, press releases, TV, etc.) and held a national satellite event at Cologne Zoo. Within the Reverse the Red Day 2025, we gave a presentation at Cologne Zoo and supported the production of a video about Cologne Zoo’s engagement in conserving the Philippine Crocodile for the Reverse the Red Day video contest and communication on social media.

Scientific meetings

T-011 Exchange results and progress of CSS Cologne with partners of CSS Network. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events in which the members participated: 1

Result description: On April 11 2025, a personal exchange meeting was held with Nora Weyer from CSS for Small Mammals from Alpenzoo Innsbruck visiting CSS Cologne Zoo.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the collaboration of KASI Foundation, the Asian Songbird Trade SG, the Wild Pig SG, as well as the IUCN SSC Chair’s Office.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 21

Geographic regions: 9 Global, 9 Asia, 3 Europe

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

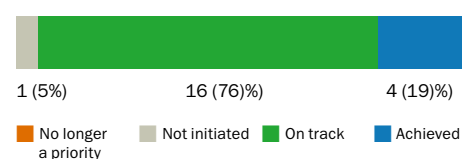
Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 4 (KSR 10)

Network: 4 (KSR 2, 3, 4)

Communicate: 9 (KSR 12, 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