IUCN SSC Species Survival Commission

Species

ISSUE 65

2024-2025 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat

Stand-alone report
IUCN SSC Anguillid Eel Specialist Group

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 standalone reports.

Structure of the IUCN SSC and CSS Stand-alone Reports

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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 Authory 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:

Gollock, M. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Anguillid Eel 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.

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Anguillid Eel Specialist Group

CHAIR
Mathew Gollock
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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR
Charlote Pike
Zoological Society of London, London, UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
10

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES
Website: https://www.zsl.org/what-we-do/projects/iucn-anguillid-eel-specialist-group-aesg

Mission statement

Coordinate effective conservation and management activities for the benefit of eel species, as well as acting as advocates and increasing awareness of the threats to them.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Anguillid Eel Specialist Group (AESG) will continue to engage in management and policy fora relating to anguillid eels in order to ensure these are best informed by Red List assessments and other evidence-based sources.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete Red List assessment of the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*).
Status: Achieved

T-003 Increase knowledge of four Data Deficient species.
Status: Not initiated

T-007 Complete European regional assessment for the European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*).
Status: Achieved

T-013 Assess the Green Status of the European Eel.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-004 Lead the development of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Action Plan for the European Eel.
Status: On track

T-005 Ensure robust science relating to anguillid eels is fed into CITES meetings, working groups and decisions.
Status: On track

T-006 Engage with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group on Eel on annual advice and associated *ad hoc* workshops.
Status: On track

T-008 Maintain representation on the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission Eel-focused activities/assessments.
Status: On track

T-010 Continue engagement with the 'Informal Consultation' on the Japanese Eel (*A. anguilla*).
Status: On track

T-011 Maintain engagement with the Sargasso Sea Commission.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Recruit four new members to cover regional and thematic gaps.
Status: On track

T-014 Represent on the Freshwater Conservation Committee.
Status: Achieved

T-015 Represent on the Marine Conservation Committee.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-009 Organise three public presentations to communicate the conservation work of the AESG and how Red List assessments are developed.
Status: On track

T-012 Hold annual knowledge-sharing webinars with Maori representatives in relation to the New Zealand Long-fin Eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) in New Zealand.
Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2024-2025

PLAN

Policy

T-004 Lead the development of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Action Plan for the European Eel. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
Photo: Dmitriy Konstantinov (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Result description: The Chair Mathew Gollock updated the Single Species Action Plan for the European Eel, which CMS is now reviewing.

T-005 Ensure robust science relating to anguillid eels is fed into CITES meetings, working groups and decisions. (KSR 9)

Number of MEA meetings attended by the SSC group: 1

Result description: In 2024, AESG members were in attendance for the 33rd Animals Committee meeting under CITES, and in 2025, the AESG was represented at the 78th CITES Standing Committee

T-006 Engage with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Working Group on Eel on annual advice and associated *ad hoc* workshops. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 3

Result description: The AESG was represented at the ICES Working Group on Eel meeting to develop the annual report.

T-008 Maintain representation on the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission Eel-focused activities/assessments. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: This activity is ongoing. The AESG is represented on relevant meetings of the ASMFC.

T-010 Continue engagement with the 'Informal Consultation' on the Japanese Eel (*A. anguilla*). (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: The AESG continues to engage with the Japanese Government, and colleagues in Taiwan and China in the context of the Informal Consultation.

T-011 Maintain engagement with the Sargasso Sea Commission. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: The Chair Mathew Gollock delivered a report to the Sargasso Sea Commission relating to the European Eel.

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 Recruit four new members to cover regional and thematic gaps. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 1

Result description: We recruited Mohammad Mukhlis Kamal from Indonesia, and are presently in discussion with two other potential members.

T-014 Represent on the Freshwater Conservation Committee. (KSR 3)

Membership on Freshwater Conservation Committee: 0

Result description: Mathew Gollock has continued to engage with the FCC, he attended the Leaders Meeting and engaged with the relevant freshwater discussions.

T-015 Represent on the Marine Conservation Committee. (KSR 3)

Membership on Marine Conservation Committee: 0

Result description: Mathew Gollock has continued to engage with the MCC, he attended the Leaders Meeting and engaged with the relevant marine discussions.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-009 Organise three public presentations to communicate the conservation work of the AESG and how Red List assessments are developed. (KSR 12)

Number of virtual meetings: 0

Result description: Mathew Gollock continues to chair the UK Eel Forum.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Monni Bohm for her support over the past 12 months.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 15

Geographic regions: 10 Global, 1 America, 1 Asia, 1 Europe, 1 Oceania, 1 Body of water

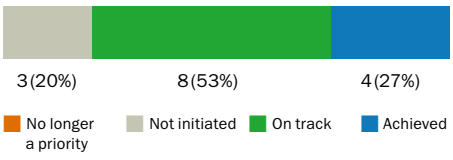
Actions during 2024-2025:

Plan: 6 (KSR 9)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



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

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

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

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

Phallus aureolatus
Photo: Juliano Baltazar

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

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