



# Species

ISSUE 65

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



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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:

López-Gallego, C, and Castellanos-Castro, C. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Colombian 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 Colombian Plant Specialist Group



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
20

### Mission statement

To generate baseline information to support decision-making for plant conservation by different stakeholders in Colombia.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Our Specialist Group will provide important input to the National Strategy for Plant Conservation of Colombia, in terms of Red List assessments and inclusion of threatened species in legislation, use of plant information to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and contribute to other spatial conservation planning, and concrete actions in our conservation plans for strategic groups – timber, Palms, Cycads, Orchids, Magnolias, Cacti and others.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups.  
Status: On track

### PLAN

**T-005** Design at least four conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Contribute to national policy instruments focused on species conservation.  
Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-002** Update the four existing conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.  
Status: No longer a priority

**T-003** Incorporate at least 50% of identified threatened species in projects to identify and validate priority areas for plant conservation, e.g. KBAs, Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) and others.  
Status: On track

**T-007** Generate knowledge to support the sustainable use of plant species.  
Status: No longer a priority

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-004** Design at least four concrete products that relevant stakeholders could use for plant conservation decision-making in the country, e.g. technical reports and communications with recommendations, among others.  
Status: On track

### Activities and results 2024-2025

#### ASSESS

##### Research activities

**T-001** Publish at least 4,000 Red List assessments to contribute to the Colombian Plant Red List, mostly to finish assessing all country endemics and for strategic taxonomic groups. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: We published an academic paper in the journal *Biota Colombiana*, presenting the [progress with the Red List of Colombian Plants](#). The paper was published in Spanish, targeting local stakeholders that can use the information for conservation planning.

#### PLAN

##### Planning

**T-005** Design at least four conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 3

Result description: In collaboration with the Global Tree Specialist Group and Botanic Gardens Conservation International,



One of the species included in the conservation action plan for the genus *Dracula* of Colombia  
Photo: Sebastian Vieira



One of the species included in the conservation action plan for the trees of Colombia  
Photo: Cristina Lopez-Gallego

with support from Franklinia Foundation and the IUCN Global Center for Species Survival - Indianapolis Zoo, we designed the 'Conservation Action Plan for the Trees of Colombia', covering 798 threatened species at the national level, almost half of them endemic to the country. As an additional result of this initiative, we supported the construction of another 'Conservation Action Plan for the Magnolias of Colombia', more than 40 important timber species in the country in high risk of extinction. We also drafted the 'Conservation Action Plan for the Draculas of Colombia', a group of highly threatened orchids with the highest diversity in Colombia and Ecuador. The plan covers 76 species in Colombia, and we are working towards conservation planning for another 57 species in Ecuador. For this initiative we have been collaborating with the Orchid Specialist Group, and researchers in Ecuador; with the support of IUCN SSC small grants, On the Edge foundation, and the IUCN Global Center for Species Survival.

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

Result description: The CPSG led the organization of an in person workshop for the formulation of the Conservation Action Plans for Trees of Colombia and particularly for magnolias. The event brought together 40 participants from academia, environmental authorities, academia, botanical gardens, national and international NGOs, among others, and resulted in a revised draft of the vision, targets, actions and objectives of each CAP. The final documents were finalized by the end of the year and will be published in 2025.

#### Policy

**T-006 Contribute to national policy instruments focused on species conservation.** (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: The national Red List assessments produced by the group

in previous years were included in an update of the norm that dictates the list of threatend species in Colombia, which was published by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in February 2024. In addition, we established an agreement with a regional environmental authority (CAR Corantioquia) to produce basic knowledge and the draft of conservation plans for six threatened species of conservation interest prioritized in its jurisdiction. The technical documents will be discussed with strategic actors to produce a participatory final version of the plans.

#### ACT

##### Conservation actions

**T-003 Incorporate at least 50% of identified threatened species in projects to identify and validate priority areas for plant conservation, e.g. KBAs, Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs) and others.** (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 30

Result description: The network of Key Biodiversity Areas in Colombia was updated in the World Database and currently 178 plant species are targets of 51 KBA sites in the country; the inclusion of 92 of these species was supported by members of the CPSG. The CPSG is also collaborating with the Global Tree Specialist Group in the inclusion of endangered trees in KBA sites. In addition, 138 plant species of the Espeletiinae subtribe (Asteraceae), commonly known as frailejones, were considered for an analysis to identify important plant areas in the Northern Andes and results published in an open-access article: Morales-Rozo, C, Acuña-Rodríguez, IS, Benavides, JC. et al. (2024). "[Prioritization of important plant areas for conservation of frailejones \(Espeletiinae, Asteraceae\) in the Northern Andes](#)". *Biodivers Conserv* 33, 4073–4098 (2024).

#### Technical advice

**T-002 Update the four existing conservation action plans for strategic groups to advance plant conservation in the country.** (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: During the Colombian Botanical Congress, members of the CPSG organized and participated in a symposium focused on lessons learned and challenges for the conservation of plants in the country, which included eighteen presentation related to red lists, propagation and reintroduction, participatory monitoring, *ex situ* conservation and spatial planning. The discussions during the symposium identified clear recommendations for those implementing actions or interested in starting new initiatives.

#### Acknowledgements

We thank the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for serving as a host institution for the Colombian Plant Specialist Group, and the Humboldt Institute and University of Antioquia for supporting the work of the Co-Chairs. We thank all institutions that have provided financial and technical support for the various initiatives of the Group, including Botanic Gardens Conservation International, On the Edge Foundation, Fondation Franklinia, and the SSC Global Species Survival Center of Indianapolis Zoo.

#### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7**

**Geographic regions: 7 America**

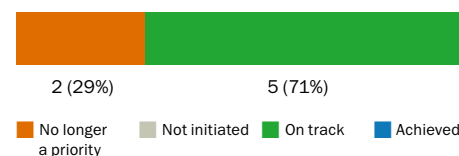
**Actions during 2024-2025:**

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

**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