



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:

Byers, O. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group



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Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) is to save threatened species by increasing the effectiveness of conservation efforts worldwide. For over 40 years, we have accomplished this by using scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives and knowledge to catalyse positive conservation change. We provide species conservation planning expertise to governments, Specialist Groups, zoos and aquariums, as well as other wildlife organisations.

Projected impact 2021–2025

To increase the number of effective conservation plans for threatened species.

Targets 2021–2025

PLAN

- T-001** Help groups to select species for conservation planning attention, by providing ready access to relevant approaches, tools, and case studies.
Status: Achieved
- T-002** Accelerate identification and activation of pathways to effective conservation for selected species – including, but not

limited to, those threatened with extinction.
Status: Achieved

T-003 Make Assessing to Plan (A2P) more effective in activating pathways and more useful to a wider range of planning practitioners and situations.
Status: Achieved

T-004 Strengthen the tools and processes used for single-species conservation planning activities.
Status: Achieved

T-005 Carry forward the A2P process pathways to effective action and create an effective methodology for integrated multi-species conservation planning.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Provide tools and processes for evaluating and, where appropriate, incorporating *ex situ* options into species conservation and collection planning.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Develop and deliver effective training in the design and facilitation of species conservation planning processes.
Status: Achieved

T-009 Scale up a coaching and mentoring programme for more competent and confident species conservation planning process designers, facilitators and technical experts able to lead in threatened species planning processes globally.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Demonstrate a scaling up of effective species conservation planning occurring globally.
Status: Achieved

T-011 Establish a professional learning network of species conservation planners, enabling the ongoing capacity growth and the development and refinement of planning guidelines, tools, and processes.
Status: Achieved

T-012 Encourage inclusion of species conservation planning in national, regional and global policies.
Status: Achieved

T-013 Support national commitments to achieving biodiversity targets by providing direct species conservation planning and capacity-building support to national governments and indigenous communities.
Status: Achieved

T-014 Improve ability to provide tailored support to governments and indigenous



Participants in the 2024 Conservation Planning Specialist Group Annual Meeting
Photo: CPSG



CPSG Headquarters Staff 2024
Photo: CPSG

communities on species conservation planning matters.
Status: Achieved

T-015 Maintain suitable systems for evaluating the impact of conservation planning on species.
Status: Achieved

T-016 Maintain a database and library of planning information for CPSG and the wider SSC.
Status: Achieved

T-017 Explore the assembly and integration of an expanded body of information that enhances the species conservation planning process.
Status: Achieved

T-018 Collaborate with appropriate information sources to implement and promote open and accessible data sharing for enhanced species conservation planning.
Status: Achieved

T-019 Collaborate with the information technology community and other sectors where appropriate to construct new tools

and methods for interdisciplinary data assembly and analysis.
Status: Achieved

T-020 Threatened species that need a conservation plan are covered by a conservation plan.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024-2025

PLAN

Planning

T-001 Help groups to select species for conservation planning attention, by providing ready access to relevant approaches, tools and case studies. (KSR 8)

Updated documents libraries: Achieved.

Result description: We continue to publish Assess to Plan (A2P) project reports and multi-species planning project reports rapidly, on our website, in order to provide species experts with detailed guidance on species planning priorities across a diverse array of threatened taxa.

T-002 Accelerate identification and activation of pathways to effective conservation for selected species – including, but not limited to, those threatened with extinction. (KSR 8)

Increase number of CPSG teams delivering A2P analyses and planning workshops: 4

Result description: There are now four teams with experience in delivering Assess-to-plan (A2P) analyses and multi-species planning workshops in Europe, Southeast Asia, South America and Africa.

Promote A2P to SGs and governments: Achieved.

Result description: Recent examples of A2P projects include those for the European Commission, with a project completed for dragonflies and one started for wild bees. CPSG collaborated with the Government of Jamaica (NEPA), the University of the West Indies, the IUCN Biodiversity Assessment Unit, and Kew Gardens, on an A2P project for a group of Jamaican orchids and melastomes.

T-004 Strengthen the tools and processes used for single-species conservation planning activities. (KSR 8)

Number of expert workshops or internal reviews carried out: 4

Result description: CPSG is exploring options for enhancing our capacity to conduct more informative analyses of threats to species and populations. These options include more explicit consideration of both mechanism of threat as well as the severity of impact. We are evaluating methods by which these detailed data can be more effectively incorporated into quantitative risk assessment tools like population viability analysis.

Continued collaboration with the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative (SCTI): Achieved.

Result description: CPSG is engaging with the Species Conservation Toolkit Initiative and Species360 to map out a future for continued maintenance and development of the popular tool for population viability analysis known as Vortex. A revised and updated version of the User's Manual is under development, along with early discussions focusing on key updates and modifications to the software and its interface.

T-006 Increase the value to SSC planning of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Planning Tools Library. (KSR 8)

A web design firm is employed to redesign and improve the look and feel of the existing CPSG Tools Library: Ongoing.

Result description: The tools library re-design was completed and launched in 2024. Our revised website was launched in 2024 with a new and expanded Tools Library. New information will continue to be added to this Library, improving its utility for implementation of the Global Species Action Plan and for the broader SSC community

T-008 Develop and deliver effective training in the design and facilitation of species conservation planning processes. (KSR 8)

Establish training courses accessible to SSC members and beyond for all CPSG planning processes and tools: Achieved.

Result description: Online course on Facilitating Species Conservation Planning Workshops updated in line with internal review of course content and enhanced alignment with CPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps. Both *Ex situ* Conservation Assessment, and Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis courses are also now well-established, providing the 'how to' response to the relevant IUCN Guidelines on the use of *ex situ* management for species conservation and Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis. Introductory courses on Population Viability Analysis and Multi-Species Conservation Planning are now under development.

Number of training courses established: 3

Result description: Since 2018, when our training course programme was formalised, we have trained 1,771 conservationists. More than 1,176 of these individuals fully completed their training, 777 of which completed, with certification, at least one of our three online training courses, the rest undertaking a range of tailored in-person training courses delivered since 2018. We have three online courses established linked to CPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps; IUCN Species Survival Commission Guidelines on the use of *ex situ* management for species conservation; and IUCN/OIE Guidelines for Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis. We have further courses in development that will come online in the next quadrennium.

T-009 Scale up a coaching and mentoring programme for more competent and confident species conservation planning process designers, facilitators and technical experts able to lead in threatened species planning processes globally. (KSR 8)

Planner and Technical Development Path mentoring programs in place and able to respond to a scaling up of capacity need as required: Achieved.

Result description: As of the year-end 2024, 10 individuals 'graduated' from the Facilitator Development Path and are designing and facilitating species conservation planning independently. A further

two Technical Development Path mentees graduated as PVA Practitioners, representing the first cohort to complete this pathway. Sixteen further mentees (11 on the Facilitator DP and 5 on the Technical DP) were moving through the programme. These mentees and graduates include Planning Officers from Centers for Species Survival at Parque das Aves (CSS: Brazil), Fundacion Tamaiken (CSS: Argentina), Georgia Aquarium (CSS: Marine), Mandai Nature (CSS: South-East Asia), and the Morton Arboretum (CSS: Trees).

T-010 Demonstrate a scaling up of effective species conservation planning occurring globally. (KSR 8)

Number of species benefiting from conservation plans: 0

Result description: An annual survey of trainee's application of learning to their work, and in particular to species conservation planning, is in place. Results from the survey will be collated in 2025.

Periodic assessments of the impacts of this planning work on the status of the species covered by these plans developed: Achieved.

Result description: CPSG's internal monitoring system will track any change in species status linked to plans produced by individuals on our mentorship programme and those who have graduated.

Customized training programs developed for national governments: Achieved.

Result description: Mentoring of Natural England staff continued this year through their inclusion as facilitators in national planning workshops designed to develop recommendations to central government on the future for Species Conservation Strategies.

T-011 Establish a professional learning network of species conservation planners, enabling the ongoing capacity growth and the development and refinement of planning guidelines, tools, and processes. (KSR 8)

CPSG-Connect network providing a platform on which a community of planning practice can be developed: 0

Result description: An Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant secured by CPSG in 2023 allowed us to create a new network of AZA-specific trainees and establish monthly ‘planning clinics’ for mentees on a dedicated mentorship programme that sits in addition to CPSG’s core mentorship Development Path programme. Work continued on this in 2024 building further capacity and providing further planning support to US Zoos and Aquariums within the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) membership. More than 30% of programme staff from within AZA Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) programmes received training and further individuals received mentorship culminating in the development of conservation plans for multiple species. Mentees supported by this programme were supported through dedicated, monthly planning clinics throughout the year.

T-013 Support national commitments to achieving biodiversity targets by providing direct species conservation planning and capacity-building support to national governments and indigenous communities. (KSR 8)

A strategy for supporting Species Conservation Planning Focal Points within Taxon and National Species Specialist Groups in their planning work: Ongoing.

Result description: In addition to the CSS onboarding materials previously prepared and in use, onboarding materials are being drafted for Specialist Group Planning Focal Points.

T-015 Maintain suitable systems for evaluating the impact of conservation planning on species. (KSR 8)

Track and evaluate short and medium term impacts on species: Achieved.

Result description: In addition to immediate post-planning surveys of planning participants, a survey to gather data on three and ten year downstream impacts of planning has been developed, tested, and is ready for use across the network in 2025.

T-017 Explore the assembly and integration of an expanded body of information that enhances the species conservation planning process. (KSR 8)

Develop a specific case study that offers opportunities for creating an expanded information set for enhanced planning: Achieved.

Result description: We are continuing to expand our set of experiences with applying enhanced planning through data integration. We are in the early stages of carrying out a case study with the nosa’ Luta or Rota white eye in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, focusing on assessing risk of introduction to the island of the invasive brown tree snake -- a major threat to nosa’ Luta persistence on this island.

T-018 Collaborate with appropriate information sources to implement and promote open and accessible data sharing for enhanced species conservation planning. (KSR 8)

Identify potential obstacles to integrating diverse sources of information and data: Achieved.

Result description: CPSG is now formally collaborating with Saint Louis Zoo’s WildCare Center to establish the Biocomplexity Incubator. This initiative involves active participation by other institutions within the great St. Louis area, including University of Missouri - St. Louis and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Through this collaboration, we are applying the fundamental principles of biocomplexity in the context of endangered species conservation planning.

T-019 Collaborate with the information technology community and other sectors where appropriate to construct new tools and methods for interdisciplinary data assembly and analysis. (KSR 8)

Number of guidelines published for using diverse datasets in multidisciplinary conservation planning processes: 1

Result description: We remain in contact with experts in the potential for application of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the conservation planning space.

T-020 Threatened species that need a conservation plan are covered by a conservation plan. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans designed per year: 25

Result description: In 2024, CPSG carried out over 25 planning projects covering more than 421 species. These were collaborative initiatives involving other Specialist Groups, IUCN Regional Offices, NGOs, government agencies and academia. Though there remain many species of conservation concern that could benefit from SSC planning, all requests to CPSG for planning assistance were met with support during the quadrennium.

Acknowledgements

The finances of CPSG are managed by the Global Conservation Network, a USA nonprofit charity (TIN 41-1719362) whose mission is to support the conservation work of CPSG. An enormous thank you to our mighty family of donors and partners who make everything that we do possible! Additional thanks to the CPSG HQ staff, Regional Resource Centres, Strategic Committee, and GCN Board Members. Together we continue to make progress towards our shared goal of all species that need plans being covered by effective implemented plans and as a result reversing the decline in threatened species.

Summary of achievements

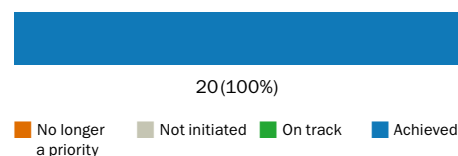
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 20

Geographic regions: 20 Global

Actions during 2024–2025:

Plan: 25 (KSR 8)

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 acoreesins*)
Photo: Paulo A.V. Borges



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