



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:

Obura, D, and Cabada-Blanco, F. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Coral 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 Coral Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
24

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES
Instagram: @coralspecialistgroup
X: @coralspecgroup

Mission statement

The IUCN Coral Specialist Group brings together leading scientists, practitioners and conservationists under the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Reflecting the vast diversity of coral reefs, their importance to people in so many ways and the imminent threat to their very existence from climate change and human uses, the Group has a broad ecosystem and conservation focus. Our combined knowledge contributes to inform society and policy makers to take science-based action.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Update the Red List of Threatened reef-building corals and the Coral Red List Index. This, in order to contribute to policy and decision-making processes that culminate in 2021 with major global events relevant to coral reefs, oceans and climate, and to align the actions of diverse coral reef stakeholders around the world.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Complete assessment of Red List status of reef-building corals.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-008 Identify regional conservation priorities for Scleractinia corals and build a blueprint to improve their status.
Status: On track

ACT

T-001 Update global policy with the extinction status of reef-building corals.
Status: On track

T-006 Promote the production of biodiversity data at the species level for reef-building corals, by facilitating the adoption of new technologies among the Group's members.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-002 Recruit at least 10 new members by 2022.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Increase availability and mobilisation of biodiversity data on reef-building corals by promoting and fostering the use of open data information systems for coral reefs.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Train new Group members as Red List assessors within early 2021.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Organise three public/international presentations to communicate the conservation work/Red List assessment results of the IUCN Coral Specialist Group.
Status: Achieved

T-011 Develop a website to communicate the IUCN SSC Coral Specialist Group's mission, actions, and achievements.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024–2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-004 Complete assessment of Red List status of reef-building corals. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 643

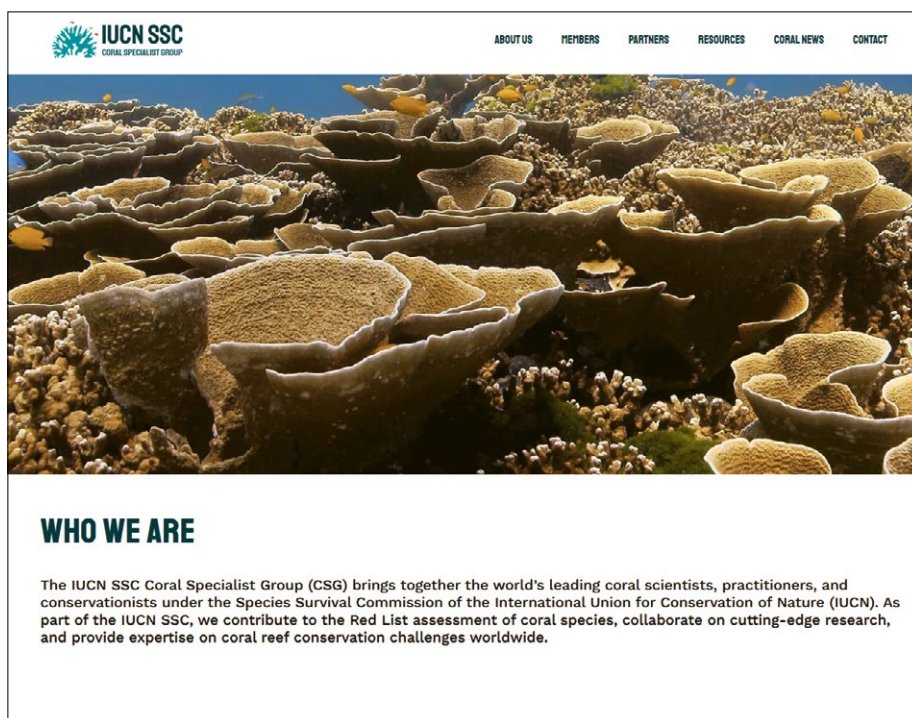
Result description: All 892 reef-building corals assessment updates were published, along with 22 cold-water corals in November, 2024.

PLAN

Planning

T-008 Identify regional conservation priorities for Scleractinia corals and build a blueprint to improve their status. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0



New website for the Coral Specialist Group completed
Photo: Coral SG

Result description: Small progress through 2024, but are working with the Global Centre for Species Survival and are advancing on setting a new Coral-focused CSS with the Florida Aquarium to accelerate progress for this target and other identified priorities for 2025-2029.

ACT

Technical advice

T-001 Update global policy with the extinction status of reef-building corals. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: A summary paper has now been published for the results of the updated Red List assessments for the Atlantic reef-building coral species and the Group is currently working on the Indo-Pacific and Global one, led by David Obura. The IUCN Brief on corals is also being updated.

NETWORK

Membership

T-009 Train new group members as Red List assessors within early 2021. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 5

Result description: Between 2021 and 2024 approximately 40 experts completed

the Red List of threatened species training online through conservationtraining.org.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-005 Organise three public/international presentations to communicate the conservation work/Red List assessment results of the IUCN Coral Specialist Group. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 15

Result description: Continuous communication on conservation and research work focused on corals, and activities of the Group have been communicated through the Group's LinkedIn page with increased engagement metrics.

T-011 Develop a website to communicate the IUCN SSC Coral Specialist Group's mission, actions, and achievements. (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 1

Result description: A [new website](#) for the Group has been created.

[SSC Grant awarded]

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the support provided by the Global Center for Species Survival, the Red List Unit, the Chair's Office and our members. We would also like to thank Fly & Dive for their work on communication and, as always, the support of CORDIO EA, Arizona State University and the University of Portsmouth as home institutions for our core team.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2024-2025:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

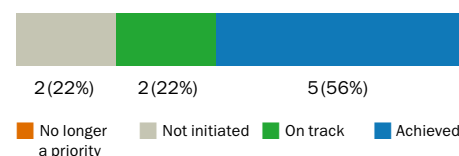
Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (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