



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:

Guillemain, M. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Duck 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 Duck Specialist Group



CHAIR
Matthieu Guillemain
Office Français de la
Biodiversité, France

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
28

Mission statement

The Duck Specialist Group (DSG) works to generate and disseminate knowledge and best practice between members and others with an interest in duck conservation and management, and to ensure priority issues for duck conservation are identified and addressed.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Keep an open register of current research and monitoring programs by DSG members — review former project description sheets and compile new projects.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-006 Provide information on the population trends, distribution ecology, technical equipment issues, e.g. satellite tagging, habitat requirements and behaviour of duck species to address conservation issues as they arise.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Fostering of communication among DSG Members via the new email-list DuckSpecialistGroup@groups.io.
Status: On track

T-002 Support young duck scientists' attendance to the 7th Pan-European Duck Symposium, Sweden, August 2025.
Status: Achieved

T-003 Organise in-person meeting of the DSG members during Pan-European Duck Symposium in Sweden in 2025.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Consider reviving the former DSG *Bulletin* as an e-bulletin.
Status: Not initiated

T-007 Update and maintain new DSG website, social media, and other related platforms to increase visibility and awareness about conservation importance and status of ducks globally.
Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Research activities

T-004 Keep an open register of current research and monitoring programs by DSG members — review former project description sheets and compile new projects.
(KSR 5)

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

Result description: A review of the duck projects registered was conducted in Q2 of 2024 and it was determined that several projects were dated and newer projects needed to be added. This register will now be circulated across the DSG membership in a bid to update it and facilitate tracking of relevant duck projects globally.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-002 Support young duck scientists' attendance to the 7th Pan-European Duck Symposium, Sweden, August 2025. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in other fields: 3

Result description: Three students have been selected among those competing for



the “Richard Hearn Student Travel Award”. Grants to be awarded during the congress in August, 2025.

Membership

T-001 Fostering of communication among DSG Members via the new email-list DuckSpecialistGroup@groups.io. (KSR 3)

Number and frequency of group information updates and news articles shared through new email-list: 4

Result description: Following the passing of the previous Chair, the Interim Co-Chairs conducted a DSG membership audit around the second quarter of 2024 and also setup a new listserv and migrated all active and interested members to the new listserv to foster continued communication among DSG members. In the first quarter of 2025, the new listserv was in operation and we are now encouraging the members currently registered on the listserv but not on the IUCN platform to do so. Several members have encountered some difficulty with registering on the IUCN platform.

T-003 Organise in-person meeting of the DSG members during Pan-European Duck Symposium in Sweden in 2025. (KSR 3)

Number and frequency of group meetings: 1

Result description: An in-person DSG workshop on international cooperation is scheduled to hold on the first day of the Pan European Duck Symposium in August, 2025 in Sweden.

Acknowledgements

The DSG is grateful to Richard Hearn for herding the group as a great Chair over many years until he passed away in early 2024. The duck community owes him a lot. Kane Brides and the WWT are thanked for their support and interim management of DSG affairs following the passing of Richard. Kane acted as an interim Co-Chair along with Matthieu Guillemain before Matt’s official appointment as the new DSG Chair.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

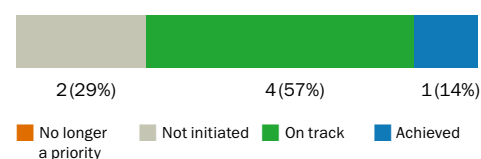
Geographic regions: 7 Global

Actions during 2024-2025:

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 3)

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