



Species

ISSUE 65

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



Stand-alone report

IUCN SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee

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:

Contreras MacBeath, T, and Harrison, I. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Freshwater Conservation Committee. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 10 pp

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

X: [@FW_Conservation](#)



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Conservation
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

15

Mission statement

To raise the profile of freshwater biodiversity by (1) coordinating freshwater species conservation activities through the SSC, highlighting emerging patterns and ensuring that increasing attention is given to issues concerning freshwater biodiversity conservation; (2) making freshwater recommendations to the SSC based on the work of the Freshwater Conservation Committee, and ensuring that freshwater species conservation issues are well represented within the SSC and the wider IUCN, and (3) assisting the SSC by providing authority and credibility in its engagement with policy processes and major freshwater related events.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Through contributions to freshwater Red List assessments and subsequent analyses –via linkage with freshwater-relevant Specialist Groups – the patterns of global threats to freshwater species will have been defined and the priorities for conservation, geographically as well as taxonomically, identified; communication, fundraising and action to conserve those species are underway; implement guidance

for the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) such that freshwater habitats and species are included in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-006 Identify how/where Red List assessment data are being used by Specialist Groups.

Status: On track

PLAN

T-008 Review habitats, taxa and possibly geographical regions which are under-represented, set them as priorities, and address these gaps.

Status: On track

T-009 Identify new projects where the Freshwater Conservation Committee can either directly engage with, or otherwise promote, freshwater conservation.

Status: On track

ACT

T-007 Identify priorities for the development of new freshwater action plans, with a view to developing conservation action.

Status: On track

T-010 Develop a programme of conservation evidence to show where there has been freshwater conservation success, and why.

Status: On track

T-013 Promote freshwater conservation initiatives.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-003 Broaden the membership of the Freshwater Conservation Committee to include younger members familiar with new social media technologies.

Status: On track

T-004 Identify and work with IUCN Commission Specialist Groups, Task Forces and Committees in Commissions to share information on mutual objectives in freshwater, and ensure these objectives are well linked and build off each other.

Status: On track

T-005 Promote freshwater outputs from SSC.

Status: On track

T-011 Coordinate with key institutions and initiatives in identifying priorities for action, project development, fundraising, technical communications, etc.

Status: On track



T-012 Ensure freshwater ecosystems are adequately represented in international, national and regional policies.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Develop and implement a communication strategy about the importance of freshwater biodiversity globally.

Status: On track

T-002 Communicate the importance of freshwater biodiversity globally to different audiences.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-006 Identify how/where Red List assessment data are being used by Specialist Groups. (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 0

Result description: As noted in 2023, the completion of the Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment has provided an important platform to investigate how those data are being used by Specialist Groups and what

opportunities for further application are now possible through the completion of the global assessments. As noted in Target 005, we are reviewing possible studies for future publication. The ongoing work to review the freshwater targets of the SSC Specialist Groups (see Target 004) will also highlight where Specialist Groups are currently using, or intend to use, the Red List assessment data. The FCC members have agreed that it will be important to identify where assessments are out of date and need to be updated, and to identify those taxonomic groups where assessments are incomplete and address these gaps, e.g., freshwater plants and molluscs, and add new groups, e.g., fungi, sponges. The FCC members also recommend that we provide feedback for IUCN Secretariat's proposed update to the Red List classifications, which will include: (i) update of Threats classification scheme; (ii) development of a guidance document on most serious threats (for testing guidelines); (iii) climate change information, and provision of climate change scenarios. Members of FCC and collaborators are working on spin-off publications from the main Red List assessment paper on 'One-quarter of freshwater fauna threatened with extinction' by Sayer *et al.* published in *Nature*. These

include analyses of Red List data for the effect of climate change of freshwater fish and fisheries (*in prep.*, in collaboration with Secretariat); comparison of freshwater biodiversity data to areas of high carbon value (in planning); analyses of spatial and species-based priorities to conserve the global phylogenetic diversity of inland waters (in planning).

PLAN

Planning

T-008 Review habitats, taxa and possibly geographical regions which are under-represented, set them as priorities, and address these gaps. (KSR 8)

Number of Assess to Plan (A2P) species assessments completed: 0

Result description: We have not made significant progress on this target in 2024 but expect that the results of the Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment for the Red List will help identify new areas for potential A2P planning. We also hope to make further progress on this target through collaborations with SSC Centers for Species Survival, and by contributing to their regional interests. In 2024 Shedd Aquarium's 'Center for Species Survival: Freshwater' announced

that it will be conducting a project on 'Mapping of Biodiversity and Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation Efforts in Central America', in collaboration with the SSC and the Freshwater Conservation Committee. The project will also help develop the foundations for a Mesoamerican Alliance for the Conservation of Freshwater Species and Ecosystems (see Target 011). Recommendation from FCC members that we draw on our members' existing publications to help support these studies on developing conservation plans and action. Also note that outputs on new or developing projects currently listed under Network Targets will be moved under this Target in the next quadrennium.

T-009 Identify new projects where the Freshwater Conservation Committee can either directly engage with, or otherwise promote, freshwater conservation. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: As noted in Target 005, during 2024 FCC members have been contributing to planning an IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy, and we have been assisting in developing Green Status Assessments for some freshwater species (see Target 005). At the 2024 SSC Leaders Meeting in October in Abu Dhabi we also identified some other new projects, some of which are already under development and others will be reported in 2025. Projects under development include: (i) a review of freshwater related targets of SSC Specialist Groups (see Target 004); (ii) possible development of a Task Force on conservation of springs and pools (see Target 004), and (iii) a review of conservation evidence of the success of freshwater conservation initiatives (see Target 010). Committee member Tiasa Adhya developed a course on 'Wetland ecology, biodiversity and conservation', focused on South and Southeast Asia, in collaboration with the Committee in 2023; participants in the course received

a certificate of completion from the Freshwater Conservation Committee, and in 2024 started planning the development of a similar course for South America.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-007 Identify priorities for the development of new freshwater action plans, with a view to developing conservation action. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: As noted in Target 009, Committee member Tiasa Adhya developed a course on 'Wetland ecology, biodiversity and conservation', focused on South and Southeast Asia, in collaboration with the Committee in 2023. This included the development of draft conservation action plan documents by [course participants](#). As noted in Target 008, Shedd Aquarium's 'Center for Species Survival: Freshwater' announced that it will be conducting a project on 'Mapping of Biodiversity and Freshwater Ecosystem Conservation Efforts in Central America', in collaboration with the SSC and the Freshwater Conservation Committee. Also, as noted in Target 008, the results of the Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment for the Red List will help identify new areas for potential A2P planning.

T-010 Develop a programme of conservation evidence to show where there has been freshwater conservation success, and why. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: FCC member Phil Boon has made an initial review of freshwater related information in the online database developed by the [Conservation Evidence Group](#) based in Cambridge and the FCC will request a call with the Conservation Evidence Group to discuss this further. At the SSC Leaders Meeting in October, 2024 several FCC members agreed to collaborate on a manuscript providing further review of evidence of effective conservation

of freshwater ecosystems; Phil Boon is leading on the development of a paper. Some FCC members have also been asked to review the Conservation Evidence Group's synopsis of global evidence from scientific literature on the effects of conservation actions for freshwater fishes.

T-013 Promote freshwater conservation initiatives. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 0

Result description: As noted in Target 005, FCC members have provided input to the development of a Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy for IUCN. Also noted in Targets 008 and 011, members of the FCC and Shedd Aquarium's 'Center for Species Survival: Freshwater' have been working on developing a Mesoamerican Alliance for the Conservation of Freshwater Species, and are working on a project to map biodiversity and freshwater ecosystem conservation efforts in Central America. Some members of the FCC continue to collaborate on the [Freshwater Challenge](#), a country-led initiative that aims to support, integrate and accelerate the restoration of 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million ha of degraded wetlands by 2030. At the 2024 SSC Leaders Meeting in October, FCC members discussed the possibility of making a review of existing freshwater conservation initiatives, such as Alliance for Freshwater Life, and identify gaps in the current spectrum of initiatives.

NETWORK

Membership

T-003 Broaden the membership of the Freshwater Conservation Committee to include younger members familiar with new social media technologies. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: We have added Chouly Ou from Re:wild/Shoal Conservation and Priya Ranganathan from ATREE to join the FCC. Members of FCC agree we also expect to bring in representatives from

other freshwater themed Specialist Groups, e.g. Sponge Specialist Group, Amphibian Specialist Group, who have stated an interest in contributing to the FCC, and IUCN Centers for Species Survival, e.g. Dublin, Georgia. The FCC recommendation is that we do not overexpand the membership beyond what it is now, to avoid the logistic and administrative complexities that come with a much larger group. We can also look into developing thematic subgroups within the FCC where necessary, and identify potential FCC members to lead these subgroups. New members should focus on biodiversity (species and ecosystems) and should not be expanded to include experts from other sectors, such as agriculture, water management, etc., which is something we have previously considered. For those other sectors we should identify potential experts that we can reach out to periodically for advice, but who we do not need to have as FCC members.

Synergy

T-004 Identify and work with IUCN Commission Specialist Groups, Task Forces, and Committees in Commissions to share information on mutual objectives in freshwater, and ensure these objectives are well linked and build off each other. (KSR 3)

Number of collaborations: 0

Result description: While this still remains a priority for the Freshwater Conservation Committee (FCC), we have not been as active in this networking as we were in 2023. In 2023 we had several calls across the SSC network to discuss freshwater species priorities for SSC; in 2024 we have not had the chance to advance this so much. However, members of the FCC include Chairs of other Specialist Groups, i.e. Freshwater Plant Specialist Group; Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group; Mayfly Stonefly, and Caddisfly Specialist Group; Global Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Sampling Protocols Task Force, and we look for opportunities to network with those groups, share objectives and develop collaborations. Members of the FCC have

existing strong links with the Global Center for Species Survival, and the Centers for Species Survival at Albuquerque BioPark and Shedd Aquarium. Shedd Aquarium's 'Center for Species Survival: Freshwater' collaborated with FCC in contributing to the IUCN Mesoamerican Regional Conservation Forum in Mexico City in April, 2024 and in arranging a virtual satellite event for the 2024 World Species Congress, focused on 'Towards a Mesoamerican Alliance for the Conservation of Freshwater Species'. At the SSC Leaders Group meeting in October 2024, we held freshwater networking meetings attended by representatives from other Centers for Species Survival – Dublin Zoo, Georgia Aquarium, and Paradise Wildlife Park – and will look for ways to strengthen our links with these Centers in the next quadrennium. Sessions at the SSC Leaders Meeting in October included broader discussions about networking, including recommendations for: (i) making a review of all targets for SSC Specialist Groups that have a freshwater interest, and identifying areas of common interest and potential collaboration, currently underway, being led by Freshwater Plant SG Co-Chair Richard Lansdown, and (ii) development of a Task Force on conservation of springs and pools, currently under discussion, being led by Chouly Ou (Shoal Conservation) and John Simaika (Chair of SSC Task Force on Global Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Sampling Protocols). At the SSC Leaders Meeting we also discussed the possibility of creating a new Specialist Group on water beetles. There are close links between the FCC and the WCPA Freshwater Specialists Group and we have continued to work together on freshwater protection documents, including the WCPA report on '[Designing and managing protected and conserved areas to support inland water ecosystems and biodiversity](#)' and a document on '[Inland Waters in NBSAP targets, indicators, and activities](#)'. Members of the FCC continue to work with members of the SSC Marine Conservation Commission and WCPA

Freshwater Specialist Group to promote the 'aquascapes' concept, i.e. source-to-sea approaches for aquatic conservation, through a presentation at the World Species Congress and a session at the SSC Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi in October. Members of FCC and Marine Conservation Committee have also been in discussion with the CEM Fisheries Expert Group who are leading the development of a Task Force to "reconcile fisheries and conservation that ... involves all IUCN Commissions and all IUCN Regions" as stipulated in IUCN 2020 Resolution 107, although there has not been significant progress on this during 2024. The FCC members Ian Harrison and Felix Feider continue to co-lead the development of an SSC/WCPA Inter-commissional Task Force on Dams; the development of this Task Force has been slowed by commitments to other global events such as MEA COPS, but it will resume in 2025. Members of FCC have contributed to discussions on developing a new IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy (see Target 005) which has included SSC, CEM, WCPA representatives.

T-005 Promote freshwater outputs from SSC. (KSR 3)

Freshwater issues considered: 0%

Result description: FCC members have provided input to the development of a Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy for IUCN, designed to mobilise all parts of the Union and led by the Secretariat and in consultation with Commissions and IUCN Members. The strategy will help to design, secure finance for, and implement a shared agenda that addresses the global crisis in the loss of freshwater species and ecosystems. It will also set the framework and implementation arrangements for coordinated and demonstrable action to safeguard and restore freshwater biodiversity by IUCN members, Commissions and Secretariat as a key element of the 2025-2029 Programme. The FCC contributed to a workshop held in the Netherlands in June, 2024, that

mapped the pathways that can create change in the identified primary themes for freshwater conservation, discussed avenues for resource mobilization, identified how and where IUCN can contribute to changes along the pathways, and where IUCN can influence others to drive change. The preliminary results have been presented to the IUCN's Programme and Policy Committee, and the final Strategy will be prepared for presentation to IUCN Council prior to the 2025 World Conservation Congress. At the SSC Leaders meeting in October FCC members started to identify themes for potential Motions and/or side events to be submitted for the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2025. Currently work has developed on two Motions: Springs under threat: mobilising urgent action for neglected freshwater systems (led by Chouly Ou; Shoal Conservation and Re:wild); Scaling Collaborative Action for Threatened Freshwater Fishes Through *Ex Situ* Conservation (led by Tim Lyons - Albuquerque BioPark). Other Motions expected for development will be focused on Inland Fisheries, Aquascapes, IUCN's Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy, The Freshwater Challenge, and Tracking global river conservation. Further updates on development Motions and Congress sessions will be given in FCC's 2025 report. Another focus has been on the promotion of freshwater outputs from SSC has been through the preparation of the publication in *Nature* of the Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment, including the development of complementary projects and publication that use the data. These latter have included application of the data to impacts of climate change on inland fish and fisheries (with USGS); comparison of biodiversity data with areas of carbon storage (with Conservation International); comparison of biodiversity data with spatial data on freshwater protections (still in early development, with TNC). Members of the FCC also promoted our work through sessions at the 2024 World Species Congress and

associated regional side events such as the session led by FCC and Shedd Aquarium's 'Center for Species Survival: Freshwater' on 'Towards a Mesoamerican Alliance for the Conservation of Freshwater Species' (see also Target 004). Members of FCC have contributed to blogs about our work, e.g. on World Wetlands Day and the SSC funded freshwater work on Socotra; and on the Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment, on the website of the Global Center for Species Survival. Members of the FCC have continued to work with the IUCN Secretariat and partners on developing IUCN Green Status Assessments for a small selection of freshwater species, starting with 10 freshwater species from the five-priority freshwater taxonomic groups for the Red List assessments – wetland-dependent plants, molluscs, decapod crustaceans, odonates, and fishes.

As for the first quarter of 2025, FCC members contributed to the development of eight draft motions for the 2025 World Conservation Congress: S022 Springs under threat: mobilising urgent action for neglected freshwater systems; S072 Advancing and tracking global river conservation to meet biodiversity and climate goals; S073 Scaling Collaborative Action for Threatened Freshwater Fishes Through *Ex Situ* Conservation; S075 Activating Sustainable Management of Inland Fisheries; S084 Implementing an Aquascape approach to conservation of fresh and saline water ecosystems; S097 Promoting IUCN's Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy, and its Science Tools Submitted; S140 Promoting the Freshwater Challenge; and S166 Living in Harmony with Rivers Through the Rights of Nature and Ecocentric Law. The FCC contributed to the development of nine proposals for Forum sessions at the 2025 World Conservation Congress: 'Advancing and tracking global river conservation to meet biodiversity and climate goals'; 'Implementing an Aquascape approach to conservation of

fresh, transitional and saline water ecosystems'; 'Dams in a social-ecological ecosystem approach to freshwater conservation'; 'Earth Jurisprudence and the Rights of Nature: Transformative Solutions for Communities and Courts'; 'Bending the Curve of Freshwater Biodiversity Loss'; 'Safeguarding Springs: mobilising urgent actions for overlooked freshwater ecosystems'; 'The SHOAL 1000 Fishes Blueprint: scaling up urgent conservation action for the world's most threatened freshwater fishes'; 'New data for identifying the nexus for conservation of freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem carbon', and 'Freshwater Fauna Red List Assessments'. The FCC member Richard Lansdown is leading on a review of freshwater related targets of SSC Specialist Groups and others, to identify areas of synergy and to make recommendations for priorities of freshwater work within IUCN. Richard Lansdown has completed the initial compilation of data. Some discussions have been conducted on (i) a review of global initiatives on freshwater conservation, and (ii) an analysis of how new technologies may be applied to and help promote freshwater conservation. The FCC have also been engaged in promoting the results of the paper on 'One-quarter of freshwater fauna threatened with extinction' by Sayer *et al.* published in *Nature*, through multiple national and international media outlets online and via radio and television.

T-011 Coordinate with key institutions and initiatives in identifying priorities for action, project development, fundraising, technical communications, etc. (KSR 3)

Number of collaborations: 0

Result description: FCC members have provided input to the development of a Freshwater Biodiversity Strategy for IUCN (see target 005). As noted for Targets 004 and 005, Members of the FCC and Shedd Aquarium's – 'Center for Species Survival: Freshwater' arranged a virtual satellite event for the 2024 World Species Congress, focused on

The Little butterfly of the swamp (*Lepidopterella palustris*), a species of freshwater fungus included in the Fantastic Freshwater report
Photo: Carol Shearer and Huzefa Raja



'Towards a Mesoamerican Alliance for the Conservation of Freshwater Species'. Several potential priorities for future action of the FCC were discussed at the October 2024 SSC Leaders meeting and subsequent actions will be included in the 2025 reports from the FCC. The FCC also collaborated with Shoal/Rewild on the '[1000 fishes' blueprint' initiative](#)' to accelerate action for world's most threatened freshwater fishes. This initiative was launched on June 12 with the participation of several FCC members, who will collaborate with this initiative in the following years.

T-012 Ensure freshwater ecosystems are adequately represented in international, national and regional policies. (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 0
Result description: In 2024, several FCC members helped plan and moderate freshwater sessions focused on freshwater species and ecosystem conservation and protection, as well as helping prepare documents highlighting key freshwater messages for the Global Biodiversity Framework. Members of FCC present also worked closely with countries to promote their support for inclusion of freshwater related metrics for the restoration (Target 2), and protection (Target 3) of ecosystems, and for the inclusion of conservation of inland fisheries as part of Targets 5 and 10. Prior to the COP 16, Shedd Aquarium's – 'Center for Species Survival:

Freshwater', in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee, presented an interactive session on 'Efforts and Challenges in Freshwater Conservation under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework' at the IV Latin American and Caribbean Congress of the Society for Conservation Biology. The FCC also contributed to sessions at the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals COP 14. The FCC was also consulted by the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel for their advice on gathering reliable animal population for application to Ramsar criterion 9 for identifying Ramsar sites: "A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species". This included a request for recommendations on how Ramsar should engage with the relevant Specialist Groups to finalise listings. Information supplied by FCC colleagues has been included in the Draft Ramsar resolution document 23.12 'Draft resolution on the application of Criteria 6 and 9 to new and existing Wetlands of International Importance'. In the first quarter of 2025, FCC provided input to the UN Water 2026 Public Stakeholder Consultation recommending that Theme 3 on 'Water for Climate, Resilience and

Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction' ensures cross-reference to SDG 15.1 and the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services. The FCC recognise that, in the future, this target should include two components: (i) tracking the actions of different countries on global freshwater policy, to the extent that our resources allow; and working with IUCN member organizations who are focusing on this; and (ii) developing guidance and recommendations that can help shape development of better freshwater policy, e.g. through the development of our own position statements on specific aspects of freshwater policy, and through contributing to other documents and initiatives such as the Global Species Action Plan. This work on policy will include but not be limited to CBD, Ramsar, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, CMS and the Plastics Treaty. It will require FCC members to have a consistent presence in these policy discussions, at least to the extent to which our capacity allows.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-001 Develop and implement a communication strategy about the importance of freshwater biodiversity globally. (KSR 13)

A communication Strategy for Freshwater Species Developed: 0



Merganser (*Mergus merganser*) with chicks,
Hulunbuir, China
Photo: Topiltzin Contreras

Result description: As noted for 2023, we have not developed a formal communication strategy, so this target is not technically 'On track'. We have developed communications about our work via the Indianapolis Zoo - Global Center for Species Survival's blog site. The publications and products that we expect in 2025 from the Global Freshwater Fauna Assessment will be very important resources for promoting a deeper communications strategy; the Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge Team at the IUCN Secretariat are developing a comprehensive dissemination plan for this information. Recommendations from SSC Leaders Meeting in October 2024 included plans for developing a new website.

T-002 Communicate the importance of freshwater biodiversity globally to different audiences. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: Members of the FCC attended the CBD COP 16 in Colombia in October, 2024 and collaborated on side events promoting freshwater conservation to government representatives, NGOs and members of the public. Members of FCC also promoted our work through sessions and virtual side events at the 2024 World Species Congress (see also Target 005). This included several satellite events run by participants of the course on 'Wetlands Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation', led by FCC member Tiasa Adhya and with collaboration from the SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee, featuring music, art competitions, and panel discussions on several wetland species

and their ecosystems. The outputs are all recorded and [available online](#). Members of the FCC also collaborated with WWF and members of the Freshwater Fish Specialist Group in the development and review of their document on '[The Mekong's Forgotten Fishes](#)'. By the first quarter of 2025, FCC members have promoted the paper on 'One-quarter of freshwater fauna threatened with extinction' by Sayer *et al.* published in *Nature*, through multiple national and international media outlets online and via radio and television. We have identified two 'success story' topics to post to the 'Success Story' part of SSC Data.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful for the expertise and support of Dr Monni Böhm (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, Global Center for Species Survival). Ian Harrison is grateful to the support of Synchronicity Earth.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 13

Geographic regions: 13 Global

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

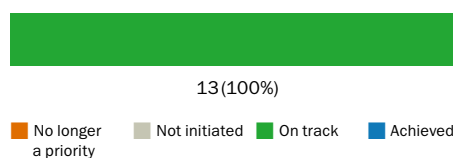
Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 5 (KSR 2, 3, 4)

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