



# 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:

McGowan, P. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force. 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 Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force



**CHAIR**  
**Philip McGowan**  
Newcastle University,  
UK

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
23

### Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Global Biodiversity Framework Task Force aims to provide a focus and leadership on species issues in the Kunming- Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), through coordination with the IUCN Secretariat. The Task Force seeks to do this by collating inputs and views from across the SSC network and providing scientific and technical expertise on species-related target(s).

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-003** Continue assessment of species inputs needed into the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. indicators and communication.  
St: Achieved

**T-004** Assess needs that will enhance the implementation of the species components of the Kunming-Montréal Global

Biodiversity Framework, e.g. capacity building, research, communication, access to expertise.

Status: Achieved

#### PLAN

**T-005** Work with IUCN to promote the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric as a planning tool for countries, and other actors, to plan how to reduce species extinction risk.

Status: On track

**T-008** Develop indicator for Target 4 on ensuring urgent management actions.

Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-009** Provide analysis of text on species elements in Global Biodiversity Framework (Goal A and Target 4).

Status: Achieved

#### NETWORK

**T-001** Secure support for network coordination.

Status: Achieved

**T-002** Refresh Task Force, with a view to Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation, and widening the membership to include early career species conservationists.

Status: On track

### COMMUNICATE

**T-006** Continual communication with the IUCN Secretariat and attendance at CBD meetings.

Status: On track

**T-007** Assess the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework and analyse and communicate elements related to Goal A and species-relevant targets and indicators.

Status: On track

### Activities and results 2024-2025

#### ASSESS

##### Communication

**T-003** Continue assessment of species inputs needed into the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. indicators and communication. (KSR 5)

Contributions to IUCN's overall Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework positions and statements, and to CBD meetings: Achieved.

Result description: Whilst the main part of this Target was completed at CoP15 in December, 2015, it is now apparent that there is need for work on a meaningful indicator to measure the implementation of 'urgent management action' in Target 4. We are now beginning this work.

## Policy

**T-004 Assess needs that will enhance the implementation of the species components of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. capacity building, research, communication, access to expertise.** (KSR 5)

Internal assessment for Task Force and wider SSC and IUCN: Achieved.

Result description: Following CoP16, the first CoP since the Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted, it is the needs that Parties, and other actors, have are becoming clearer. We will then intend to revise our assessment of capacity building needs, in collaboration with other partners working to implement species elements of the KMGBF.

## PLAN

### Planning

**T-005 Work with IUCN to promote Species Threat Abatement and Restoration as a planning tool for countries to plan how to reduce species extinction risk.** (KSR 8)

Number of plans invited/endorsed by national governments/conservation authorities: 0

Result description: We have continued to make progress in working with Parties to demonstrate the value of the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric in their strategic approaches to reducing extinction risk. We have concentrated our efforts on a handful of Small Island Developing States, and in assessing the utility of the approach in different contexts. We are working with colleagues across IUCN and are also developing relationships with non-State actors, e.g. business, to develop planning approaches for them to contribute to national efforts to reduce species extinction risk.

## Policy

**T-008 Develop indicator for Target 4 on ensuring urgent management actions.** (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 0

Result description: The need for an indicator to allow understanding of progress under Target 4 – identification of species needing urgent management action, action

being initiated, benefit to species of action, etc. – are now clear. We are establishing the conceptual basis of the need, to guide any indicator, tools or guidance that will be required.

## ACT

### Conservation actions

**T-009 Provide analysis of text on species elements in Global Biodiversity Framework (Goal A and Target 4).** (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: This activity has been completed, with the publication of:

McGowan, PJK, *et al.* (2024).

‘[Understanding and achieving species elements in the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)’. *Bioscience*, 74(9):614-623. The paper works through each term relevant to species in Goal A and Target 4 of the Global Biodiversity Framework and assesses what they mean, and any implications for implementation.

## NETWORK

### Membership

**T-001 Secure support for network coordination.** (KSR 2)

Increased capacity of the Task Force: Achieved.

Result description: The support from Newcastle University has now finished and we are looking for new support.

**T-002 Refresh Task Force, with a view to Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework implementation, and widening the membership to include early career species conservationists.** (KSR 3)

Number of policy-engaged members: 15

Result description: We continue to refresh the Task Force, and are revising our way of working. A key is for a new co-ordinator.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

**T-006 Continual communication with the IUCN Secretariat and attendance at CBD meetings.** (KSR 12)

Contributions to IUCN position papers and responses to consultations: Ongoing.

Result description: The Task Force was on the IUCN delegation for three of the four main CBD meetings held during 2024 (SBSTTA 26, SBI4 and CoP16) playing a full role in following negotiations. running side events and engaging with Parties and other actors. We also contributed to all requests for inputs to position papers.

**T-007 Assess the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and analyse and communicate elements related to Goal A and species-relevant targets and indicators.** (KSR 12)

Number of scientific publications on KMGBF: 0

Result description: The Global Biodiversity Framework should be “understood, acted upon, implemented, reported and evaluated, consistent with” 18 Considerations that appear in Section C of the Framework. These should be fundamental to implementation and reporting on the GBF and we have begun work on communicating the importance of these Considerations, especially those that are more transformative, such as recognising diverse values and worldviews, and the contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. A pre-print has been published and a manuscript is in review.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 9

**Geographic regions:** 8 Global, 1 Europe

**Actions during 2024–2025:**

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

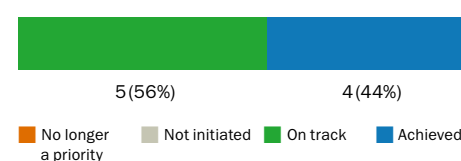
Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12)

**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