



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:

Juffe Bignoli, D, and Lamoreux, J. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the KBA Standards and Appels Committee. 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 KBA Standards and Appeals Committee



CO-CHAIR
Diego Juffe Bignoli

Biodiversity Decisions,
A Coruña, Galicia,
Spain



CO-CHAIR
John Lamoreux

National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation,
Washington, District
of Columbia, US

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
14

Mission statement

As a guiding principle, the KBA Standards and Appeals Committee (KBA SAC) seeks to ensure that the original intent of 'A Global Standard for the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas' is not compromised. The KBA SAC is responsible for, among others, developing guidelines on the application of 'A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas', and for arbitrating over formal Appeals to the listing of particular sites as KBAs.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Revise the KBA Guidelines, with a particular focus on Criterion C and Criterion E, and publish version 1.2.

Status: Achieved

T-002 Advise on the interpretation of the KBA criteria and thresholds, key terms, delineation procedures, and other aspects of 'A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas'.

Status: Achieved

T-003 Review and advise on training materials and approaches for using 'A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas'.

Status: Achieved

T-004 Develop Regional KBA Guidelines.

Status: On track

T-005 Determine what evidence is needed to re-open the KBA Global Standard.

Status: Achieved

T-006 Compile and review all formal testing of KBA criteria and existing lessons learned through the process of identifying KBAs.

Status: Achieved

T-007 Develop and circulate a questionnaire about ways to improve KBA identification.

Status: Achieved

T-008 Develop a process for updating the KBA Global Standard.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024–2025

ASSESS

Planning

T-002 Advise on the interpretation of the KBA criteria and thresholds, key terms, delineation procedures, and other aspects

of 'A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas'. (KSR 5)

Advice provided on an ongoing basis:
Achieved.

Result description: KBA criteria and thresholds applied consistent with the intent of the KBA Standard.

T-003 Review and advise on training materials and approaches for using 'A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas'. (KSR 5)

Advice on training materials provided as requested: Achieved.

Result description: KBA training materials continue to be consistent with the KBA Standard.

T-004 Develop Regional KBA Guidelines. (KSR 5)

Process to develop regional guidelines agreed: Ongoing.

Result description: A virtual KBA Regional Guidelines workshop was held on January 23, 2024 and reported recommendations to the KBA Committee. The most important next step for the KBA SAC is to draft a Scope of Work for a contract (to work on

developing KBA Regional Guidelines) that would serve as a basis for various KBA Committee Members to fundraise around. However, upon subsequent briefing documents produced in the fall of 2024, the KBA Committee decided that the timing is not right for developing KBA Regional Guidelines. It was decided that the latter should wait until the KBA Standard is updated so that the two will be consistent.

T-005 Determine what evidence is needed to re-open the KBA Global Standard. (KSR 5)

Document discussing the factors that would influence when the KBA Standard should be revised: 1

Result description: In 2024, we produced a draft document about factors that influence revision of the KBA Standard and circulated it amongst the KBA Committee, finishing the draft in 2025.

Research activities

T-006 Compile and review all formal testing of KBA criteria and existing lessons learned through the process of identifying KBAs. (KSR 5)

Summarise the testing lessons learned, with recommendations about criteria needing further testing: 1

Result description: Compilation of testing materials began in 2024 and the review was completed in the first quarter of 2025.

T-008 Develop a process for updating the KBA Global Standard. (KSR 6)

Document that details how the KBA Standard is updated, step-by-step, including who has to weigh in along the way: 1

Result description: Expected result is to develop a process that the KBA Committee agrees with before the WCC.

Synergy

T-007 Develop and circulate a questionnaire about ways to improve KBA identification. (KSR 6)

Questionnaire reviewed and approved by the KBA Committee and then circulated to important user groups: 1

Result description: The questionnaire is in process of being developed. Very likely to be completed before the WCC in 2025.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge Charlotte Boyd.

Summary of achievements

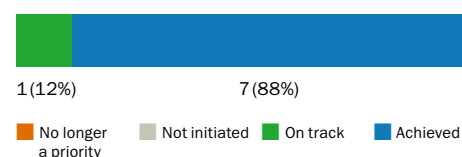
Total number of targets 2021–2025: 8

Geographic regions: 8 Global

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 7 (KSR 5, 6)

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