



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:

Carpenter, K.E. and Polidoro, B. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Marine Fishes Red List Authority. 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 Marine Fishes Red List Authority



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

27

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN Marine Fishes Red List Authority is to transform global, regional, and local marine conservation capabilities by completing Red List assessments for all marine fishes.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of this quadrennium, we expect to continue towards the goal of completing IUCN Red List assessments for the more than 17,000 marine fishes. In 2024, our focus was gobies, dottybacks, jawfishes, waspfishes, clingfishes, blennies of the world, and fishes of the Philippines and Brazil, as well as continuing to support the work of the Snapper, Seabream and Grunt Specialist Group and Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group. Our focus for 2025 is fishes of southern Australia and New Zealand, blennies of the world and continuing to support the work of the Snapper, Seabream and Grunt Specialist Group. These assessments will help improve our knowledge of patterns in the conservation status of marine vertebrate biodiversity globally, which we are also working to highlight through the completion of several scientific publications summarising these patterns.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Assess 100 marine gobies by 2022.

Status: Achieved

T-004 Assess 300 flatfishes by 2021.

Status: Achieved

T-005 Assess 275 marine fishes in the aquarium trade.

Status: Achieved

T-006 Publish one paper annually on the conservation status of marine fishes.

Status: Achieved

T-010 Complete global Red List assessments of 170 Philippine marine bony fishes.

Status: Achieved

T-011 Complete global Red List assessments of 42 species in the family Pseudochromidae.

Status: Achieved

T-012 Complete global Red List assessments of 37 species of blennioids.

Status: On track

T-013 Complete global Red List assessments of 50 species of gobioids.

Status: Achieved

T-014 Complete global Red List assessments/reassessments of the 77 endemic marine bony fishes of the Galapagos.

Status: Achieved

T-015 Complete global Red List assessments of 700 species of gobioids.

Status: Achieved

T-016 Assess 148 marine bony fishes.

Status: Achieved

T-017 Assess 600 species of marine bony fishes that occur in southern Australia and New Zealand.

Status: On track

T-018 Assess 250 species of marine bony fishes that occur in the Southern Ocean.

Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-007 Provide two annual technical consultations to support conservation actions to organisations and institutions globally engaged with marine fish conservation.

Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-001 Train 20 marine fish experts as Red List assessors.

Status: Achieved

T-002 Recruit at least 10 new members by 2024.

Status: On track



Pink Anemonefish in Cham Islands, Viet Nam
Photo: Christl Linardich

COMMUNICATE

T-008 Organise one presentation annually to communicate the conservation work of the IUCN SSC and the Marine Fishes Red List Authority.

Status: On track

T-009 Develop a new website for the Marine Fishes Red List Authority.

Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-016 Assess 148 marine bony fishes. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 148

Result description: We submitted 148 species of Latilidae, Siganidae, Opistognathidae, waspfishes, Philippines endemics and Brazil endemics to the Red List in 2024.

Research activities

T-011 Complete global Red List assessments of 42 species in the family Pseudochromidae. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 42

Result description: The assessments of 42 species in the family Pseudochromidae were submitted to the Red List in 2024.

T-012 Complete global Red List assessments of 37 species of blennioids. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 289

Result description: The assessments of 289 species of blennioids were submitted to the Red List in 2024.

T-015 Complete global Red List assessments of 700 species of gobioids. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 921

Result description: The assessments of 921 species of gobioids and clingfishes were submitted to the Red List in 2024.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-001 Train 20 marine fish experts as Red List assessors. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 40

Result description: Twenty (20) fish scientists were trained in applying the Red List methodology during two fish assessment workshops held in February 2024 in Seattle, USA and in March 2024 in Nha Trang, Vietnam.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-008 Organise one presentation annually to communicate the conservation work of the IUCN SSC and the Marine Fishes Red List Authority. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: Members of this RLA presented on assessing commercially exploited fishes for the Red List at the World Fisheries Congress, 3-7 March, 2024 in Seattle, Washington, USA and on extinction risk of marine fishes in the ornamental trade led by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and

Flora (CITES) in Brisbane, Australia in May 2024. Results of a project to assess marine fishes of southern Australia and New Zealand and evaluate the utility of eDNA in Red List assessments were presented at a conference in Wellington, New Zealand in February 2025.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the organizations that supported our work in 2024 and 2025, including: the Global Environment Facility, Minderoo Foundation, Oceanário de Lisboa, Old Dominion University and Arizona State University.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 18

Geographic regions: 15 Global, 1 America, 1 Antarctica, 1 Oceania

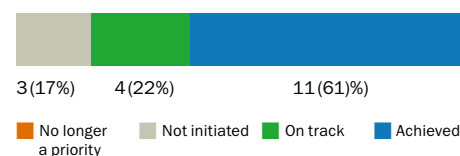
Actions during 2024-2025:

Assess: 4 (KSR 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (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