



Species

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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:

Manu, S. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Nigeria Species Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Nigeria Species Specialist Group



CHAIR
Shiiwua Manu
University of Jos,
Jos, Nigeria

PROGRAMME OFFICER
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
22

Mission statement

To provide a national platform to convene and mobilise species experts in Nigeria and introduce, mainstream, and increase local capacity for the application of IUCN knowledge products and processes to assess the conservation status of species, support conservation planning efforts and strategies that inform appropriate actions and advance species conservation in Nigeria.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-005 Submit research papers based on planned national biodiversity assessment projects focused on endemic and threatened species, e.g. Ibadan Malimbe, Common Hippopotamus, African Manatee, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Dombeya ladermanii*, etc.

Status: Not initiated

T-006 Conduct at least five new KBA reassessments.

Status: On track

T-007 Conduct one new climate change vulnerability assessment of coastal communities in Lagos State, SW Nigeria.

Status: On track

T-008 Conduct and publish at least 10 national Red List assessments for threatened species in Nigeria – at least one per taxonomic working group.

Status: On track

PLAN

T-009 Held at least two A2P workshops with at least one A2P report completed and published.

Status: Not initiated

T-010 Develop at least three national species conservation action plans for threatened and endemic species in Nigeria.

Status: On track

T-011 Advance – and support – the development of at least three policy briefs, specifically focused on the Ibadan Malimbe in SW Nigeria, vultures in Nigeria, sea turtles in Lagos, Rivers and Bayelsa States, and Forest Elephants in Ogun and Rivers State.

Status: Not initiated

T-012 Provide technical consultation to support conservation actions of leading environmental government agencies and NGOs in Nigeria.

Status: On track

ACT

T-013 Initiate – or support ongoing – *in situ* conservation actions to benefit at least five endemic and/or threatened animals, fungi, and plants in Nigeria, specifically African Forest Elephant, sea turtles, vultures, *Dombeya ladermanii*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, etc.

Status: On track

T-014 Support the Mangrove Restoration and Invasive *Nypa Palm* (*Nypa fruticans*) Removal Project in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Status: On track

T-015 Support sustainable livelihood initiatives to promote ecosystem recovery in Cross River State, Nigeria, in collaboration with NABU.

Status: On track

T-016 Produce and make available manual briquette making equipment for catchment communities to tackle deforestation along the Benue River basin in Nigeria, in collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria.

Status: Not initiated



Community engagement in the conservation of threatened sea turtles in Lagos state, Nigeria
Photo: Stella Egbe



Members of the Nigerian NgSSG assessing the distribution of the Endangered Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) in Andoni, Rivers state, Nigeria
Photo: Stella Egbe

T-017 Support the production and distribution of fuel-efficient stoves to local communities in Becheve to tackle the threat of deforestation in and around the Becheve Nature Reserve.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Established and maintained at least two funding partners in 2025.

Status: On track

T-002 Recruit at least 10 additional members in 2025.

Status: On track

T-003 Ensure at least 10 NgSSG members (one per taxonomic working group - TWG) to complete online Red List Assessor Training and leading national Red List Assessments for their TWG.

Status: On track

T-004 Ensure at least three NgSSG members complete CPSG training on conservation planning in 2025.

Status: On track

T-022 Establish collaborations and connect members of NgSSG with relevant SSC groups based on taxonomic expertise.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-018 Secure at least four news and media articles mentioning the IUCN Species theme and the NgSSG in national dailies in Nigeria.

Status: Not initiated

T-019 Encourage NgSSG members' attendance and presentations in at least five scientific conferences.

Status: On track

T-020 Create a dynamic and interactive website for the NgSSG.

Status: Not initiated

T-021 Produce two newsletter publications per year to update members and the public about NgSSG activities.

Status: Not initiated

T-023 Organise regular virtual meetings for the membership to share updates on implementation of group targets.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-008 Conduct and publish at least 10 national Red List assessments for threatened species in Nigeria – at least one per taxonomic working group. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: With support from CSS Nigeria, at least 10 graduate students completed the IUCN Red List Assessor online training and some of them will be working with CSS Nigeria to review the assessment for Nigeria's endemic and threatened birds. Other NgSSG Species Working Groups are also encouraged to review the IUCN global Red List to identify priority species within their remints for Regional Red List Assessments.

Research activities

T-005 Submit research papers based on planned national biodiversity assessment projects focused on endemic and threatened species, e.g. Ibadan Malimbe, Common Hippopotamus, African Manatee, *P. erinaceus*, *D. ladermanii*, etc. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: A manuscript is currently under review following a recent field survey of threatened trees in Nigeria – *P. erinaceus* and *D. ladermanii*.

T-006 Conduct at least five new KBA reassessments. (KSR 6)

Number of KBAs in WDKBA updated after reassessment for species: 0

Result description: NgSSG members attended and participated in a KBA assessment workshop organized by the Nigeria Conservation Foundation - KBA Secretariat in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2025. Rapid assessment of five sites is underway, and the KBA National Coordination Group is submitting proposals for additional funding.

T-007 Conduct one new climate change vulnerability assessment of coastal communities in Lagos State, SW Nigeria. (KSR 6)

Number of new climate change vulnerability assessments completed: 0

Result description: Relevant data and information are currently being compiled for this analysis which is on track.

PLAN

Planning

T-010 Develop at least three national species conservation action plans for threatened and endemic species in Nigeria. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: A preliminary draft of the Ibadan Malimbe Conservation Action Plan was developed for submission to the Indianapolis Zoo Saving Species Challenge in 2023. The Plan was coordinated by NgSSG members from the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and CSS Nigeria. Although funding was not secured through the Challenge, the Plan is now being reviewed and updated and will be presented to relevant authorities for formal endorsement. Other funding sources are being explored for subsequent implementation of the Plan.

Policy

T-012 Provide technical consultation to support conservation actions of leading environmental government agencies and NGOs in Nigeria. (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy-making: 2

Result description: Several members of the NgSSG Steering committee have been approached and are currently providing technical support and expert guidance to various government environmental agencies e.g. National Centre for Remote Sensing (NCRS) in the Federal Ministry of Science & Technology for ongoing work on the delineation of Protected Areas in Benue State, Northcentral Nigeria; Ogun state Ministry of Environment and Forestry on their biodiversity conservation strategy and other relevant policies.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-013 Initiate –or support ongoing– in situ conservation actions to benefit at least five endemic and/or threatened animals, fungi, and plants in Nigeria, specifically African Forest Elephant, sea turtles, vultures, *D. ladermanii*, *P. erenaceus*, etc. (KSR 10)

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 9

Result description: Management efforts led by African Nature Investors (ANI) in collaboration with the National Park Service NPS are ongoing in two National Parks (Okomu and Gashaka-Gumti National Park) in Nigeria. Also, WCS Nigeria continues to lead management efforts in collaboration with NPS in Cross River National Park (critical habitats for Forest Elephants and several threatened primates, birds, and other mammals) and in Yankari Game Reserve (home to the largest extant population of Savannah Elephants in Nigeria). The Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) continues to manage at least five other Protected Areas/IBAs that are crucial for several endemic and threatened bird species in Nigeria in collaboration with various IBA site-support groups.

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 3

Result description: NgSSG members with support from their host institutions are driving/supporting *in situ* conservation efforts for threatened species in Nigeria

e.g. African Nature Investors (ANI) staff and NgSSG members involved in ongoing Forest Elephant monitoring and protection in Okomu National Park, (ii) Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) staff and NgSSG members working with coastal fishing communities around Lagos State to reduce killing and trade of sea turtles, and to engage local communities in southeastern Nigeria to establish vulture guardian to monitor and protect remnant vulture roosts in southeastern Nigeria.

T-017 Support the production and distribution of fuel-efficient stoves to local communities in Becheve to tackle the threat of deforestation in and around the Becheve Nature Reserve. (KSR 11)

Number of communities benefited from sustainable use programs: 1

Result description: The host community of the Becheve Nature Reserve - a crucial IBA in Nigeria currently managed by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation has benefitted from a sustainable use program involving the distribution of fuel-efficient stoves to tackle the challenge of deforestation through fuel wood collection.

Synergy

T-014 Support the Mangrove Restoration and Invasive *Nypa Palm* (*N. fruticans*) Removal Project in Rivers State, Nigeria. (KSR 11)

Number of rural communities involved in species conservation programs and sustainable use practices: 3

Result description: Mangrove restoration efforts are being implemented in communities in three Nigerian States (Lagos, Rivers, and Bayelsa States) in coordination with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-003 Ensure at least 10 NgSSG members (one per taxonomic working group - TWG) to complete online Red List Assessor Training and leading national Red List Assessments for their TWG. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 1

Result description: Following the inaugural meeting of the NgSSG in March 2025, each Species Working Group was mandated to nominate at least one member from the SWG to enroll and complete the IUCN Red List Assessor online training via the conservation training website. We expect nominated candidates to complete training before the fourth quarter of 2025.

T-004 Ensure at least three NgSSG members complete CPSG training on conservation planning in 2025. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: 2

Result description: Two NgSSG members enrolled in the February 2025 CPSG - Facilitating Species Conservation Planning online training course. One candidate was sponsored by CSS Nigeria and the other by NCF - NgSSG host institution. Both candidates have completed this training.

Membership

T-002 Recruit at least 10 additional members in 2025. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 18

Result description: Membership recruitment is ongoing and current we have 18 members formally registered in the IUCN Union portal. Other recruited members working on completing their registration.

Synergy

T-001 Established and maintained at least two funding partners in 2025. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 0

Result description: The NgSSG is working on a proposal to approach and present to both Dangote Foundation and TY Danjuma Foundation. The Nigerian Conservation Foundation - NgSSG's host institution has previously worked with both foundations and will approach and facilitate this partnership on behalf of the NgSSG.

T-022 Establish collaborations and connect members of NgSSG with relevant SSC groups based on taxonomic expertise. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: We collaborated with Conservation Coordinators at the Global Center for Species Survival and with the Freshwater Conservation Committee to develop and submit a successful grant proposal for a Freshwater Species Conservation Assessment for the Benue River in Nigeria. A Project Manager will be identified and will work with technical support from GCSS Conservation Coordinators (Freshwater and National Species) to implement this project. The Global Center Conservation Coordinator, Dr Sam Ivande, also visited and supported NgSSG leadership during its strategic planning meetings and other meetings to explore institutional support and national-level partnerships for the group.

COMMUNICATE

Scientific meetings

T-019 Encourage NgSSG members' attendance and presentations in at least five scientific conferences. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events in which the members participated: 1

Result description: Following the establishment of the Nigeria Species SG in February 2024, the Chair, Prof Shiiwua Manu attended and participated in the SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi in October 2024. The membership is being encouraged to identify scientific meetings and conferences for the upcoming year to attend and increase awareness about the Group and its workplan.

T-023 Organise regular virtual meetings for the membership to share updates on implementation of group targets. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events organized: 1

Result description: The inaugural meeting of the NgSSG was held on the 25th of March 2025 as an online meeting with a

total attendance of twenty-two members. It marked the beginning of the official activities of the group after the registration and identification of baseline target for the current 2021-2025 quadrennium. Regular quarterly meetings are also being planned.

Acknowledgements

The NgSSG is grateful to its host institution - the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, and several other partners, collaborators, and supporters including the Africa Nature Investors (ANI), A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (APLORI) - University of Jos, Biodiversity Preservation Centre -Uyo, Centre for Conservation Science and Practice (CCSP) - Benue State University Makurdi, Forest Unit - International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), University of Benin - Edo State for institutional and other support to NgSSG members towards the advancement of the group's targets. NgSSG is grateful for the technical support provided by the Centre for Species Survival Nigeria team at APLORI, the SSC Network Coordinator, and National Species Conservation Coordinator at the SSC Chair's Office and Global Center for Species Survival respectively.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 23

Geographic regions: 23 Africa

Actions during 2024-2025:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

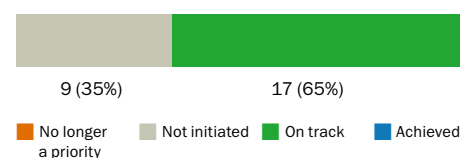
Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 4 (KSR 10, 11)

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 2)

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