



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:

Lobo, A. and Udyawer, V. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Sea Snake 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 Sea Snake Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
24

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN Sea Snake Specialist Group (SSSG) is to promote the conservation of the world's marine and aquatic snakes — true sea snakes, sea kraits, estuarine/marine mud and file snakes. The SSSG also serves to develop a greater scientific understanding of this group's diversity, status and threats to better inform and support assessments of their conservation status. This will be accomplished by establishing and supporting a coordinated global network of members to develop capacity and achieve our shared conservation goals for this unique group of reptiles.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Elevate public awareness of marine snakes by fostering a network of experts to gather new data and bolster outreach initiatives. Assess the extinction risk for various species and formulate targeted action plans to combat the critical threats they face.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-002 Reevaluate the network for global/regional/national sea snake experts.
Status: Achieved

T-003 Invite individuals from other IUCN SSGs, e.g. Marine Conservation Committee, Mangrove Specialist Group, Shark Specialist Group, etc. Many of these share similar issues, e.g. Shark Specialist Group on bycatch and others.
Status: On track

T-004 Identify potential Regional nodes/focal points to be contacted to obtain their consent.
Status: On track

T-005 Review and assess the status of short-range and Critically Endangered species of sea snake.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Assess the status of species represented in high numbers within coastal fisheries.
Status: On track

T-007 Assess the population status and harvest rate of sea snakes across Asia and the Pacific.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-008 Develop regional nodes to enable global reassessment.
Status: On track

T-009 Assemble an organising team to support the planning process.
Status: On track

T-010 Identify regions/species requiring urgent conservation attention/action.
Status: Not initiated

T-014 Conduct one workshop on species conservation planning using in-the-wild species.
Status: Achieved

ACT

T-011 Conduct regional and global reassessment for sea snake species.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Expand membership and develop an organisational framework to enable coordinated Red List assessments.
Status: Achieved

T-015 Develop public-facing points of contact to help build network through scientific and industry groups.
Status: On track



Group photo of the IUCN Sea Snake Specialist Group symposium held at the 10th World Congress of Herpetology in Sarawak, August 2024
Photo: Vinay Udyawer



Past and current Co-Chairs of the IUCN Sea Snake Specialist Group at the Group Priority Setting Workshop conducted at the 10th World Congress of Herpetology in Sarawak, August 2024
Photo: Vinay Udyawer

COMMUNICATE

T-012 Develop a website.

Status: On track

T-013 Other collaterals – Sea snake poster/factsheet which includes stats, vision/mission statements, etc.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 Reevaluate the network for global/regional/national sea snake experts.

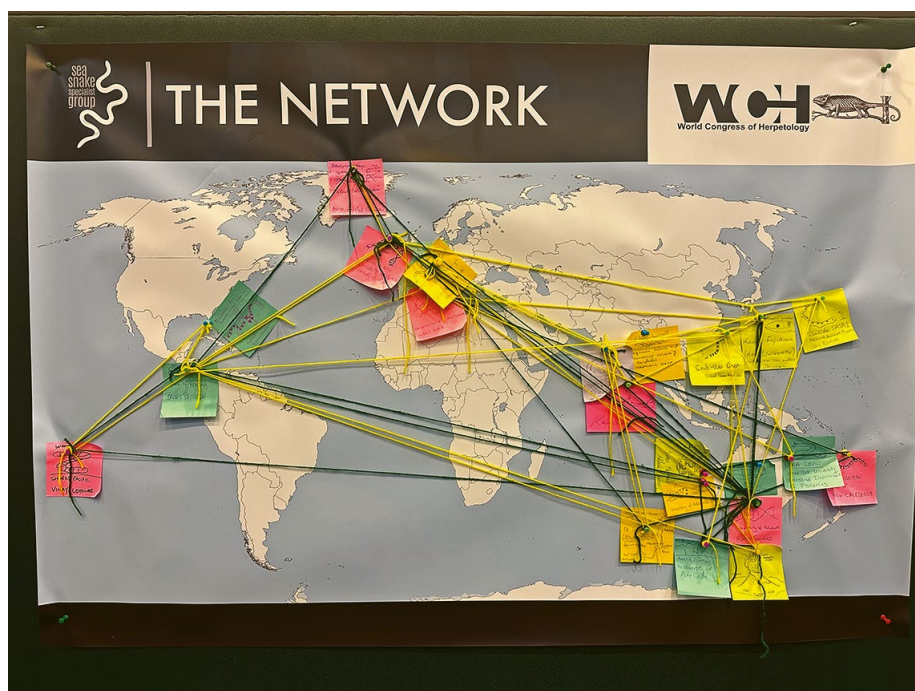
(KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Symposium and workshop were held at the World Congress of Herpetology, additional experts were identified and invited for a global reassessment planned in 2026.

T-003 Invite individuals from other IUCN SSGs, e.g. Marine Conservation Committee, Mangrove Specialist Group, Shark Specialist Group, etc. Many of these share similar issues, e.g. Shark Specialist Group on bycatch and others. (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 0



The Global Network of specialist in the IUCN Sea Snake Specialist Group, constructed by the attendees of the Priority Setting Workshop at the 10th World Congress of Herpetology in Sarawak, August 2024
Photo: Vinay Udyawer



Participants at the IUCN Sea Snake Specialist Group Priority Setting Workshop mapping the SSG's Global Network
Photo: Vinay Udyawer

Result description: External individuals were identified to involve in global sea snake reassessment planned for 2026.

T-005 Review and assess the status of short-range and Critically Endangered species of sea snake. (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 1

Result description: Regional assessments — including sea snakes — were conducted in the Gulf of Oman by members of the SSSG. Additional reassessments of short-range species are planned for early 2026.

T-006 Assess the status of species represented in high numbers within coastal fisheries. (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 0

Result description: Planning for global reassessments of sea snake species is being planned for early 2026.

T-007 Assess the population status and harvest rate of sea snakes across Asia and the Pacific. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Review of data and harvest rates of sea snakes in Asia and the Pacific currently underway by SSSG members.

PLAN

Planning

T-014 Conduct one workshop on species conservation planning using in-the-wild species. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 1

Result description: A symposium and a workshop were conducted at the World Congress of Herpetology in Sarawak in August, 2024. Members of the SSSG contributed with a background on the Assess, Plan, Act, Network, Communicate principles, and planning underway for global reassessment of sea snake species in early 2026.

Policy

T-008 Develop regional nodes to enable global reassessment. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: Node leaders identified at SSSG meeting at the WCH10, and recruitment underway to coincide with reassessment in 2026.

T-009 Assemble an organising team to support the planning process. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: Team is being identified and will be involved with reassessment planned in 2026.

ACT

Technical advice

T-011 Conduct regional and global reassessment for sea snake species. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: Planning underway for Global reassessment of sea snake species in early 2026.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-015 Develop public-facing points of contact to help build network through scientific and industry groups. (KSR 1)

Facing points of contact are established: 0

Result description: Public facing points of contact established during the sea snake symposium at the World Congress of Herpetology. Website being prepared to go live in 2025 to further increase public point of contact for the SSSG.

Membership

T-001 Expand membership and develop organisational framework to enable coordinated Red List assessments. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 15

Result description: In 2024, 14 new members were recruited during the sea snake symposium held at the 10th World Congress of Herpetology, Sarawak, August, 2024. In 2025, we recruited an additional member, and the network is being prepared for reassessment work in early 2026.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-012 Develop a website. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: Delays in website going live, however ready to publish soon.

T-013 Other collaterals – Sea snake poster/factsheet which includes stats, vision/mission statements, etc. (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: Poster was created and presented at the SSG Leaders meeting in 2024. Additional posters, factsheets and content are being created to go with the website for more public reaching audience.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Organisers and Staff of the 10th World Congress of Herpetology for assisting and allowing the IUCN Sea Snake specialist group to hold a one-day symposium and a half day Priority Setting Workshop at the Congress in Sarawak, August, 2024. This enabled the Group to recruit more members and identify regional node leaders. We also are very thankful to Andrea Echeverry-Alcendra, the Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator from the Global Center for Species Survival to assist with this workshop and facilitate the re-initiation of this Group.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 15

Geographic regions: 14 Global, 1 Oceania

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 5 (KSR 6)

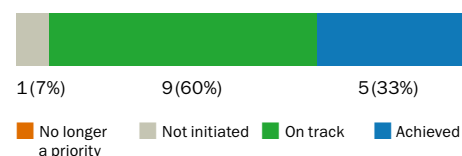
Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



No longer a priority

Not initiated

On track

Achieved

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