



# 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.

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## 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.

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### Title of the group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

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### 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.

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### Logo of the group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### 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).

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### 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).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### 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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Arafeh Dalmau, N, and Pocklington, J. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Seaweed Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

## 2024-2025 Report

# IUCN SSC Seaweed Specialist Group



**CO-CHAIR**  
Nur Arafah Dalmau  
Stanford University,  
California, US



**CO-CHAIR**  
Jacqueline Pocklington  
Deakin University,  
Victoria, Australia

**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
Loyiso Dunga  
Parley for the Oceans,  
City of Cape Town,  
Western Cape, South  
Africa

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
22

### Mission statement

The IUCN Seaweed Specialist Group brings together leading scientists, practitioners and conservationists under the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Our mission is to increase the profile of seaweeds, i.e. marine macroalgae, and identify their conservation status and risk to prioritise conservation actions. Most seaweed species are poorly studied compared to other taxa despite their ecological and economic importance. Many are already threatened due to climate change and other anthropogenic stressors. This Group has a broad ecosystem and conservation focus, and we use our combined knowledge to inform decision-making for society and policymakers to take science-based actions for seaweed conservation.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Undertake assessment of seaweed species for the IUCN Red List. We will begin by assessing the habitat-forming kelps that are declining in the temperate regions of the world. The outcomes will allow us to contribute to policy and decision-making processes and align the actions of seaweed stakeholders around the world.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Assess all 112 kelp species for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Status: On track

**T-002** Contribute test assessments of seaweeds to enhance Green Status protocols.

Status: Not initiated

#### PLAN

**T-003** Organise a workshop to plan conservation strategies for species identified as high risk.

Status: Not initiated

#### ACT

**T-004** Organise a workshop on key actions for increased conservation, e.g. sustainable exploitation, aquaculture, and restoration.

Status: Not initiated

#### NETWORK

**T-005** Hold regular meetings of the Seaweed SG.

Status: On track

**T-006** Attend SSC Leaders' meeting in 2024.

Status: Achieved

**T-007** Provide Red List training to membership.

Status: Achieved

**T-008** Strengthen membership of the Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-009** Establish a Seaweed SG website and logo.

Status: Achieved

**T-010** Create social media accounts on X and Instagram.

Status: Not initiated

**T-011** Communicate about the creation of the new Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

### Activities and results 2024-2025

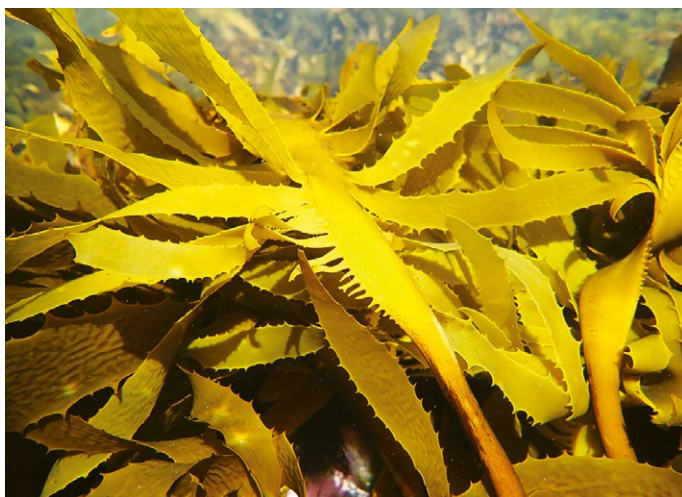
#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-001** Assess all 112 kelp species for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: The Co-Chair Dr Jacqui Pocklington was able to secure funding and hosted a Red List workshop on species in Australia in 2024; six members attended in person. A Red List assessment of one species is close to completion; Red List assessments for multiple species have been initiated and are in draft.



*Ecklonia radiata*  
Photo: Jacqueline Pocklington



Group photo of Seaweed Specialist Group members at Red List workshop in Queenscliff, Victoria, Australia  
Photo: Lily Youngsmith, Deakin University

## NETWORK

### Capacity building

#### T-006 Attend SSC Leaders' meeting in 2024. (KSR 2)

SSC Leaders Meeting attended: Achieved.  
Result description: The Red List Authority Coordinator Loyiso Dunga attended the IUCN SSC Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi in October, 2024 taking part in multiple sessions and presenting a poster to raise awareness of the SWSG.

#### T-007 Provide Red List training to membership. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 15  
Result description: Multiple members undertook the online training modules for Red List assessments. Many members (ca. 15 members) also attended a special online training workshop hosted by the Global Center for Species Survival (GCSS), with Red List experts from the CSS and the IUCN SSC Marine Biodiversity Unit/Marine Fishes Red List Authority, which was excellent.

### Membership

#### T-005 Hold regular meetings of the Seaweed SG. (KSR 2)

Number of Specialist Group meetings held: 1  
Result description: Online Red List assessment training was held for the membership, and many members attended. Several members met at the Seventh International Marine Conservation Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in October, 2024.

#### T-008 Strengthen membership of the Specialist Group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 6  
Result description: Six additional members – including members from Africa, China and Europe – were added to the Group in 2024.

### COMMUNICATE Communication

#### T-011 Communicate about the creation of the new Specialist Group. (KSR 12)

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 2  
Result description: Information about the Group was shared at the Asia Pacific Phycology Congress in Japan in April 2024, which led to an additional member joining the Group. Members Dr Erasmo Macaya Horta and Dr Alejandra Mora were featured in an article about the group formation and work. Co-Chair Dr Nur Arafah Dalmau presented about the Group during a session hosted by the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee and Global Center for Species Survival at the Seventh International Marine Conservation Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in October, 2024.

Number of journal articles mentioning the new group: 1

Result description: *Oryx* news [article on new Seaweed Specialist Group](#) was published in March 25, 2024. In Chilean media, an article was published in *Controldeal News* on May 13, 2024. Also, two more articles were published including IUCN Seaweed Specialist Group affiliation: (1)

Arafah-Dalmau, Nur, et al. (2024). 'Protect kelp forests'. *Science* 386.6722: 629-629, and (2) Arafah-Dalmau, Nur, et al. (2025). 'Global floating kelp forests have limited protection despite intensifying marine heatwave threats'. *Nature Communications* 16.1: 3173.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Deakin Marine Research and Innovation Centre (Deakin University, Australia) for funding a workshop to undertake Red List assessments of kelp.

### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 11

Geographic regions: 11 Global

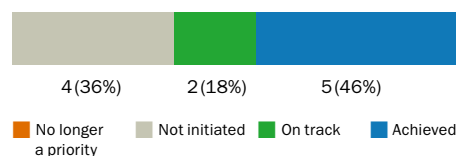
Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Network: 4 (KSR 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 acoreesins*)  
Photo: Paulo A.V. Borges



Black and White Snapper  
(*Macolor niger*)  
Photo: David B. Snyder