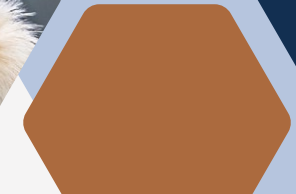




Species

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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

Example for the recommended citation:

Jabado, R. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Shark Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 8 pp.

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group



CHAIR
Rima Jabado
Elasmo Project Dubai,
United Arab Emirates

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Cassandra Rigby
James Cook
University, Centre
for Sustainable
Tropical Fisheries
and Aquaculture,
Queensland, Australia

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Brittany Finucci
National Institute
of Water and
Atmospheric Research
(NIWA), Wellington,
New Zealand

PROGRAM OFFICER
Alexandra Morata
IUCN SSC Shark
Specialist Group,
Dubai, United Arab
Emirates

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
237

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

BlueSky: @iucnshark.bsky.social
Facebook: @IUCNShark
Instagram: @IUCNShark
LinkedIn: IUCNShark X: @IUCNshark
Website: <https://www.iucnssg.org>
YouTube: IUCN Shark Specialist Group

Mission statement

To secure the conservation, management and, where necessary, the recovery of the world's sharks, rays and chimaeras by mobilising global technical and scientific expertise to provide the knowledge that enables action.

Projected impact 2021–2025

In 2021, the Shark Specialist Group (SSG) completed the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessments of all sharks, rays and chimaeras and now know that 37% of species are threatened with extinction. Although we will need to continue with assessments for newly described species, our aim is to ensure the most threatened species get attention by developing conservation strategies and action plans, guiding policy intervention by providing expert input into the decision making process – especially at high-level international treaty level such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) – and communicating our work and results to a broad audience. We will develop new spatial planning tools to support delineation of

Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) across the world's ocean and ensure their uptake at various national, local and global levels. Finally, with increasing changes to the trade dynamics of shark and ray products, we will work to improve our understanding of global exports and imports of fins, meat, skins, liver oil and other products, to ensure sustainable use.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

- T-001** Complete global Red List assessments of all newly described species and changed taxonomic concepts by 2025.
Status: On track
- T-002** Complete Red List reassessments for current species assessments expiring in 2022–2024 by 2025.
Status: On track
- T-003** Complete Red List assessments and reassessments for South American and Southeast Asian freshwater stingrays by 2024.
Status: Achieved
- T-004** Publish Living Planet Index for chondrichthyans by 2024.
Status: Not initiated

T-005 Produce Global Red List Index for chondrichthyans as the first indices of the effects of threats by 2024.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Publish results of the Global Shark Trends project in 2022.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Develop and publish regional status reports leading to papers on global and regional conservation priorities for chondrichthyans by 2025.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

- T-012** Develop a global conservation strategy and action plan for oceanic sharks and rays by 2024.
Status: On track
- T-013** Support the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Concerted Actions by 2024, e.g. rhino rays.
Status: On track
- T-014** Develop overview, situational analysis, and regional conservation strategies and action plans for rhino rays by 2025.
Status: On track
- T-015** Develop a conservation strategy and action plan for the South American freshwater stingrays by 2025.
Status: Not initiated



ACT

T-022 Provide ongoing technical support and advice to the CMS Secretariat and Sharks MoU Advisory Committee.

Status: On track

T-023 Respond to requests for advice and feedback to other IUCN bodies, specialist groups and organisations, e.g. FAO and TRAFFIC, as requested.

Status: On track

T-024 Develop policy briefs/documents on existing and emerging trends in the trade of various shark and ray products for CITES Conference of the Parties by 2025.

Status: Achieved

T-025 Create a synopsis of fisheries, use, trade, and other conservation issues related to chondrichthyans for donors, policymakers and the public to support conservation actions and engagement by 2025.

Status: On track

T-026 Develop position statement on the reintroduction of sharks and rays through captive breeding programmes and disseminate to aquaria by 2025.

Status: On track

T-027 Implement Important Shark and Ray Areas project.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-007 Generate funds to support SSG activities including assessment, conservation planning and other key targets.

Status: On track

T-016 Recruit at least 30 new members in 2021.

Status: Achieved

T-017 Review current membership status to improve geographic diversity, gender and age representation, and technical expertise of the SSG group in 2021.

Status: Achieved

T-018 Foster training of members in conservation planning by 2024.

Status: Achieved

T-019 Foster training of members as Red List assessors, including the use of the IUCN Species Information Service, SIS, by 2024.

Status: Achieved

T-021 Establish new formal partnerships that will provide financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group staff time by 2022.

Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-009 Organise annual SSG events linked to major international conferences to communicate activities and progress to members and other interested individuals or organisations, e.g. American Elasmobranch Society yearly meeting, European Elasmobranch Association, Sharks International 2022.

Status: On track

T-010 Publish annual Shark Specialist Group Newsletters with contributions from members.

Status: On track

T-011 Update SSG website, improve social media presence and develop a communication strategy to better disseminate updates and ongoing activities by 2022.

Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

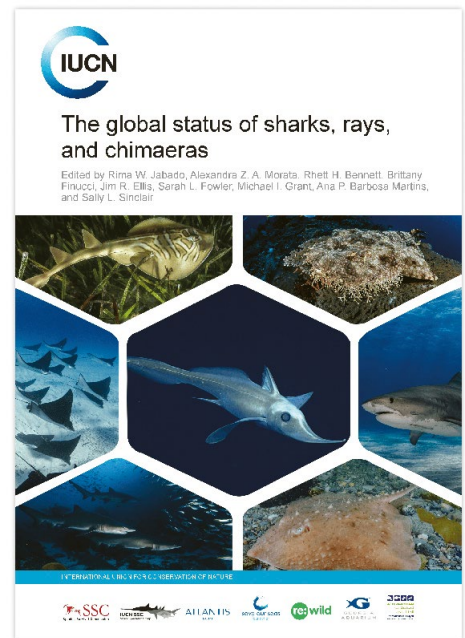
T-001 Complete global Red List assessments of all newly described species and changed taxonomic concepts by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 13

The global status report of sharks, rays, and chimaeras
Photo: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group



Bluespotted Lagoon Ray (*Taeniura lymma*)
Photo: Mikhail Preobrazhenskiy | Unsplash



Result description: A total of eight assessments were published in 2024 for newly described species (three sharks, three rays, and two chimaeras). An additional four assessments were submitted (one shark, two rays, and one chimaera), to be published in 2025. One newly described shark assessment was submitted in the first quarter of 2025.

T-002 Complete Red List reassessments for current species assessments expiring in 2022–2024 by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 154

Result description: In 2024, seventy-three (23 shark, 37 ray, and 13 chimaera species) reassessments were published, as well as an additional 47 species (17 shark, 29 ray, and one chimaera species) were submitted for publication in 2025. In 2025, sixteen (8 shark and 8 ray species) reassessments were submitted for publication. An additional 18 (13 sharks and five rays) were sent for consultation. This work was done through a consultative process with members of the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group and other experts working on sharks, rays, and chimaeras around the world.

T-003 Complete Red List assessments and reassessments for South American and Southeast Asian freshwater stingrays by 2024. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 30

Result description: Five assessments were published in 2024, and 13 assessments were submitted for publication in 2025 to the IUCN Red List Unit.

T-005 Produce Global Red List Index for chondrichthyans as the first indices of the effects of threats by 2024. (KSR 7)

Number of groups with comprehensive Red List reassessments published as a



Shark News Issues 9, 10 and 11
Photo: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group

proportion of the number prioritised for the Red List Index: 1

Result description: A peer-reviewed publication with details of results from a 50-year Red List Index for Chondrichthyan was published: Dulvy, NK, *et al.* (2024). "Ecological erosion and expanding extinction risk of sharks and rays". *Science*, 386, eadn1477.

Research activities

T-004 Publish Living Planet Index for chondrichthyan by 2024. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: The analysis for the Living Planet Index for chondrichthyan is underway and being led by Prof Nick Dulvy.

T-008 Develop and publish regional status reports leading to papers on global and regional conservation priorities for chondrichthyan by 2025. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: The global status of sharks, rays, and chimaeras has been published. Jabado, RW, *et al.* (eds.) (2024). "The global status of sharks, rays, and chimaeras". Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

PLAN

Planning

T-012 Develop a global conservation strategy and action plan for oceanic sharks and rays by 2024. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: After consultation and a series of online workshops, the SSG team is now working towards developing the conservation strategy for pelagic sharks and rays.

T-013 Support the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Concerted Actions by 2024 (e.g. rhino rays). (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: In 2024, the SSG worked at the policy level to renew the CMS Concerted Action for rhino rays. In 2025, the SSG is working towards implementing the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Concerted Actions.

T-014 Develop overview, situational analysis and regional conservation strategies and action plans for rhino rays by 2025. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: In 2024, the SSG developed a situational analysis paper on rhino rays and in 2025, the SSG team is continuing to working towards developing the conservation strategy for rhino rays.

ACT

Policy

T-025 Create a synopsis of fisheries, use, trade, and other conservation issues related to chondrichthyan for donors, policymakers and the public to support conservation actions and engagement by 2025. (KSR 10)

Number of position statements addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 2

Result description: Created two infographic series, one of which featured Gulper sharks (*Centrophorus* spp.) as part of Shark Awareness Day (July 14), and the other as part of the communication strategy to promote the release of the IUCN publication 'The Global status of sharks, rays, and chimaeras' in collaboration with Save Our Seas Foundation. Shark Awareness Day

media kit. Global status report on sharks, rays, and chimaeras **infographics.**

T-026 Develop position statement on the reintroduction of sharks and rays through captive breeding programmes and disseminate to aquaria by 2025. (KSR 10)

Number of position statements addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: The SSG Aquarium Working Group, led by Paula Carlson and Lisa Hoopes, have been holding regular meetings with members to complete a draft of the guidelines and position statement.

Technical advice

T-022 Provide ongoing technical support and advice to the CMS Secretariat and Sharks MoU Advisory Committee. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 9

Result description: Renewed CMS Decision to support the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) project. In 2024, attended six Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Sharks Memorandum of Understanding (Sharks MoU) meetings, three online and three in-person. This includes the 14th Conference of Parties in Samarkand, Uzbekistan during February 12-17; the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council in Bonn, Germany during September 17-20; and the 4th meeting of the Advisory Committee of Shark MoU in Puerto Princesa, Philippines during November 25-29. In the first quarter of 2025, the Chair of the SSG attended the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Sharks Memorandum of Understanding (Sharks MoU) meetings online to ensure represent sharks, rays, and chimaeras are represented, and the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the Single Species Action Plan for the

Angelshark in the Mediterranean Sea (Angelshark WG1) from 29-30 April 2025.

T-023 Respond to requests for advice and feedback to other IUCN bodies, specialist groups and organisations (e.g. FAO and TRAFFIC) as requested. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 2

Result description: In 2024, the SSG provided a letter of support against the planned coastal development Assumption Island in the Seychelles. Assumption Island is located near Aldabra Atoll which was designated as an Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA) in 2023 and is therefore important for reproductive, feeding, resting area and aggregative purposes of many threatened species. In 2025, the Chair of the SSG gave a presentation at the request of the Government of the Maldives on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) listing proposals at the 78th meeting of the Standing Committee, 03-08 February.

T-027 Implement Important Shark and Ray Areas project. (KSR 10)

Number of areas delineated for sharks, rays and chimaeras that have the potential to be managed: 248

Result description: Organised three regional workshops to delineate Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) for the Asia region in Bali, Indonesia on January 22-26, 2024, the Polar Waters region in Tirana, Albania on May 27-29, 2024, and the New Zealand and Pacific Islands region in Nadi, Fiji on August 26-30, 2024. This resulted in the identification of 337 ISRAs (122 from Asia, 36 from Polar Waters, and 179 from New Zealand and Pacific Islands), as well as several candidate ISRAs and Areas of Interest, that are now mapped on the [project eAtlas](#). Published three regional compendiums for ISRAs ([Asia](#), [Polar Waters](#) and [New Zealand and Pacific Islands](#)). In 2025, the SSG organised one regional workshop to delineate Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) for the South American Atlantic and South American Inland Waters.

This resulted in the identification of 21 ISRAs and 14 Areas of Interest (AOI) in the South American Inland Waters, as well as two candidate ISRAs and 45 AOI in the South American Atlantic, that are now mapped on the project [eAtlas](#). Published two regional compendiums for these ISRAs ([South American Atlantic](#) and [Inland Waters](#)). We also published two papers with an update on the ISRA process in the journal *Oryx* and a paper entitled '[Mapping Important Shark and Ray Areas \(ISRAs\) in the Central and South American Pacific: Existing knowledge and data needs](#)', in the journal *PLOS One*.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-019 Foster training of members as Red List assessors, including the use of the IUCN Species Information Service, SIS, by 2024. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 1

Result description: One individual completed the full Red List training course as part of becoming a new Red List Authority Coordinator.

Synergy

T-007 Generate funds to support SSG activities including assessment, conservation planning and other key targets. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in kind' partnerships established and maintained: 3

Result description: The IUCN SSG continues in 2024 and 2025 to be fiscally sponsored by Re:wild, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation with headquarters in Austin, Texas, US (tax ID: 26-2887967). The partnership with Atlantis - The Palm in Dubai, United Arab Emirates has been renewed. This has allowed the Group to extend the position of part-time Program Officer to December 2025.

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 3

Result description: Acquired additional funds from the Shark conservation Fund to continue supporting the Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) project. The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

(BfN) and the Government of Monaco continued to support the SSG by funding the positions for the Red List Authority coordinators.

COMMUNICATE Communication

T-009 Organise annual SSG events linked to major international conferences to communicate activities and progress to members and other interested individuals or organisations, e.g. American Elasmobranch Society yearly meeting, European Elasmobranch Association, Sharks International 2022. (KSR 13)

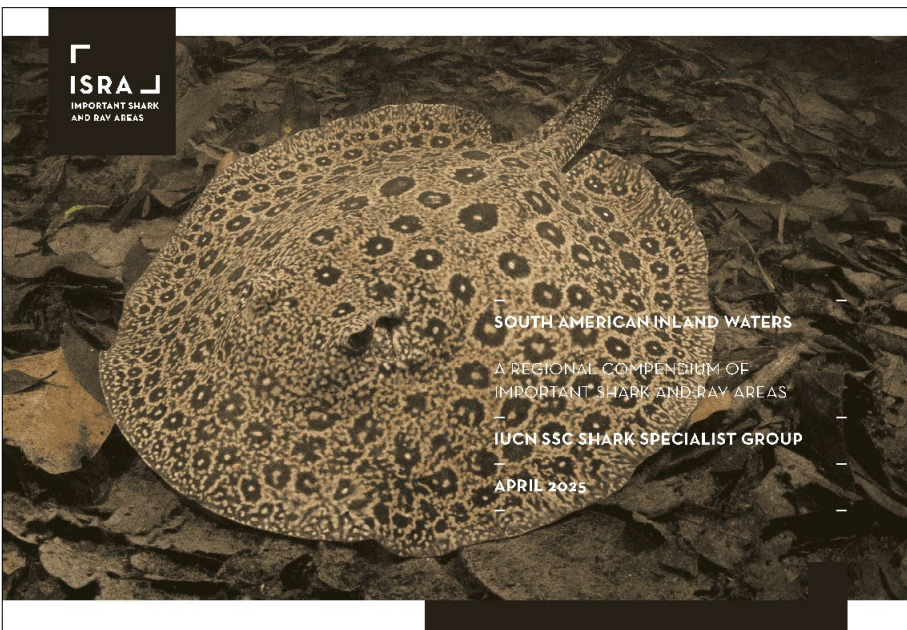
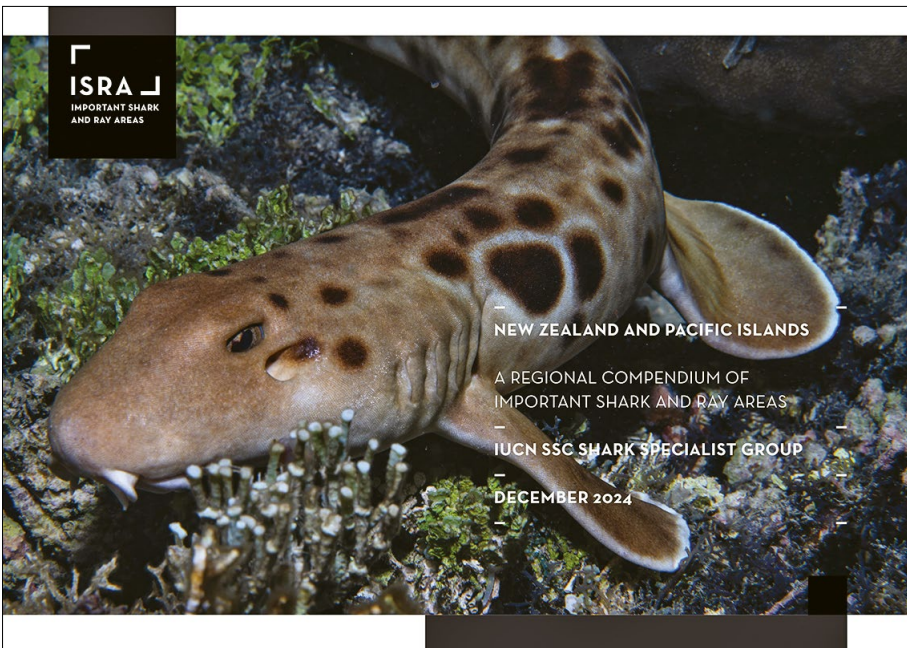
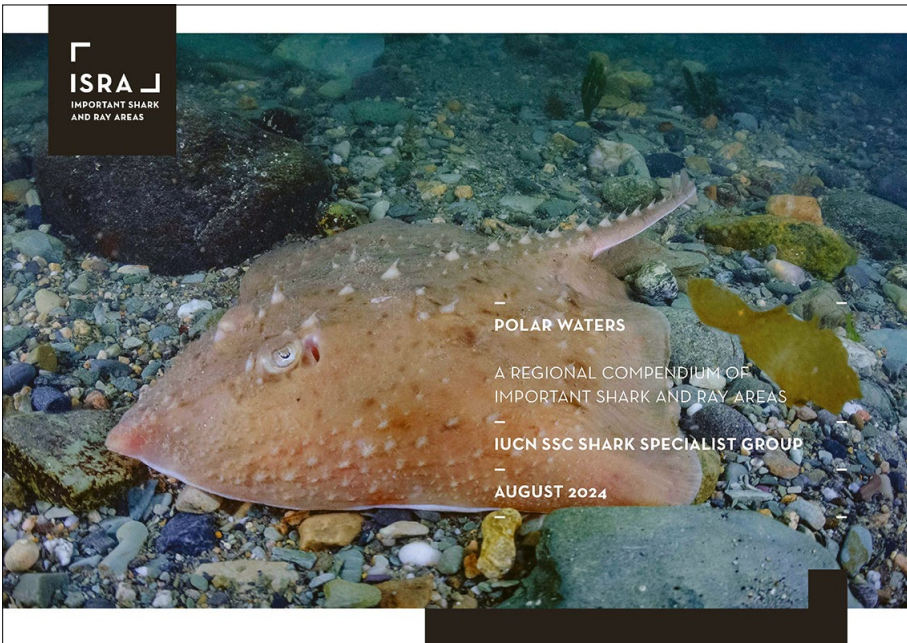
Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 7

Result description: The IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group (SSG) members continued to engage at the regional level through online meetings that Regional Vice-Chairs are organising quarterly for each of the nine SSG regions. Progress and outcomes of the SSG-led Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) project were disseminated at six conference or meeting presentations around the world, for example at the Conference of Parties for the Convention on Migratory Species in Uzbekistan and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Fish Forum in Türkiye in February; the International Marine Conservation Congress in South Africa, the European Elasmobranch Association Meeting in Greece during October; and the IUCN Leaders Meeting in the United Arab Emirates in October. In 2025, the SSG organized an online workshop entitled 'How to use social media to communicate shark conservation science to the public, and why you should' for Members of the SSG, led by David Shiffman.

T-010 Publish annual Shark Specialist Group Newsletters with contributions from members. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 3

Result description: The IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group (SSG) continued to release



Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) Polar Waters regional compendium

Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) New Zealand and Pacific Islands regional compendium

Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA) South American Inland Waters regional compendium

Photos: IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group

the official SSG Newsletter, Shark News. Two issues ([January 2024](#); [September 2024](#)) were published in 2024 with contributions from members and non-members working on shark, ray, and chimaera conservation issues around the world. In 2025, [one issue](#) was published with contributions from members and non-members working on shark, ray, and chimaera conservation issues around the world. All issues can be downloaded on our [website](#) or viewed online.

Acknowledgements

The IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group would like to thank all our funders, partners, collaborators and members for their support and contributions. Special thanks are due to our institutional partners including the IUCN SSC Chair's Office, IUCN Marine Conservation Committee, IUCN Red List Unit, IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, and IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group. Funding and in-kind contributions were graciously provided by IUCN SSC Internal Grant; Re:wild; Shark Conservation Fund; Atlantis - The Palm; Save Our Seas Foundation; Shark Conservation Fund; White Shark; the Government of Monaco, and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Federal Republic of Germany).

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 26

Geographic regions: 24 Global, 2 America

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 6 (KSR 5, 6, 7)

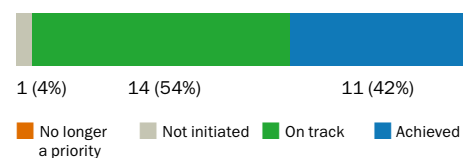
Plan: 3 (KSR 8)

Act: 5 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 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 acoreesins*)
Photo: Paulo A.V. Borges



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