



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:

Rowe, H. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Sonoran Desert Plant 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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Sonoran Desert Plant Specialist Group



CHAIR
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**RED LIST AUTHORITY
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

23

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Sonoran Desert Plant Specialist Group (SDPSG) is to assess the extinction risk of all Sonoran Desert plant species, educate the public about Sonoran Desert species and threats, and implement conservation plans supported by the red listing process.

Projected impact 2021–2025

We strive by the end of 2025 to have made substantial progress towards the ambitious agenda of assessing all Sonoran Desert species. At the same time, we expect to make progress in surveying and removing high priority invasive species through greater coordination. Conservation planning will begin concurrently with the Red List assessments on high priority species chosen through the process of prioritising Sonoran Desert plants for assessment and by working with other specialist groups to create a comprehensive list of threatened species across taxa.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Collaborate with other groups to coordinate on overlapping species.
Status: On track

T-002 Complete assessments for 250 Fabaceae species.
Status: Achieved

T-004 Submit three funding proposals to support assessments and expert workshops.
Status: No longer a priority

T-005 Complete a draft list of Fabaceae species endemic to the Sonoran Desert.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Develop a threats map of the Sonoran Desert to assist in drafting assessments.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-008 Initiate conservation planning for threatened plant species in the Sonoran Desert using IUCN conservation planning guidance.
Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-009 Map distribution and remove priority invasive plant species in the Sonoran Desert.
Status: On track

T-011 Advance *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation – seeds and living collections – of Critically Endangered and Endangered plants and preventive sampling of seeds of the more widely distributed plant taxa.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-006 Hold annual SDPSG meetings, possibly during regional meetings.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Create and complete logo.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Include sessions/discussion panels on the activities and deliverables of the SDPSG in the Arid Lands Symposium or other relevant regional or international meetings.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Collaborate with other groups to coordinate on overlapping species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 50

Result description: We continued to coordinate with other groups to prevent duplication of efforts. To do this, we reviewed all of our species in SIS and recorded the working sets associated with each species.



Little-leaved Palo Verde
(*Parkinsonia microphylla*), Sonoran Desert
Photo: Steve Jones



Coulter's Lupine (*Lupinus sparsiflorus*)
Photo: Marianne Jensen

T-002 Complete assessments for 250 Fabaceae species. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 75

Result description: We completed Red List assessments for all 75 Fabaceae family species in the Sonoran Desert.

T-012 Assess flora of McDowell Sonoran Preserve. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 100

Result description: We have drafted at least 100 assessments and added them to SIS for review.

**PLAN
Planning**

T-008 Initiate conservation planning for threatened plant species in the Sonoran Desert using IUCN conservation planning guidance. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The conservation planning group has met twice this calendar year to define its scope and make progress on the goals. The current goal is to prioritize the more than 4,000 species according to conservation metrics. We will need to seek funding to achieve this target.

**ACT
Conservation actions**

T-009 Map distribution and remove priority invasive plant species in the Sonoran Desert. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 50

Result description: Our partners continue to map the distribution and remove invasive plants from the Sonoran Desert.

T-011 Advance in situ and ex situ conservation – seeds and living collections – of Critically Endangered and Endangered plants and preventive sampling of seeds of the more widely distributed plant taxa. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 0

Result description: We have created a new working group to make progress on this target. We have met once, and the goal is to work on species identified by a Maria Chavez and Michael Way. Michael Way is seeking funding for initiating efforts on the Mexico side of the Sonoran Desert.

**NETWORK
Membership**

T-006 Hold annual SDPSG meetings, possibly during regional meetings. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 11

Result description: We recruited 11 new members this year and held our annual Sonoran Desert Plant SSG meeting January 15, 2025, to set new targets, engage the new membership and create new working groups. We created three new working groups: conservation planning, *ex situ* conservation planning, and policy.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 12

Geographic regions: 5 Global, 7 America

Actions during 2024-2025:

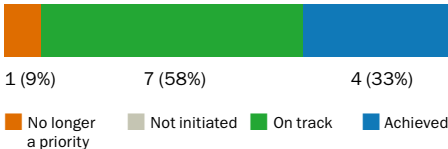
Assess: 3 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

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