



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:

Cano Alonso, L.S. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Spain 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 Spain Species Specialist Group



CHAIR
Luis Santiago Cano
Alonso

Comité Español de la
IUCN / IUCN Spanish
National Committee,
Burgos, Spain

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
131

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

Website: [Grupo de Especialistas de especies](#)

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC SPAIN Species Specialist Group (EsSSG) co-ordinates expertise across taxonomic groups and disciplines to support governments and other stakeholders, and facilitate evidence-based decision making and the development of policies that will contribute towards reversing the decline of species.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Spain is a biodiversity hotspot that hosts small rear-edge populations of species typical of central and northern Europe, Mediterranean and Macaronesian biota, many marine species, and a large set of endemic organisms. Spain Species Specialist Group (EsSSG) is a science-based network of volunteer experts belonging to universities, scientific and conservation associations, the SSC Centre for Species Survival Macaronesia, the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (MITECO), and the Spanish National Committee of IUCN (CeUICN), all working together toward conserving nature through providing scientific knowledge, conservation expertise, and positive action to both prevent the loss

and aid recovery of the diversity of life on the land, freshwaters, and marine waters under the jurisdiction of the Spanish State. The CeUICN is its host institution. We are committed to release the first National Red List in Spain by the end of this quadrennium 2021-2025.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Conduct and publish in a website the Spain National Red List.

Status: On track

T-004 Deliver at least two training workshops on species assessments.

Status: Achieved

T-009 Publish a paper on understanding the biodiversity situation in Spain under the Red List and legal status in Spain.

Status: On track

T-010 Publish one article on the IUCN SSC Spain Specialist Group in an international conservation journal.

Status: Achieved

T-012 Participation in the World Species Congress organised by Reverse the Red and the SSC.

Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-008 Provide one technical consultation to analyse the biodiversity conservation status in Spain to organisations and institutions nationally engaged with Biodiversity Conservation.

Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-001 Identify focal national specialists for setting up a minimum of 10 taxonomic working groups with coordinators.

Status: Achieved

T-002 Registered at least 75 Specialist Group members in the IUCN Portal.

Status: Achieved

T-005 Present the IUCN Spain SG in international IUCN fora to create networks within the IUCN universe.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Organise public presentations to communicate the progress of the IUCN SSC Spain SG.

Status: Not initiated

T-007 Create a website for the Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

Sclerophora peronella (Aragon, Spain),
a rare fungus species in Europe
Photo: Emili Josep Martínez i Ibarz



T-011 Publish six articles or news on the IUCN SSC Spain SG and its activities at international and national levels.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Communication

T-012 Participation in the World Species Congress organised by Reverse the Red and the SSC. (KSR 5)

Number of videos presented in the WCS by taxonomic groups of the IUCN SSC Spain Specialist Group: 27

Result description: A total of 27 videos of species were presented in the World Species Congress by the taxonomic specialist working groups of the IUCN SSC Spain Specialist Group. The videos are available in the [video section](#).

Red List

T-003 Conduct and publish in a website the Spain National Red List. (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 0

Result description: The IUCN Spain Specialist Group has contacted the Red List Unit and the Red List Project to coordinate the publication of the National Red List.

The Specialist Group has agreed to host the [National Red List in the IUCN Spanish Committee website](#).

T-004 Deliver at least two training workshops on species assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of technical workshops delivered: 2

Result description: A technical workshop on species assessment under the IUCN Red List Criteria at regional and national level was delivered in Malaga (Spain) on December 3-5, 2024. There were 33 participants in Malaga plus 20 more online, in total 53 attendees. The technical workshop was co-organised by the IUCN SSC Spain Specialist Group, Spanish Committee of the IUCN and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, and funded by the Ministry of Environment under the project 'TRAGSATEC - ENCARGO 3088153. MITECO – EXPEDIENTE P2.C4.I1.P1.S000. A2.E1 FAUNA TERRESTRE Y AVES MARINAS (ESPECIES AUTÓCTONAS Y EXÓTICAS INVASORAS). MEJORA DE CONOCIMIENTO DEL ESTADO DE CONSERVACIÓN. Plan de Recuperación, Transformación y Resiliencia - Financiado por la Unión Europea – NextGenerationEU. The programme and materials of the workshop are permanently available [here](#). A technical WORKSHOP ON EVALUATION OF NON-STANDARD

TAXONOMIC GROUPS FOR IUCN RED LISTS was organized by the “Cátedra UICN” of the International University of Andalusia 30th and 31st January 2025, where Spanish specialists of different working groups of the IUCN SSC EsSSG could exchange challenges and doubts about species assessments under the IUCN criteria with Chairs, Co-Chairs and Red List Authorities of different IUCN SSC specialist groups.

Research activities

T-009 Publish a paper on understanding the biodiversity situation in Spain under the Red List and legal status in Spain. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

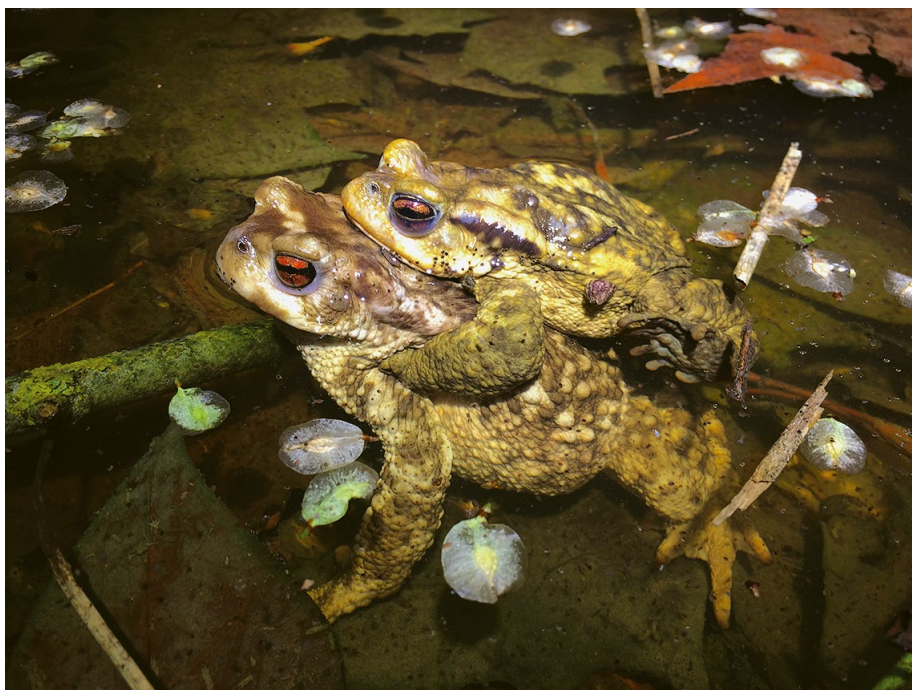
Result description: A coordinator of the research has been assigned (Dr José Luis Tellería), and the research proposal has been presented to all taxonomic groups. The period for expression of interest to participate in this research and for the authorship of the publication is open until January 31, 2025.

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 Identify focal national specialists for setting up a minimum of 10 taxonomic working groups with coordinators. (KSR 2)

Mating pair of Spiny Toads
(*Bufo spinosus*), Madrid, Spain
Photo: Iñigo Martínez Solano



Our specimens of Freshwater Pearl Mussel
(*Margaritifera margaritifera*) (Linnaeus, 1758),
Arnego River, Ulla Basin, Galicia, Spain.
It is considered a Critically Endangered species
for Europe by the IUCN since 2011 and listed
as Endangered in the Spanish Catalogue
Photo: Paz Ondina



Rhinolophus mehelyi
Photo: Oscar de Paz



Number of taxonomic working groups formed: 18

Result description: By April 2025, there were 18 taxonomic working groups formed: (1) Arthropods – Asociación Española de Entomología (AeE), (2) Amphibians and Reptiles – Asociación Herpetológica Española (AHE), (3) Bats – Asociación Española para la Conservación y Estudio de los Murciélagos (SECEMU), (4) Cave invertebrates – Cave invertebrates working group, (5) Lepidopterans – Asociación Española para la Protección de las Mariposas y su Medio (ZERYNTHIA), (6) Mammals – Sociedad Española para la Conservación y Estudio de los Mamíferos (SECEM), (7) Marine and continental fishes – Sociedad Ibérica de Ictiología (SIBIC), (8) Molluscs – Sociedad Española de Malacología (SEM), (9) Spiders – Spiders working group, (10) Sharks, rays, and chimaeras – Sharks, rays, and chimaeras working group, (11) Birds - Sociedad Española de Ornitología/BirdLife (SEO/BirdLife), (12) Algae – Sociedad Española de Ficología (SEF), (13) Bryophytes – Sociedad Española de Briología (SEB), (14) Macaronesian Plants – IUCN SSC Macaronesian Islands Plant Specialist Group, (15) Vascular Plants – Sociedad Española de Biología de la Conservación de Plantas (SEBiCoP), and (16) Lichens - Sociedad Española de Liqueología (SEL), (17) Cetaceans - Cetaceans working group, and (18) Fungal - Sociedad Ibérica de Micología.

T-002 Register at least 75 Specialist Group members in the IUCN Portal. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 131

Result description: By April 2025, there were 131 specialists officially registered in the IUCN Portal (130 members and one Chair).

Synergy

T-005 Present the IUCN Spain SG in international IUCN fora to create networks within the IUCN universe. (KSR 3)

Number of international events attended: 2

Result description: Dr Jesús Bellido, member of the Steering Committee presented the IUCN SSC Spain Specialist Group in the Europe, North and Central Asia RCF, September 30- October 3, 2024, and Dr Luis Santiago Cano-Alonso presented the Specialist Group during a plenary session and two parallel sessions in the SSC Leader's meeting in Abu Dhabi, held on October 25-28, 2024.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 Create a website for the Specialist Group. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: The IUCN SSC Spain Specialist Group has its [website](#) hosted under the [IUCN Spanish Committee](#).

T-011 Publish six articles or news on the IUCN SSC Spain SG and its activities at international and national levels. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 4

Result description: By April 2025, five news were published about the IUCN SSC Spain Specialist Group at national (four) and international (one) levels: three in the *IUCN Spanish Committee bulletin*, one in *Quercus* conservation magazine and one in the *SSC Quarterly Report* (March).

Acknowledgements

We thank the SSC Chair's Office, the Spanish Committee of the IUCN, Catherine Numa and Arantxa Cendoya (the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation), the IUCN SSC Center for Species Survival Macaronesia (CSSM), Neil Cox and Sophie Ledger (National Red List project), Michael Clifford (Reverse the Red), Caroline Pollock (IUCN Red List Unit), and Ramón Martínez (Tragsatec). We also thank the NextGenerationEU project 'Fauna Terrestre y Aves Marinas (Especies Autóctonas y Exóticas Invasoras). Mejora de Conocimiento del Estado de Conservación'. Tragsatec - Encargo 3088153 / MITECO – Expediente P2.C4.I1.P1.S000.A2.E1, which funded the training workshop on species assessment under the IUCN Red List criteria at national level.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 12

Geographic regions: 8 Europe, 4 Global

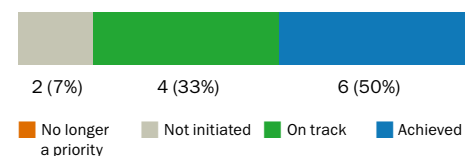
Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 3)

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 acoreensis*)
Photo: Paulo A.V. Borges



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