



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:

Stephenson, PJ. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Species Monitoring 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 Species Monitoring Specialist Group



SPECIES MONITORING
Specialist Group



CHAIR
P.J. Stephenson

Laboratory for
Conservation
Biology, Department
of Ecology and
Evolution, University of
Lausanne, Lausanne,
Switzerland

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
124

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

X: @Monitor_Species

Website: <https://www.speciesmonitoring.org>

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Species Monitoring Specialist Group (SMSG) aims to enhance biodiversity conservation by improving the availability and use of data on species populations, their habitats, and threats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Species Monitoring Specialist Group helps build capacity for biodiversity monitoring in a range of stakeholder groups, from government departments to companies to NGOs, and also in taxonomic Specialist Groups. That increased capacity for data access and use will improve adaptive management of conservation projects, hence the status of species. However, we cannot predict precisely how many species will have their conservation status improved as a result of our work.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Enhance species monitoring and Red List data quality and volume through the testing of monitoring methods and the development and dissemination of lessons, tools and guidelines.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Support the development and testing of the Green Status of Species (GSS).
Status: Achieved

T-003 Integrate the IUCN Red List Index and the Green Status of Species into monitoring tools and guidelines developed by the Group so as to encourage uptake by civil society and business as well as countries.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-004 Develop and implement partnerships that result in projects and products that enhance species monitoring.
Status: Achieved

T-005 Engage IUCN members and Secretariat teams in group projects.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024–2025

ASSESS

Green Status

T-002 Support the development and testing of the Green Status of Species (GSS). (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 4

Result description: In 2024, at least three more GSS assessments co-led by group members have been published in the IUCN

Red List of Threatened Species (Estuarine Pipefish, Ironclad Beetle and Malagasy Giant Jumping Rat). In 2025, at least one more GSS assessments co-led by group members have been published in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Spiky Yellow Woodlouse).

Red List

T-003 Integrate the IUCN Red List Index and the Green Status of Species into monitoring tools and guidelines developed by the Group so as to encourage uptake by civil society and business as well as countries. (KSR 7)

Number of NGOs and companies using Group tools and guidelines that advocate using the Red List Index or Green Status of Species: 3

Result description: Following on from the Group's project with the IUCN Global Business & Biodiversity Programme and the production of the Guidelines for Planning & Monitoring Corporate Biodiversity Performance (which encourages use of both the Red List and Green Status of Species), in 2024 organisations that have used the guidelines to assess their pressures and dependencies on biodiversity in preparation for biodiversity goal-setting, included the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the world's motor sport authority.

Young professionals surveying birds and mammals in June 2024 as part of the monitoring module of the IUCN/UNIL summer school course on transdisciplinary nature conservation
Photo: PJ Stephenson



Monitoring guidelines produced with the new IUCN Business and Nature team will also be used by KfW and WALD IF projects to guide project monitoring. The Chair also produced guidelines for the IUCN/Renewables Grid Initiative partnership GINGR on monitoring biodiversity around offshore wind farms which will ensure RGI and its members enhance biodiversity data collection. A broader Group initiative to produce and disseminate guidance and tools on biodiversity monitoring (part-funded by an SSC Internal Grant) has continued to advance and will produce its outputs later in 2025.

[SSC Grant awarded]

Research activities

T-001 Enhance species monitoring and Red List data quality and volume through the testing of monitoring methods and the development and dissemination of lessons, tools and guidelines. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 4

Result description: Key papers this year as a direct result of the Chair's work or group members' projects that acknowledged relevant SSC affiliations included: (1) Borges, PAV, et al. (2024). 'Monitoring arthropods under the scope of LIFE-SNAILS project: I - Santa Maria Island baseline data with implementation of the Index of Biotic Integrity'. *Biodiversity Data Journal*, 12: e116829, (2) Lhoumeau, S, et al. (2024). 'Monitoring arthropods under the scope of the LIFE-BEETLES project: I - Baseline data with implementation of the Index of Biotic Integrity'. *Biodiversity Data Journal*, 12: e124799, (3) Lindken, T, et al. (2024). 'What factors influence the rediscovery of lost tetrapod species?'. *Global Change Biology*, 30(1): e17107, (4) Sykes, R, et al. (2024). 'Developing a framework to improve global estimates of conservation

area coverage'. *Oryx*, 58(2), 192–201. Additionally, four papers from Group projects were submitted to peer-reviewed journals in the first four months of 2025, and another one drafted.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-004 Develop and implement partnerships that result in projects and products that enhance species monitoring. (KSR 1)

Number of partners engaged in Group projects: 3

Result description: Through the Group's research project on voluntary biodiversity credits, new partnerships were established in 2024 with the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), the Biodiversity Credit Alliance and the Enterprise for Society Centre (E4S).

[SSC Grant awarded]

Proposal development and funding

T-005 Engage IUCN members and Secretariat teams in Group projects. (KSR 3)

Number of species monitoring initiatives implemented together with IUCN members, national/regional committees and Secretariat: 4

Result description: In 2024, the Chair and five Group members helped the IUCN Business & Nature team and KfW produce a Review of Methods and Technological Tools for Measuring and Monitoring Biodiversity, which will act as a guide for projects implemented under the Innovation Facility of the Worldwide Alliance for Landscape-based Decarbonisation. Under the collaborative agreement between IUCN and the University of Lausanne, the Chair also secured a grant from E4S to co-lead with IMD a research project to assess the biodiversity data needs required for a high-integrity voluntary biodiversity credit market. Also, under the IUCN/UNIL agreement, a Master's student (Irina Casimiro)

conducted research for her project 'Factors influencing the effectiveness of biodiversity monitoring in Swiss protected areas', and a second Summer School on Transdisciplinary Nature Conservation was run for 14 young conservation professionals from around the world.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to the following for their financial support to projects involving or led by the Group in 2024: The Enterprise for Society Center - E4S, through the University of Lausanne, for the project 'Towards a nature-positive, actionable and measurable framework for voluntary biodiversity credits'; the IUCN SSC for an SSC internal grant for the project 'Developing and disseminating guidelines and tools on biodiversity monitoring'. We also continue to be greatly indebted to Professor Luca Fumagalli (Laboratory for Conservation Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, Switzerland) for informally host the chair since August 2020. We also acknowledge our gratitude to Nathanaël Langlois and Noa de Berg for their *pro bono* support to the Group's work in 2024.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 5

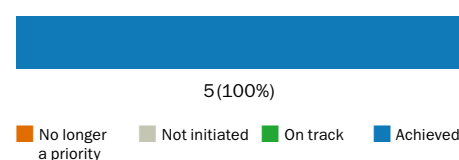
Geographic regions: 5 Global

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6, 7)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 3)

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