



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:

Shumaker, R, Street, B, Canteiro, C, Birkhoff, J, Perry, L, Böhm, M, Ivande, S, Henriques, S, Echeverry-Alcendra, A, Palmer, C, and Griese, K. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Global CSS Indianapolis Zoological Society. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *Species: Annual Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat 2024-2025*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 10 pp.

2024-2025 Report

Global CSS Indianapolis Zoological Society



DIRECTOR
Rob Shumaker
(since 2024)
Indianapolis, US



DIRECTOR
Bill Street
(until 2024)
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Cátia Canteiro
(until 2024)
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Justin Birkhoff
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Laura Perry
(until 2024)
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Monika Böhme
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Samuel Ivande
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Sérgio Henriques
(until 2025)
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Andrea Echeverry-
Alcendra
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Coralie Palmer
Indianapolis, US



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Kelly Griese
Indianapolis, US

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: [Global Center for Species Survival](#)

Instagram: [@protectspecies](#)

LinkedIn: [Global Center for Species Survival](#)

Threads: [@protectspecies](#)

X: [@ProtectSpecies](#)

Bluesky: [@protectspecies.bsky.social](#)

Mission statement

The Global Center for Species Survival is built upon a partnership and a commitment to conservation. As human pressure continues to drive biodiversity loss, the work of conservationists from around the world becomes more vital in protecting and restoring nature. Only through collaboration can we protect species and the spaces they call home. That is why the Indianapolis Zoological Society (IZS) partnered with the

Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – which connects thousands of dedicated species experts globally – to form the Global Center for Species Survival as a department of the Indianapolis Zoo. The Global Center for Species Survival supports, connects, and communicates the work of more than 10,500 conservationists joined together in Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities and Task Forces of the

IUCN SSC. It is the mission of the Global Center to support the IUCN SSC in influencing, encouraging and assisting societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increase conservation planning and action for species protection and recovery and develop capacity to support the work of the SSC Network.



Attendees of IMCC7 workshop "Connecting the Dots, Expanding our Reach and Impact through IUCN SSC Specialist Groups"
Photo: Global Center for Species Survival

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-016 Support SSC groups and Conservation Committees in IUCN assessment processes.
Status: On track

T-027 Contribute to improve current resources and guidelines on assessments for the SSC Network.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-018 Work with SSC groups and conservation committees to identify priority needs for conservation planning.
Status: On track

T-019 Support SSC groups with the production of conservation plans.
Status: On track

ACT

T-020 Influence grant support among partners and Centers to better support IUCN SSC priorities.
Status: On track

T-021 Support and improve SSC groups' ability to fundraise for conservation planning and action.
Status: Not initiated

T-022 Identify and overcome the challenges of moving conservation plans into action.
Status: Not initiated

T-023 Provide support and encouragement for SSC groups to write letters of intervention to governments and/or companies that are responsible for an immediate environmental threat to species.
Status: On track

T-028 Support SSC groups on behaviour change in their conservation actions.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-004 Support diversification of SSC membership based on: 1) geography, 2) gender, 3) age, 4) other disciplines, and 5) indigenous and traditional communities.
Status: On track

T-005 Support the SSC volunteer recognition programme and broaden the number and scope of existing awards.
Status: On track

T-006 Provide administrative, hosting, and facilitation support for SSC groups and conservation committees.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Develop a One-Stop-Shop online system within the SSC Data to make information and resources more available to

the SSC Network, including fundraising opportunities, events calendar, and communication forum.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Support the identification and creation of new SSC Groups.
Status: Achieved

T-009 Support the development of SSC groups funding proposals to instigate assess, plan, and act projects.
Status: Achieved

T-024 Organise thematic webinars on key issues and resources periodically throughout the year, consulting priority themes with the SSC groups and respective Conservation Committees where applicable.
Status: Achieved

T-025 Facilitate the identification and development of beneficial partnerships for SSC groups in consultation with the Bird Conservation Coordinator and SSC Director of Strategic Partnerships.
Status: On track

T-026 Support to increase the number of SSC group members trained in IUCN assessment processes.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-010 Develop a shared communications approach across Species Survival

Commission (SSC) and the wider International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Status: No longer a priority

T-011 Disseminate communication pathways and guidance on targeted communication strategy development to SSC groups.

Status: Not initiated

T-012 Support the improvement of social media presence of SSC groups.

Status: On track

T-013 Support SSC groups with the preparation of specific communications, e.g. on under- or misrepresented biodiversity, lesser-known species, specific conservation topics, and dissemination of techniques.

Status: On track

T-014 Provide website support for SSC groups and Conservation Committees, including the development, hosting, content development, ongoing management and operational aspects of websites.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-016 Support SSC groups and Conservation Committees in IUCN Red List assessment processes. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 4

Result description: The Freshwater Conservation Coordinator (Monika Böhm) supported the assessment and publication on the IUCN Red List of four *Nautilus* species, in addition to supporting the assessment of the final eight taxa of *Nautilus* — still under review, and including some subspecies and subpopulations assessments — to complete the Global Cephalopod Assessment (with IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group). In addition, the Freshwater Conservation Coordinator supported the European Red List of Moths and National Red List of Greece through review via Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group and Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority, some assessments of which are endemics and hence global assessments (not yet published/to be completed in 2025). With a volunteer researcher, we started to assess three newly described species of freshwater fish from Southwestern US, in collaboration with the IUCN Biodiversity Assessment and Knowledge Team.

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 77

Result description: The Freshwater Conservation Coordinator supported the reassessment of the European Red List of Butterflies as a reviewer (these assessments are not published yet). The Freshwater Conservation Coordinator also supported the publication of the reassessment for *Capromys pilorides* as a reviewer (Small Mammal SG). The Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator (Andrea Echeverry-Alcendra) served as virtual facilitator for an IUCN Red List Assessment and Review Workshop for snake and lizard species of Central America, held at La Selva Biological Research Station, Costa Rica between March 3rd – March 7th, 2025. In summary, 353 of 596 species were reviewed in the workshop. The Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator's working group evaluated 76 species, and one Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Viper Specialist Group, and one of the Co-Chairs and the Red List Authority Coordinator of the IUCN SSC Anoline Lizard Specialist Group participated in the workshop.

Research activities

T-016 Support SSC groups and Conservation Committees in IUCN Red List assessment processes. (KSR 6)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 5

Result description: The Global Center staff supported or contributed to four publications relevant to increasing species knowledge, assessment processes and analyses: (1) Gumbs, R, *et al.* (2024). “[Global conservation status of the jawed vertebrate Tree of Life](#)”. *Nature Communications* 15: 1101 (with IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force); (2) Cazalis, V, *et al.* (2024). “[Accelerating and standardising IUCN Red List assessments with sRedList](#)”. *Biological Conservation* 298: 110761 (sRedList project output); (3) Jones, KR, *et al.* (2024). “[Approaches for identifying areas of particular importance for marine biodiversity](#)”. *Technical Note No. 16*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN WCPA. 9pp; (4) Salafsky, N, *et al.* (2024). “[Classification of direct threats to the conservation of ecosystems and species 4.0](#)”. *Conservation Biology* Early View: e14434 (with Conservation Measures Partnership, as part of IUCN SSC Red List Technical Working Group). Additional publications (either not acknowledging SSC or GCSS, or not directly relevant to IUCN assessment processes but utilizing IUCN assessment

data): (1) Pironon, S, *et al.* (2024). “[The global distribution of plants used by humans](#)”. *Science* 383: 293-297 (with IUCN Red List Partner Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew); (2) Lurfa-Manzano, R, *et al.* (2024). “[Tadpoles in lotic waters, habitat specialization, and human population density lead tree frogs \(Hylinae\) to higher extinction risk](#)”. *Biological Conservation* 290: 110439 (with a member of IUCN SSC Viper Specialist Group). Additionally, the Global Center staff supported or contributed the following publication during the first quarter of 2025: Sayer, CA, *et al.* (2025). ‘One-quarter of freshwater fauna threatened with extinction’. *Nature* 638: 138–145.

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 8

Result description: In 2024, Global Center staff continued supporting several SSC research (or other) projects that carried over from the previous year: ‘Assessing EDGE Fungi: Boletales, Russulales, and Cantharellales plus 6 Monotypic Families’ (Plants and Fungi Conservation Coordinator, Cátia Canteiro); ‘IUCN Guidelines for Conservation Management of Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrates’ (Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator - Sérgio Henriques, and Freshwater Conservation Coordinator - Monni Böhm); ‘sRedList - Accelerating IUCN Red List assessments for rapid and effective biodiversity monitoring’ (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator); ‘FUNACTION: Aquatic FUNgal biodiversity: developing knowledge and strategies to inform Conservation priorities and measures’ (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator with members of the newly formed Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group); ‘North American Freshwater Mussel SAFE’ (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, Mollusc SG); ‘IUCN SSC EDGE of Spiders’ (Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator, Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group); ‘Protecting Indiana’s wildlights – assessing fireflies extinction risk’ (Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator, Firefly Specialist Group); ‘Understanding challenges and opportunities for NatureServe partners to include fungi in their work’ (Plants and Fungi Conservation Coordinator with IUCN SSC Fungal Conservation Committee); ‘Conservation and research of the priority species *Penstemon deamii*’ (Plants and Fungi Conservation Coordinator with the Indiana Plant Conservation Alliance). Furthermore, Global Center staff supported the following new projects that were started



Participants of Reptile and Amphibian Specialist Groups Session (day two) at 5th IUCN SSC Leaders Meeting
Photo: Dr. Rikki Gumbs

in 2024, all involving SSC members: (1) 'MoSTFun: Monitoring Strategies for Aquatic Fungi Biodiversity' (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator and Plants and Fungi Conservation Coordinator with members of the newly formed Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group); (2) 'Revisions to the CMP/ IUCN Threat Classification Scheme' (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, through IUCN SSC Red List Technical Working Group); (3) 'Revisions to the CMP/ IUCN Conservation Action Classification Scheme' (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, through IUCN SSC Red List Technical Working Group); (4) 'What's in the water? Discovering the freshwater ascomycete fungi of Marion County, Indiana' (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, with member of Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group). In addition, the Global Center supported the following new projects in the first quarter of 2025: (1) 'Assess to Plan for European Moths' (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group); (2) 'Bycatch and non-selective fisheries, with an expert elicitation of SSC Specialist Groups' (Marine Conservation Coordinator - Coralie Palmer, IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee; results will be presented at the One Ocean Science Congress this June); (3) 'Conservation evidence for freshwater' (Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, IUCN SSC Freshwater Conservation Committee); (4) 'Protect and Restore: Integrating Marine Stewardship to achieve 30 x 30 for coastal ecosystems' (Marine Conservation Coordinator).

PLAN

Planning

T-018 Work with SSC groups and conservation committees to identify priority needs for conservation planning. (KSR 8)

Compile a list of species/threats/regions for priority planning: 7

Result description: The Freshwater Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival, with help of an intern from Butler University, used the IUCN Red List as a data source to compile conservation priorities for freshwater species. These can help to inform future planning efforts in the freshwater realm. The Marine Conservation Coordinator worked with the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee and marine groups (Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities and Task Forces) both in the run up to and at the 5th IUCN SSC Leader's Meeting to analyse which marine taxa are not covered by extant Specialist Groups and are a priority for the formation of new ones. An intern from the Butler University worked on developing initial potential member/contact lists for the top priorities identified (gobies and associated species, marine decapods, deep sea fishes, polychaetes, marine jellies, sea spiders, small pelagic fishes, sea urchins, cods, hydrothermal vent associated species, and flat fishes, scorpionfish, lates perches). The Marine Conservation Coordinator also worked with the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee (MCC) and marine groups (Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities and Task Forces) both in the run up to and at the 5th IUCN SSC Leader's Meeting to

identify key cross-taxa threats between groups. Non-selective fisheries / bycatch was identified as one of the main priorities. A framework strategy for opportunities for cross-taxa collaboration on this issue was developed and will be the basis for much of the MCC work in 2025, centering on an expert elicitation in early 2025. The Marine Conservation Coordinator, in partnership with the Chair of the Marine Conservation Committee and the Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group wrote and submitted an abstract for presentation of these results at the One Ocean Science Congress in 2025. The Marine Conservation Coordinator also attended the Society for Conservation Biology's Seventh International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC7) in Cape Town, South Africa in October 2024, with two days of pre-conference workshops focusing on Marine Protected Areas and 30x30 in relation to marine conservation. The Marine Conservation Coordinator organized a session at the Congress, 'Connecting the Dots: Expanding our Reach and Impact through IUCN SSC Specialist Groups' with presentations by members of the Marine Conservation Committee and leaders of marine focused IUCN SSC Specialist Groups. The session was supported by, and materials shared at the event financed by IZS. The Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival, with help of an intern from Butler University, used the IUCN Red List as a data source to compile conservation priorities for invertebrate species. This list



will inform future efforts of the IUCN SSC Specialist Groups related to invertebrate conservation. The Birds Conservation Coordinator worked with a Butler University intern using data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to investigate priority countries and threats to bird species globally. This will be mapped against the list of existing IUCN SSC Bird Specialist Groups and targets and inform efforts for the identification and creation of new bird specialist groups for threatened but currently unrepresented bird species groups within the SSC network. Results are also important to identify bird species and regions to prioritize for the IZS field conservation grant program. The Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator attended the 10th World Congress of Herpetology in Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo in August 2024, and supported the IUCN SSC Sea Snake Specialist Group (SSSG) on a workshop geared towards identifying priorities for Sea Snake conservation. On the day previous to the workshop, she presented about the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Cycle and on the workshop day she acted as a co-facilitator. The Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator attended the 5th IUCN SSC Leader's Meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in October 2024, and worked with leaders of the IUCN SSC Sea Snake Specialist Group and IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist group to organize a two-day Thematic Breakout Session for Reptile and Amphibian Specialist Groups (SGs). Day one of the session included

presentations from the Snake and Lizard Red List Authority (SLRLA), Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG), Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG), Chameleon Specialist Group (CSG), Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) and Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG). Day two was focused on a hands-on activity to select cross-cutting priorities for SGs to address together in a potential IUCN SSC Conservation Committee (or subcommittee) focused on Reptiles and Amphibians.

T-019 Support SSC groups with the production of conservation plans. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 32

Result description: The Global Center Team, through the IZS's Saving Species Challenge, assisted applicants in creating Conservation Action Plans designed to downlist their target species. The IZS received 52 Conservation Action Plans through the process. Thirty-two of these action plans were linked directly to or endorsed by IUCN SSC Specialist Groups. The remaining 20 plans not directly linked to IUCN SSC Specialist Groups referenced using IUCN SSC knowledge products and/or future involvement and linkages with IUCN SSC Specialist Groups.

ACT Conservation actions

T-023 Provide support and encouragement for SSC groups to write letters of intervention to governments and/or companies responsible for an immediate environmental threat to species. (KSR 10)

Number of intervention letters addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 2

Result description: The Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival supported the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group with the preparation of an intervention letter directed to the Bahamas National Trust and the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP) of The Bahamas. The aim of this letter is to call attention to the potential negative impacts of infrastructure development on the Central Bahamian Rock Iguana (*Cyclura rileyi*) populations and to ensure that the Conservation Action Plan for the species is consulted and implemented. The Marine Conservation Coordinator and the Bird Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival, and the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee Chair supported the IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group with the preparation of an intervention letter directed to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment of South Africa regarding the closure of key African Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) foraging areas to commercial purse-seine fisheries. The letter was sent early March 2025. A settlement was subsequently reached in a legal case regarding the closures, which seabird scientists had been recommending for more than 15 years. The settlement is a conservation win for the Critically Endangered African Penguin, although there is still more work

to be done to save this species; successful implementation of the closures, as well as their enforcement and monitoring of their impact, will be critical.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-024 Organise thematic webinars on key issues and resources periodically throughout the year, consulting priority themes with the SSC groups and respective Conservation Committees where applicable. (KSR 2)

Number of webinars organized: 7

Result description: In 2024, the Global Center supported a three-part webinar series on the Green Status of Species (with the Green Status of Species Task Force) and three webinars co-organised with the Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group and advertised more widely within and outside the SSC ('Systematic Conservation Planning for Freshwater Ecosystems'; 'Red listing for Fungi'; and a webinar on Aquatic Fungi to celebrate International Day for Biodiversity). We also facilitated the webinar 'El Comercio de Vida Silvestre en Latinoamérica: Desafíos y Oportunidades para el Involucramiento de la Juventud' (Wildlife trade in Latin America: Challenges and opportunities for youth engagement) for the Young Professionals Task Force. The Marine Conservation Coordinator supported two webinars on 'Promising Progress for Marine Species' (one as part of World Species Congress in partnership with MCC; one for World Oceans Day in collaboration with Reverse the Red and MCC).

T-025 Facilitate the identification and development of beneficial partnerships for SSC groups in consultation with the Bird Conservation Coordinator and SSC Director of Strategic Partnerships. (KSR 1)

Compile list of zoos/aquaria/botanical gardens that could partner with specific specialist groups: 5

Result description: In 2024, Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator supported meetings between the Firefly Specialist

Group and the new SG on Stag Beetles with two EAZA zoos to explore potential CSS partnerships in coordination with Kira Mileham. The Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival contacted the President and CEO of the Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium to try to find a financial partner for the IUCN SSC Chameleon Specialist Group. Bird Coordinator also involved in ongoing conversations with Environment for the Americas and The Peregrine Fund to support proposals to establish a new Hummingbird SG and a new Raptor SG respectively and to provide hosting support for these groups when they are eventually approved. The Plant and Fungi Coordinator supported the partnership development efforts for a new CSS focused on Fungi in the UAE. Marine Conservation Coordinator is involved with supporting partnership development for a potential CSS Coral and CSS Seahorse. Moreover, in 2025, Bird Conservation Coordinator met with the SSC Partnership team to explore multi-institutional/regional partnership models to support speciose and wide-ranging taxon specialist groups (e.g. Wild Parrot SG) and National Species Specialist Groups. Bird Coordinator also met with the Forest Unit of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) to discuss a potential Center for Species Survival (CSS) Nigeria Trees to support the Nigeria Species Specialist Group - Plant Species Working Group. The Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator met with local government partners of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Okinawan Prefecture Nature Conservation Division to explore multi-institutional/regional partnership in support of the speciose and wide-ranging IUCN SSC Ants Specialist Group and IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group.

T-026 Support to increase the number of SSC group members trained in IUCN assessment processes. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 71

Result description: The Freshwater Conservation Coordinator and Marine Conservation Coordinator, with co-trainer Christi Linardich, organised and ran a two half-day Red List training workshop for new marine specialist groups, with attendance from Seaweed SG, who originally requested the training, Marine Star SG, and Sea Cucumber SG (around 25 participants). With Tim Lyons from CSS: New Mexico, Freshwater Conservation Coordinator ran a four-day in-person IUCN Red List Training workshop in December, 2024 in Kolkata India, with 40 participants from the Zoological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India, who are trained up for a national Red List of India; the workshop was organised by Wildlife Trust of India; CSS: India. We also ran a three-part webinar series on the Green Status of Species for SSC Groups, as an introduction to Green Status training (see Target T-024). In 2025, Freshwater Conservation Coordinator, with support from Anna Walker and Barbara Goettsch, held a four-day (three-hour sessions each, May 5-8) training with assessors for the Mexican Firefly assessment (Firefly Specialist Group) which was joined by members of the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group.

Membership

T-004 Support diversification of SSC membership based on 1) geography, 2) gender, 3) age, 4) other disciplines, and 5) indigenous and traditional communities. (KSR 2)

Report with an analysis on the SSC membership diversity and advise on how to diversify it: Ongoing.

Result description: Since membership information on geography, gender and age is now available for each group via the IUCN Commission System, producing a report with an analysis of the SSC membership diversity is no longer a top priority activity for the Global Center for Species Survival team. However, the Global Center team directly supported the establishment of diverse new Specialist

Groups by considering membership diversity throughout the proposal process and during scoping meetings, e.g. see Target T-008 for new groups supported in 2024. As for the first quarter of 2025, the Global Center team continues to directly support the establishment of diverse new Specialist Groups by considering membership diversity throughout the proposal process and during scoping meetings.

T-005 Support the SSC volunteer recognition programme and broaden the number and scope of existing awards. (KSR 2)

Number of innovative ways identified to recognise volunteerism in the SSC: 1

Result description: We launched an initiative to summarise specialist group's main achievements – as published on their reports – and share them widely on social media to recognise their volunteerism. Social media threads were shared online in 2024, and this task is ongoing in 2025, as specialist group's reports get published and made available. At the end of 2025 we expect to have highlighted all group's work online.

T-006 Provide administrative, hosting, facilitation support for SSC groups and conservation committees. (KSR 3)

Number of meetings supported: 150

Result description: The Global Center team supported and facilitated no less than 100 meetings (mostly virtual) for SSC groups and conservation committees across different cross-cutting and taxonomic remits in 2024, and no less than 50 in the first quarter of 2025.

Number of specialist groups and conservation committees within the Global Center's remit that submitted their SSC Data reporting by end of Q1: 50%

Result description: About 87 out of the c.156 groups (55.1%) submitted previous year reports by the end of first quarter of 2024 and more than 90% report submission rate by the end of the reporting period - achieving one of the highest reporting rates that the SSC has had in recent times.

T-008 Support the identification and creation of new SSC Groups. (KSR 2)

Number of new SSC groups established: 8

Result description: In 2024, the Global Center team supported the creation of the IUCN SSC Wild Tulip Specialist Group, the IUCN SSC Wild Parrot Specialist Group, the IUCN SSC Sponge Specialist Group and the IUCN SSC Anoline Lizard Specialist Group.

In the first quarter of 2025, the Global Center team supported the creation of the new IUCN SSC Gekkota Lizard Specialist Group (February), the new IUCN SSC Earthworm Specialist Group (April) and the new IUCN SSC Woodlouse Specialist Group (April). The team also made progress supporting the proposal of a new Online Monitoring of the Illegal Wildlife Trade (OMIT) Task Force, a new IUCN SSC Tiger Beetle Specialist Group, a new IUCN SSC Sandy Beach Invertebrate Specialist Group, a new IUCN SSC Agamid Specialist Group, a new IUCN SSC Marine Decapod Specialist Group, a new IUCN SSC Goby and Blenny Specialist Group, introductory, a new IUCN SSC Deep-sea Fishes Specialist Group, a new IUCN SSC Sea Urchins and Sand Dollars Specialist Group, a new Cold Seeps and Hydrothermal Vents Specialist Group and a new IUCN SSC Raptor Specialist Group.

Proposal development and funding

T-009 Support the development of SSC groups funding proposals to instigate assess, plan, act projects. (KSR 1)

Number of funding proposals supported: 17

Result description: In 2024, the Global Center for Species Survival supported the development of 10 grant proposals in collaboration with specialist groups' members, of which at least six were successful in securing funding. In the first quarter of 2025, the Center supported several IUCN SSC Specialist Group funding applications, including three (unsuccessful) applications for the SSC Internal Grants: IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group. In

addition, we supported IUCN SSC Marine Star Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Coral Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Wild Parrot Specialist Group, and IUCN SSC Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group with Expressions of Interest for the IZS grants.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-011 Disseminate communication pathways and guidance on targeted communication strategy development to SSC groups. (KSR 13)

Guidance documents developed and shared on One-Stop-Shop: Ongoing.

Result description: We had planned to conduct an assessment in 2024 to determine the communications needs of Specialist Groups and inform the types of deliverables we create for addition to the One-Stop-Shop. This assessment process has been moved to 2025.

T-012 Support the improvement of social media presence of SSC groups. (KSR 12)

Number of SSC groups mentioned per year in the Global Center's Twitter/X account (30 groups mentioned per year): 65

Result description: Through the Global Center social media accounts (X, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Bluesky, and LinkedIn), we regularly highlight Specialist Groups and their species of focus with targeted messaging and links to experts. We collect monthly data on engagements and followers. In 2024, we mentioned 65 different Specialist Groups and Conservation Committees on social media; many of the SG and CC were mentioned more than once. We placed special emphasis on freshwater and fungal species.

T-013 Support SSC groups with the preparation of specific communications, e.g. on under- or misrepresented biodiversity, lesser-known species, specific conservation topics, and dissemination of techniques. (KSR 13)

Presenting certificates of completion to participants of IUCN Red List Training workshop in Kolkata, India, December 2024
Photo: Rahul Kaur

Number of communications pieces supported: 10

Result description: We published 10 blog posts in 2024, highlighting freshwater fungi, wetlands, native plants, mangroves, freshwater mussels, migratory birds, invasive species and bryophytes, among others. We also launched the Protect Species Podcast in mid-2024 and published 19 episodes. Many of these episodes featured Specialist Group and Conservation Committee members and chairs.

T-014 Provide website support for SSC groups and Conservation Committees, including the development, hosting, content development, ongoing management and operational aspects of websites. (KSR 12)

Number of Guidance documents developed and shared on One-Stop-Shop: Ongoing.

Result description: We continue to provide one-on-one support to groups that seek our help in the development of their websites and other external communications. The Global Center is unable to provide website hosting and maintenance to Specialist Groups, but we are able to review current websites and offer suggestions/tips/best practices.



Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 23

Geographic regions: 23 Global

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

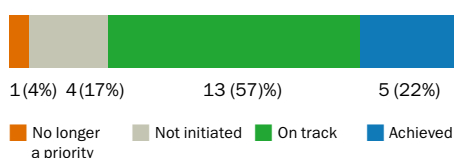
Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 9 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 4 (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