



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:

Hopkins, S, and Kwak, M. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Parasite 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 Parasite Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
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CO-CHAIR
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Sapporo, Hokkaido,
Japan

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
52

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

Instagram: [@iucn_parasites](https://www.instagram.com/iucn_parasites)

X: [@IUCNParasites](https://twitter.com/IUCNParasites)

Facebook: [IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group](https://www.facebook.com/IUCN-SSC-Parasite-Specialist-Group/)

Website: <https://www.iucnparasites.com/>

Mission statement

Our mission is to assess extinction risks for metazoan parasites that use vertebrate hosts, a trophic group that is currently extremely underrepresented on the IUCN Red List. Additionally, our Group aims to develop the first best practice guidelines and species recovery plans for threatened metazoan parasites that use vertebrate hosts and to communicate the importance of parasite conservation broadly.

Projected impact 2021–2025

In this quadrennium, we established the IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group, a brand-new organisation for parasite conservation. We recruited members, created a Listserv and a website for communication purposes, began the first-ever recovery plan for a parasite species, and positioned ourselves to begin assessing parasite species for the Red List.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Complete global Red List assessments of 50 species by 2025.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-004 Develop a recovery plan for the Ryukyu Rabbit Tick (*Haemaphysalis pentalagi*) by 2024.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Create a Listserv for experts interested in working with the Parasite Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

T-005 Establish a new formal partnership that provides financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group, including a Programme Officer, by 2024.

Status: Achieved

T-009 Recruit additional members to grow the group to 60 specialists.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-001 Establish and develop a new Parasite Specialist Group website by 2023.

Status: Achieved

T-006 Organise a symposium at the American Society for Parasitologists meeting in 2025 that introduces parasitologists to IUCN and parasite conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-007 Organise a symposium at the XI International Symposium on Fish Parasites meeting in 2025 that introduces parasitologists to IUCN and parasite conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Organise a symposium at the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum Europe, North and Central Asia (RCF24ENCA) meeting in 2024 that introduces conservation practitioners to parasite conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Engage in five outreach sessions in 2025.

Status: On track

T-011 Create a press release to inform the public about the IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group and raise awareness on parasite conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-013 Organise a two-days' workshop on parasite conservation at Hasselt University (Belgium).
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-003 Complete global Red List assessments of 50 species by 2025. (KSR 6)



Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Several members took the IUCN Red List training, and we began compiling data for our first assessments. We also planned or taught several workshops for parasitologists about how to conduct and submit assessments. Intern Alex Nelson supported these efforts.

PLAN

Planning

T-004 Develop a recovery plan for the Ryukyu Rabbit Tick (*H. pentalagi*) by 2024. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Work has advanced and we plan to publish the recovery plan in 2025.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-005 Establish a new formal partnership that provides financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group, including a Programme Officer, by 2024. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 50

Result description: We hosted a two-days' workshop in 2024, including 21 oral

presentations on parasite ecology and IUCN-related work in Belgium, and an interactive hands-on session on challenges of assessing the conservation status of parasite species using the IUCN Red List framework. The workshop was attended by 50 people from 24 institutes in nine countries.

Membership

T-002 Create a Listserv for experts interested in working with the Parasite Specialist Group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 10

Result description: We continued to recruit new members and affiliates who are interested in parasite conservation and added them to the listserv.

T-009 Recruit additional members to grow the group to 60 specialists. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 32

Result description: We have continued to grow our membership and expertise, including members from outside academia.

Sinergy

T-005 Establish a new formal partnership that provides financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group, including a Programme Officer, by 2024. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 2

Result description: In partnership with SSC PSG members from Hasselt University, we obtained two new grants to support PSG efforts. We secured funding from the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) to hire a Programme Officer to support the IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group activities for the upcoming three years. This ICA grant also initiated new collaborations with researchers and conservation practitioners outside the PSG, as well as encouraged new members to join the PSG. We also secured a DIOS grant from FWO to host a two-days' workshop on parasite conservation at Hasselt University (Belgium).

T-005 Establish a new formal partnership that provides financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group, including a Programme Officer, by 2024. (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 1

Result description: In 2024, we obtained a grant to coordinate parasite conservation actions among governments and academic institutions. Moreover, in 2025, Red List training opportunities and outreach events were performed in Belgium.



European Weatherfish (*Misgurnus fossilis*)
in river Emajõgi (Estonia)
Photo: Tiit Hunt (CC BY-SA 3.0)

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-001 Establish and develop a new Parasite Specialist Group website by 2023. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: We continue to maintain our [website](#) and social media accounts, sharing information with the general public and conservation practitioners.

T-006 Organise a symposium at the American Society for Parasitologists meeting in 2025 that introduces parasitologists to IUCN and parasite conservation. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: We organised this symposium and a related workshop, which will be held at ASP in July 2025.

T-007 Organise a symposium at the XI International Symposium on Fish Parasites meeting in 2025 that introduces parasitologists to IUCN and parasite conservation. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 4

Result description: The symposium was held in January, 2025 and members of the Specialist Group convened to discuss priorities for the future.

T-008 Organise a symposium at the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum Europe, North and Central Asia (RCF24ENCA) meeting in 2024 that introduces conservation practitioners to parasite conservation. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 4

Result description: This event was attended by members from Hasselt University.

T-011 Create a press release to inform the public about the IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group and raise awareness on parasite conservation. (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: After obtaining new funding to coordinate parasite conservation actions between IUCN, governments, and academic institutions, we published a [press release](#) to inform the public about this effort.

Scientific meetings

T-013 Organise a two-days' workshop on parasite conservation at Hasselt University (Belgium). (KSR 13)

Number of oral presentations: 3

Result description: The workshop was attended by 21 participants.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 12

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 3 America, 1 Asia, 4 Europe

Actions during 2024–2025:

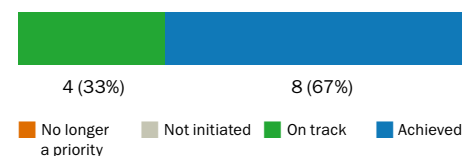
Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 2, 4)

Communicate: 6 (KSR 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