



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:

Henriques, S, Kem, Z, and Bushell, M. (2025). 2024-2025 Report of the Spider and Scorpion 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.

IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
52

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES
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Mission statement

The main objectives of the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group (SSSG) are to assess the extinction risk of a representative sample of arachnid species globally; assist with international law and agreements, e.g. Habitats Directive, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – CITES; contribute towards national and regional legislation protecting threatened species; develop scientifically sound species conservation strategies in cooperation with relevant authorities, and promote the public knowledge of arachnids.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Improving the status of Threatened arachnids by implementing conservation action based upon sound knowledge, Red List assessments and conservation planning.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of *Hypochilus bernardino* and monitor the impact of wildfires on its habitat suitability. Status: No longer a priority

T-008 Publish a new assessment of the conservation status of New Zealand spiders. Status: Achieved

T-012 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in Asia. Status: Not initiated

T-013 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in South America. Status: On track

T-016 Understand how/what/when scorpions impact park rangers in Malawi and adjacent countries. Status: Not initiated

T-017 Assess the extinction risk of the Batu Caves Trap-door Spider (*Liphistius batuensis*). Status: Achieved

T-018 Assess the extinction risk of Malay Trap-door Spiders (Liphistiidae). Status: Achieved

T-019 Assess the extinction risk of Segmented Trap-door Spiders (Liphistiidae) outside of Malaysia. Status: Achieved

T-020 Assess the extinction risk of monogeneric families of spiders. Status: Not initiated

T-027 Assess the extinction risk of South African spider. Status: On track

T-029 Red List assessments of spiders in the *Troglo diplura* genus. Status: Not initiated

T-031 Assess the extinction risk of 23 scorpion species found in Israel. Status: Not initiated

T-035 Assess the extinction risk of La Dama Pintada d'El Jable (*Cerbalus verneai*). Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-024 Conservation action plan of the Mexican Black Velvet (*Brachypelma/Tiiltocatl schroederi*). Status: On track

T-030 Advise on the development planning of Nullarbor Caves and the risks to the endemic spiders in the genus *Troglo diplura*. Status: Not initiated

T-039 Take first steps towards the conservation action plan of Amami's kimuragumo. Status: Achieved

ACT

T-009 Measure the impacts of habitat restoration of a Nature Reserve, by replacing exotic for native vegetation. Status: Achieved



T-014 Implement captive rearing of the Deserta Grande Wolf Spider (*Hogna ingens*).
Status: No longer a priority

T-026 Removing the main threat to the Deserta Grande Wolf Spider's habitat – the invasive *Phalaris aquatica*.
Status: Achieved

T-032 Community engagement to protect the endemic Nepalese Tarantula (*Haplocosmia nepalensis*).
Status: Achieved

T-033 Translocation of threatened populations of Mason Spiders (*Castianeira* sp.) populations in the Teton mountains.
Status: Achieved

T-034 Identify, rehabilitate and release tarantulas seized (in the Illegal Wildlife Trade) in Peru.
Status: Not initiated

T-038 National Strategy to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Peru (2027-2037).
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-007 Participate in an umbrella meeting of regional or habitat-specific Specialist Groups.
Status: On track

T-010 Develop strategic partnerships with cross taxa Specialist Groups.
Status: Achieved

T-015 Engage with the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group to communicate with Mexican nopal farmers on the importance of spiders as pest control for their crops.
Status: On track

T-022 Engage with local stakeholders on the remaining habitat of *Nemesia berlandi* and the best approaches to protect it.
Status: Achieved

T-023 Support funding application for young SSSG members in the global south.
Status: Achieved

T-037 Engage with the other Specialist Group towards the Red List assessment of island endemic cave spiders.
Status: Achieved

T-041 Support tarantula wildlife trade in-person meeting with local communities and key stakeholders.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Engage with local stakeholders on the remaining habitat of *Hypochilus bernardino* and the best approaches to protect it.
Status: No longer a priority

T-004 Engage local school children at sites of particular conservation interest.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Promote spider conservation action on national television.
Status: Achieved

T-021 Find a 'lost species' of Portuguese Trap-door Spider.
Status: Achieved

T-025 Generation of a profile for the first amazing species of scorpion.
Status: Achieved

T-028 Generate local school children engagement at sites of particular conservation interest.
Status: Achieved

T-036 Presentation about 'La araña *Cerbalus verneaui*; La dama pintada d'El Jable; un tesoro natural en peligro' to a local community of stakeholders in the Canary Islands.
Status: Achieved

T-040 Collaboration to write a blog post about the spiders of Amami Oshima and the threat of invasive ants.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Red List

T-027 Assess the extinction risk of South African spider. (KSR 6)



Dr Miguel Angel gently guiding a male of Endangered Mexican Blackvelvet (*Brachypelma schroederi*) to be measured
Photo: Sergio Henriques



Dr Miguel Angel measuring the Endangered Mexican Blackvelvet (*Brachypelma schroederi*), Oaxaca, Mexico
Photo: Sergio Henriques

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: The South African National Biodiversity Institute is working towards submitting a set of spider assessments from South Africa. These have been reviewed by Domitilla Raimondo and the assessments have been imported into SIS by Dewidine Van Der Colff and James Westrip is doing a second review. They are expected to be complete in 2025.

T-035 Assess the extinction risk of La Dama Pintada d'El Jable (*C. verneaui*). (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Carmen Ernest, Jaime Gil, Marta Pena (Desert Watch), Astrid Marsh (University of Chester) and a team of local stakeholders in the Canary Islands are working with SSSG member Nuria Hernández and will be submitting the already compiled data to SIS, towards red listing this species.

Research activities

T-013 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in South America. (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: The scientific publication needed to be resubmitted and is set to be published in 2025 in the journal *Biological Conservation*.

[SSC Grant awarded]

T-013 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in South America. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0

Result description: An SSC Internal Grant application was awarded to support this KSR, the project was initiated in 2024 and should be completed in 2025.

T-029 Red List assessments of spiders in the *Troglo diplura* genus. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 2

Result description: In collaboration with the Cave Invertebrate Specialist Group, Jess Marsh will conduct the assessment of troglobitic spiders for the Red List. The first two were *Troglo diplura lowryi* and *T. challeni* for which the drafts assessments were added to SIS in early 2025. Surveys of the Nullarbor caves will be conducted in April, 2025 to gather information for other species of the genus.

T-031 Assess the extinction risk of 23 scorpion species found in Israel. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0

Result description: Meetings were held in 2024, the first assessments is ongoing, and species are already in SIS.

PLAN

Planning

T-024 Conservation action plan of the Mexican Black Velvet (*Brachypelma/T. schroederi*). (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/ strategies developed: 1

Result description: The National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, a permanent inter-ministerial commission of the Federal Mexican government, was awarded from Indianapolis Zoo the financial support needed to initiate this project in 2024. Field work was initiated, and the Co-Chair visited the sampling sites with the field team, engaging with local stakeholders and taking the first steps towards completion in 2025. An application to enact the actions identified in the action plan was submitted in the first quarter of 2025 and results should be known later in the year.

T-039 Take first steps towards the conservation action plan of Amami's kimuragumo. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/ strategies developed: 5

Result description: Five species of the *Heptathela* genus are found in Amami Oshima, *H. kojima*, *H. amamiensis*, *H. sumiyo*, *H. uken* and *H. kanenoi*. Steps have been taken to Red List all these five species and in 2024 SSSG visited the island, engaged with local government and local stakeholders towards monitoring and developing an integrated, ecosystem-based action plan that ensures the long-term protection of these five remarkable species. This was done with the support of Indianapolis Zoo, and in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Dung Beetle Specialist Group and the IUCN SSC Parasite Specialist Group Chairs, who are also developing projects in the remarkable biodiversity of the island.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-038 National Strategy to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Peru (2027-2037). (KSR 11)

Number of projects providing evidence that use is sustainable per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: With the support of Indianapolis Zoo, SSSG travelled to Peru and met colleagues from Peru's Ministerio del Ambiente (MINAM) and Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre (SERFOR) to discuss the tarantula trade in Peru and the inclusion of the Group in the countries National Strategy to Reduce Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Peru (2027-2037)



Dr. Miguel Angel and Juan Manuel Vasquez monitoring for the Endangered Blackvelvet, Oaxaca Mexico. Photo: Sergio Henriques

NETWORK

Synergy

T-007 Participate in an umbrella meeting of regional or habitat-specific Specialist Groups. (KSR 3)

Participation in regional/habitat specific umbrellas groups: 0

Result description: There were several discussions around an IUCN SSC 'Action Planning for Invertebrates', 'Protected areas for invertebrates' and 'Cave Invertebrates Meeting' gathering the leadership of several invertebrate specialist group Chairs and the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, but these did not take place in 2024 and are set to take place in 2025.

T-037 Engage with the other Specialist Group towards the Red List assessment of island endemic cave spiders. (KSR 1)

Number of specialist groups with which we collaborate: 2

Result description: Networking with the Atlantic Island Invertebrate Specialist Group and the Cave Invertebrate Specialist Group was achieved in July, 2024 and a proposal was submitted to fund Canary cave spiders red listing.

T-041 Support tarantula wildlife trade in-person meeting with local communities and key stakeholders. (KSR 2)

Number of in person meetings supported abroad: 1

Result description: In late 2024, several SSSG members met in person in Brazil with the support of Indianapolis Zoo, engaging an international group of researchers working on the Illegal Wildlife Trade online, and meeting with local stakeholders to discuss future paths to tackle the tarantula trade, and the challenges on the ground, as well as the need to curb demand.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-036 Presentation about 'La araña C. verneau; La dama pintada d'El Jable; un tesoro natural en peligro' to a local community of stakeholders in the Canary Islands. (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 3

Result description: Two of the SSSG members were invited by the group Desert Waych to present about the ecology, biology and conservation of the spider *C. verneau* (La dama pintada d'El Jable) in the third lecture series on biodiversity and the Anthropocene, to a live audience at La Villa de Teguisse, and to an international audience online (February, 2025). That engagement additionally resulted in a news article about the species in the Diario de Lanzarote and in the La Voz de Lanzarote.

T-040 Collaboration to write a blog post about the spiders of Amami Oshima and the threat of invasive ants. (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 1

Result description: A blog was written about the work done in Amami Oshima, named '[Lessons from Japan: Conservation success](#)', which can be read at the Indianapolis Zoo webpage. Apart from involving the Chair of the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group, the blog was made in partnership with local colleagues of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and was possible with the support of the communication coordinator of the Global Center for Species Survival, Kelly Griese.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Indianapolis Zoo for all the support in science education on spider species, their hosting of the Group's Co-Chair and their financial support towards the action plan of the Mexican black velvet. We would like to thank WWF Malaysia for hosting of the Group's Co-Chair, Zarris Kem, and for their support with the IUCN Motion on Fungi and Invertebrates, and also to the SSC for all their support to our Group's work via internal SSC grants and their guidance. We are also grateful to Carmen Ernest, Jaime Gil and Marta Pena from Desert Watch (Canary Islands) and a team of local stakeholders in the region for supporting SSSG and Group member Nuria Hernández, with phenomenal communication work, networking and conservation action for the Dama pintada d'El Jable spider.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 38

Geographic regions: 4 Global, 3 Africa, 9 America, 9 Asia, 10 Europe, 3 Oceania

Actions during 2024–2025:

Assess: 6 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

8 (21%)



3 (8%)

5 (13%)

22 (58%)

No longer a priority

Not initiated

On track

Achieved

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