

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
46

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @iucn.cssg
Instagram: @iucn_cssg
Twitter: @CcssgSsc

Mission statement

The mission of the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group (CSSG) is to contribute to the conservation of cactus and succulent plants through better understanding of their taxonomy, ecology and threats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Our projected impact on species conservation status is 1,468 reassessments of cacti and 135 new assessments of other succulents including *Dudleya* and *Pachypodium*.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-005 Assess the extinction risk of 67 species of *Agave* sensu lato (including 35 *Manfreda*, 17 *Polianthes*, 14 *Agave* and one *Prochyanthes*), seven *Hesperaloe* and 23 *Fourcraea*.

T-006 Assess the extinction risk of 46 species of *Dudleya*.

T-007 Re-assess the extinction risk of 1,477 species of Cactaceae.

T-009 Assess the extinction risk of 22 species of *Pachyphytum*.

T-010 Conduct a taxonomic review of Cactaceae.

T-015 Produce a scientific publication on the global assessment of *Agave*.

T-016 Produce a scientific publication on the global assessment of *Yucca*.

PLAN

T-011 Organise *Copiapoa* Workshop. act

T-014 Ensure repatriation of *Copiapoa* seized in Italy. network

T-001 Identify focal expert in illegal trade of succulents.

T-002 Review membership and expand the taxonomic and geographic representation for the group by inviting 15 new experts with emphasis on increasing the representation of members from the Americas, particularly aiming for women and people under 35.

T-004 Enhance collaboration with at least two plant Specialist Groups.

COMMUNICATE

T-017 Increase the CSSG presence in social media platforms to 5,000 per platform.

T-018 Publish the CSSG annual bilingual communication and newsletter.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-007 (KSR 7)

Reassess the extinction risk of 1,477 species of Cactaceae: 282

Result description: During this year, we have started working with the reassessment of 45 cactus species in the genus *Copiapoa* and 237 cactus species of the Sonoran Desert.

PLAN

Planning

T-011 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: The CSSG, in collaboration with Chester Zoo in the UK, the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, Concepción University in Chile, and the Chilean Ministry of the Environment, has resumed the conservation action plan for the genus *Copiapoa* in Chile that was postponed due to COVID-19. At these early stages of the workshop, the work is centred on defining its organisation and logistics via virtual meetings with the different stakeholders.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-014 (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 844

Result description: Thanks to the efforts of CSSG members Andrea Cattabriga, Pablo Guerrero and Co-Chair Bárbara Goettsch, 844 cacti from the genera *Copiapoa* and *Eriosyce* that were confiscated in Italy were



Copiapoa columna-alba at its habitat in Chile
Photos: Pablo Guerrero



Cacti from genera *Copiapoa* and *Eriosyce* confiscated in Italy and repatriated to Chile in 2021
Photo: Andrea Cattabriga

repatriated to Chile on Monday, 19 April 2021. The shipment of the plants was made possible thanks to the generous support and funding from SSC Internal Grants, B. Willow and Città Studi Botanical Garden of Milan.

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 2

Result description: We welcomed Dr. Carly Cowel, Senior Science Officer (CITES), Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, UK (Succulents, South Africa, Illegal Trade, UK CITES Scientific Authority – Flora), and Dr. Jared Margulies, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography at The University of Alabama, USA (Illegal Trade), to be part of the CSSG membership.

T-002 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 11

Result description: In 2021, we welcomed 11 new members. Currently, the CSSG has 54 members (with three pending registrations), and we will soon invite other experts from a list that we have been curating over the past year.

Synergy

T-004 (KSR 2)

Enhance collaboration with at least 2 plant Specialist Groups: 1

Result description: The CSSG is commencing the reassessment of the Cactaceae family. For this, the CSSG is teaming up with the Sonoran Desert Plant Specialist Group to start reassessing the approximately 246 cactus species distributed in the Southwest US and Northwest Mexico.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-017 (KSR 13)

Increase the CSSG presence in social media platforms to 5,000 per platform: 3,249

Result description: The CSSG has 3,249 followers across its three platforms (Facebook: 1,055; Instagram: 1,437; Twitter: 757).

T-018 (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 2

Result description: In 2021, the CSSG successfully transitioned from two newsletters per year to one communication and one newsletter per year. This change in communication products format ensures that our members receive updates and valuable content on the CSSG work in the best possible way. The communications contain information on the progress towards meeting targets, important news, new members and opportunities (such as conferences and funding). The newsletters include opinion

articles related to the conservation of succulents and cacti together with the progress made in achieving the CSSG targets, news and expansion in the membership. In addition, the CSSG sent an invitation to its members to serve in the Editorial Committee to help, along with our chief editor Jafet Nassar, support the communication products of the Specialist Group.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the kind support of our host institution, Desert Botanical Garden.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 14

Geographic regions: 11 Global, 3 America

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 1 (KSR 7)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

