



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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 each year. Each SSC Group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

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## Structure of the IUCN SSC Stand-alone Report

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

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### Title of the SSC Group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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### Group information

Includes names of Chair / Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators and Program Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the SSC Group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### 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.

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### Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC 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).

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### Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, 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).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### 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

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### Recommended citation:

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# 2022 Report

# IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group



**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**  
 Facebook: @iucnsmmsg  
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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

143

**Mission statement**

The mission of the IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group (SMSG) is to serve as the global authority on the world's small mammals by developing a greater scientific understanding of their diversity, status and threats, and by promoting effective conservation action to secure their future.

**Projected impact for 2021–2025**

Through our Key Species work we hope to understand threats and, where possible, initiate conservation activities for at least 18 species. Through our Key Region work we plan to assess and plan for a suite of species in Mexico, Sulawesi and Ethiopia. If possible, direct conservation activities will be pursued. In addition to species within our strategy, we will also take any opportunities to assist our members in doing vital research and conservation work on species.

**Targets for 2021–2025**

**ASSESS**

**T-005** Scientific peer-review publications about small mammal ecology and conservation.  
 Status: On track

**T-006** Catalogue and publish species Red List assessments for taxonomic changes.  
 Status: On track

**T-007** Conduct Red List assessments for certain regions (Mexico, Borneo, Ethiopia) based on new information collected during workshops.  
 Status: On track

**PLAN**

**T-004** Hold regional action planning workshops.  
 Status: On track

**ACT**

**T-008** Initiate active conservation efforts for key species.  
 Status: On track

**NETWORK**

**T-001** Achieve taxonomic and geographic coverage for the majority of species through a geographically diverse membership.  
 Status: On track

**T-002** Improve gender balance in membership.  
 Status: Not initiated

**T-009** Provide grant writing training and support to members.  
 Status: On track

**COMMUNICATE**

**T-003** Keep membership updated through quarterly newsletters and an updated website.  
 Status: On track

**Activities and results for 2022**

**ASSESS**

**Red List**

**T-006** Catalogue and publish species Red List assessments for taxonomic changes. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: No new assessments were published in 2022; however, much of the preparatory work has been done ready for submissions in 2023.

**T-006** Catalogue and publish species Red List assessments for taxonomic changes. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 15

Result description: Fifteen reassessments were published on the IUCN Red List in 2022.

**T-007** Conduct Red List assessments for certain regions (Mexico, Borneo, Ethiopia) based on new information collected during workshops. (KSR 6)



Santa Catarina Guinea Pig  
(*Cavia intermedia*)  
Photo: Tom Lacher



Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: No reassessments were published in 2022; however, significant work has been done in preparing the reassessments.

**T-007 Conduct Red List assessments for certain regions (Mexico, Borneo, Ethiopia) based on new information collected during workshops.** (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: No assessments were published in 2022; however, much of the preparatory work has been done ready for 2023.

#### Research activities

**T-005 Scientific peer-review publications about small mammal ecology and conservation.** (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: We published one peer-reviewed publication in 2022. This was in the open-access journal *Diversity* and the paper detailed the process, and results, of a species prioritization exercise for conservation planning and action for small mammals in the high-priority region of Mexico. The paper was done in collaboration with the Antelope Specialist Group (ASG). Publication data: Lacher T.E., et al. (2022). Tools and metrics for species prioritization for conservation planning and action: Case studies for antelopes and small mammals. *Diversity* 14(9), 704.

#### ACT

##### Conservation actions

**T-008 Initiate active conservation efforts for key species.** (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 4

Result description: Conservation activities in 2022 have focussed on the Cuban Solenodon, Bahaman Hutia, Santa Catarina's Guinea Pig, and the Russian Desman.

#### NETWORK

##### Capacity building

**T-009 Provide grant writing training and support to members.** (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: 3

Result description: We assisted three members with funding applications for Baer's Wood Mouse, Machu Picchu Arboreal Chinchilla Rat, and the Namdapha Flying Squirrel.

##### Membership

**T-001 Achieve taxonomic and geographic coverage for the majority of species through a geographically diverse membership.** (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 8

Result description: Much of our effort in 2022 was used to get previous quadrennium members re-signed up. Eight brand new members were recruited increasing our coverage, in particular for experts for Europe and Africa.

#### COMMUNICATE

##### Communication

**T-003 Keep membership updated through quarterly newsletters and an updated website.** (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, *Save Our Species* newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 4

Result description: Four SSC Group newsletters were produced in 2022.

#### Acknowledgements

The SMSG is extremely grateful for the continued funding and advisory support from our partner Re:wild during 2022. In particular, this has allowed the group to have a Programme Officer to deliver much of the work alongside the co-chairs. We would like to thank Texas A&M for logistical, financial, and technical support. The group has received support for species-specific and regional work from the SSC and Zoo New England.

#### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets for 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

