



# Species

ISSUE 62

## 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.

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Canchal, M. and Almunia, J. 2023. 2022 Report of the CSS Macaronesia: Loro Parque Fundación. In: Nassar, JM, García, L, Mendoza, L, Andrade, ND, Bezeng, S, Birkhoff, J, Bohm, M, Canteiro, C, Geschke, J, Henriques, S, Ivande, S, Mileham, K, Ramos, M, Rodríguez, A, Rodríguez, JP, Street, B, and Yerena, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 6 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

# CSS Macaronesia: Loro Parque Fundación



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## Mission statement

The Center for Species Survival Macaronesia (CSSM) based on Tenerife Island, was established in 2022. This Center aims to assess the current situation of biodiversity in Macaronesia, a geographical region that comprises five archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean: the Azores, Madeira, the Selvagens Islands, Canary Islands and Cape Verde. This region is a biodiversity hotspot with a large number of endemic species, therefore important for conservation strategies and priorities. By understanding the extinction risk and threats of Macaronesian species, the CSSM aims to promote the conservation of key species and be part of the Reverse the Red movement to ensure the survival of wild species and reduce biodiversity decline.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

**T-001** Gap analysis: Assess the global status of the Macaronesia and first analysis (Canary Islands).  
Status: Achieved

**T-002** Gap analysis: Assess the status of the other islands of Macaronesia (Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde).  
Status: On track

**T-003** Gap analysis: Status of the Biodiversity in Spain 2023.  
Status: Achieved

**T-004** Collaborate in the Red List reassessment of three species found in the Canary Islands (*Galeorhinus galeus*, *Squatina squatina* and *Gymnura altavela*).  
Status: Not initiated

**T-005** Collaborate in the assessment of Critically Endangered (CR) snails from the Canary Islands.  
Status: On track

### PLAN

**T-006** Analyse existing conservation plans for threatened species in the Macaronesia.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-007** Create conservation plans for species that lack one in the Canary Islands.  
Status: Not initiated

### ACT

**T-008** Collaborate in the creation of the marine biodiversity sanctuary in Macaronesia.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Collaborate in the extension of the moratorium for the SONAR in Macaronesia.  
Status: On track

### NETWORK

**T-010** Increase network with regional and national government in Spain to find support for reaching agreements.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Provide new tools and training for the staff of the center.  
Status: On track

**T-012** Interaction with the specialist group to share and review the gap analysis results and know the status of the conservation plan efforts.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-013** Propel the creation of the NSSG in Spain.  
Status: On track

**T-014** Participate in SSC Network annual key meetings/events.  
Status: On track

**T-015** Participate in Reverse the Red annual key meetings/events.  
Status: On track





Sighting of cetaceans in the Macaronesia  
Photo: Javier Almunia

## COMMUNICATE

**T-016** Maintain regular communication with the CSS Network.

Status: On track

**T-017** Publish documents in different languages (Spanish, English, Portuguese) to compile the information regarding gap analysis.

Status: On track

**T-018** Maintain regular communication with the SSC Chair's Office.

Status: On track

**T-019** Communicate the CSS's work in annual meetings/events related to the SSC Network.

Status: On track

**T-020** Participate in Reverse the Red Day.

Status: On track

**T-021** Communicate the CSS's work in relevant meetings/events of the local governments and institutions.

Status: On track

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## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Red List

**T-005** Collaborate in the assessment of Critically Endangered (CR) snails from the Canary Islands. (KSR 7)

Number of Red List assessments published: 0

Result description: After supporting the identification of Critically Endangered snails from Tenerife, the centre participated in scientific conferences (November 6-11, 2022) carried out by experts in the field. These tasks have been carried out thanks to the collaboration with the Mid Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group.

#### Research activities

**T-001** Gap analysis: Assess the global status of the Macaronesia and first analysis (Canary Islands). (KSR 5)

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

Result description: The IUCN has assessed and categorized 3,447 species and subspecies in Macaronesia. Although this number has increased in recent years, there are still many species to be assessed, which is a fundamental requirement to know their corresponding threat level and develop conservation programs to prevent them from disappearing. Madeira, the Savage Islands and Cape Verde lack an updated inventory of terrestrial and marine species. The creation of databases in these regions would facilitate biodiversity assessment and conservation actions. Forty-five per cent of Macaronesian endemic species are threatened. It is essential to implement conservation plans for these species to prevent their disappearance, as they only exist in this region of the world and, once extinct, will

be lost forever. It is necessary to confirm the presence of nine Endangered species that, according to the IUCN, are present in the Canary Islands so that, if their presence is confirmed, they can be included in the Canary Islands inventory and their protection and conservation promoted. There are 28 species that – despite being listed as Endangered by both the IUCN and the government of the Canary Islands – do not have any recovery and/or conservation plans. On the other hand, there are 165 species that are in danger of extinction according to IUCN criteria but are not catalogued at the same level by the government of the Canary Islands. In addition, most of them are not included in the conservation programs of the governmental authorities.

**T-002** Gap analysis: Assess the status of the other islands of Macaronesia (Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde). (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: Databases have been created for the Azores and Cape Verde. These databases contain information about the species assessed by the IUCN in the Azores and Cape Verde and the conservation status given by the local authorities of the respective archipelagos.

Presentation of the CSS Macaronesia to the Canarian government  
 Photo: Loro Parque



Presentation of the creation of the Marine Biodiversity Sanctuary in the Macaronesia by Javier Almunia, director of Loro Parque foundation and the CSSM  
 Photo: Loro Parque

**T-003 Gap analysis: Status of the Biodiversity in Spain 2023. (KSR 5)**

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: A database for all the species assessed in Spain by the IUCN has been elaborated and has been complemented with the distribution map – when available – for the Critically Endangered and Endangered Species. The final result is a database where the distribution of the species has been defined by Autonomous Communities. Different graphs compiling all this information have been created and will be part of the future document.

**ACT**

**Conservation actions**

**T-008 Collaborate in the creation of the marine biodiversity sanctuary in Macaronesia. (KSR 10)**

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 0

Result description: The creation of the Marine Biodiversity Sanctuary in the Macaronesia was presented to the general public on June 8, 2022 in Poema del Mar (Gran Canaria) by Javier Almunia, director of Loro Parque Foundation and Center for Species Survival Macaronesia.

**NETWORK**

**Capacity building**

**T-011 Provide new tools and training for the staff of the center. (KSR 2)**

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 1



Sighting of dolphins in the Macaronesia  
Photo: Javier Almunia

Result description: The ‘CPSG Species Conservation Planning Principles and Steps’ course was concluded by the conservation officer of the center. The ‘Red List assessment’ course has been started by the conservation officer of the center.

#### Membership

**T-013 Propel the creation of the NSSG in Spain.** (KSR 2)

Number of new SSC groups established: 0

Result description: The meeting ‘Mobilising national networks in Spain’ to present the proposal for the creation of the new National Species Specialist Group was celebrated on September 14 and positive feedback was received from the Spanish committee of the IUCN. Since then, two more meetings have been carried out and the creation of the group is going forward.

#### Synergy

**T-015 Participate in Reverse the Red annual key meetings/events.** (KSR 4)

Number of events/meetings attended per year: 9

Result description: In 2022, we participated in Reverse the Red webinars.

#### COMMUNICATE

##### Communication

**T-016 Maintain regular communication with the CSS Network.** (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 6

Result description: In 2022, bimonthly meetings were held with the SSC Network.

**T-017 Publish documents in different languages (Spanish, English, Portuguese) to compile the information regarding gap analysis.** (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members’ presentations delivered in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: The translation into English and Portuguese is ongoing for the documents related to Macaronesian and Canary Islands Gap Analysis.

**T-018 Maintain regular communication with the SSC Chair’s Office.** (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 6

Result description: In 2022, bimonthly meetings were held with the SSC Chair’s Office.

**T-019 Communicate the CSS’s work in annual meetings/events related to the SSC Network.** (KSR 13)

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

Result description: In 2022 the CSSM assisted the 2022 CPSG and WAZA meetings.

**T-021 Communicate the CSS’s work in relevant meetings/events of the local governments and institutions.** (KSR 13)

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

Result description: On May 20, 2022 the Center for Species Survival Macaronesia was introduced to the local government of the Canary Islands. The centre’s first results were also presented.

#### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 21

Geographic regions: 2 Africa, 15 Europe, 6 Global, 2 Body of water

#### Actions during 2022:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 7)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 4)

Communicate: 5 (KSR 13)

#### Overall achievement 2021–2025:

