



Species

ISSUE 62

2022 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 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.

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.

Title of the SSC Group

Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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.

Logo of the SSC 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 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 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).

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:

McGowan, P, and Hutchinson, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets Task Force. 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 Yereña, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 4 pp.

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets Task Force



CHAIR

Philip McGowan

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PROGRAMME OFFICER

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

23

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/biodiversitypost2020/>

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Post-2020 Biodiversity Targets Task Force aims to provide a focus and leadership on species issues in the framework of the Post-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), through coordination with the IUCN Secretariat. The Task Force seeks to do this by collating inputs and views from across the SSC network and providing scientific and technical expertise on species related target(s).

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Continue assessment of species inputs needed into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. indicators and communication.

Status: Achieved

T-004 Assess needs that will enhance implementation of the species components of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. capacity building, research, communication, access to expertise.

Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-005 Work with IUCN to promote Species Threat Abatement and Restoration as a planning tool for countries to determine how to reduce species extinction risk.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Secure support for network coordination.
Status: On track

T-002 Refresh the Task Force, with a view to Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework implementation and widening the membership to include early career species conservationists.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Maintain continual communication with the IUCN Secretariat and attendance at CBD meetings.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

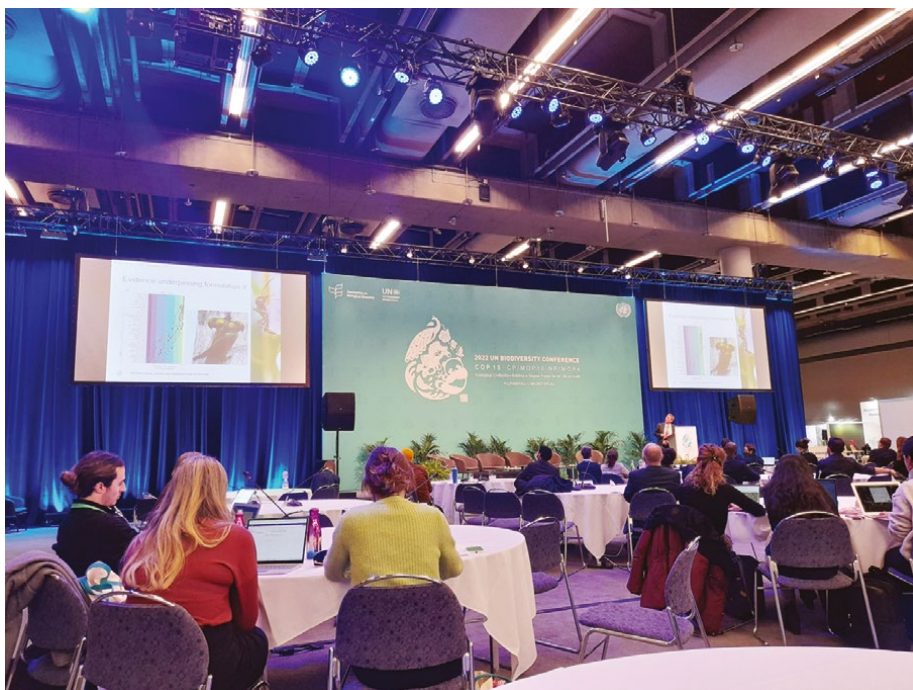
ASSESS

Communication

T-003 Continue assessment of species inputs needed into the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. indicators and communication. (KSR 5)

Contributions to IUCN's overall Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework positions and statements, and to CBD meetings: Ongoing.

Result description: In 2022, we continued to provide information on species conservation needs directly to IUCN for its position papers at all CBD meetings. Our key publication Bolam *et al.* (2022) was published and cited in working group negotiations on Target 4 at CoP15. The paper was used to support the need for the emphasis of Target to remain focused on urgent recovery actions for threatened species. We consolidated our achievement of introducing this Target as a result of this research following its publication on a preprint server in 2021. This means, Target 4 would not be in the Global Biodiversity Framework without the research undertaken by the Task Force and the close engagement with IUCN and the CBD process – meetings, etc. There was significant further progress in communicating the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric, which was developed by the Task Force. It was presented at many events at CoP15. These and other examples of the Task Force's work were presented as strong examples of collaboration with academic institutions and also of science to support CBD needs. References: (1) Bolam *et al.* (2022). 'Over half of threatened species require targeted recovery actions to avert human-induced extinction' *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 21, 64–70. <https://doi.org/10.1002/FEE.2537>. (2) Mair, L. (2021). 'A metric for spatially explicit contributions to science-based species targets' *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, 5, 836–844.



Task Force research assessing species that have avoided extinction since 1993 being presented at CoP15
Photo: Philip McGowan



Task Force being interviewed for Czech radio at CoP15
Photo: Philip McGowan

Policy

T-004 Assess needs that will enhance implementation of the species components of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, e.g. capacity building, research, communication, access to expertise. (KSR 5)

Internal assessment for Task Force and wider SSC and IUCN. Potential publication: Ongoing.

Result description: This is a key activity for 2023 and 2024. In the meantime, we have undertaken an initial scoping assessment of capacity-building needs for the implementation of species conservation needs in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This led to the publication of an editorial in *Oryx* (Maggs, 2022). Reference: Maggs, G *et al.* (2022). 'How can we increase capacity for species conservation in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework?' *Oryx*, 56: 321-322.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Work with IUCN to promote Species Threat Abatement and Restoration as a planning tool for countries to determine how to reduce species extinction risk. (KSR 8)

Number of plans invited/endorsed by national governments/conservation authorities: 2

Result description: The Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric (STAR) has attracted widespread interest and assessing perceptions of those using

STAR is the subject of a Master's research project that will take place during 2022-23. The STAR has been tested by two significant biodiversity conservation projects (BIODEV2030 and The Restoration Initiative) that each span several countries. Lessons are being gathered on what has worked and what improvements would help.

NETWORK

Membership

T-001 Secure support for network coordination. (KSR 2)

Increased capacity of the Task Force (and hence SSC): Ongoing.

Result description: Support secured from Newcastle University for a Postdoctoral Research Associate to enhance the coordination of the Task Force until April 2025. This will provide key support for the remainder of the quadrennium, including beyond the Convention on Biological Diversity CoP16, in late 2024, which is the last key CBD meeting in this quadrennium.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-006 Maintain continual communication with the IUCN Secretariat and attendance at CBD meetings. (KSR 12)

Number of contributions to IUCN position papers and responses to consultations: Ongoing.

Result description: Numerous contributions to IUCN Position Papers, negotiating positions, and statements at CBD meetings on

species issues. These have increasingly drawn together other SSC entities – Task Forces, Specialist Groups and Conservation Committees – and the IUCN Secretariat and member organisations around particularly challenging issues. We have also had attendance, including on the IUCN delegation, from across the TF at CBD meetings, and a strong presence at CoP15.

Acknowledgements

We thank Newcastle University for funding that allowed postdoctoral research to be undertaken, Task Force coordination and capacity building needs to be scoped.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 5 Global, 1 Europe

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

