



Species

ISSUE 63

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.

Example for the recommended citation:

Street, B, Canteiro, C, Birkhoff, J, Perry, L, Böhm, M, Ivande, S, Henriques, S, and Griese, K. 2023. 2022 Report of the Global CSS Indianapolis Zoo. 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. 8 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2022 Report

Global CSS Indianapolis Zoo



DIRECTOR
Bill Street
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Cátia Canteiro
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Justin Birkhoff
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Laura Perry
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Monika Böhm
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Samuel Iwande
Indianapolis, US



SPECIES SURVIVAL OFFICER
Sérgio Henriques
Indianapolis, US



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Kelly Griese
Indianapolis, US

Mission statement

The Global Center for Species Survival is built upon a partnership and a commitment to conservation. As human pressure continues to drive biodiversity loss, the work of conservationists from around the world becomes more vital in protecting and restoring nature. Only through collaboration can we protect species and the spaces they call home. That is why the Indianapolis Zoo partnered with the world's largest conservation organization – the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – which connects thousands of dedicated species experts under the Species Survival Commission (SSC). The Global Center for Species Survival supports, connects, and communicates the work of more than 10,500 conservationists joined together in Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities and Task Forces of the IUCN SSC. It is the mission of the Global Center to support the IUCN SSC in influencing, encouraging and assisting societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increase conservation planning and action for species protection and recovery and develop capacity to support the work of the SSC network.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-016 Support SSC groups and Conservation Committees in IUCN assessment processes.
Status: On track

T-027 Contribute to improve current resources and guidelines on assessments for the SSC network.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-018 Work with SSC groups and conservation committees to identify priority needs for conservation planning.
Status: On track

T-019 Support SSC groups with the production of conservation plans.
Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-020 Influence grant support among partners and Centers to better support IUCN SSC priorities.
Status: On track

T-021 Support and improve SSC groups' ability to fundraise for conservation planning and action.
Status: Not initiated

T-022 Identify and overcome the challenges of moving conservation plans into action.
Status: Not initiated

T-023 Provide support and encouragement for SSC groups to write letters of intervention to governments and/or companies that are responsible for an immediate environmental threat to species.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-004 Support diversification of SSC membership based on 1) geography 2) gender 3) age 4) other disciplines 5) indigenous and traditional communities.
Status: On track



Migratory Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus* ssp. *plexippus*) assessed in 2022 with the support of the Freshwater Conservation Coordinator and Co-Chair of the Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group
Photo: Global CSS Indianapolis Zoo

T-005 Support the SSC volunteer recognition program and broaden the number and scope of existing awards.

Status: On track

T-006 Provide administrative, hosting, and facilitation support for SSC groups and conservation committees.

Status: On track

T-007 Develop a One-Stop-Shop online system within the SSC Data to make information and resources more available to the SSC network, including fundraising opportunities, events calendar, and communication forum.

Status: Achieved

T-008 Support the identification and creation of new SSC Groups.

Status: On track

T-009 Support the development of SSC groups funding proposals to instigate assess, plan, and act projects.

Status: Achieved

T-024 Organize thematic webinars on key issues and resources periodically throughout the year, consulting priority themes with the SSC groups and respective Conservation Committees where applicable.

Status: On track

T-025 Facilitate the identification and development of beneficial partnerships for SSC groups in consultation with the SSC Director of Strategic Partnerships.

Status: On track

T-026 Support to increase the number of SSC group members trained in IUCN assessment processes.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-010 Develop a shared communications approach across Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the wider International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Status: On track

T-011 Disseminate communication pathways and guidance on targeted communication strategy development to SSC groups.

Status: On track

T-012 Support the improvement of social media presence of SSC groups.

Status: On track

T-013 Support SSC groups with the preparation of specific communications, e.g., on under- or misrepresented biodiversity, lesser-known species, specific conservation topics, and dissemination of techniques.

Status: On track

T-014 Provide website support for SSC groups and committees, including the development, hosting, content development, ongoing management and operational aspects of websites.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-016 Support SSC groups and Conservation Committees in IUCN Red List assessment processes. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 354

Result description: The Global Center for Species Survival supported the Red List assessment of 110 fungi species, 92 species of beetles, moths and butterflies from around the world (in collaboration with ZSL and Albuquerque BioPark) and 6 plant species. We also supported the assessment of entire EDGE groups (146 species) and revised dozens of assessments, while working to increase processing capacity for further assessments (with ZSL partners) where 200 assessments have already been drafted and will soon be published.

Research activities

T-016 Support SSC groups and Conservation Committees in IUCN Red List assessment processes. (KSR 6)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 4

Result description: Global Center staff supported four publications relevant to increasing species knowledge, assessment



processes and analyses: (1) Böhm, M, et al. (2022). 'Catalyzing Red List Assessments of Underrepresented Taxa through Partner Networks and Student Engagement'. *Diversity* 14(9): 723, <https://doi.org/10.3390/d14090723> (Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority); (2) Mueller, G, et al. (2022). 'What do the first 597 global fungal Red List assessments tell us about the threat status of fungi?'. *Diversity* 14(9): 736, <https://doi.org/10.3390/d14090736> (Fungal Conservation Committee and fungal specialist groups); (3) Cox, N, et al. (2022). 'A global reptile assessment highlights shared conservation needs of tetrapods'. *Nature* 605: 285-290, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04664-7> (reptile specialist groups and Snake & Lizard Red List Authority); (4) Thomas, EA, et al. (2022). 'Assessing the extinction risk of insular, understudied marine species'. *Conservation Biology* 36(2): e13854, <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13854> (Mollusc Specialist Group).

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 5

Result description: In 2022, Global Center staff supported several research (or other) projects that involved SSC members: 'Assessing EDGE Fungi: Boletales, Russulales, and Cantharellales plus 6 Monotypic Families' and 'Developing a tool for Rapid fungal assessments: case-study on macrofungi from North America' (Catia Canteiro, fungi); 'Fantastic Freshwater: 50 landmark species for conservation' (Monni Böhm, freshwater); 'IUCN Guidelines for

Conservation Management of Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrates' (Sergio Henriques and Monni Böhm, invertebrates); 'sRedList - Accelerating IUCN Red List assessments for rapid and effective biodiversity monitoring' (Monni Böhm).

PLAN Planning

T-018 Work with SSC groups and conservation committees to identify priority needs for conservation planning. (KSR 8)

Compile a list of species/threats/regions for priority planning: 0

Result description: The Global Center for Species Survival's coordinators started to compile this information in 2022, but it will only be finalized in 2023.

ACT Technical advice

T-020 Influence grant support among partners and Centers to better support IUCN SSC priorities. (KSR 10)

Percentage of projects receiving an Indianapolis Zoo Grant aligned with the SSC priorities: 55%

Result description: In 2022, 55% of projects that received an Indianapolis Zoo Conservation Grant were aligned with the SSC priorities or supported its strategic goals, such as the formation of the Wild Parrot Specialist Group.

T-023 Provide support and encouragement for SSC groups to write letters of intervention to governments and/or companies responsible for an immediate environmental threat to species. (KSR 10)

Review the guidelines for writing intervention letters: Achieved.

Result description: In 2022, our team reviewed and updated the guidelines for writing intervention letters, in collaboration with the SSC Chair's Office, and shared it with the Specialist Groups, encouraging them to use this resource when appropriate.

NETWORK Capacity building

T-024 Organize thematic webinars on key issues and resources periodically throughout the year, consulting priority themes with the SSC groups and respective Conservation Committees where applicable. (KSR 2)

Number of webinars organized: 5

Result description: In 2022, the Global Center team supported a six-part webinar series on Conservation Planning (in collaboration with the IUCN SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group), as well as thematic webinars on SSC Specialist Group engagement in CITES, and an SSC internal webinar with IUCN SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group on "Tackling the Thorny Issue of Trophy Hunting". Cátia Canteiro led the planning and execution of a webinar focused on plant conservation planning for groups within her plant remit. Monni Böhm supported a webinar/meeting by the Freshwater Conservation Committee about freshwater conservation priorities and the work of the Freshwater Conservation Committee with freshwater-relevant Specialist Groups.

T-025 Facilitate the identification and development of beneficial partnerships for SSC groups in consultation with the SSC Director of Strategic Partnerships. (KSR 1)

Orinoco Crocodile monitoring work in Venezuela, as part of the project "Actions to increase the survival of Orinoco Crocodile (*Crocodylus intermedius*) hatchlings in a highly polluted and altered sector of the Cojedes River System (CRS) with the participation of the community through nest and hatchlings collection", led by Fauna Silvestre Productos y Servicios, endorsed by the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, and supported by the Indianapolis Zoo Conservation Grants
Photo: Global CSS Indianapolis Zoo

Number of zoos/aquaria/botanical gardens identified that could partner with specific specialist groups.:0

Result description: The Global Center team in collaboration with the Partnership Development team at the SSC Chair's office have started some engagement and discussion with people at BGCI and TAG and SAFE programs of both EAZA and AZA to compile a list of institutions to facilitate strategic partnership development for specialist groups. Specific partnership development discussion is ongoing for some specialist groups e.g. Hippo Specialist Group, Canid Specialist Group, Ants Specialist Group etc.

T-026 Support to increase the number of SSC group members trained in IUCN assessment processes. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 80

Result description: In 2022, the Global Center staff led, facilitated or supported training of around 80 IUCN SSC members focusing on invertebrates: two online four-day workshops with members of IUCN SSC Butterfly & Moth Specialist Group, Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority, Wild Bees Specialist Group and Firefly Specialist Group, held in March and December (12 and around 40 participants, respectively; Monni Bohm), and around 30 participants were trained during the International Firefly Symposium 2022 (15-18 June; Sergio Henriques). We also provided IUCN Red List training to our Global Center interns.

Membership

T-004 Support diversification of SSC membership based on 1) geography 2) gender 3) age 4) other disciplines 5) indigenous and traditional communities. (KSR 2)

Report with an analysis on the SSC membership diversity and advise on how to diversify it: Ongoing.

Result description: In 2022, no progress was made on the report as the necessary data on Specialist Groups' membership was not easily available (the activity will now be carried out in 2023). The Global Center team supported new Specialist Groups directly with considering membership diversity through the proposal process (e.g., Dung Beetle Specialist Group; Sea Cucumber Specialist Group; Ant Specialist Group; Mite Specialist Group).

T-005 Support the SSC volunteer recognition program and broaden the number and scope of existing awards. (KSR 2)

Number of innovative ways identified to recognize volunteerism in the SSC: 1

Result description: From the several meetings the Global Center had with the SSC network, it emerged that SSC DATA reporting was one of the tasks where volunteerism recognition would be most impactful. We launched an initiative to summarize specialist group's main achievements and share them widely on social media to recognize their volunteerism. This has already been set in motion and the first social media threads will be online in 2023.

T-006 Provide administrative, hosting, facilitation support for SSC groups and conservation committees. (KSR 3)

Number of meetings supported: 84

Result description: The Global Center team supported and hosted at least 84 meetings (mostly virtual) for SSC Groups and Conservation Committees within the Center's remit.

Percentage of specialist groups and conservation committees within the Global Center's remit that submitted their SSC Data reporting by the end of first quarter: 74%

Result description: About 98 of the 132 (approx. 74%) specialist groups and committees within the Global Center's remit had uploaded at least one result to SSC Data by April 20, 2022.

Number of in-person meetings hosted in Indianapolis: 1

Result description: The Global Center hosted the SSC Chair's Office team for an in-person business planning meeting in 2022. This year also involved significant planning towards the hosting of the in-person SSC Steering Committee, Centers for Species Survival and Indiana Conservation Partners meetings in 2023.

T-007 Develop a One-Stop-Shop online system within the SSC DATA System to make information and resources more available to the SSC network, including fundraising opportunities, events calendar and communication forum. (KSR 2)

Platform developed and communicated to members: Achieved

Result description: The One Stop Shop was designed and developed in 2022 based on comments and feedback from the SSC network. User testing will start in January 2023

and the platform should be launched during the SSC Steering Committee Meeting at Indianapolis in April 2023

T-008 Support the identification and creation of new SSC Groups. (KSR 2)

Number of new SSC groups established: 5

Result description: The Global Center supported the creation of the IUCN SSC Mite Specialist Group, the IUCN SSC Ant Specialist Group, IUCN SSC Dung Beetle Specialist Group, the IUCN SSC Sea Cucumber Specialist Group, the IUCN SSC Colombian Fungal Specialist Group, and the Plant Use Group within the IUCN CEESP/SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group. A proposal has been submitted for the IUCN SSC Brazil Fungal Specialist Group to be approved in 2023. The Global Center also supported the early stages of proposals for multiple groups to be established in 2023, such as the IUCN SSC Seaweed Specialist Group and the IUCN SSC Marine Star Specialist Group. Several meetings were held towards the formation of the Wild Parrot Specialist Group and the Aquatic Fungi Specialist Group, and the official proposals are forthcoming in 2023.

Proposal development and funding

T-009 Support the development of SSC groups funding proposals to instigate assess, plan, act projects. (KSR 1)

Number of funding proposals supported: 9

Result description: In 2022, the Global Center for Species Survival supported the development of nine grant proposals in

collaboration with specialist groups' members, of which six were successful in securing funding.

**COMMUNICATE
Communication**

T-010 Develop a shared communications approach across the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and wider International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). (KSR 13)

Approach developed through ongoing meetings and workshops: Ongoing.

Result description: Kelly Griese from the Global Center and Aritzaith Rodriguez (SSC Chair's Office) met twice monthly to discuss communications. A shared communications calendar was created in 2022 but does not seem to be utilized by many in the network, so its discontinuation will be considered for 2023.

T-011 Disseminate communication pathways and guidance on targeted communication strategy development to SSC groups. (KSR 13)

Guidance documents developed and shared on One Stop Shop: Ongoing.

Result description: The following resources were created/added to the Communications section of the One-Stop-Shop: IUCN and SSC communication platforms list, spreadsheet of all Specialist Groups social media handles and websites, document on communication and branding best practices, document on naming SSC Groups' policy, SSC Annual Reports, copyright release form, document with links to IUCN publications, IUCN logo files

and visual identity rules for Commissions, IUCN media policy, document about writing for IUCN website. Additional resources are scheduled to be added by the end of 2023.

T-012 Support the improvement of social media presence of SSC groups. (KSR 12)

Number of SSC groups mentioned per year in the Global Center's Twitter/X account (30 groups mentioned per year): 29

Result description: Through the Global Center social media accounts (X, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and LinkedIn), we regularly highlight Specialist Groups and their species of focus with targeted messaging and links to experts. We collect monthly data on engagements and followers. In 2022, we mentioned 29 different Specialist Groups on Twitter (many of them more than once).

Social media content created for every group within the Global Center's remit that completes an Annual Report: Ongoing.

Result description: It was agreed in 2022 that the Global Center's team would create social media content for every group within the Global Center's remit that completes an Annual Report. This work will start in 2023 for the 2022 reports.

T-013 Support SSC groups with the preparation of specific communications, e.g., on under- or misrepresented biodiversity, lesser-known species, specific conservation topics, and dissemination of techniques. (KSR 13)

Number of communications pieces supported: Ongoing.



Sérgio Henriques, Invertebrate Conservation Coordinator at the Global Center for Species Survival, working with Sara Lewis, Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Firefly Specialist Group, during the Red List workshop at the International Firefly Symposium
Photo: Global CSS Indianapolis Zoo

Result description: We published nine blog posts in 2022, highlighting World Wetlands Day, spring species, orchids, the Global Reptile Assessment, parrots, World Ocean Day, migratory monarchs, sturgeons, Socotra archipelago, and the exotic pet trade. The podcast has been delayed until the end of 2023.

T-014 Provide website support for SSC groups and committees, including the development, hosting, content development, ongoing management and operational aspects of websites. (KSR 12)

Number of Guidance documents developed and shared on One Stop Shop: Ongoing.

Result description: Website support is being provided in the form of virtual meetings with Specialist Groups at their request. The Global Center is unable to provide website hosting and maintenance to Specialist Groups, but we are able to review current websites and offer suggestions/tips/best practices. Documents for those best practices are being produced for 2023.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the support and guidance of the Indianapolis Zoological Society, the staff in the Chair's office of the SSC, and the significant contributors to the Global Center for Species Survival. We also recognize and appreciate the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the taxonomic Specialist Groups for their continued support and partnership, as well as the Lilly Foundation.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 23

Geographic regions: 23 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

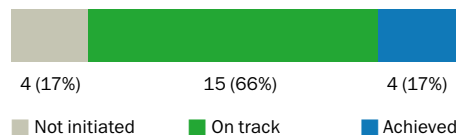
Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 11 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 6 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Legend: Not initiated (grey), On track (green), Achieved (blue)