



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:

Jeggo, D, Marsden, S, Rheindt, F, Owen, A, Neves, L, Sheperd, C, Jain A, and Sagita, N. 2023. 2022 Report of the Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group. 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. 14 pp

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group



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Sagita** (Education
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engagement)
BirdLife Asia and
Planet Indonesia

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATORS**

BirdLife International

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

89

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @IUCN.Songbirds

Instagram: @iucn_songbirds

Twitter: @IUCN_Songbirds

Website: <https://www.asiansongbirdtradesg.com>

Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group (IUCN SSC ASTSG) exists to prevent the imminent extinction of Songbirds threatened by unsustainable trapping and the trade in wild-caught passerines. In addition, it seeks to address the impact of the trade and to find solutions through which the growing threat to an ever-increasing number of Songbird species can be reversed and improve the conservation status of all species involved.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The IUCN SSC ASTSG constantly reviews the growing list of Songbird species whose conservation status is affected by trade. From this, it can prioritise recommending measures aimed at avoiding the extinction of those most at risk. Through monitoring

the markets, including online trade, and carrying out field work it provides data that guide the best assessment of their status. This assists BirdLife's Red List team in determining the most accurate IUCN Red List categorisations. Given the severity and complexity of the trade, it is unlikely that the level of threat for these Songbirds will improve markedly during this quadrennium. For some of the most threatened species, conservation breeding programmes will act as assurances against extinction. Some restorations of free-flying populations will commence, and important to the success of these will be working closely with local communities. Research into the key drivers of trade and songbird keeping will help target the most effective measures to bring about demand reduction in wild-caught songbirds. This, coupled with increased protection of wild populations, is seen as the longer-term solution to improving the

status of the many affected songbird species and to stemming the flow of songbird species being included as threatened on the Red List.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-007 Continue to strengthen engagement with BirdLife as the IUCN Red List Authority to implement the IUCN SSC ASTSG's recommendations regarding the Red List.
Status: On track

T-063 Conduct trade research and analysis to improve effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in combating international wildlife trade.
Status: On track

T-064 Produce publication on White-eye taxonomy.
Status: Achieved



T-065 Publish Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush (*Garrulax rufifrons*) conservation breeding paper.
Status: On track

T-066 Publish a paper on the status of trade and protection of the Crested Jayshrike (*Platylophus galericulatus*).
Status: On track

T-067 Publish a minimum of one paper highlighting the benefits of using CITES Appendix III.
Status: Achieved

T-068 Publish a minimum of four market surveys in Indonesia, Viet Nam and Hong Kong.
Status: Achieved

T-069 Carry out a study and publish a paper on the number of threatened passerines that are migratory and use to engage the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
Status: On track

T-070 Conduct a research study on the songbird trade across Borneo.
Status: On track

T-071 Produce Thailand native bird trade paper.
Status: On track

T-072 Conduct Viet Nam songbird consumer study and pilot intervention.
Status: Achieved

T-073 Produce Malaysia Oriental Magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*) trade briefing paper.
Status: Achieved

T-074 Publish a paper on the status and decline of Javan White-eye (*Zosterops flavus*).
Status: Achieved

T-075 Publish a paper assessing the status of a range of key montane bird species in Java.
Status: On track

T-076 Publish a paper on the attitudes and perceptions of bird owners in Java.
Status: Achieved

T-079 Publish a paper on supply route dynamics of birds in commercial breeding facilities in Java.
Status: Not initiated

T-080 Publish a paper on results of a behaviour change campaign on Songbird enthusiasts.
Status: On track

T-081 Develop guidelines on songbird rescue, rehab and release (RRR) facilities.
Status: On track

T-082 Quantify and publish turnover of songbirds in markets.
Status: On track

T-083 Quantify and publish mortality of songbirds along the trade supply chain for key species.
Status: Not initiated

T-085 Quantify and publish the extent of cross border trade in songbirds that can push CITES listing of victim species.
Status: Achieved

T-086 Publish clear guidance documents for governments to show decline in songbirds for key species.
Status: On track

T-087 Develop guidelines and encourage monitoring of key songbird species with SMART patrols in protected areas.
Status: On track

T-088 Develop guidelines and initiatives to encourage bird tourism for key songbird species as an alternative to trapping.
Status: On track

T-089 Establish clear communications or guidelines around the role of *ex situ* conservation (e.g. zoos) in tackling the songbird trade issue.
Status: Not initiated

T-090 Publish paper on understanding the drivers behind the Singapore songbird trade.
Status: Achieved

T-096 Integrate citizen science-based knowledge through increased engagement within the membership.
Status: On track

T-097 Using Red List indicators, develop a Red List Index for songbirds in Indonesia and recalculate this annually to track progress.
Status: Not initiated

T-101 Work with partners to monitor online trade to assess level of trade in songbirds online and changes in trends.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-001 Conduct action plan meeting for Javan Green Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*).
Status: Not initiated

T-003 Conduct action plan meeting for the threatened endemic songbird taxa of the Barusan Islands.
Status: Not initiated

T-004 Conduct National Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) Action Plan for Singapore.
Status: On track

T-008 Conduct action plan meeting for Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush and publish plan.
Status: Not initiated

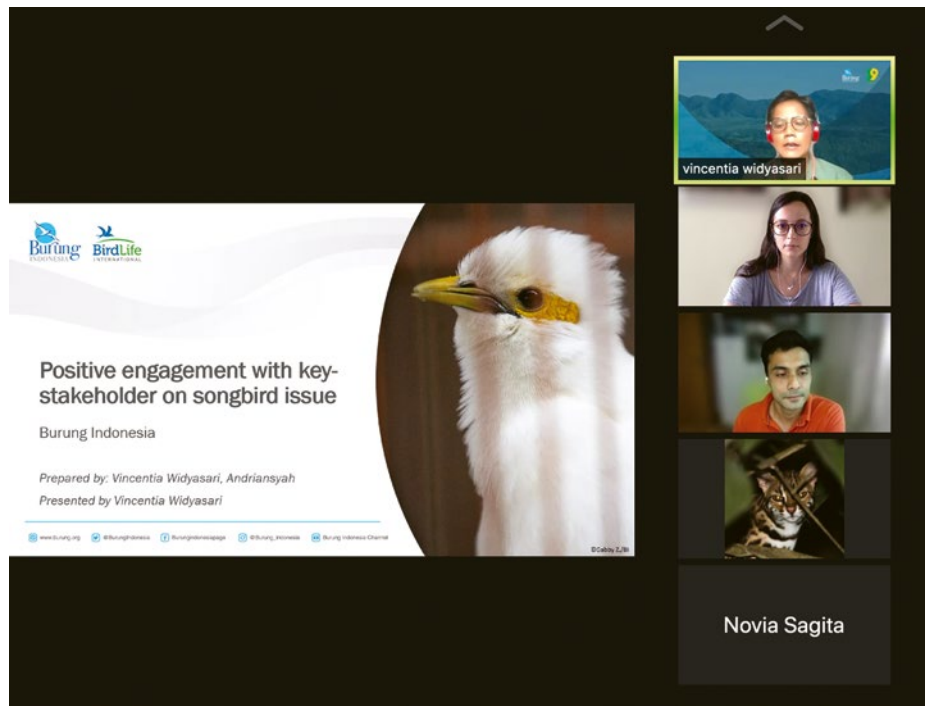
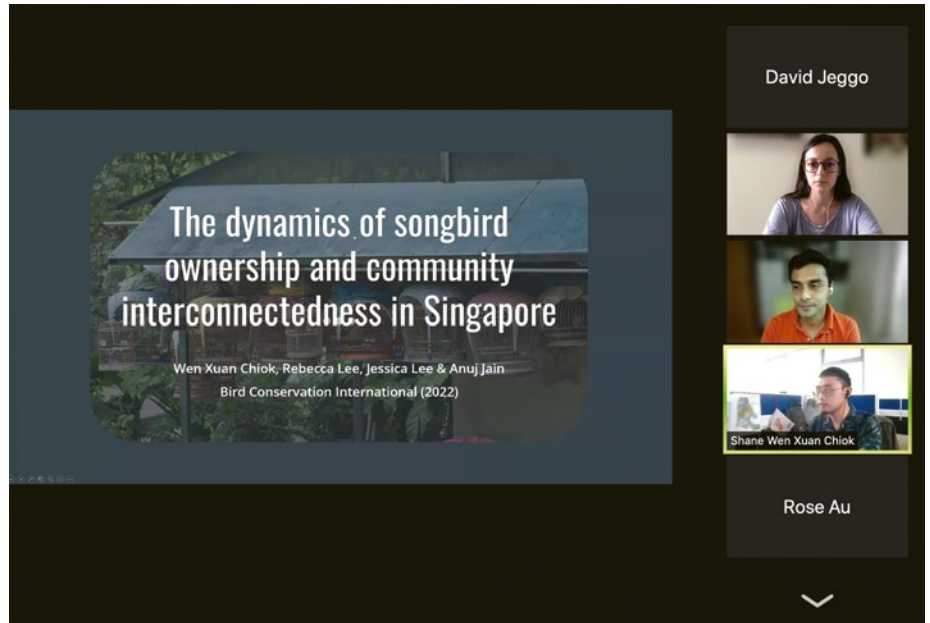
T-009 Conduct range-wide action plan meeting for Straw-headed Bulbul and publish plan.
Status: On track

T-010 Create a species management plan for Black-winged Myna (*Acridotheres melanopterus*) in Baluran National Park.
Status: On track

T-011 Encourage governments where Songbird trade is an issue to develop national Songbird action plans.
Status: Not initiated

T-012 Encourage stakeholders to implement species-specific national action plans where needed.
Status: Not initiated

T-013 Conduct Bali Starling (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) Conservation Action Plan meeting and publish Action Plan.
Status: Not initiated



Screenshots from the 'People: plague or remedy for the Asian songbirds? Tackling Asian songbird crisis through community engagement' ASTSG webinar
Photo: ASTSG

T-014 Conduct Black-winged Myna Conservation Action Plan meeting and publish Action Plan.
Status: Not initiated

T-015 Conduct a Javan Pied Starling (*Gracupica jalla*) Conservation Action Plan meeting and publish Action Plan.
Status: Not initiated

T-016 Conduct Sumatran endemic bird species action plan meeting and publish Action Plan.
Status: Not initiated

T-017 Provide input for all songbird-related CITES proposals at the next Conference of the Parties (CoP).
Status: Achieved

T-018 Begin discussions/engagements on CMS-relevant songbirds (e.g. Flycatchers; Pittas; Starlings; Crested Jay; Siberian Blue Robin [*Larvivora cyane*]).
Status: On track

T-019 Support Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA) to improve their licensing process provided to wildlife owners/traders.
Status: Not initiated

T-098 Work with conservation breeding centres within Indonesia to develop overall strategic plan and linkages to longer-term interventions.
Status: On track

T-099 Develop framework for management of confiscated songbirds through rescue centres in Indonesia.
Status: On track

T-100 Assess current trends of traded species and identify species to recommend and support for CITES listings for species of concern due to international trade.
Status: On track

ACT

T-002 Secure assurance *ex situ* conservation breeding population of Sumatran Laughingthrush (*Garrulax bicolor*).
Status: On track

T-005 Secure assurance conservation breeding population of Black-winged Myna.
Status: On track

T-020 Identify rescued songbirds for release and develop release programmes and proposal for rescued songbirds.
Status: On track

T-021 Establish secure assurance breeding population of Javan Green Magpie.
Status: On track

T-022 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush.
Status: On track

T-023 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Straw-headed Bulbul.
Status: On track

T-024 Establish assurance conservation breeding population of Javan Pied Starling.
Status: On track

T-025 Establish assurance conservation breeding population of Nias Hill Myna (*Gracula robusta*).
Status: On track

T-026 Continue to support Bali Starling conservation in Indonesia.
Status: On track

T-027 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Barusan Shamas (*Kittacincla malabaricus* spp./*Copsychus melanurus*).
Status: On track

T-028 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Barusan Island Hill Mynah species.
Status: On track

T-029 Secure assurance breeding population of Orange-headed Thrush (Javan spp. *Geokichla citrina rubecula*).
Status: On track

T-030 Continue to support Blue-crowned Laughingthrush (*Pterorhinus courtoisi*) conservation.
Status: On track

T-031 Conduct field surveys to establish status of Sumatran endemics (e.g. Aceh Bulbul, *Pycnonotus snouckaerti*).
Status: Not initiated

T-034 Collaborate with local stakeholders to move songbird shops to alternative sustainable livelihoods.
Status: On track

T-035 Develop a Position Statement from the IUCN SSC ASTSG on improved use of CITES for songbird conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-036 Develop a Position Statement from the IUCN SSC ASTSG supporting increased use of CITES Appendix III for songbird conservation.
Status: On track

T-037 Develop a Position Statement from the IUCN SSC ASTSG endorsing the inclusion of the Sumatran Laughingthrush in CITES Appendix III.
Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

T-039 Host online talks by members on their work: engagement and mentoring, i.e. invite partners, funders, SSC main office, Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), etc.
Status: On track

T-046 Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to support creation of interagency coordination between GAKKUM, BKSDA, POLDA, BPSPL and Customs and Quarantine in Indonesia.
Status: On track

T-047 Catalyse funding to support rescue, rehabilitation and release operations for confiscated songbirds.
Status: On track

T-048 Build and strengthen partnerships with Indonesian NGOs, academic institutions and other entities working on bird conservation issues.
Status: On track

T-049 Build conservation capacity and competency, both individual and organisational, e.g. using the IUCN Asian Species Action Partnership framework.
Status: On track

T-050 Train staff of Indonesian NGOs to perform species distribution models and other relevant modelling techniques.
Status: Not initiated

T-051 Train national park staff in Bali Barat to undertake monitoring, nest monitoring and other activities in support of Bali Myna (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) conservation.
Status: On track

T-052 Develop the capacity of BKSDA staff on species identification, handling and management of confiscated Songbirds.
Status: On track

T-053 Increase membership of local stakeholders (birders, students, ecologists, conservationists, etc.) within the group.
Status: On track

T-054 Work with six communities around West Java to enhance populations of key Songbirds.
Status: On track

T-055 Collaborate with state prosecutors, judges, POLDA and BKSDA to prepare victim statements for wildlife-related crimes.
Status: Not initiated

T-056 Formalise an Indonesian subgroup of ASTSG with Indonesian leadership.
Status: On track

T-057 Strengthen relationships with governments of countries where songbird trade is an issue.
Status: On track

T-058 Formalise relationship with Songbird competition organisers and relevant stakeholders through the IUCN SSC ASTSG community engagement subgroup to reduce demand for wild songbirds.
Status: On track

T-059 Develop a habitat and enforcement working group to tackle these issues as part of ASTSG.
Status: Not initiated

T-061 Strengthen collaboration with IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP).
Status: On track

T-062 Work with Perhutani and Indonesian NGOs to provide 100 km² of additional protection for areas and key birds in West Java.
Status: Not initiated

T-092 Explore in-kind partnerships with carbon offsetting company to fund 'model community' initiative.
Status: Not initiated

T-093 Explore engaging relevant industry partners (e.g. forestry concessions) in conservation partnerships.
Status: On track

T-095 Ensure sustained funding is available to carry out conservation breeding activities.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-038 Update and maintain citations and publications list on the IUCN SSC ASTSG website.
Status: Achieved

T-040 Set up social media for the IUCN SSC ASTSG – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – and maintain regular postings.
Status: Achieved

T-041 Set up the IUCN SSC ASTSG newsletter (online) and publish the first issue in 2021 (at least four newsletters over a 4-year period).
Status: On track

T-042 Improve and expand the reach of the IUCN SSC ASTSG website.
Status: Achieved

T-043 Increase communication capacity of the IUCN SSC ASTSG in English and regional languages.
Status: On track

T-044 Establish clear communications to distinguish between wild-caught and captive trade in songbirds.
Status: Not initiated

T-045 Translate the IUCN SSC ASTSG action plan implementation at national, regional and local levels.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-007 Continue to strengthen engagement with BirdLife as the IUCN Red List Authority to implement ASTSG's recommendations regarding the Red List. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 3

Result description: In 2022, the IUCN SSC ASTSG continued to work closely with BirdLife's Red List team on assessing species which come under its remit, discussing which species should be reviewed and encouraging its members to participate by commenting on the forum.

Research activities

T-063 Conduct trade research and analysis to improve effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in combating international wildlife trade. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: The IUCN SSC STSG's main focus for this target in 2022 was on sharing information on illegal Songbird trade with law enforcement authorities for further action, developing identification sheets, CITES up/listing of Straw-headed Bulbul and White-rumped Shama, designing tools to improve the protection of Songbirds threatened by trade, e.g. Songbird SKI and SiTDB. Research into illegal trade has been carried out and multiple peer-reviewed publications are in various stages of development: a case study on the trade in Asian birds in the US, an examination of the Songbird trade in Viet Nam, a case study on the trade in Black-throated Laughingthrush, a study of the trade in Butcherbirds, and more.

T-064 Produce publication on White-eye taxonomy. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: A major genomic paper was published in *eLife* (impact factor 9.3) in December 2020 (Gwee *et al.* 2020), containing 33 species of White-eye and clarifying taxonomic boundaries in many of them. More work is underway and to be published in 2024.

T-065 Publish Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush (*G. rufifrons*) conservation breeding paper. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: In progress and on track: a publication planned for 2024.

T-066 Publish a paper on the status of trade and protection of the Crested Jayshrike (*P. galericulatus*). (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: A manuscript on the trade in Crested Jayshrikes has been completed and submitted to a journal for peer review.

T-067 Publish a minimum of one paper highlighting the benefits of using CITES Appendix III. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: A series of four papers have been published on this topic, with three being general and one focusing on the benefits of listing the Sumatran Laughingthrush in CITES App III.

T-068 Publish a minimum of four market surveys in Indonesia, Viet Nam and Hong Kong. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: Market surveys have been carried out in all of these countries.

T-069 Carry out a study and publish a paper on the number of threatened passerines

that are migratory and use to engage the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). (KSR 5)

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

Result description: Research is being conducted into the trade in a number of migratory species, which will be published in 2023.

T-070 Conduct a research study on the Songbird trade across Borneo. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: Yayasan Planet Indonesia is working with a researcher, Chiok Wen Xuan Shane, to review data from all over West Kalimantan and also online trade (expected submission first quarter of 2023). A manuscript focusing on the trade of Songbirds in Sarawak is being prepared for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

T-071 Produce Thailand native bird trade paper. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: A paper is being finalised for publication (updated with 2022 data and peer-reviewed).

T-074 Publish a paper on the status and decline of Javan White-eye (*Z. flavus*). (KSR 5)

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

Result description: The paper on Javan White-eye was published by van Balen, Saryanthi, R, and Marsden, SJ. (2022). 'Evidence of steep declines in the heavily traded Javan White-eye (*Z. flavus*) from repeated standardised surveys'. *Bird Conservation International*.

T-075 Publish a paper assessing the status of a range of key montane bird species in Java. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: A paper on key Javan birds is in press at *Bird Conservation International* and is due for publication in 2023.

T-076 Publish a paper on the attitudes and perceptions of bird owners in Java. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: The paper by Marshall *et al.* (2021) was published in *Conservation Science and Practice*: 'Understanding motivations and attitudes among songbird-keepers to identify best approaches to demand reduction'.

T-080 Publish a paper on results of a behaviour change campaign on songbird enthusiasts. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: An article was published in the IUCN SSC ASTSG newsletter: 'Triggering Behaviour Change in Songbirds Competitions through the Wak Gatak Center'. The IUCN SSC ASTSG core members are considering a journal publication to disseminate the learnings from the group to a wider audience.

T-081 Develop guidelines on songbird rescue, rehabilitation and release (RRR) facilities. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 0

Result description: A guide / SOP for Songbird confiscation was developed specifically for Wak Gatak and the West Kalimantan BKSDA. There is a potential to use it as an example for other regions.

T-082 Quantify and publish turnover of songbirds in markets. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: Surveys are being carried out in key markets.

T-085 Quantify and publish the extent of cross-border trade in songbirds that can push CITES listing of victim species. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: Two CITES species listing proposals were submitted to list White-rumped Shama on App II and up list Straw-headed Bulbul to App I. Both were adopted at CoP19 (November 2022). A paper has been completed on the trade in Asian CITES-listed birds into the US, to demonstrate the benefits and needs relating to listing Songbirds in CITES. A manuscript looking at the trade in songbirds in Sarawak is being prepared for publication which highlights cross-border trade issues between Indonesia and Malaysia. Funding is being sought for further research to support the better use of CITES for Songbird conservation. The need for enhanced use of CITES to monitor, regulate and control cross-border trade in Songbirds was highlighted by the IUCN SSC ASTSG members at a side event at the CITES CoP 19.

T-086 Publish clear guidance documents for governments to show decline in Songbirds for key species. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 0

Result description: This target is covered in a chapter of the recently submitted PhD thesis by Tom Squires, which hopefully will be later published as a paper.

T-087 Develop guidelines and encourage monitoring of key Songbird species with SMART patrols in protected areas. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 1

Result description: The identification guide developed and used for Priority Wildlife Species (including mammals and songbirds) by Yayasan Planet Indonesia was used by SMART Patrol team in Gunung Nuit.

T-088 Develop guidelines and initiatives to encourage bird tourism for key Songbird species as an alternative to trapping.

(KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 1

Result description: A white paper on conservation tourism in Southeast Asia is published – principles can be applied to bird tourism. Mandai Nature exploring bird tourism opportunities with partners.

T-090 Publish paper on understanding the drivers behind the Singapore songbird trade.

(KSR 5)

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

Result description: A paper was published in February 2022 by Chiok, W *et al.* (2022). 'The dynamics of songbird ownership and community interconnectedness in Singapore'. *Bird Conservation International*, 32(4), 573-589. Found here: 10.1017/S0959270921000393

T-101 Work with partners to monitor online trade to assess level of trade in Songbirds online and changes in trends. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: ASTSG members (Monitor, TRAFFIC, YPI and others) are monitoring online bird trade.

Synergy

T-096 Integrate citizen science-based knowledge through increased engagement within the membership. (KSR 5)

Increased incorporation and establishment of citizen science-based programs: 0

Result description: ASTSG is in consultation with Birdpacker to repeat the Big Month citizen science event across Indonesia in 2023. Burung Indonesia initiated a new platform, Amati Sekitar, to work closely with schools and other youth groups that Burung Indonesia has been collaborating with in Java: <https://www.amatisekitar.info/beranda>.

PLAN

Planning

T-001 Conduct action plan meeting for Javan Green Magpie (*C. thalassina*). (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on international travel prevented any progress with this target. It is hoped a CPSG facilitated workshop can be developed for this and other threatened Songbirds in 2023.

T-004 Conduct National Straw-headed Bulbul (*P. zeylanicus*) Action Plan for Singapore. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The National Straw-headed Bulbul Working Group was formed in 2022. Initial discussions are conducted around developing a national action plan for the species.

T-008 Conduct action plan meeting for Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush and publish plan. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on international travel prevented any progress with this target. It is hoped a CPSG-facilitated workshop can be developed for this and other threatened songbirds in 2023.

T-009 Conduct range-wide action plan meeting for Straw-headed Bulbul and publish plan. (KSR 8)



Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: ASTSG had very early-stage discussions with members from KETSA and NParks.

T-010 Create a species management plan for Black-winged Myna (*A. melanopterus*) in Baluran National Park. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Extinction-in-Process of Neglected Shama Diversity

The Barusan Shama group

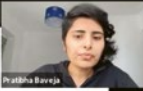
FORKTAIL 35 (2019): 30–37

The extinction-in-progress in the wild of the Barusan Shama *Copsychus (malabaricus) melanurus*

FRANK E. RHEINDT, PRATIBHA BAVEJA, TEUKU REZA FERASYI, AGUS NURZA, TEUKU SHADDIQ ROSA, HAMINUDDIN, REZKY RAMADHAN & CHYI YIN GWEE



Screenshots from the 'Operation Barusan Shama' ASTSG webinar
Photo: ASTSG

ASTSG-talk - Shared to my Mac



Aim of the field work

To investigate the avifauna of the Barusan islands with a special focus on Barusan Shama.

Result description: Planning for creating a species management plan for Black-winged Myna in Baluran National Park is in the early stages.

T-098 Work with conservation breeding centres within Indonesia to develop overall strategic plan and linkages to longer-term interventions. (KSR 8)

Plans established for future *ex situ/in situ* collaboration: 0

Result description: Cikananga Integrated Conservation Foundation (Yayasan Cikananga Konservasi Terpadu, YCKT), Chester Zoo and Manchester Metropolitan University launched a programme focusing on the conservation and ecology of the Javan Green Magpie. The long-term goal of this programme is to develop community-based conservation initiatives. Additional funding is needed, as stated in the SSC Internal Grant Proposal submitted in February 2023.

T-099 Develop framework for management of confiscated Songbirds through rescue centres in Indonesia. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: A guide/SOP for songbird confiscation specifically for Wak Gatak and the West Kalimantan has been developed. It will be presented to BKSDA in 2023. YPI can share the SOP as an example for other regions after clearance from BKSDA.

Policy

T-017 Provide input for all songbird-related CITES proposals at the next Conference of the Parties (CoP). (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: Two CITES species listing proposals were submitted to list White-rumped Shama on App II and uplist Straw-headed Bulbul to App I. The ASTSG provided input to the IUCN/TRAFFIC analyses, sent out letters urging support for the proposals to all Parties and ASTSG members were heavily involved in developing and advocating for the proposals. Both were adopted at CoP19 (November 2022).

T-018 Begin discussions/engagements on CMS-relevant Songbirds (e.g. Flycatchers; Pittas; Starlings; Crested Jay; Siberian Blue Robin, [*Larivora cyane*]). (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: Funding for this activity has not yet been secured; however, discussions have been held with potential partners, including USFWS and others to engage the CMS and other relevant organisations.

T-100 Assess current trends of traded species and identify species to recommend and support for CITES listings for species of concern due to international trade. (KSR 9)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 0

Result description: SiTDB and the Monitor Songbird Lab have been developed and put into use. A number of case studies have been published or are in preparation to support listings of species of concern. A number of government agencies and

non-government organisations have been engaged since the CITES CoP 19 to prepare for the next CoP, and to ensure better use of CITES for Songbird conservation. A list of species that would meet the criteria for a CITES listing is being developed. Funding is being sought for further research into key species.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-002 Secure assurance ex situ conservation breeding population of Sumatran Laughingthrush (*G. bicolor*). (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: This programme is developing well in the form of a European Aquarium and Zoo Association (EAZA) European *Ex situ* Programme (EEP), in which two breeding centres in Java participate. At the end of 2021, the programme comprised some 130 birds of which three-quarters were held in Europe.

T-005 Secure assurance conservation breeding population of Black-winged Myna. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: There is an international studbook for this species managed by Anais Tritto (Mandai Nature).

T-020 Identify rescued songbirds for release and develop release programmes and proposal for rescued songbirds. (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from *in situ* conservation action: 0

Result description: The Wak Gatak Center has accepted birds and rescued them actively; they are still in the rehabilitation process for about 4 to 6 months with the hope of release in 2023.

T-021 Establish secure assurance breeding population of Javan Green Magpie. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range

size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: This programme is developing well in the form of a European Aquarium and Zoo Association (EAZA) European *Ex situ* Programme (EEP), in which two breeding centres in Java participate (Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre, CCBC) and Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark, PCBA). At the end of 2022, the programme comprised some 101 (41.52.8) birds at nine institutions, of which more than half were held in the two Javan institutions. A study assessing the genetic diversity of the *ex situ* European population will be undertaken in 2023 by Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) and Chester Zoo.

T-022 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: Two breeding centres in Java are working with this species: Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC) and Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark (PCBA). They hold small numbers, but both continued to successfully rear young in 2022. The CCBC recorded the first-ever captive breeding of the subspecies from Mount Slamet Garulax, with six young reared to independence in 2022.

T-023 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Straw-headed Bulbul. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: Only two institutions are working with this species: the principal one is Jurong Bird Park in Singapore with a 12.9 captive population, and more recently, the Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark (PCBA) in Java has started with it.

T-024 Establish assurance conservation breeding population of Javan Pied Starling. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: The Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark (PCBA) in East Java is taking the lead in this programme and at the end of 2021 held 42 Javan Pied Starlings, of which 10 had been bred at the facility in 2021. Seven Javan Pied Starlings were raised by four different pairs by June 2022. In November 2022 PCBA started the first trial release of 40 Javan Pied Starlings on the grounds of Taman Safari Indonesia. Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre (CCBC) acquired 10 individuals from private breeders in October 2022, with the intention of developing a community lead reintroduction project for the species in the Cikapuh area of West Java.

T-026 Continue to support Bali Starling conservation in Indonesia. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: Manchester Metropolitan University has published a paper on Bali Myna breeding with Udayana University, and another paper is in review which is co-authored by the Bali Barat National Park director. Completed feasibility study on releases of birds outside the national park. Starting a project on assessing the ecological conditions outside the park. Working with local communities, especially school children, for environmental education and Bali Myna conservation.

T-027 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Barusan Shamas (*K. malabaricus* spp./*Copsychus melanurus*). (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: Continued breeding of Barusan Shama on Simeulue by Ecosystem Impact. Currently 27 birds: 14 breeding stock, all acquired as Simeulue Barusan Shama (*C. melanurus hypolizus*): eight female and six males; and 13 bred

in the breeding project, seven female and six male. A second aviary of five further rooms was built and now housing Shama bred through the breeding project (aviaries built to house both Barusan Shama and Hill Myna). In the process of developing a reintroduction project on Linggam Island, a small 34 ha off Simeulue, through a community ranger, engagement and environmental education project. A community ranger camp has been built, and pre-release aviaries are in the process of being built; community engagement activities have started, with the Ecosystem Impact team in the process of developing an environmental education curriculum. Ecosystem Impact acknowledges the need to increase the captive population before starting with the reintroduction project, which we aim to start in mid-2023. Ecosystem Impact continues to communicate with Ian Singleton and SOCP about developing a second Barusan Shama population at the Songbird Haven but are currently waiting on a permit to be able to transport birds between Aceh / Simeulue and North Sumatra.

T-028 Establish an assurance conservation breeding population of Barusan Island Hill Mynah species. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: A purpose-built Hill Myna breeding aviary has been built on Simeulue by Ecosystem Impact. Basic research into the availability of Simeulue Hill Myna has been carried out through the Songbird poaching networks on Simeulue Island, which suggest there are still Simeulue Hill Mynas on the illegal market. Some information sources suggest there some Simeulue Hill Mynas are still being poached out of Simeulue forests. Hill Myna is listed as a protected species in Indonesia, and Ecosystem Impact is in the process of gaining the required permits and MoU with the Indonesian government to be

able to house and breed Hill Myna. The process has been good if a little slow at times and the team hope to achieve the permit in early 2023.

T-029 Secure assurance breeding population of Orange-headed Thrush (Javan subspecies, *G. citrina rubecula*). (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark (PCBA) continues to maintain a small population. There has been no breeding activity recorded during this period.

T-030 Continue to support Blue-crowned Laughingthrush (*P. courtoisi*) conservation. (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: There is a GSMP (Global Species Management Plan) for this species. The global captive population is 283 individuals in 56 institutions in three regions.

T-034 Collaborate with local stakeholders to move songbird shops to alternative sustainable livelihoods. (KSR 11)

Number of communities benefited from sustainable use programs: 1

Result description: This target is no longer a priority for Yayasan Planet Indonesia in West Kalimantan. However, it is still a priority for BirdLife/Burung Indonesia as they manage to establish Village Resource Management Agreements in West/Central Java where people have moved to alternative livelihoods.

Policy

T-035 Develop a Position Statement from the IUCN SSC ASTSG on improved use of CITES for Songbird conservation. (KSR 10)

Number of position statements addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: A position statement was issued by the ASTSG Chair prior to CITES CoP 19.

NETWORK Agreements

T-054 Work with six communities around West Java to enhance populations of key Songbirds. (KSR 2)

Relationships with communities established and regular monitoring and evaluation in place: Ongoing.

Result description: One location was identified as a site for Javan Green Magpie conservation by Cikananga Integrated Conservation Foundation (Yayasan Cikananga Konservasi Terpadu, YCKT), Chester Zoo and Manchester Metropolitan University's conservation initiative.

Community engagement activities have been initiated and ecological surveys are underway. Additional funding is needed, as stated in the SSC Internal Grant Proposal submitted in February 2023.

Capacity building

T-049 Build conservation capacity and competency, both individual and organisational (e.g. using IUCN Asian Species Action Partnership framework). (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in other fields: 1

Result description ASTSG member projects continued building capacity and competency – e.g. recruited undergraduate students to carry out fieldwork; conducted training on husbandry and veterinary (Chester Zoo with Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre, Jersey Zoo with Ecosystem Impact, Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark staff member (Ade Bagus) in Leipzig Zoo), engaged graduate and post-graduate students in various projects and internships.

T-051 Train national park staff in Bali Barat to undertake monitoring, nest monitoring and other activities in support of Bali Myna (*L. rothschildi*) conservation. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation action: 1

Screenshot from the 'Song in the forest: Using field research to understand the Asian Songbird Crisis' ASTSG webinar
Photo: ASTSG

Methods

Line transect

- 1.5 – 2 km
- \bar{x} 8 transects per site
- 06:00-09:00 AM
- 16:00-18:00 PM






Foto © Burung Indonesia/ Achmad Riha, Jonaid

Result description: Indonesian personnel are working in the Bali Barat area alongside the national park staff and a local university. We hope this year to work further with the national park staff on both monitoring and community outreach.

T-052 Develop the capacity of BKSDA staff on species identification, handling and management of confiscated songbirds. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in other fields: 0

Result description: In 2022, the main focus was on carrying out drafting internally, discussing the draft's content with management, preparing an audience plan for the relevant agencies to receive feedback on the draft, and finalising the guidelines for animal identification and SOP for handling animals.

Membership

T-053 Increase membership of local stakeholders (birders, students, ecologists, conservationists, etc.) within the group. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 10

Result description: Ten new members joined ASTSG in 2022. Among them were two research assistants and one PhD student from the National University of Singapore, one NGO-affiliated conservationist from Singapore, two NGO-affiliated local conservationists working in Indonesia, one NGO-affiliated non-local conservationist working in Indonesia, one non-local PhD level researcher working in Indonesia, one local researcher from the Philippines and one UK-based conservationist.

Synergy

T-046 Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to support creation of interagency coordination between GAKKUM,

BKSDA, POLDA, BPSPL and Customs and Quarantine in Indonesia. (KSR 2)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: Yayasan Planet Indonesia (YPI) has supported a multi-stakeholder platform in West Kalimantan with the relevant government agencies. The agencies were initially resistant to developing a formal written MOU but have agreed to meet quarterly since 2022 to discuss the illegal wildlife cases – including Songbirds – and will take action given each agency mandate.

T-047 Catalyse funding to support rescue, rehabilitation and release operations for confiscated songbirds. (KSR 2)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1

Result description: Some funding is available from Silent Forest and Mandai Nature to support Wak Gatak and FLIGHT's rescue, rehabilitation, and release operations.

T-048 Build and strengthen partnerships with Indonesian NGOs, academic institutions and other entities working on bird conservation issues. (KSR 2)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 0

Result description: ASTSG members are part of various Indonesian entities. Members of ASTSG are also collaborating closely with a range of NGOs (e.g. Burung Indonesia), academic institutions – e.g. Syiah Kuala University (Banda Aceh), Atma Jaya University (Yogyakarta), Bogor Agricultural University, Udayana University (Bali), University of Indonesia.

T-057 Strengthen relationships with governments of countries where Songbird trade is an issue. (KSR 2)

Number of synergies: 1

Result description: Through CITES CoP19, Singapore and Malaysian governments were firmly in support of Songbird conservation and protection; buy-in was achieved for Asian Songbird proposals from almost all range states. Research findings in the form of peer-reviewed publications and media articles have been shared directly on a regular basis with relevant government authorities in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, and indirectly via social media platforms. Information regarding illegal trade in Songbirds has been provided directly to enforcement focal points within Southeast Asian governments in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand for their use.

T-058 Formalise relationship with songbird competition organisers and relevant stakeholders through the IUCN SSC ASTSG community engagement subgroup to reduce demand for wild Songbirds. (KSR 2)

Number of synergies created: 0

Result description: There are several initiatives to achieve this target: Behaviour Change Project to reduce participation in Songbird competition, working with organisation IAW with method CARING TREE; Planet Indonesia is collaborating with UNAS in Jakarta to reduce the participation of competition organisers, Burung Indonesia and BirdLife worked on a similar project across 10 villages in West and Central Java – village management resource agreements achieved to reduce songbird trapping

activities. In Javanese cities, influencers were reached, and they helped reduce demand at competitions.

T-061 Strengthen collaboration with the IUCN SSC Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP). (KSR 2)

Maintain combined a work plan: 1

Result description: The IUCN SSC ASTSG and ASAP continue collaborating on social media content and other communication materials related to the Asian Songbird trade and conservation. Opportunities for the IUCN SSC ASTSG members and ASAP partners are often cross-shared for the benefit of both organisations.

T-093 Explore engaging relevant industry partners (e.g. forestry concessions) in conservation partnerships. (KSR 2)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 0

Result description: The IUCN SSC ASTSG members conducted meetings with the APRIL Group about Songbird conservation on their conservation concessions; developing research programmes.

T-095 Ensure sustained funding is available to carry out conservation breeding activities. (KSR 2)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 0

Result description: Two strategic funding partnerships were created for Javan and Barusan endemic Songbird species conservation breeding projects.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-038 Update and maintain citations and publications list on the IUCN SSC ASTSG website. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: The ASTSG website (<https://www.asiansongbirdtradesg.com/>) features key information about the IUCN SSC ASTSG, the Specialist Group's

publications, articles written by the IUCN SSC ASTSG members, webinar recordings and other materials. The website requires further updates and continuous maintenance to keep it active and current.

T-040 Set up social media for the IUCN SSC ASTSG – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – and maintain regular postings. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: Social media content is being regularly posted on three the IUCN SSC ASTSG social media accounts: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. It includes sharing articles and scientific papers related to the Asian Songbird crisis and its tackling, project updates and publications by the the IUCN SSC ASTSG's members, seizure data, interesting facts and profiles of priority taxa, and art featuring Asian Songbird species. On average, content is posted three times a week to keep the IUCN SSC ASTSG followers engaged. Monthly analytics allows shaping the content and adjusting posting times to reach and engage more followers.

T-041 Set up the IUCN SSC ASTSG newsletter (online) and publish first issue in 2021 (at least four newsletters over a 4-year period). (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: Following the inaugural issue of the ASTSG newsletter published in 2021, two more issues were published in 2022 (<https://www.asiansongbirdtradesg.com/astsg-publications>).

T-042 Improve and expand the reach of the ASTSG website. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: Social media content and ASTSG newsletter publication constantly drive the audience to the ASTSG website. Monthly analytics conducted from

February 2021 onwards help to understand website performance and diminish any shortcomings.

T-043 Increase communication capacity of the IUCN SSC ASTSG in English and regional languages. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: The current communication work is established and is running in English. Expanding communication capacity to other regional languages in the upcoming years will be beneficial to engaging members, various stakeholders and the general public.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 92

Geographic regions: 27 Global, 65 Asia

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 23 (KSR 5, 6)

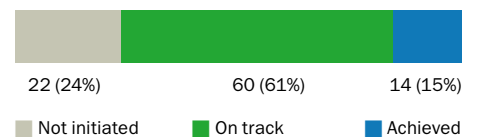
Plan: 10 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 14 (KSR 10, 11)

Network: 13 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 5 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated ■ On track ■ Achieved