



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:

Hirsch, C, and Johnson, D. 2023. 2022 Report of the Biodiversity and Family Planning 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 Yerena, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 6 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

IUCN SSC/CEESP Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force



CO-CHAIR

Carina Hirsch

Margaret Pyke Trust



CO-CHAIR

David Johnson

Margaret Pyke Trust

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

25

Mission statement

Removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning can strengthen conservation outcomes and contribute to climate change adaptation and resilience building. By implementing WCC-2020-Res-072 ‘Importance for the conservation of nature of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning’, this inter-Commission Task Force will operate for two IUCN quadrennial periods, commencing in 2021 and ending in 2028. The overarching objective of the Task Force is to support IUCN in embedding the importance of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary family planning in relevant processes, policies and guidance materials.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Individuals representing IUCN, its Commissions, Members and other constituent parts have increased knowledge of the importance of rights-based voluntary family planning, including the complementary benefits for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation and resilience, and of meeting the reproductive needs of women and girls. Policies and procedures of IUCN

begin to change to recognise that SDG target 3.7, “ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes” is critical not only for health, wellbeing and empowerment targets, but can also strengthen conservation outcomes.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Develop a work plan on how to support the process of seeking changes to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in general and/or a work plan on changing a specific NBSAP.
Status: On track

T-011 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” included in the Global Species Action Plan.
Status: Achieved

T-012 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” included in the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan.
Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-005 Develop (a) an education and training programme on how improved reproductive health benefits women’s and girls’ health and empowerment, reduces pressures on ecosystems and ecosystems services, and enhances sustainable development, and how such issues can be included in project planning; and (b) a delivery plan on the roll-out of such training programme to benefit not fewer than 1,000 IUCN representatives.
Status: On track

T-013 Establish a Working Group on the Conservation Classification Scheme.
Status: On track

T-014 Establish a Working Group on “Family Planning 2030 commitments” – enabling conservation organisations to formalise their work to integrate and/or promote reproductive health.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-001 Finalise Task Force Terms of Reference, following best international practice in relation to the Task Force membership in terms of geographical, gender and relevant topical diversity, and that no fewer than 20 experienced individuals are admitted to the Task Force.
Status: Achieved



Task Force Co-Chairs, David Johnson & Carina Hirsch, at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
Photo: Carina Hirsch

T-002 Formalise relationship with Focal Points at the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), SSC and other relevant IUCN bodies and establish a plan on how those Commissions and bodies can further the work of the Task Force.

Status: On track

T-003 Establish a formal partnership with organisation(s) which can be used as the relevant national focal point to work with the Task Force to seek to influence a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan(s).

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-006 Share publication promoting the Task Force with conservation and health organisations.

Status: Achieved

T-007 Share one publication on rights-based reproductive health indicators.

Status: Not initiated

T-008 Produce a publication reporting on the importance of broader applicability of barriers to family planning needs.

Status: On track

T-009 Deliver the education and training programme on family planning and biodiversity.

Status: On track

T-010 Promote the outcome of the Task Force's NBSAP work plan.

Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Policy

T-011 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” included in the Global Species Action Plan (KSR 5)

Number of publications that reference this topic specifically: 1

Result description: The final version of the Global Species Action Plan (GSAP) includes references to the importance of “removal of barriers to family planning” as a specific action to be undertaken, and to the Task Force and IUCN Resolution 072.

T-012 Undertake work to include “removal of barriers to family planning” or broader reference to links between “biodiversity and family planning” included in the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (KSR 5)

Number of publications that reference this topic specifically: 1

Result description: The Task Force provided a written submission to the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) Status Review – Open Consultation Process. We expect the ACAP to be published in 2023.

Research activities

T-004 Develop a work plan on how to support the process of seeking changes to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in general and/or a work plan on changing a specific NBSAP. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: This work is ongoing. Most recent discussions have been with wildlife and conservation authorities in Uganda, as the first country, to influence and input into their national conservation and climate policies.

PLAN

Planning

T-005 Develop (a) an education and training programme on how improved reproductive health benefits women's and girls' health and empowerment, reduce pressures on ecosystems and ecosystems services, and enhances sustainable development, and how such issues can be included in project planning; and (b) a delivery plan on the roll-out of such training programme to benefit not fewer than 1,000 IUCN representatives. (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 0

Result description: We held numerous productive consultations with Task Force members to develop an outline for the Education

and Training programme. Module 1, which is an introductory module, has been completed and will serve as a basis for the development of future modules.

Policy

T-014 Establish a Working Group on “Family Planning 2030 commitments” –enabling conservation organisations to formalise their work to integrate and/or promote reproductive health. (KSR 9)

Number of conservation organisations who have made an FP2030 commitment: 3

Result description: This working group has been established and has already undertaken work to formalize an FP2030 commitment of three IUCN member organisations working cross-sectorally in health, gender, and conservation.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-003 Establish a formal partnership with organisation(s) which can be used as the relevant national focal point to work with the Task Force to seek to influence a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan(s). (KSR 3)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: We have continued work through the Task Force, and particularly with partners in Uganda and Ethiopia, to identify upcoming opportunities to influence or input into NBSAPs and/or other biodiversity action plans and strategies. This work is ongoing.

Membership

T-001 Finalise Task Force Terms of Reference, following best international practice in relation to the Task Force membership in terms of geographical, gender and relevant topical diversity, and that no fewer than 20 experienced individuals are admitted to the Task Force. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: The Task Force is composed of 25 experienced professionals from the public health, gender, and conservation sectors. There continues to be gender and geographical balance among the Task Force members. The Task Force benefits from the insights and expertise of not fewer than three SSC Members.

T-002 Formalise relationship with Focal Points at the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), SSC and other relevant IUCN bodies and establish a plan on how those Commissions and bodies can further the work of the Task Force. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 1

Result description: We are delighted to be continuing to work closely with a variety of IUCN representatives, particularly within CEESP and SSC and we are in contact with the IUCN Secretariat to have a new IUCN Secretariat Focal Point assigned to the Task Force.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-008 Produce a publication reporting on the importance of broader applicability of barriers to family planning needs. (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed about specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: The results of our advocacy and communications in this area have begun and the IUCN documents we have contributed to thus far were published in 2023.

Scientific meetings

T-006 Share publication promoting the Task Force with conservation and health organisations. (KSR 12)

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 1

Result description: The Task Force presentation document has been shared electronically and at in-person meetings, including at the Stockholm + 50 meeting, celebrating the 50 years of UNEP’s establishment, by various Task Force members.

T-009 Deliver the education and training programme on family planning and biodiversity. (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events in which the members participated: 0

Result description: The design of the training programme is still ongoing though the first module has been completed and will serve as a basis for the rest of the training programme.

Number of scientific events coordinated: 0

Result description: We are on track to deliver the education and training programme; however, based on discussions with various IUCN staff members and IUCN member representatives who are also members of the Task Force, we have been advised to focus on the development of the suite of training modules before beginning rollout and delivery. We are therefore focusing on creating expert working groups to collaboratively develop each training module. We will also explore the possibility of contributing to IUCN-championed training. These discussions have begun and are continuing.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 14

Geographic regions: 14 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5)

Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 4 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



2 (14%) 7 (50%) 5 (36%)

■ Not initiated ■ On track ■ Achieved