



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC’s major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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### 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

**ASSESS:** Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

**PLAN:** Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

**ACT:** Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

**NETWORK:** Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

**COMMUNICATE:** Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

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### SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network each year. Each SSC Group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

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## Structure of the IUCN SSC Stand-alone Report

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

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### Title of the SSC Group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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### Group information

Includes names of Chair / Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators and Program Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the SSC Group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

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### Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC Group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

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### Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Moehrensclager, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Conservation Translocation 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. 4 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

# IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
Axel Moehrenschrager  
Calgary Zoological  
Society, Canada

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
98

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Website: <https://iucn-ctsg.org>

## Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Conservation Translocation Specialist Group (CTSG) aims to empower responsible conservation translocations that save species, strengthen ecosystems and benefit humanity.

## Projected impact 2021–2025

In alignment with CTSG's 10-year strategic plan, available at [iucn-ctsg.org](https://iucn-ctsg.org), the group will progress in each of its six strategic pillars, bringing advancements in Science, Guidance, Policy, Training, Action, and Outreach. Overall, we endeavour to advance knowledge innovating solutions to problems that endangered species and ecosystems face. We will create guidelines of best practice on emerging globally relevant topics, and work with taxon specialist groups to advance customized best practice documents. We will work with governments to entrench guidance documents in regional or national policies. We will expand our international training program to five continents in person while accelerating the content and accessibility of online training information. Ultimately, we are focused on actions that arise from the aforementioned strategies and will work with stakeholders globally to advance responsible, efficient, and effective conservation translocations that aid species and recipient ecosystems. Finally, we will escalate the opportunity to

share the stories, the challenges, and ultimately the successes that arise when courageous action is taken to actively restore species and ecosystems.

## Targets 2021–2025

### PLAN

**T-012** Produce a special issue of "Human Dimensions of Animal Translocations".

Status: Achieved

**T-013** Publish 8<sup>th</sup> IUCN CTSG Conservation Translocation Case Studies Book.

Status: Achieved

### PLAN

**T-003** Launch the CTSG Plan to 2030, with new mission, vision and logo.

Status: Achieved

**T-005** Launch the Global Amphibian Conservation Translocation Guidelines.

Status: Achieved

**T-007** Assist the development and launch of the English government's Code for Conservation Translocations.

Status: Achieved

**T-010** Enhance online conservation translocation training.

Status: On track

**T-011** Produce a Guiding Principle Document for Responsible Use of Confiscated, Rehabilitated, or Rescued Organisms for Responsible Conservation Translocations.

Status: On track

### ACT

**T-004** Publish a 2021 Global Conservation Translocation Perspective Case Study Book.

Status: Achieved

**T-006** Publish a 'Conservation Translocation' book with Cambridge University Press.

Status: Achieved

**T-008** Support the planning, development, and implementation of conservation translocations in the wild for 50+ species.

Status: On track

### NETWORK

**T-001** Host a Global Conservation Translocation Conference.

Status: On track

**T-002** Support a Global Plant Conservation Translocation Conference.

Status: Achieved

**T-009** Give in-person training on three continents.

Status: On track

## Activities and results 2022

### ASSESS

#### Research activities

**T-012** Produce a special issue of "Human Dimensions of Animal Translocations". (KSR 5)

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



Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), El Sobrante, Provincia de Petorca, región de Valparaíso, Chile  
Photo: Milodon3 (CC BY-SA 4.0)

**Result description:** The special issue of *Frontiers in Conservation and Science* was produced, containing 14 papers, and co-edited by Adriana Consorte-McCrea (UK) and Carlos Ruiz-Miranda. Open-Access Link: <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/18098/human-dimensions-of-animal-translocations#overview>. These papers pertain to a number of issues, broadly relevant and including issues relevant to allow for the successful translocation of *ex situ* animals into the wild, and for Rewilding in general.

## PLAN

### Policy

**T-011 Produce a Guiding Principle Document for Responsible Use of Confiscated, Rehabilitated, or Rescued Organisms for Responsible Conservation Translocations.** (KSR 9)

Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making: 0

**Result description:** Near final draft completed, planning for approval by SSC within 2023.

## ACT

### Conservation actions

**T-006 Publish a 'Conservation Translocation' book with Cambridge University Press.** (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 1

**Result description:** The book *Conservation Translocations* is complete and will be published in the 2023 publishing year. This is the first academic book specifically on conservation translocation and a huge and hard-fought success. A total of 498 pages, with 13 core chapters and 10 case studies which illustrate the four different kinds of conservation translocations ranging from marine to terrestrial systems, and from plants to animals. URL: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/conservation-translocations/1F4DFBFC5C591DE-44457C874A673C2D9#fndtn-information>.

**T-008 Support the planning, development and implementation of conservation translocations in the wild for 50+ species.** (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 9

**Result description:** Continued scientific and planning support for imminent releases of Guam kingfisher and mountain bongo in Kenya. Advice also provided for onager reintroductions in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, engagement with Re:Wild of Vietnamese authorities to initiate production of IUCN-aligned guidelines for conservation translocations in Vietnam. Support from CTSG-linked planning/science/action for actual releases of Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*) and Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) in US; also Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyl-lum*), golden aster, Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*), Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Fisher, Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) and Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) in Canada, for a total of nine translocations.

## NETWORK

### Synergy

**T-001 Host a Global Conservation Translocation Conference.** (KSR 3)

Conference held: 0

**Result description:** 2023 IUCN CTSG conference is set for November 13 to 15. In addition, a Plant Conservation Translocation workshop will be held afterwards. In addition to that, a workshop will be held in conjunction with the use of genomic techniques for conservation translocations. Website: [www.conservation-translocations.com](http://www.conservation-translocations.com).

**T-002 Support a Global Plant Conservation Translocation Conference.** (KSR 3)

Conference supported spearheaded by Rome academic partners: 1

**Result description:** This conference in Rome was a majorly successfully event, with the following website: <https://host.uniroma3.it/eventi/IPTC2022/>. The book of abstracts is available here: [https://host.uniroma3.it/eventi/IPTC2022/doc/iptc2022\\_book-of-abstracts.pdf](https://host.uniroma3.it/eventi/IPTC2022/doc/iptc2022_book-of-abstracts.pdf). Among other outcomes, a paper was submitted and accepted in *Plant Ecology* on best-practice procedures regarding plant mitigation translocations: 'Achieving conservation outcomes in plant mitigation translocations – the need for global standards'.

**T-009 Give in-person training on three continents.** (KSR 4)

Number of governments supported to develop species conservation policies: 2

**Result description:** The CTSG conservation translocation training was given twice in the UK, hosted by ZSL. The first workshop was aimed at several NGOs and government departments. The second one was specially

requested, and exclusively provided to Natural England, which helps to deliver DEFRA's (Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs) mandate on conservation. The DEFRA contracted CTSG to help develop, align, and complete the 2021 UK government 'Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations'. These are modelled after the 2013 IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations, and integrate structured decision-making in a manner that CTSG incorporates into its international training program. The 2023 CTSG training is confirmed and set for Brazil.

## COMMUNICATE

### Scientific meetings

**T-014 Host the 1st Global Meeting of Conservation Translocation Practitioners.** (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events coordinated: 1

**Result description:** This very successful conference brought together conservation translocation practitioners from all over the world, in a well-organised conference in Spain. This effort was spearheaded by CTSG member Ignacio Jiménez. The website is as follows: <https://reintroduction-meeting.org/2022/>.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Jon Paul Rodriguez, SSC Chair, who kindly enabled production of the book *Conservation Translocations* to align under IUCN, SSC and CTSG logos, and aided production of the publication in general. Foreword was kindly written by IUCN President, Razan Al Mubarak.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 14

**Geographic regions:** 7 Global, 1 America, 1 Asia, 4 Europe, 1 Oceania

### Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

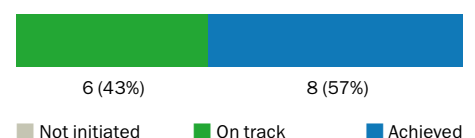
Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 3, 4)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

### Overall achievement 2021–2025:



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