



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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

Example for the recommended citation:

Vincent, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Marine Conservation Committee. 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

IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee



CHAIR

Amanda Vincent

Project Seahorse–
Institute for the Oceans
and Fisheries, The
University of British
Columbia, Canada

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

10

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Twitter: @SSCmarine

Website: www.iucn-sscmarine.org

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee is to support, enhance and mobilise expertise in marine species conservation for a better future. Its mandate is to ensure that decisions on marine species are directed at long-term population health and based on sound technical knowledge. Specifically, it helps and links volunteer experts from the IUCN Species Survival Commission’s (SSC) network who have special knowledge of particular taxa or of cross-cutting concerns. It also advocates the use of SSC marine knowledge and skills in the broad global community, particularly by policy makers and resource managers.

Projected impact 2021–2025

The Marine Conservation Committee will lead and support the creation of at least 10 new marine species Specialist Groups and a Fisheries Task Force. The committee will support new and existing species Specialist Groups by assessing best practices among marine groups and collating this information for implementation by other groups. The Conservation Planning Specialist Group will be supported by the committee in order to increase marine capacity in conservation

planning. Resolutions on critical marine issues, including emergency resolutions, will be supported for the 2024 World Conservation Congress.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Represent marine issues on IUCN Red List Committee.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-001 Complete Marine Conservation Committee strategic plan.
Status: On track

T-006 Increase marine capacity in conservation planning through the Conservation Planning Specialist Group.
Status: Not initiated

ACT

T-007 Influence the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in favour of marine species conservation.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Generate collective action on marine bycatch.
Status: On track

T-009 Support submission of emergency resolutions for the IUCN World Conservation Congress.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Prepare new resolutions on critical marine issues for the 2024 World Conservation Congress.
Status: Not initiated

T-013 Provide expert input on marine issues to SSC and IUCN.
Status: On track

T-014 Provide expert input on marine issues for MEAs and other regional or global bodies.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Host 12 marine-focused SSC seminars and workshops on special topics.
Status: Not initiated

T-004 Assess best practices among marine Specialist Groups.
Status: On track

T-005 Create new marine Specialist Groups and Task Forces.
Status: On track

T-011 Submit proposals for marine-focused events at the 2024 World Conservation Congress.
Status: Not initiated

T-016 Support the SSC in strengthening network capacity.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-012 Communicate Marine Conservation Committee work to a broad audience.
Status: On track

A Near Threatened Small Giant Clam (*Tridacna maxima*) among corals off the Maldives
Photo: Amir Rasheed/iNaturalist.



Activities and results 2022

ACT

Conservation actions

T-007 Influence the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework in favour of marine species conservation. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: In 2022, the MCC provided input to the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme on the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

T-008 Generate collective action on marine bycatch. (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: The MCC held discussions about a Fisheries Specialist Group or Task Force, though this has not been pushed any further than this during 2022.

T-013 Provide expert input on marine issues to SSC and IUCN. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: The MCC helped to steer the development of the UUU Fishing/Biomass Fishing Situation analysis. It also participated in IUCN Ocean Community meetings, as required.

T-014 Provide expert input on marine issues for MEAs and other regional or global bodies. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 3

Result description: Twenty years after the first marine fishes were added to CITES Appendix II, the Marine Conservation Committee facilitated collaboration by three marine Specialist Groups (Shark; Groupers and Wrasses; Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon) to analyse the implementation of CITES Appendix II listing for marine fishes since 2002. The MCC also contributed to a side event at CITES CoP19 on the topic: 'Assessing implementation of CITES Appendix II listings for fully marine fishes',

on November 16th 2022. The full report (Vincent, A.C.J., *et al.* (2022). 'Implementing CITES Appendix II listings for marine fishes: a novel framework and a constructive analysis'. *Fisheries Centre Research Report*. Vol. 30. No. 3. 189 pp.), the executive summary for CoP19, a briefing document (CoP19 Inf. 90), and all presentation slides from the side event are publicly available at: <https://www.iucn-sscmarine.org/marine-fishes>. The Marine Conservation Committee also prepared an Info-doc on the IUCN Red List, with the SSC Chairs Office and IUCN Red List Unit, for CITES CoP19 but this was unfortunately not submitted. We are hoping to share this useful document with the wider SSC network in 2023.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-004 Assess best practices among marine Specialist Groups. (KSR 2)

Report on best practices among marine Specialist Groups: 45%

Result description: In 2022, the guidelines were completed and are awaiting publication.

T-016 Support the SSC in strengthening network capacity. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC processes supported: 4

Result description: The MCC supported the development of the IUCN SSC One Stop Shop (through testing, etc.) and supported the Global Center for Species Survival in recruiting for a new Marine Conservation Coordinator. We also contributed to planning activities with CSS Georgia Aquarium and participated in several Freshwater Conservation Committee meetings.

Membership

T-005 Create new marine Specialist Groups and Task Forces. (KSR 2)

Number of new SSC groups established: 3

Result description: Two Specialist Groups were established in 2022, the Sea Cucumber Specialist Group and the Seaweed Specialist Group, in addition to the re-establishment of the Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority. Initial meetings were held, and proposals drafted for

Marine Stars. We also met with SULi about potentially establishing a Fisheries Task Force or Specialist Group.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-012 Communicate Marine Conservation Committee work to a broad audience. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: We maintained the Marine Conservation Committee website (<https://www.iucn-sscmarine.org/>), specifically with news about our CITES work, and Twitter account (@SSCmarine) which regularly retweets about IUCN, marine Specialist Groups and marine issues.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Riley Pollom for facilitating Marine Conservation Committee (MCC) progress through the first half of 2022, and to Gina Bestbier and Lili Stanton for supporting the MCC Twitter feed and website. We appreciate the home institutions of MCC members for allowing time to be spent on MCC matters. The Chair sincerely thanks the MCC members for their wonderful contributions, particularly those who are self-employed. We value the support of the Global Center for Species Survival and the SSC Chairs Office.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 15

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 9 Body of water

Actions during 2022:

Act: 4 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

