



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:

Seddon, M. 2023. 2022 Report of the Mollusc 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. 6 pp

IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
99

Mission statement

To provide information to IUCN on mollusc 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.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated yet.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

- T-001** Conduct Red List assessment of assorted groups of land snails.
Status: On track
- T-002** Conduct regional reassessments of Red List of European land snails.
Status: On track
- T-003** Conduct regional reassessments of Red List of European freshwater molluscs.
Status: On track

- T-004** Produce a Red List Index for European molluscs.
Status: On track
- T-005** Complete reassessment of the freshwater mollusc Sampled Red List Index (SRLI).
Status: On track
- T-006** Complete global cephalopod and Abalone assessments.
Status: On track
- T-007** Reassess *Conus* for the Red List.
Status: On track
- T-008** Produce summary reports of global assessment processes, e.g. Abalone, cephalopods, hydrothermal vents.
Status: On track
- T-009** Improve red listing for marine molluscs: publish hydrothermal vent assessment method.
Status: Achieved
- T-012** Support the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) identification process in Canada.
Status: Not initiated

- T-015** Engage in the development of novel methods for mollusc monitoring.
Status: Not initiated
 - T-016** Study and conduct long-term monitoring of freshwater bivalves in Morocco.
Status: Not initiated
 - T-017** Carry out surveys for threatened species to support species conservation planning.
Status: Not initiated
 - T-020** Assess Range Restricted Spring Snail species in Morocco.
Status: On track
 - T-021** Assess and reassess the genus *Cremnoconchus* for the IUCN Red List.
Status: On track
 - T-023** Conduct red listing of marine molluscs of Antarctica and Falkland Regions.
Status: On track
- PLAN**
- T-022** Develop a conservation plan for the genus *Cremnoconchus*.
Status: On track



Many snails on a tree stump near Waldnerturm in Odenwald, Germany
Photo: Dorothy Appleyard (CC BY-SA 4.0)

ACT

T-013 Reintroduce *Partula* in French Polynesia.

Status: On track

T-014 Reintroduce Bermuda land snails.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-019 Continue active engagement in relevant SSC Conservation Committees (Invertebrate, Marine and Freshwater).

Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-010 Publish the annual Mollusc Specialist Group newsletter, *Tentacle*.

Status: On track

T-011 Present regularly on Specialist Group work at relevant conferences on mollusc conservation.

Status: On track

T-018 Support Freshwater Conservation Committee communications highlighting freshwater species at risk and threats to freshwater systems.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Conduct Red List assessment of assorted groups of land snails. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 36

Result description: In August 2022, significant progress was made with the submission and subsequent publication of the Giant Forest Snail (*Archatina bicarinata*) on the IUCN Red List (v. 2022.2) in collaboration with the Mid Atlantic Island SG. Furthermore, reassessments of the 35 *Partula* species from the Oceania Region were published on Red List Version 2022.2. In Australia, survey work has yielded valuable results for the assessment of 20 fire-impacted Australian Landsnail species, while 87 species of Australian Landsnails from the Camaeninidae family are also in the assessment pipeline. Moreover, assessment processes have been initiated for 19 South African endemic species

of Cyclophoridae, alongside the reassessment of 18 additional South African Landsnail species, collectively contributing to our understanding and conservation efforts.

T-002 Conduct regional reassessments of Red List of European land snails. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: In 2022, taxonomy was updated to reflect changes since 2009, in preparation for reassessments.

T-003 Conduct regional reassessments of Red List of European freshwater molluscs. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: The freshwater bivalve reassessment process started, with a review workshop held in Verbania, Italy, in December 2022, funded by the EU Confremus project. The workshop also included an Assess to Plan conservation

planning exercise with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group. The conservation plan for all European freshwater bivalves will be finalised in 2023.

T-004 Produce a Red List Index for European molluscs. (KSR 7)

Red List Index for European Molluscs produced: 0

Result description: Completed the review of the Species List for the European project and set up SIS for over 300 species (2021-2022). Some European species (bivalves) underwent reassessment in late 2022. Once reassessments are complete, the Red List Index can be produced (likely in 2023).

T-005 Complete reassessment of the freshwater mollusc Sampled Red List Index (SRLI). (KSR 7)

Assessment of sampled Red List Index completed and included on RLI graph: 0

Result description: Completed the review of the Species List for the European project and set up SIS for over 300 species (2021-2022). Some European species (bivalves) underwent reassessment in late 2022. Currently awaiting reassessment of the remainder of the species in 2023 before the Index can be completed.

T-006 Complete global cephalopod and Abalone assessments. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 54

Result description: Assessments for four species of *Nautilus* were finalised at the end of 2022 and are in line for publication on the IUCN Red List in the 2023.1 update. Following the description of three new species of *Nautilus* (manuscript published in early 2023), the remaining assessments will be completed in 2023 based on the revised taxonomy. All Abalone assessments (genus *Haliotis*) were published on the 2022.2 IUCN Red List (54 species).

T-007 Reassess *Conus* for the Red List. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Started to plan for the cone snail reassessment, which will be led by Mollusc SG members Nicolas Pulliandre (MNHM) and Julia Sigwart (MIRLA, Senckenberg Ocean Species Alliance), and commence in 2023.

T-020 Assess Range Restricted Spring Snail species in Morocco. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 13

Result description: Surveys undertaken at key sites in 2022, as well as analysis of results. A total of thirteen draft assessments have been compiled in the SIS and are currently under review. Additionally, maps were submitted to the Freshwater Biodiversity Unit in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

T-021 Assess and reassess the genus *Cremnoconchus* for the IUCN Red List. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Funding for this project was achieved through an SSC EDGE Internal Grant in November 2022.

T-023 Conduct red listing of marine molluscs of Antarctica and Falkland Regions. (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 0

Result description: In collaboration with experts from the British Antarctic Survey, we compiled 57 assessments of benthic marine molluscs (from three classes: Gastropoda, Bivalvia and Polyplacophora) from the Southern Ocean, which are in the process of being reviewed for publication on the Red List in 2023.

Research activities

T-008 Produce summary reports of global assessment processes, e.g. Abalone, cephalopods, hydrothermal vents. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: Following the completion of the abalone assessment, for now, a brief write-up of the project was produced for the Mollusc SG's *Tentacle* newsletter (Volume 31, <https://www.hawaii.edu/cowielab/issues.html>).

PLAN

Planning

T-022 Develop a conservation plan for the genus *Cremnoconchus*. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Funding for this project was achieved through an SSC EDGE Internal Grant in November 2022.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-013 Reintroduce *Partula* in French Polynesia. (KSR 10)

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

Result description: Unfortunately, the logistical constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic prevented resumption of the reintroductions in 2022 but continued close collaboration with French Polynesian Government's Direction de l'environnement (Diren) colleagues over the last year has enabled the scheduling of reintroductions to resume for Tahitian and Moorean *Partula* species in late March 2023 followed by Huahine and Raiatea species reintroductions in September 2023.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-019 Continue active engagement in relevant SSC Conservation Committees (Invertebrate, Marine and Freshwater). (KSR 3)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: Ongoing.

Result description: The Mollusc Specialist Group participated in different meetings during 2022: (1) Five Red List Technical Working Group meetings, via Zoom; (2)

Two meetings via Zoom to discuss the 50 species of Freshwater Fauna at most Risk project; (3) One Red List Technical Work Group Classification Schemes Review Meeting to organise a focus group; (4) Correspondence by email on the IUCN Post 2020 Taskforce in preparation for COP meetings; (5) Two SSC Freshwater Species Global Centre for Survival discussions on communications and actions, via Zoom; (6) Meetings with proposed Center for Species Survival: Freshwater to discuss gaps and priority actions for the center (focus on freshwater mussels in Central America); (7) Invertebrate Conservation Committee meeting (December 16, 2022), via Zoom.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-010 Publish the annual Mollusc Specialist Group newsletter, Tentacle. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: The 2022 edition of *Tentacle* (issue 30) was published in March 2022 (<https://www.hawaii.edu/cowielab/issues.html>).

T-018 Support Freshwater Conservation Committee communications highlighting freshwater species at risk and threats to freshwater systems. (KSR 12)

Contribute to and disseminate communications from Freshwater Conservation Committee's Species at risk report (in partnership with Shoal) within and outside SSC: Ongoing.

Result description: The Fantastic Freshwater report was published in May 2022. The Mollusc SG contributed several possible candidate species, with five taken forward by the editors: Colombian Freshwater Oyster (*Acostaea rivolii*), elegant Adriatic freshwater mussel (*Microcondylaea bonellii*), Naegele Spring Snail (*Pyrgulopsis metcalfi*), Bakara Sulawesi Elephant

Snail (*Tylomelania bakara*), Wicker Limpet (*Rhodacmea filosa*). All these species will receive continued coverage in social media (via Shoal, FCC and Global Center for Species Survival) throughout the year.

Scientific meetings

T-011 Present regularly on Specialist Group work at relevant conferences on mollusc conservation. (KSR 12)

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 1

Result description: At the World Congress of Malacology 2022 in München, 13 presentations were featured, all of which were delivered by members of the Mollusc SG. These presentations covered a diverse range of topics related to malacology and mollusc conservation. Mohammed Ghamizi delivered an insightful talk on the 'Status of Moroccan Spring-snails', while Mary Seddon passionately discussed 'Mainstreaming Molluscs Conservation and the CBD Targets'. Monika Bohm delved into the past and future of conserving freshwater molluscs, and Paul Pearce Kelly provided updates on the 'Aeho Party Meeting and Progress on *Partula* Reintroduction Programme'. Norine Yeung's presentation revolved around 'The Hawaiian Snails Conservation Breeding program', and John Pfeiffer presented on 'Using Museum Collection Data to assess and map freshwater mussels'. Alexandra Zieritz shared her insights into 'Progress on conserving freshwater mussels of Borneo', and Martina Panisi focused on 'Protecting the Giant Forest Snail (Sao Thome)'. Aoife Malloy addressed the important topic of 'Red listing Antarctic Molluscs', while Arthur Bogan reviewed the status of 'Freshwater mussels in Vietnam'. Isabel Hyman provided an overview of the 'Status of Norfolk and Lord Howe Island Landsnails', and Frank Kohler explored the 'Impact of the 2019/2020 Fires on Australian Landsnails'. Finally, Aravind Madhayastha discussed 'The Role of Citizen Science in Conservation of Molluscs in India'.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 23

Geographic regions: 12 Global, 2 Africa, 2 America, 1 Antarctica, 2 Asia, 3 Europe, 1 Oceania

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 11 (KSR 5, 6, 7)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 3)

Communicate: 3 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

