



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:

Fay, MF, and Hinsley, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Orchid 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 Orchid Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR

Michael F. Fay

Royal Botanic
Gardens, Kew, UK



CO-CHAIR

Amy Hinsley

University of Oxford,
Oxford, UK

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

145

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

Facebook: IUCN SSC Orchid Specialist Group

Instagram: @orchidspecialistgroup

Twitter: @IUCN_Orchids

Websites: <https://www.orchidspecialistgroup.com>; <https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/orchids-sg/plants-fungi/orchid-specialist-group>; <https://globalorchidtrade.wixsite.com/home/orchids-trade>

Mission statement

Orchidaceae are the largest family of flowering plants, and they occur in a wide range of ecosystems and habitats. A charismatic group, many species are important in horticulture. Habitats of orchids are, however, threatened throughout the world, and the Orchid Specialist Group (OSG) is dedicated to their conservation and sustainable use.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, the OSG will have made significant progress towards addressing some key gaps in baseline knowledge related to orchid conservation. This includes assessing the conservation status of at least 750 species and completing targeted assessments relating to species in *ex situ* collections, threats from trade and changes in phenology. We will have used these data to develop policy recommendations and communication strategies to improve the regulation of the orchid trade and to develop strategies for *ex situ* conservation of the family.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete global Red List assessments of 750 species in the family Orchidaceae by 2025.

Status: On track

T-009 Create a global *ex situ* collections list for orchids.

Status: On track

T-010 Develop a list of species in active commercial trade to underpin prioritisation of future work, including red listing.

Status: On track

T-013 Produce baseline reports on three under-investigated commercial orchid trades: Europe's edible salep orchid trade, Nepal's medicinal orchid trade and Indonesia's ornamental lady slipper orchid trade.

Status: On track

T-014 Develop a phenological assessment using herbarium and related data to establish a baseline and shifts, if any, for native orchids including taxa with specific pollinator requirements and pollinator generalists in the North American Region.

Status: On track

T-015 Create a baseline report of latitudinal shifts for the invasive orchid *Zeuxine stratiotica* in the continental USA.

Status: Not initiated

T-017 Develop a gap analysis on slipper orchids in collections.

Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-016 Compile sequence data for 75% of orchid genera in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.

Status: On track

ACT

T-011 Develop code of conduct for orchid hobbyist societies to discourage illegal trade.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Complete induction of two (or more) additional Red List Authorities (RLA) for the Orchid Specialist Group by 2022.

Status: Achieved

T-003 Organise and hold IOCC 8, the 8th International Orchid Conservation Congress (2023 or 2024).

Status: On track

T-005 Nominate and (following ratification by SSC) complete induction of new Co-Chair for Orchid Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

T-008 Organise and coordinate an *ex situ* workshop at the 8th International Orchid Conservation Congress (IOCC 8, 2023 or 2024).

Status: On track

T-012 Expand trade group to five new countries where commercial orchid trade is common.

Status: On track



Cypripedium subtropicum (China). This endangered species was thought to be extinct, until it was rediscovered in 2009 in Yunnan, China. Since then, illegal collection has been a major problem, and it is the subject of a big conservation project
Photo: Yung-I Lee

Left: *Orchis patens* (Italy). This endangered species has a disjunct distribution, only Algeria, Tunisia, and Italy (limited to Liguria) and *O. patens* subsp. *canariensis*, endemic to the Canary Islands. It is the flagship species of the LIFEorchids project.
Photo: Jacopo Calevo

T-019 Increase synergy between other OSG and external groups including Molecular ID SSC, Seed Conservation SSC, Regional Plant Specialist SSC and Conservation Planning SSC.

Status: On track

T-020 Increase *ex situ* community by engaging new members to work towards scientifically managed *ex situ* conservation collections.

Status: On track

T-021 Reform the *in situ* subgroup, identifying co-chairs and inviting members.

Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-004 Produce two (or more) newsletters per year for OSG.

Status: On track

T-006 Present the talk 'Orchid Conservation in the 21st Century: What can the Orchid Specialist Group do?' at World Orchid Conference in Taiwan (virtual).

Status: Achieved

T-007 Develop and launch a stand-alone website for the Orchid Specialist Group.

Status: Achieved

T-018 Update *ex situ* information and add OSSSU information to the OSG website.

Status: Not initiated

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Complete global Red List assessments of 750 species in the family Orchidaceae by 2025. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 115

Result description: In 2022, 115 new orchid assessments were published. With ongoing projects, we are on track to assess 750 species during the quadrennium.

Research activities

T-010 Develop a list of species in active commercial trade to underpin prioritisation of future work, including red listing. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: Data collection for edible orchids was carried out by two OSG members via RBG Kew, and formed part of a report to the CITES Conference of Parties in Panama in November 2022. Meetings to plan the strategy for the rest of the traded species were held and we are on track to produce a document by the target deadline.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-011 Develop code of conduct for orchid hobbyist societies to discourage illegal trade. (KSR 10)

Number of technical documents provided to support conservation actions: 0

Result description: Our trade subgroup has held meetings with orchid societies around the world to build relationships and start to develop a code of conduct. These meetings will be ongoing into 2023.

NETWORK

Membership

T-021 Reform the *in situ* subgroup, identifying co-chairs and inviting members. (KSR 2)

Subgroup reformed and membership invited: 0

Result description: Co-Chairs Jacopo Calevo and Benjamin Crain were invited and both accepted the invitation. They are now formulating the group and have already successfully recruited several members. Gaps in global coverage are being identified, which will identify parts of the world where

they still need members. Progress is also being made on the identification of targets for the subgroup to work towards.

Synergy

T-003 Organise and hold IOCC 8, the 8th International Orchid Conservation Congress (2023 or 2024). (KSR 2)

Congress successfully hosted: Ongoing.

Result description: The congress dates have now been set for 2024, and the website is ready for launch.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-004 Produce two (or more) newsletters per year for OSG. (KSR 13)

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

Result description: Newsletters were published in April and November 2022.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 21

Geographic regions: 17 Global, 2 America, 2 Asia, 1 Europe

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 6)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

