



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:

Sullivan, B, and Short, FT. 2023. 2022 Report of the Seagrass Species 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

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Seagrass Species Specialist Group



SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Twitter: @ISeagrass

CO-CHAIR
Brooke Sullivan
University of
Washington, Seattle,
Washington, US

CO-CHAIR
Frederick T. Short
University of New
Hampshire, Durham,
New Hampshire, US

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Brooke Sullivan
University of
Washington, Seattle,
Washington, US

NUMBEMBERS
72

Mission statement

The Seagrass Species Specialist Group (SSSG) contributes to and encourages seagrass science and conservation, with the goal of protecting seagrass species biodiversity worldwide and preserving the functions and values of seagrass habitat, including its role in protecting threatened species that depend on seagrasses for their survival.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Ex situ research is urgently needed for seagrass in all bioregions. Systemic impacts on global seagrass communities, including negative feedback from globalisation and climate change, have been documented for over 100 years. Increased access to low-impact habitat mapping and restoration strategies – for instance, GIS and drones – has increased global access to the basic information needed to conserve and recover regional seagrass assets. Seagrass habitat mapping is also a powerful tool for recognising stochastic and chronic patterns in seagrass population size and extent. There is marked increased research on seagrass broadly, including topics of restoration and conservation in all bioregions of the world.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Complete 10 global Red List seagrass species assessments each year for four years.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-007 Develop a global seagrass conservation plan prioritising globally threatened seagrasses.
Status: On track

T-009 Developing a protocol to implement IUCN Green List assessments for seagrass species.
Status: On track

ACT

T-006 Offer an annual consultation to support conservation actions to organisations and institutions globally engaged with seagrass conservation.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-001 Train two group members as Red List assessors.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Establish at least one formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to the Seagrass Species Specialist Group.
Status: Not initiated

T-003 Reach out to 150 existing and former members to strengthen networking, participation in meetings, and engage global support and post-pandemic commitment to SSSG.
Status: Achieved

T-008 Train six bioregional team leaders in the IUCN Green Status assessment.
Status: On track

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Activate Twitter as a tool for communicating weekly successes and recruiting members in global seagrass biodiversity and conservation.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-004 (KSR 6)

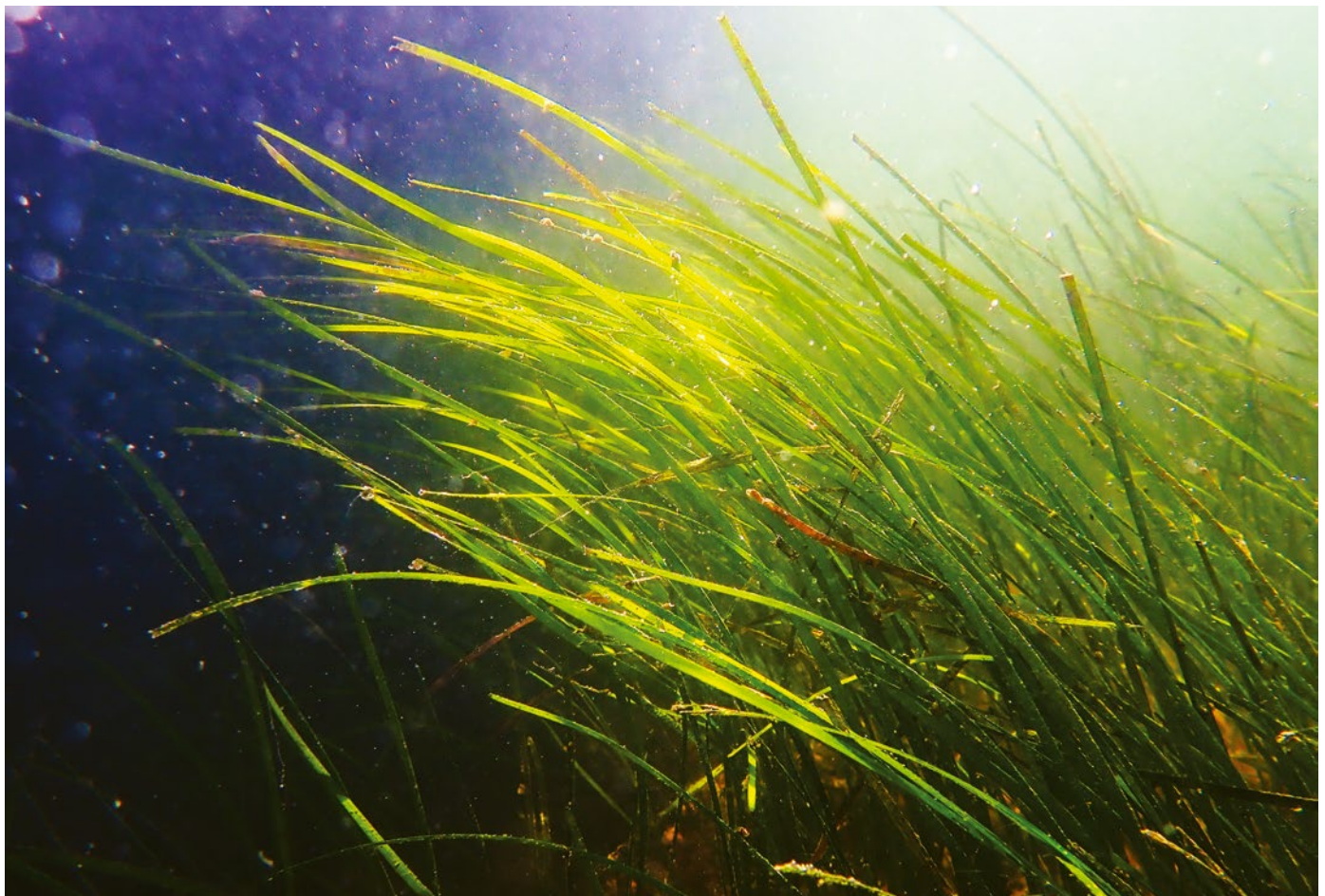
Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: In 2022, we completed the assessments for *Nanozostera capensis*.

ACT

Technical advice

T-006 Offer an annual consultation to support conservation actions to organisations and institutions globally engaged with seagrass conservation. (KSR 10)



Zostera capensis
Photo: Katie Watson

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: In 2022, we prepared for and ran an International Seagrass Biology Workshop in Annapolis, Maryland, USA. Thirty-two people convened to learn about and review the taxonomic status of all seagrass species across all families, learn about the IUCN red listing process and the SSG framework and training to utilize our new data forms. The last session of the workshop was aimed at collating information on conservation and restoration actions and initiating the green list for seagrasses.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-008 Train six bioregional team leaders in the IUCN Green Status assessment. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 3

Result description: At the 2022 ISBW conference, three people were tasked with forming a plan for green listing seagrass. We reviewed the Green List manual and had a conversation about developing a data form for green listing that we can use in concert with our red listing process. Once we have a framework, we will launch it and train all bioregional leaders in the effort.

Membership

T-003 Reach out to 150 existing and former members to strengthen networking, participation in meetings, and engage global support and post-pandemic commitment to SSSG. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 28

Result description: Since the ISBW 14, we gained 28 new members.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-005 Activate Twitter as a tool for communicating weekly successes and recruiting members in global seagrass biodiversity and conservation. (KSR 12)

Twitter posts: 60

Result description: In 2022 we posted 60 tweets (including retweets), and the engagement is increasing. Up to date, we have 758 followers on this platform.

Acknowledgements

In 2022 the SSSG would like to acknowledge the support of the World Seagrass Association (WSA) and the International Seagrass Biology Workshop (ISBW) for

supporting several opportunities to host meetings, and relay updates and workshops around IUCN red listing. The WSA and ISBW are critical partners in the success of our work. We would also like to recognize Bioregional Team Leader Jimena Samper Villarreal who led her group to complete updates and mapping for all endemic seagrasses in the region. Outstanding contributors like this are the reason we are able to meet so many of our ambitious targets.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 9 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

