



Species

ISSUE 64

2023 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 and Centers for Species Survival (CSS) each year. Each SSC and CSS 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 and CSS Stand-alone Reports

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

Title of the group

Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

Group information

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

Logo of the 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 or CSS 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:

Sigwart, J. 2024. 2023 Report of the Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority



**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**

Julia Sigwart

Senckenberg
Research Institute and
Museum, Frankfurt
am Main, Germany

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

38

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Instagram: @oceanspecies

X: @oceanspecies_

Mission statement

The Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority (MIRLA) focuses on the Red List assessments of marine invertebrate species, to shed light on threats and the level of extinction risk for these diverse taxa.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Focal projects for Red List assessments in the current quadrennium will be undertaken in collaboration with the relevant specialist groups and supporting new specialist groups as they emerge, i.e. molluscs, corals, holothurians, and potentially others.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Continue Red Listing for species that are endemic to hydrothermal vents for taxa outside of molluscs (crabs, barnacles, anemones, worms, brittle stars).
Status: On track

T-002 Critically examine marine invertebrate groups that are present in international wildlife trade but not represented in CITES (or vice versa) and undertake assessments for relevant groups.
Status: On track

T-003 Undertake Red List assessments for cold-water corals.
Status: On track

T-004 Review assessments of 100 Indonesian plant species.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-007 Conduct Red List training.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Create and manage MIRLA website.
Status: Achieved

T-006 Create and manage MIRLA social media account(s).
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 Continue Red Listing for species that are endemic to hydrothermal vents for taxa outside of molluscs (crabs, barnacles, anemones, worms, brittle stars). (KSR 6)
Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: We have begun to establish a network of volunteer experts who have committed to supporting this process. At the end of 2023, we were awarded an SSC grant to fund a paid intern who will support the Vent Red List project in 2024.

SSC Grant awarded

T-002 Critically examine marine invertebrate groups that are present in international wildlife trade but not represented in CITES (or vice versa) and undertake assessments for relevant groups. (KSR 6)

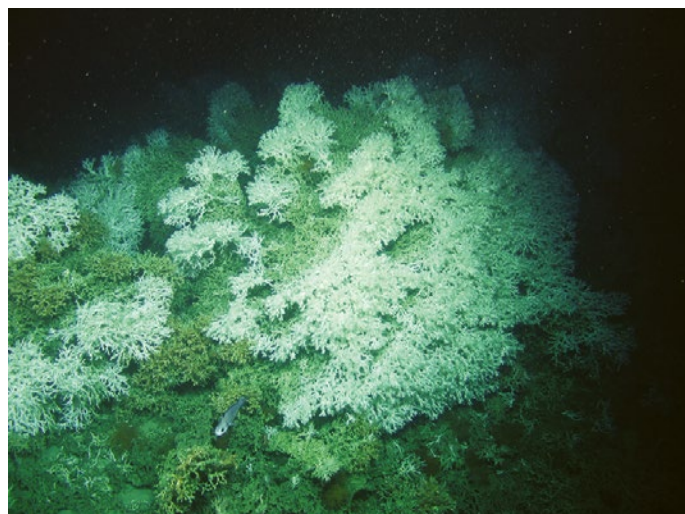
Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: We have secured funding for this target via the Red List Unit which is paying a member of part-time staff in Senckenberg to progress this aim, who started in November 2023. That project is scheduled for completion in 2025 and is designed to deliver 200 assessments. The target number of assessments of CITES-relevant species through MIRLA may be adjusted next year, as many assessments fall under the purview of other specialist groups.

T-004 Review assessments of 100 Indonesian plant species. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 25

Result description: During a workshop in September 2023, we completed draft assessments for 25 cold-water coral species. Twenty-two of these assessments have been completed in SIS and are planned for submission to the Red List in March 2024. Additional assessments for cold-water corals will be submitted in late 2024.



The deep sea coral *Desmophyllum pertusum*, assessed as Vulnerable (VU)
Photo: Marine Institute, Ireland

Presentation on corals
Photo: Antje Fischer

Research activities

T-003 Undertake Red List assessments for cold-water corals. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: This has been discussed in a MIRLA committee meeting held in June 2023 and included in plans for work on CITES-relevant species.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-007 Conduct Red List training. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 24

Result description: We hosted a hybrid training session (online course supported by trainers) April 24-27, 2023, resulting in 18 new trained assessors.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-005 Create and manage MIRLA website. (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 1

Result description: A basic website is now in place through the [IUCN SSC website](#).

T-006 Create and manage MIRLA social media account(s). (KSR 13)

Number of communication products using innovative tools: 5

Result description: In 2023, accounts were set up for X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Threads. We also established two [email list serves, for the MIRLA committee](#), and a [second list for experts](#) who have completed the Red List assessor training with the support of MIRLA.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 7 Global

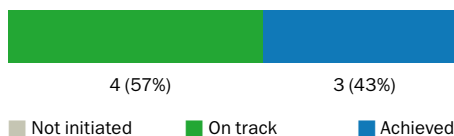
Actions during 2023:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:





Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus
Photo: Csenge Nagy



Tetra Parnaiba
Photo: Karina Molina



Trioceros hoehnelii
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson



Sternberia lutea
Photo: Hayri Duman



Egretta rufescens
Photo: Ernesto Gómez



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf



Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco