



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:

Goettsch, B. and Majure, L. 2024. 2023 Report of the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 4 pp.

IUCN SSC Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
50

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @iucn.cssg
Instagram: @iucn_cssg
X: @CcssgSsc

Mission statement

The mission of the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group (CSSG) is to contribute to the conservation of cactus and succulent plants through a better understanding of their taxonomy, ecology, and threats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Our projected impact on species conservation status is 1,468 reassessments of cacti and 135 new assessments of other succulents including *Dudleya* and *Pachypodium*.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-005 Assess the extinction risk of 67 species of *Agave sensu lato* (including 35 *Manfreda*, 17 *Polianthes*, 14 *Agave* and one *Prochyanthes*), seven *Hesperaloe* and 23 *Fourcraea*.
Status: On track

T-006 Assess the extinction risk of 46 species of *Dudleya*.
Status: Not initiated

T-007 Re-assess the extinction risk of 1,477 species of Cactaceae.
Status: On track

T-009 Assess the extinction risk of 22 species of *Pachyphytum*.
Status: Not initiated

T-010 Conduct a taxonomic review of Cactaceae.
Status: Achieved

T-015 Produce a scientific publication on the global assessment of *Agave*.
Status: Not initiated

T-016 Produce a scientific publication on the global assessment of *Yucca*.
Status: Not initiated

PLAN

T-011 Organise *Copiapoa* Workshop.
Status: On track

ACT

T-014 Ensure repatriation of *Copiapoa* seized in Italy.
Status: Achieved

NETWORK

T-001 Identify focal expert in the illegal trade of succulents.
Status: Achieved

T-002 Review membership and expand the taxonomic and geographic representation of the group by inviting 15 new experts with an emphasis on increasing the representation of members from the Americas, particularly aiming for women and people under 35.
Status: Achieved

T-004 Enhance collaboration with at least two plant Specialist Groups.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-017 Increase the CSSG presence in social media platforms to 5,000 per platform.
Status: On track

T-018 Publish the CSSG annual bilingual communication and newsletter.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

T-007 Re-assess the extinction risk of 1,477 species of Cactaceae. (KSR 7)

Reassess the extinction risk of 1,477 species of Cactaceae: 0

Result description: We submitted assessments for 39 cactus species and subspecies of the Chilean genus *Copiapoa*. In January 2024, an initial meeting with five regional focal points and two supporting institutions from Sonora, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Queretaro, Cuba, Hispaniola, Peru and Chile to discuss the reassessment process will take place. Following a taxonomic review using 'Cactaceae at Caryophyllales.org', several taxon lists for focal points have been prepared: Sonoran Desert (133 taxa), Guanajuato, Hidalgo and Queretaro (184 taxa), Peru (164 taxa), Chile (161 taxa), Hispaniola (36 taxa), and Cuba (47 taxa). We also secured institutional



CSSG Co-Chair Dr Bárbara Goettsch met with collaborators in Chile in late 2023, to begin the implementation of the Integrated Conservation Action Plan for the Genus *Copiapoa*
Photo: Integrated Conservation Action Plan for the Genus *Copiapoa*

CSSG Co-Chairs Dr Lucas Majure and Dr Bárbara Goettsch, and Program Officer Michiel Pillet, met with staff at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, to seek collaborations
Photo: CSSG and The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens



support with the reassessments of The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, US and Comisión Nacional para Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) in Mexico.

Research activities

T-010 Conduct a taxonomic review of *Cactaceae*. (KSR 5)

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

Result description: Four CSSG members co-authored the publication 'Under Siege: Trade and poaching pressure account for high extinction risk for iconic cacti in the fog-dependent coastal Atacama Desert' (Guerrero *et al.*, *in press*) on the drivers of extinction risk for the Chilean cactus genus *Copiapoa*, finding that the main driver is poaching.

PLAN

Planning

T-011 Organise *Copiapoa* Workshop. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The CSSG, in collaboration with Chester Zoo in the UK, the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, Universidad de Concepción, Chile, and the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Chile, organised a set of seven online workshops in 2022 leading to the Integrated Conservation Action Plan for the Genus *Copiapoa*. Thirty-five experts from over 20 institutions and five countries participated. The Plan will be published in 2024. In late

2023, an in-person workshop with 14 stakeholders took place in Chile to start the implementation of the Plan.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-004 Enhance collaboration with at least two plant Specialist Groups. (KSR 2)

Enhance collaboration with at least two plant Specialist Groups: 1

Result description: Multiple CSSG members have joined the newly formed IUCN SSC Succulent Plant Illegal Trade Task Force, aimed at curtailing the illegal trade in succulent plants. We continued our collaborations with the Sonoran Desert Plant Specialist Group, the Southern African Plant Specialist Group, and the Conservation Planning Specialist Group.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-017 Increase the CSSG presence in social media platforms to 5,000 per platform. (KSR 13)

Increase the CSSG presence in social media platforms to 5,000 per platform: 258
Result description: The CSSG has 3,649 followers across its three platforms (Facebook: 1,220; Instagram: 1,634; X/Twitter: 795), representing an 8% increase since our previous report. Fifty-five social media posts were made in 2023. Our social media posts educate our followers on conservation-related topics, while every so often highlighting our supporting institutions.

T-018 Publish the CSSG annual bilingual communication and newsletter. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 5

Result description: In 2023 the CSSG resumed its communication activities with the publication of its bilingual annual Newsletter. The CSSG leadership gave lectures acknowledging CSSG affiliation in Chile, with coverage by the Chilean newspaper *Tierramarillano*, Jardín Botánico Regional de Cadereyta (Mexico), and at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens (US). We also made major changes to our website, reflecting our current membership, as well as integrating recent Annual Reports and Newsletters.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the generosity of our host institution, the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona, US, as well as our donors B. Willow (US), the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society (US), and Summer Rayne Oakes (US).

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 14

Geographic regions: 11 Global, 3 America

Actions during 2023:

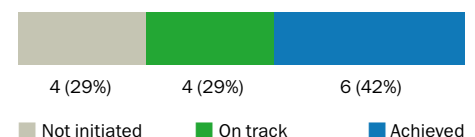
Assess: 2 (KSR 5, 7)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 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



Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco



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