



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

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

252

Mission statement

The Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) provides the scientific foundation to inform effective amphibian conservation action around the world. More specifically, the ASG stimulates, develops and conducts scientific research to inform the conservation of amphibians and their habitats around the world, supports the assessment of the conservation status of amphibian biodiversity and informs the general public of amphibian conservation-related issues and priorities. This is attained by supporting and mobilising a global network of members to develop capacity and improve coordination and integration so as to achieve shared, strategic amphibian conservation goals.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased awareness of the amphibian decline and extinction crisis, increased support of amphibian conservation through updated Red List assessments, and evidence-based decision making, targeted and coordinated action through an updated Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP).

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-005 The Amphibian Red List Authority (ARLA) provides advice and expertise for national Red List processes.

Status: On track

T-006 Complete the Global Amphibian Assessment update (GAA2).

Status: Achieved

PLAN

T-001 Update the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP).

Status: On track

T-013 ASG develops a strategic plan for the new IUCN quadrennium.

Status: Not initiated

T-018 ASG Secretariat, Regional Chairs and members contribute towards single- or multi-species conservation action plans at the international or national levels.

Status: On track

T-019 ASG provides scientific advice and information for the identification and conservation of species of concern in national and international contexts.

Status: On track

ACT

T-002 Increase uptake of ACAP among stakeholders.

Status: On track

T-003 ASG provides technical advice to organisations and institutions globally.

Status: On track

T-017 ASG acts as a key ally of Amphibian Ark and the Amphibian Survival Alliance with the shared vision of “Amphibians thriving in nature”.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-004 ASG leadership and membership are renewed.

Status: On track

T-014 Ensure a number of ARLA staff members are supported by donors.

Status: On track

T-015 ASG proactively recruits new members, focusing on regions with little or no representation at the start of the quadrennium.

Status: On track

T-016 Create/increase financial partnerships that support ASG staff.

Status: On track



Dryophytes suweonensis
Photo: Amaël Borzée

COMMUNICATE

T-007 ASG actively contributes to the production of scientific publications related to amphibian research and conservation.
Status: On track

T-008 ASG reports activities to SSC Data.
Status: On track

T-009 Ensure the IUCN Red List is used to inform the project and funding priorities of NGOs and funding mechanisms.
Status: On track

T-010 ASG develops a communications plan laying out the intended use of each of its communications tools.
Status: Not initiated

T-011 Together with the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), ASG continues to produce *FrogLog*.
Status: On track

T-012 ASG participates in scientific or public events.
Status: Achieved

T-020 Create and populate a ResearchGate project page to collate and improve visibility of all ASG-related publications.
Status: On track

T-021 Maintain the Halliday-Bishop Amphibian Conservation Reference List.
Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Red List

T-005 The Amphibian Red List Authority (ARLA) provides advice and expertise for national Red List processes. (KSR 6)

Number of advice parties: 3

Result description: During 2022, the ARLA provided advice and support to national red listing work in Australia, South Africa, and Indonesia. In addition, the coordinator is part of the Red List Committee's National Red List Working Group. As plans for the third Global Amphibian Assessment develop, further interactions with national red listing processes are expected.

T-006 Create/increase financial partnerships that support ASG staff. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 8,011

Result description: The Amphibian Red List Authority (ARLA) has concluded the second Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA2), covering a total of 8,011 species, including first-time extinction risk assessments and associated data for 2,286 species, constituting a 40% increase in the number of assessed species from the first GAA. Many of the updated assessments are already available on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ but all remaining assessments are scheduled to

be published on the Red List in 2023. The ARLA is currently working on a manuscript analysing the results and findings of the GAA2.

PLAN

Planning

T-001 Update the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP). (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: In July 2022 we carried out an open consultation process of the first draft of the global Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) Status Review (available at <https://ecoevorxiv.org/brfas/>). Since then, chapters have been revised by their respective authors, addressing open consultation feedback, and we are currently finalizing the compilation of the revised document for formal peer review for the purposes of IUCN publications. In addition, ASG Canada Co-Chair Sara Ashpole has been leading the development of two complementary ACAP chapters with her university class (details and format for this still need to be discussed).

Policy

T-019 ASG provides scientific advice and information for the identification and conservation of species of concern in national and international contexts. (KSR 9)



Pelophylax chosenicus
Photo: Amaël Borzée



Hamptophryne boliviana
Photo: Ariadne Angulo

Number of instances where advice and information are sought and given: 1

Result description: ASG leaders and members provided input into the IUCN/TRAFFIC analyses for this year's CITES COP and the ASG Chair participated in a virtual meeting with the SSC Chair and proponents of CoP19 Prop. 34 (<https://cites.org/eng/cop/19/amendment-proposals>), covering the inclusion of all species of the amphibian family Centrolenidae (Glass Frogs) in CITES Appendix II.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-002 Increase uptake of ACAP among stakeholders. (KSR 10)

Number of stakeholders pledging to support ACAP recommendations through funding or implementation: 0

Result description: This year we have been focusing our efforts on developing the ACAP Status Review. In this process, we have been in touch with organizations that fund species conservation through grant programs, and are in conversations with three of these organizations to determine interest in formally adopting ACAP to inform their grant programs.

Technical advice

T-003 ASG provides technical advice to organisations and institutions globally. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: As a follow-up to our 2019 intervention on this matter, this year we coordinated international support for ASG Chile's initiative to renew government interest in the plight of the Loa Frog, (*Telmatobus dankoi*).

Synergy

T-017 ASG acts as a key ally of Amphibian Ark and the Amphibian Survival Alliance with the shared vision of "Amphibians thriving in nature". (KSR 10)

Number of collaborative activities: 3

Result description: In 2022 ASG collaborated with the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) and Amphibian Ark on the following: 1) identifying roles for each of the respective networks in advancing ACAP, 2) conducting joint fundraising with ASA, and 3) working with ASA on the 2022 *FrogLog* issue.

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 ASG leadership and membership are renewed. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members maintained: 252

Result description: The Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) currently has 252 members who have completed both the IUCN Commission Membership System and the Amphibian Specialist Group

membership form. We consider only those who have completed both processes as "full" ASG and SSC members. There are 16 people who have completed only the ASG form and 38 who have completed only the Commission System application. Ideally, most people on both lists can be in due course brought into the specialist group.

T-015 ASG proactively recruits new members, focusing on regions with little or no representation at the start of the quadrennium. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 14

Result description: This past year we have brought in 14 new members, two that are globally scoped, five from Southeast Asia and seven from Latin America.

Synergy

T-014 Ensure a number of ARLA staff members are supported by donors. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 2

Result description: Re:wild and Synchronicity Earth remain committed in their support of the ARLA, providing cash or in-kind support for staff salaries. As plans for the third Global Amphibian Assessment develop, the ARLA will be proactively reaching out for additional partners.

T-016 Create/increase financial partnerships that support ASG staff. (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1



Dryophytes japonicus
Photo: Amaël Borzée

Result description: We have retained our partnership with our current donor for 2023. We are exploring other options using the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) as a roadmap.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 ASG actively contributes to the production of scientific publications related to amphibian research and conservation. (KSR 12)

Number of publications that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: Although not the final version, we have availed a pre-print of the ACAP Status Review: IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group. 2022. The Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP): A status review and roadmap for global amphibian conservation. <https://ecoevorxiv.org/>. Preprint. <https://ecoevorxiv.org/repository/view/3707/>.

T-008 ASG reports activities to SSC Data. (KSR 12)

Report to SSC DATA: 1

Result description: The current report accounts for activities undertaken for the year 2022.

T-009 Ensure the IUCN Red List is used to inform the project and funding priorities of NGOs and funding mechanisms. (KSR 12)

Number of organizations ASG interacts with to promote use of IUCN Red List: 2

Result description: The ARLA largely

interacts with NGOs and funding mechanisms that have already adopted the IUCN Red List for species assessments or priority setting. In 2022, we interacted on a regular basis with Re:wild and Synchronicity Earth regarding the use of the data from the second Global Amphibian Assessment to inform their priorities. Following the publication of the GAA2 results in 2023, we expect this number to increase.

T-011 Together with the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), ASG continues to produce FrogLog. (KSR 12)

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

Result description: Issues surrounding capacity for the publication of *FrogLog* have persisted into 2022; we had one issue published in December 2022. The Editorial Board will be exploring a more sustainable approach in 2023.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 21

Geographic regions: 21 Global

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

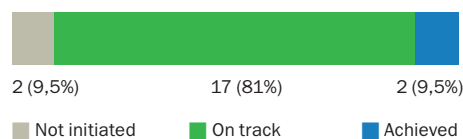
Plan: 2 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 3 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 3 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Not initiated

On track

Achieved