



Species

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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:

Webb, GJW. 2023. 2022 Report of the Crocodile 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. 6 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

2022 Report

IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group



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717

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Facebook: @iucncsg
Twitter: @CrocSpecGroup
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Mission statement

The Mission of the IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group (CSG) is to assist the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to meet their missions with regard to the conservation, management and sustainable use of world crocodylians.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we envisage: (1) increased reintroductions and improved status of wild populations of Critically Endangered (CR) crocodylian species such as Chinese Alligator (*Alligator sinensis*; China), Siamese Crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*; Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Lao PDR) and Philippine Crocodile (*C. mindorensis*; Philippines); (2) improved legal protection status of Siamese Crocodile and Tomistoma (*Tomistoma schlegelii*) habitat in Lake Mesangat, East Kalimantan, Indonesia; (3) tracking study implemented on Tomistoma; (4) publications on traceability systems, sustainable use and livelihoods and Conservation Priorities; (5) completion of species Action Plans; and (6) a standard reference source developed for crocodylians.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Review and undertake IUCN Red List assessments for crocodylians.

Status: On track

T-009 Update CSG *Best Management Practices for Crocodylian Farming* manual.

Status: On track

T-010 Develop an updated standard reference source for crocodylian taxonomy and phylogenetic relationships.

Status: On track

T-013 Update the CSG 'Crocodylian Capacity Building Manual'.

Status: On track

T-014 Encourage the implementation of a radio- and satellite-tracking study on Tomistoma in Indonesia or Malaysia (Sarawak) or both.

Status: Achieved

T-017 Review and assess the main traceability systems available for reptile products in international trade.

Status: Achieved

T-022 Fund graduate/postgraduate students who elect to work on crocodylian conservation and management through the CSG Student Research Assistance Scheme (SRAS) and Fritz Huchzermeyer Veterinary Science Student Research Assistance Scheme (FHVS-SRAS) Programmes.

Status: On track

PLAN

T-003 Improve the status of wild Siamese Crocodile populations, by continuing to encourage programmes and countries to engage further and more rapidly in reintroduction programmes (Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR).

Status: On track

T-004 Continue to monitor and track the status of wild Philippine Crocodile and Chinese Alligator populations and encourage the reintroduction programmes underway with both species.

Status: On track

T-011 Review and update Crocodylian Species Action Plans.

Status: On track

T-012 Develop 'CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodylians'.

Status: On track

T-015 Undertake country/species reviews.

Status: On track

T-020 Review the UN Sustainable Development Goals as they pertain to crocodylian conservation, management and sustainable use, for the benefit of all CSG members.

Status: On track

T-021 Encourage programmes aimed at improving the status of Lake Mesangat and associated areas (Kalimantan, Indonesia) for Siamese Crocodiles and Tomistoma.

Status: On track



Female Philippine Crocodile with juvenile young proposed for repatriation from Cologne Zoo to the Philippines
Photo: Anna Rauhaus

ACT

T-018 Prepare and disseminate case studies on Livelihoods and Sustainable Use.

Status: On track

T-019 Assess the impact on crocodylian conservation efforts by various NGOs to curtail all trade in wildlife to meet ideological goals outside the mission of both SSC and IUCN.

Status: On track

NETWORK

T-002 Expand membership of CSG with new members working on crocodylian research, conservation, and management.

Status: On track

T-005 Develop a CSG Communication Strategy.

Status: On track

T-007 Continue to develop and promote the CSG Leaders Programme.

Status: On track

T-016 Maintain involvement at international forums (e.g., CITES, IUCN, IUCN World Conservation Congress).

Status: On track

Activities and results 2022

ASSESS

Communication

T-010 Develop an updated standard reference source for crocodylian taxonomy and phylogenetic relationships. (KSR 5)

Development of an updated standard reference source: 0

Result description: The development of an updated reference source is ongoing. Members of the CSG Taxonomy and Identification Group met on July 4, 2022, during the CSG Working Meeting in Chetumal, Mexico. The group began with 24 extant species, and a draft list currently includes 27 species, including newly recognized cryptic species of African Crocodiles (*Mecistops leptorhynchus*, *Ostelaemus osborni* and *Osteolaemus* sp. nov.).

Judgement is being withheld on the recently described *Crocodylus halli* pending further genetic support. Subspecies have not been considered, although, in the caimans (Caimaninae), several recently published papers have revealed deep genetic structure in most species, though much less diversity morphologically – possible splitting is not being considered at this time.

The draft list is currently being reviewed prior to submission to the CSG Executive Committee.

Red List

T-001 Review and undertake IUCN Red List assessments for crocodylians. (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 2

Result description: Assessments for the Cuban Crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer*) and Morelet's Crocodile (*C. moreletii*) were finalised. Awaiting map for False Gharial (*Tomistoma schlegelii*) assessment (text already reviewed).

Research activities

T-013 Update the CSG 'Crocodylian Capacity Building Manual'. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 0

Result description: Review and updating of The CSG Crocodylian Capacity Building Manual is ongoing.

T-014 Encourage the implementation of a radio- and satellite-tracking study on *Tomistoma* in Indonesia or Malaysia (Sarawak) or both. (KSR 5)



Community-based releasing program of the Orinoco crocodile
Photo: Río Verde



Community-based releasing program of the Orinoco crocodile
Photo: Karel Silva

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 1

Result description: Several adult *Tomistoma* (*Tomistoma shlegelii*) in Berback National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia, were captured and radio- and satellite transmitters were placed on them. Additional funding was provided by the CSG to increase the sample size of *Tomistoma* involved in the study.

T-022 Fund graduate/postgraduate students who elect to work on crocodilian conservation and management through the CSG Student Research Assistance Scheme (SRAS) and Fritz Huchzermeyer Veterinary Science Student Research Assistance Scheme (FHVS-SRAS) Programmes. (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 12

Result description: Seventeen (17) applications for SRAS funding were received in 2022, of which 12 were approved and funded.

**PLAN
Planning**

T-003 Improve the status of wild Siamese Crocodile populations, by continuing to encourage programmes and countries to engage further and more rapidly in reintroduction programmes (Thailand, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR). (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 2

Result description: Fauna and Flora International and its partners in Cambodia released 25 Siamese Crocodiles in the Chhay Reap area of the Sre Ambel River, in southwestern Koh Kong Province in March 2022. Crocodiles were fitted with satellite (N= 3) and acoustic (N= 25) transmitters. This represents the largest single release of the species in Cambodia. In Lao PDR, the Savannakhet Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society, released 47 young Siamese Crocodiles in the Xe Champhone Wetlands in March 2022.

T-011 Review and update Crocodilian Species Action Plans. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 5

Result description: Action Plans continue to be reviewed and developed, with current efforts focussing on prioritizing proposed conservation actions for all crocodilian species.

T-012 Develop 'CSG Conservation Priorities for World Crocodilians'. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 15

Result description: Prioritisation of conservation actions is ongoing.

T-020 Review the UN Sustainable Development Goals as they pertain to crocodilian conservation, management and sustainable use, for the benefit of all CSG members. (KSR 9)

Completion of review: Ongoing.

Result description: The UN Sustainable Development Goals, as they pertain to crocodilian conservation, management and sustainable use, were reviewed, and are a draft document that is currently under review.

T-021 Encourage programmes aimed at improving the status of Lake Mesangat and associated areas (Kalimantan, Indonesia) for Siamese Crocodiles and Tomistoma. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 0

Result description: The ability to develop programmes in Lake Mesangat continues to be constrained and limited to actions by local organisations.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-018 Prepare and disseminate case studies on Livelihoods and Sustainable Use. (KSR 10)

Number of case studies disseminated: 75%

Result description: Individual case studies have been prepared and are now being integrated within an overall document on Livelihoods and Sustainable Use.



Dhanu (Grad student) and the team with one of the four large *Tomistoma* males tagged and released so far
 Photo: Kyle Shaney



SRAS student Alberto Contreras.
 Photo: Sergio Padilla Paz

T-019 Assess the impact on crocodylian conservation efforts by various NGOs to curtail all trade in wildlife to meet ideological goals outside the mission of both SSC and IUCN. (KSR 10)

Internal CSG publication: 30%

Result description: Monitoring of efforts by various NGOs to curtail trade in crocodylians (and other wildlife) on ideological grounds is ongoing.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-007 Continue to develop and promote the CSG Leaders Programme. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in management skills: 1

Result description: The CSG supported the participation of a number of young CSG members identified through the CSG Future Leaders Program at the 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES (Panama, November 2022). They participated in delegations, as NGO observers, and on the IUCN delegation. For most, this was their first attendance at a Conference of the Parties, and so it was an important opportunity to experience and see first-hand the operation of CITES. A workshop was held to discuss amendment proposals being considered by the Parties, including those involving crocodylians (*Caiman latirostris*, Brazil; *Crocodylus porosus*, Philippines; *Crocodylus siamensis*, Thailand), as well as other relevant issues.

Membership

T-002 Expand membership of CSG with new members working on crocodylian research, conservation, and management. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 25

Result description: Membership by 31 December 2022 comprised 717 members, with 25 new members having been added through the year, three members deceased, three members resigned, one member retired, and one membership terminated.

T-005 Develop a CSG Communication Strategy. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 0

Result description: A draft Communication Strategy is currently under review by the CSG Executive Committee and is yet to be finalised.

Synergy

T-016 Maintain involvement at international forums (e.g., CITES, IUCN, IUCN World Conservation Congress). (KSR 3)

Number of international forums attended: 3

Result description: CSG members participated in various capacities (delegations, observers) at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19), and the 75th and 76th meetings of the CITES Standing Committee (Panama, November 2022).

Acknowledgements

The IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group would like to acknowledge the work of the Executive Committee, Executive Officer, and the Steering Committee, in addition to all our valuable CSG members, who are working tirelessly to promote the conservation of all crocodylian species around the world.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 20

Geographic regions: 17 Global, 3 Asia

Actions during 2022:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 5 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 4 (KSR 2, 3)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

