

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR

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CO-CHAIR

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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

Rosalind Kennerley

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

107

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @iucnsmg

Twitter: @IUCN_SMSG

Website: <https://small-mammals.org>

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group (SMSG) is to serve as the global authority on the world's small mammals through developing a greater scientific understanding of their diversity, status and threats, and by promoting effective conservation action to secure their future.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Through our Key Species work we hope to understand threats and where possible initiate conservation activities for at least 18 species. Through our Key Region work we plan to assess and plan for a suite of species in Mexico, Sulawesi and Ethiopia. If possible, direct conservation activities will be pursued. In addition to species within our strategy, we will also take any opportunities to assist our members to do vital research and conservation work on species.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-005 Scientific peer-review publications about small mammal ecology and conservation.

T-006 Catalogue and publish species Red List assessments for taxonomic changes.

T-007 Conduct Red List assessments for certain regions (Mexico, Borneo, Ethiopia) based on new information collected during workshops.

PLAN

T-004 Hold regional action planning workshops.

ACT

T-008 Initiate active conservation efforts for key species.

NETWORK

T-001 Achieve taxonomic and geographic coverage for the majority of species through a geographically diverse membership.

T-002 Improve gender balance in membership.

T-009 Provide grant writing training and support to members. communicate

T-003 Keep membership updated through quarterly newsletters and an updated website.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-006 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 65

Result description: Species reassessments were published in 2021.

T-007 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Red List reassessments for Mexican species were drafted in 2021 under the supervision of Tom Lacher and the changes were based on information obtained during the SMSG Mexican workshop in 2018. These reassessments will hopefully be published in 2022.

Research activities

T-005 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 2

Result description: We published two peer-reviewed publications in 2021 on small mammals: (1) Kennerley, R.J., et al. (2021). 'Global patterns of extinction risk and conservation needs for Rodentia and Eulipotyphla'. *Diversity and Distributions* 27(9):1792–1806. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13368>; (2) Lacher Jr., T.E., et al. (2021). 'Support for rodent ecology and conservation to advance zoonotic disease research'. *Conservation Biology* 35(4):1061–1062. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13763>.



Santa Catarina Guinea Pig (*Cavia intermedia*)
Photo: Thomas Lacher

ACT

Conservation actions

T-008 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 2

Result description: Namdapha Flying Squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) and Large Rock Rat (*Cremnomys elvira*) fieldwork has been able to continue in 2021 (though with some limitations). For the squirrel, the aim is to rediscover the species, which is only known from a single specimen from 1981, so the fieldwork is undertaking night-time surveys mainly in the type locality. A whole range of ecological data is being collected by our SMSG member working on the Large Rock Rat and in 2021 he received a follow-on EDGE grant to continue his work. This information will inform the conservation status of the species and identify priority actions for next steps. Other projects have been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel and fieldwork involving people (such as Local Ecological Knowledge research).

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-009 (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: 3

Result description: We assisted three members with their species-specific applications to funding grants.

Membership

T-001 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 8

Result description: Eight new members were added in 2021 to increase the geographic and species coverage.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-003 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 4

Result description: We provided members with quarterly updates in 2021, which included information about the group's activities and opportunities for funding and how to get involved, etc. We launched our new website, which was developed with support from ZSL.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Re:wild for their continued support for both the SMSG's core costs and also on a number of our Key Species projects, to which they have kindly provided financial and strategic support. We have also received funding support from Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust for our Key Species work. We thank Texas A&M University for logistical support and resources.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 8 Global, 1 Africa, 1 America, 1 Asia

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

