

IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

36

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @IUCNSpiders

Instagram: @iucnspidersg

Twitter: @IUCNSpiderSG

Website: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups/invertebrates/spider-and-scorpion>

Mission statement

The main objectives of the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group (SSSG) are to assess the extinction risk of a representative sample of arachnid species globally; assist on international law and agreements (e.g. Habitats Directive, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – CITES); contribute towards national and regional legislation protecting threatened species; develop scientifically sound species conservation strategies in cooperation with relevant authorities; and promote the public knowledge of arachnids.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Improving the status of threatened arachnids by implementing conservation action based upon sound knowledge, Red List assessments and conservation planning.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of *Hypochilus bernardino* and monitor the impact of wildfires on its habitat suitability.

T-008 Publish a new assessment of the conservation status of New Zealand Spiders.

T-012 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in Asia.

T-013 Assess arachnid species impacted by trade in South America.

T-016 Understand how/what/when scorpions impact park rangers in Malawi and adjacent countries.

T-017 Assess the extinction risk of the Batu Caves Trap-door Spider (*Liphistius batuensis*).

T-018 Assess the extinction risk of Malay trap-door spiders (Liphistiidae).

T-019 Assess the extinction risk of segmented trap-door spiders (Liphistiidae) outside of Malaysia.

T-020 Assess the extinction risk of monogeneric families of spiders.

ACT

T-009 Measure the impacts of habitat restoration of a Nature Reserve, by replacing exotic for native vegetation.

T-014 Implement captive rearing of the Deserta Grande Wolf Spider (*Hogna ingens*).

NETWORK

T-007 Participate in an umbrella meeting of regional or habitat-specific Specialist Groups.

T-010 Develop strategic partnerships with cross taxa Specialist Groups.

T-015 Engage with the Cactus and Succulent Plants Specialist Group to communicate with Mexican Nopal farmers on the importance of spiders as pest control for their crop.

T-022 Engage with local stakeholders on the remaining habitat of *Nemesia berlandi* and the best approaches to protect it.

T-023 Support funding application for young SSSG member in the global south.

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Engage with local stakeholders on the remaining habitat of *Hypochilus bernardino* and the best approaches to protect it.

T-004 Engage local school children at sites of particular conservation interest.

T-006 Promote spider conservation action on national television.

T-021 Find a 'lost species' of Portuguese trap-door spider.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-017 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Funding was secured to assess the extinction risk of the Batu Caves Trap-door Spider, data was collated, and a conservation profile draft was initiated.



Habitus of *Haplocosmia nepalensis* in its natural habitat
Photo: Kiran Thapa Magar



Interviews about human wildlife interactions with local inhabitants
Photo: Kiran Thapa Magar

T-018 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Funding was secured to assess the extinction risk of Malay trap-door spiders (Liphistiidae), data was collated, and a conservation profile draft was initiated.

T-019 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Funding was secured to assess the extinction risk of segmented trap-door spiders (Liphistiidae) outside of Malaysia, data was collated, and a conservation profile draft was initiated.

Research activities

T-008 (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: A new assessment of the conservation status of New Zealand Spiders was completed, published and is now freely available online at: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/nztc34entire.pdf>.

T-013 (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: Several meetings were held and data analysis was initiated. No research project was completed, but membership was increased, with two new members from underrepresented regions, with underrepresented skills.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-009 (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: Still on track.

T-014 (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: Progress was made regarding captive rearing of the Deserta Grande Wolf Spider; discussions continue about when it might be best for the translocation to take place.

NETWORK

Proposal development and funding

T-023 (KSR 1)

Number of grants and awards received by SSSG: 5

Result description: Two grant applications for the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund were supported. We also supported applications to a re:wild Lost Species Grant and an SSC EDGE Grant, as well as a recommendation letter for a Tony Whitten Conservation Award 2021. All were successful.

Synergy

T-022 (KSR 3)

Successful engagement with all or most landowners in the area: ongoing

Result description: We engaged with several landowners in informal settings; they were very supportive and we received 100% positive responses towards our goals, but much is yet to be done.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-021 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: A YouTube video on finding a 'lost species' of Portuguese trap-door spider was produced and there was wide-spread communication on Twitter.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for supporting the work of two of our members in Nepal and in Malaysia. We are also grateful to the Shuttleworth Foundation for awarding a flash grant for the study of tarantula tracking, and we would like to thank re:wild for including a spider species in their Lost Species programme and supporting several members of our Specialist Group to find it. Finally, we would like to thank the SSC for all their support of our group's work, for an Internal SSC grant to detect the impact of California's wildfires on endemic spiders, and via the EDGE SSC Grant for supporting conservation assessments of a remarkable basal group of Asian spiders.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 20

Geographic regions: 5 Global, 1 Africa, 6 America, 5 Asia, 4 Europe, 1 Oceania

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

Act: 2 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 3)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

