



Galen Rathbun



Andrew Taylor

Co-Chairs

Galen Rathbun ⁽¹⁾
Andrew Taylor ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Matthew Child ⁽³⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ California Academy of Sciences,
California, USA

⁽²⁾ The Endangered Wildlife Trust,
Modderfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa

⁽³⁾ South African National Biodiversity Institute
(SANBI), Kirstenbosch National Botanical
Garden, Newlands Cape Town, South Africa

Number of members

34



Mission statement

The IUCN SSC Afrotheria Specialist Group (ASG) facilitates the conservation of hyraxes, Aardvarks, elephant-shrews or sengis, golden moles, tenrecs and their habitats by: (1) providing sound scientific advice and guidance to conservationists, governments, and other interested groups; (2) raising public awareness; and (3) developing research and conservation programmes.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. All currently recognized species of the smaller afrotheres were reviewed to ensure their Red List assessments were accurate and updated where needed. (KSR #10)

Communications

■ Communication

i. *Afrotherian Conservation – Newsletter* for the ASG, number 13, was produced. (KSR #28)

ii. The ASG website was updated. (KSR #28)

Conservation action

■ Documents review

i. Based on the updated Red List assessments, conservation needs for each of the five clades of afrotheres covered by the ASG were reviewed.

Acknowledgements

We thank our Afrotheria SG members, all of whom are volunteers, who contributed towards the successful updating of the Red List assessments and the annual newsletter. In particular, we are grateful to our section coordinators, Gary Bronner, Lee Koren, Thomas Lehmann, PJ Stephenson and Voahangy Soarimalala. Thanks to Rachel Hoffmann of the IUCN SSC for guidance on SSC matters. We also thank Avian Designs for supporting our website at discounted rates.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) reassess Red List categories for species when new information arises; (2) develop standardized monitoring protocols for all Afrotherians; (3) complete reassessment of taxonomy of golden moles.

Research activities: (1) collect basic data on golden mole species; (2) conduct surveys to determine distribution and abundance of all hyrax species; (3) revise taxonomy of hyraxes; (4) conduct field trials for camera trapping methods to determine population estimates for giant sengis; (5) conduct surveys to assess baseline data, threats and taxonomic status of the Data Deficient sengi species; (6) determine the systematics of giant sengies, especially *Rhynchocyon* species; (7) survey Aardvark populations to determine abundance, distribution and trends; (8) conduct taxonomic studies to determine the systematics of Aardvarks; (9) track tenrecs' status and threats and identify key conservation concerns; (10) conduct genetic studies to clarify the taxonomy and species diversity within the genus *Microgale*.

Etendeka Round-eared Sengi
(*Macroscelides micus*), Least Concern
Photo: G.B. Rathbun



Communications

Communication: (1) update and maintain Afrotheria.net website; (2) produce one ASG newsletter every year.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

If the ASG achieved all of its targets, it would be able to deliver more accurate, data-driven Red List assessments for more Afrotherian species and, therefore, be in a better position to move to conservation planning especially for priority species.



Galen Rathbun with Sengi
Photo: Andrew Perkin

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Communications (2 activities)
- Conservation action (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 10, 28

KSR: Key Species Result