

# IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group



2016-2017 Report



Thomas Lacher



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## Co-Chairs

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## Number of members

98

## Social networks

Facebook:  
@iucnsmmsg  
Twitter:  
@IUCN\_SMSG



## 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.

## Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

### Barometer of life

#### ■ Red List

i. We have 93% of Red List assessments published and the remaining species will be finished by the end of 2018. (KSR #1)

### Communications

#### ■ Communication

i. We have started to work on our new website, which will be operational either at the end of 2017 or in the first quarter of 2018. (KSR #28)

### Conservation action

#### ■ Conservation activities

i. We have been developing our strategy and key programmes of work and have done some communications around this, though we need to still communicate this more fully with our membership. (KSR #15)

ii. Beginning of the SMSG Species Action Plan. (KSR #20)

### Increasing diversity of SSC

#### ■ Membership

i. Reasonable progress made in some regions, but we need to target some less-represented countries.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Global Wildlife Conservation for their generous financial and technical support for the group from April 2017 onwards. Additionally, we thank the Net Trust for providing funding for a 6-month internship position for the group. We also thank the support of our host institutions, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and Texas A&M University, for support of our travel and participation in Red List activities. We would also like to thank the Global Mammal Assessment team, in particular Federica Chiozza and Francesca Cassola for their help with assessing and checking species' Red List accounts. Giovanni Amori kindly reviewed SMSG Red List assessments and we have received much advice and assistance from the Red List unit, especially Caroline Pollock.

## Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

### Barometer of life

Red List: 100% of species Red List assessments published.

Research activities: (1) two expeditions to areas with high densities of Data Deficient species; (2) appoint new Taxonomic specialist Dr. Nate Upham.

### Bolster work at national scales

Conservation activities: eight action planning workshops (zoos and regions).

### Communications

Communication: quarterly emails sent to members to update them on SMSG activities, funding opportunities and other developments.

Research activities: one high impact publication, 2-3 lower impact.

### Conservation action

Conservation activities: 10 key species with active conservation efforts.

Long-eared Hedgehog (*Hemichinus auritus*)  
Photo: Paul B. Jones



Kluchor birch mouse (*Sicista kluchorica*)  
Photo: Tamás Cserkés



Colombian Ground Squirrel (*Urocitellus colombianus*)  
Photo: Paul B. Jones

### Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: recruit new members to the group based on contacts made during the Red List process and through regional workshops, so that the group has a comprehensive taxonomic and geographic representation for small mammals.

### Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Within this quadrennium, we will have expanded our global-level research for small mammals and we will have made considerable progress in each of our three programmes of activities within our strategy: Key Regions, Key Species, and increasing our influence within the global zoo network. From our list of priority Key Regions, where there are high densities of Globally Threatened and Data Deficient species, we will specifically concentrate on Mexico,

Borneo and Ethiopia. We will prioritise species and areas in most urgent need of conservation efforts and help to build capacity in country to begin research and conservation work. Additionally, we will catalyse conservation actions on the ground for at least 10 key species. This will involve recruiting species champions and assist our champions with fund-raising, training, research activities, networking opportunities and/or facilitating conservation planning. We will build on our work to promote small mammal conservation within the world's leading zoos, in particular focusing on both AZA and EAZA. We will bring experts together for a series of regional planning workshops to secure support for small mammal conservation, both for financing conservation within wild habitats and to increase representation in zoo collections of small mammal species facing extinction. Finally, we will have grown the membership of the MSG so that it is taxonomically and geographically balanced and covers all priority skills and knowledge areas.

### Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

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

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 20, 28

KSR: Key Species Result