

IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group

2018 Report



Thomas Lacher



Richard Young

Co-Chairs

Thomas Lacher (1)
Richard Young (2)

Red List Authority Coordinator

Rosalind Kennerley (2)

Location/Affiliation

(1) Department of Ecology and Conservation
Biology, Texas A&M University, College Station,
Texas, US
(2) Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Bath, UK

Number of members

98

Social networks

Facebook:
IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group
Twitter:
@IUCN_SMSG
Website:
www.small-mammals.org



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 for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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 assisting our champions with fundraising, 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 the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (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 SMSG so that it is taxonomically and geographically balanced and covers all priority skills and knowledge areas.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: Red List assessments published for 100% of small mammal species.

Research activities: (1) one high impact publication, 2-3 lower impact publications; (2) two expeditions to areas with high densities of Data Deficient species; (3) appoint new taxonomic specialist, Dr. Nate Upham.

Plan

Planning: hold eight action planning workshops (for zoos and regions).

Act

Conservation activities: active conservation efforts in place for 10 key species.

Network

Membership: taxonomic and geographic coverage for the majority of species results from a geographically diverse membership.

Communicate

Communication: keep membership updated.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. One hundred and thirty-four species assessments were published in 2018. Progress was made with many more, which should be ready for publication in 2019. (KSR #1)



Research activities

- i. The global analysis for Rodentia and Eulipotyphla is in the final stages before being submitted for publication. (KSR #32)
- ii. We appointed Dr. Nate Upham as our new taxonomic advisor and he has joined us on monthly SMSG calls when needed. (KSR #43)

Plan

Planning

- i. We held an action planning regional workshop for Mexico in April 2018. (KSR #17)

Act

Conservation activities

- i. Six species have research or conservation activities started or funding in place to begin activities. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

- i. We added many new members in 2018, particularly for Central America, after our workshop in Mexico.

Communicate

Communication

- i. We now provide quarterly email updates to our members on the various activities that we are undertaking, plus provide a list of opportunities that may be of interest to our members.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Global Wildlife Conservation for their continued support for the SMSG. We have also received funding support from Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust. For some of our zoo-based activities and regional work in Mexico we have received financial support from Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Houston Zoo, Nashville Zoo and Brevard Zoo. Texas A&M University has provided financial support for our Mexico workshop in 2018.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	3	
Plan	1	
Act	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 17, 27, 32, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



Field team on Ilha do Tabuleiro,
last remaining habitat of *Cavia intermedia*
Photo: Thomas Lacher