

# IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group

2019 Report



Daniel Willcox



José F. González-Maya

## Co-Chairs

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## Red List Authority Coordinator

Will Duckworth <sup>(3)</sup>

## Location/Affiliation

<sup>(1)</sup> Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW), Viet Nam

<sup>(2)</sup> ProCAT Colombia, Bogota, Colombia

<sup>(3)</sup> Bath, United Kingdom

## Number of members

111

## Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN Small Carnivore Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCN\_SCSG

Website: [www.iucn-scsg.org](http://www.iucn-scsg.org)



## Mission statement

The mission of the SCSG is to build capacity among small carnivore researchers and conservationists, particularly those that live or work in developing countries, to provide a venue to publish new knowledge, maintain the most up-to-date status assessments for its species, and to engage in priority research and conservation related to small carnivores.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, the Small Carnivore Specialist Group (SCSG) aims to: (1) host a workshop to develop an action plan for all threatened species in the group; (2) acquire resources and develop a research programme for Data Deficient species (which are threatened but lack critical information to understand the extent of threats); (3) find an organisational host for the *Small Carnivore Conservation* journal, including resources for a part time Editor in Chief (currently managed by volunteers); (4) work with other specialists and Specialist Groups to capture and publicise 'by-catch' data on small carnivores from other programmes; and (5) help establish strategic partnerships with other Specialist Groups whose species are impacted by similar threats, for example indiscriminate snaring in protected areas.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Documents review: prepare an update on the knowledge and conservation status of Data Deficient species of the Americas.

Research activities: (1) explore the magnitude and implications of human-wildlife conflict for small carnivores globally; (2) develop a research strategy for Data Deficient species.

### Plan

Planning: (1) complete Action Planning for threatened taxa; (2) publish a conservation strategy and action plan for Owston's Civet (*Chrotogale owstoni*).

### Act

Conservation actions: engage a programme officer for coordinating the Owston's Civet conservation strategy.

Planning: assist implementation of three priority actions from the Owston's Civet conservation strategy.

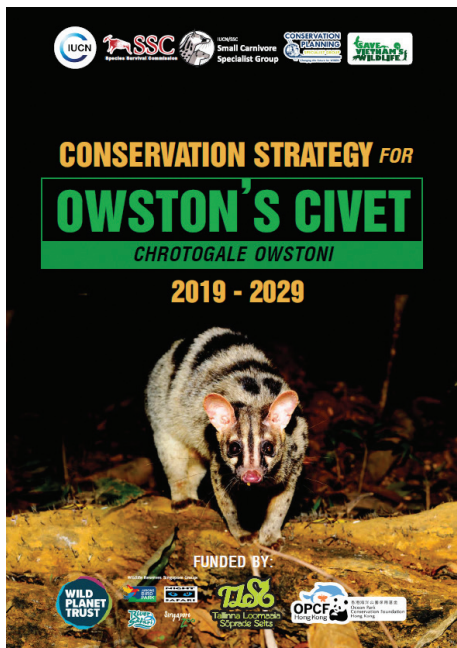
Synergy: engage with wider issues re: snaring, wild meat trade, and impacts on biodiversity loss in Southeast Asia.

### Network

Membership: increase membership from priority countries/regions as they relate to distribution of globally threatened and Data Deficient small carnivores.

### Communicate

Communication: (1) update SCSG's website and other communication platforms; (2) reduce journal to one high quality issue per year.



Front page of the published Owston's Civet 10-year conservation strategy  
 Photo: Save Vietnam's Wildlife / IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group

Conservation planning workshop for Owston's Civet, Hanoi, 2019  
 Photo: Save Vietnam's Wildlife



## Activities and results 2019

### Assess

#### Documents review

i. Data on all American species of small carnivores is being gathered, including an update on distribution and conservation priorities. An MSc student recently started studies that will develop the analyses and reporting under our supervision. An alliance is being explored with the American Society of Mammalogists' Conservation Committee to join efforts on preparing the update. (KSR #1, 15, 18)

#### Research activities

i. We established contacts with other carnivore Specialist Groups and with the Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force (HWCTF) to explore the magnitude and implications of human-wildlife conflict for small carnivores globally. A database was started and is in progress. A course and symposium was developed in Mexico and Colombia to start addressing the topic systematically. (KSR #32)

### Plan

#### Planning

i. A conservation planning workshop was held in Hanoi in April 2019. Over 60 participants attended, including representatives from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), WWF, TRAFFIC, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), IUCN SSC Chair's office, several national conservation NGOs, and the Vietnamese government. One conservation plan was produced for Owston's Civet, one of the group's priority species. (KSR #15)

ii. Two conservation strategies have been produced for Owston's Civet, one in English and one in Vietnamese. (KSR #15)

iii. Four priority actions from the Owston's Civet conservation strategy have been supported by the Co-Chair (through project design and assistance with grant applications), including: (1) research on civet coffee farms in Viet Nam and impacts on Owston's Civet; (2) hiring a dedicated Vietnamese Owston's programme coordinator; (3) reviewing legal framework for NGOs to operate wildlife centres in Viet Nam; (4) developing a project to focus on wild meat trade and links to legal snaring. (KSR #16)

### Act

#### Conservation actions

i. Work on snaring, wild meat trade, and impacts on biodiversity loss in Southeast Asia is ongoing. (KSR #27, 31)

### Network

#### Capacity building

i. A Vietnamese Programme Officer was hired in late-2019 to coordinate the Owston's Civet Conservation Strategy. The Programme Officer is a full-time employee of Save Vietnam's Wildlife, one of the main organisations for Owston's Civet conservation in the world. Support is given via technical advice and mentoring by the Small Carnivore Specialist Group (Daniel Willcox).

#### Membership

i. Both Co-Chairs have made a big push to include more members from priority regions/countries. Membership has increased from 86 at the last report, to over 100. Twenty-five new members have been included in the group, the majority from developing countries/priority regions for the Specialist Group including Benin, Cambodia, China, Uganda and Viet Nam.

### Communicate

#### Communication

i. A volunteer technical editor of the *Small Carnivore Conservation* journal has been in position since 2019, and a new associate editorial board is being constructed. One issue of the journal will be published in 2020. (KSR #28)

### Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Save Vietnam's Wildlife (SVW) for supporting the work of Co-Chair Daniel Willcox and to ProCAT Colombia for supporting the work of Co-Chair José F. González-Maya. Also special thanks to SVW for their long-term commitments to Owston's Civet conservation. Thanks to Wild Planet Trust, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, and the Friends of Tallinn Zoo for supporting the Owston's Civet conservation planning workshop, and for their commitments to this species' conservation since. Thanks to ProCAT for hosting the III Simposio de Pequeños Carnívoros at the V Colombian Congress on Zoology and to INECOL (Mexico) for helping co-host the course: "Tópicos en Ecología y Conservación de Mesodepredadores (Orden Carnívora) en América".

### Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	2	
Plan	3	
Act	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 16, 18, 27, 28, 31, 32

KSR: Key Species Result