

IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group

2019 Report



Thomas Lacher



Richard Young

Co-Chairs

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, US

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Number of members

142

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCN_SMSG

Website: www.small-mammals.org



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.

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 actions: 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.

Programme Office Dr Ros Kennerley attended the African Small Mammal Symposium in Ethiopia in September 2019
 Photo: 13th African Small Mammal Symposium



Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. Three-hundred and sixty-seven assessments were published in 2019. (KSR #1)

Research activities

- i. The global analysis for Rodentia and Eulipotyphla was prepared for submission. (KSR #32)
- ii. Nate Upham continues to be the SMSG taxonomic advisor. (KSR #43)

Plan

Planning

i. Finding funding for action planning workshops has been difficult. At the end of 2019, we had secured funding for a workshop for Borneo. (KSR #17)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Funding has been found for several species projects and assistance to several of our members to design conservation work and research. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

i. We had 142 members at the end of 2019.

Communicate

Communication

i. Quarterly newsletters are sent to members. (KSR #28)



Co-chair Tom Lacher attended the Santa Catarina's Guinea Pig (*Cavia intermedia*) Species Action Plan workshop in April 2019
 Photo: SMSG archives

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 our Key Species work. Texas A&M University has provided financial support for some travel for Co-Chair Tom Lacher and members of his research group. The Santa Catarina Guinea Pig workshop was funded by Fundação Grupo Boticário de Proteção à Natureza, Brazil.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	3	
Plan	1	
Act	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 17, 27, 28, 32, 43

KSR: Key Species Result