

IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group

2020 Report



Thomas Lacher



Richard Young

Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

125

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Small Mammal Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCN_SMSG

Website: <https://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) publish one high impact publication, 2–3 lower impact publications; (2) conduct 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: ensure active conservation efforts are in place for 10 key species.

Network

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

Communicate

Communication: keep membership updated.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Sixty-four species assessments and reassessments were published in 2020. About 50 species remain to be reviewed and submitted. (KSR #1)



Research activities

i. Two publications were published in 2020: one for Caribbean SMSG species, and one on Brazilian rodent Red List status and geographical patterns. The global analysis paper has been under review for a longer time than expected due to the journal; we hope it is published in early 2021. (KSR #32)

ii. Expeditions to areas with high densities of Data Deficient species are no longer a priority for the quadrennium, because we have concentrated our efforts and resources on key species and key regions instead. We may revisit the target in the next quadrennium. (KSR #43)

Plan

Planning

i. There were delays to the Borneo workshop scheduled for 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Funding applications for other regional workshops have been put on hold until we know more about when normal travel is likely to be possible. (KSR #17)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Delays to fieldwork, funding streams, etc., have meant that for many species, projects have not been accomplished. However, for the Cuban Solenodon (*Atopogale cubana*), Namdapha Flying Squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*), Santa Catarina's Guinea Pig (*Cavia intermedia*), Hainan Gymnure (*Neohylomys hainanensis*), Malagasy Giant Jumping Rat (*Hypogeomys antimena*), Brown's Hutia (*Geocapromys brownii*), and Large Rock-rat (*Cremnomys elvira*), there have been significant developments. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

i. We have steadily built the membership up during 2020.

Communicate

Communication

i. The membership has been updated quarterly. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Re:wild for their continued support for both the SMSG's core costs and also a number of our Key Species projects, to which they have kindly provided financial and strategic support. We have also received funding support from Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust for our Key Species work. We also thank Texas A&M University for logistical support in space and funding for computer resources and software.

Summary of activities 2020

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