

IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group

2020 Report



Sérgio Henriques



Mark Bushell

Co-Chairs

Sérgio Henriques (1)
Mark Bushell (2)

Red List Authority

Sérgio Henriques

Location/Affiliation

(1) Global Center for Species Survival,
Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, US
(2) Bristol Zoo, UK

Number of members

50

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Spider & Scorpion Specialist Group

Instagram: iucnspidersg

Twitter: @IUCNSpiderSG

Website: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups/invertebrates/spider-and-scorpion>



Mission statement

The main objectives of the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group (SSSG) are: (1) assess, plan and act towards arachnid conservation in collaboration with the other IUCN Task Forces, Specialist Groups and the Invertebrate Conservation Committee; (2) assist on international law and agreements (e.g. Habitats Directive, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – CITES) as well as towards national and regional legislation; (3) support and promote public knowledge of arachnids across different media; (4) develop scientifically sound species conservation strategies in cooperation with relevant authorities, to facilitate or mobilise resources for any activity promoting arachnid conservation, as well as those which promote the protection of their habitats; (5) identify gaps in expertise by taxa and/or region and engage with the global network of experts with a view to addressing these gaps, while increasing the diversity of active members.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we expect to: (1) develop tools that facilitate Red List assessments, (2) significantly increase the number of assessed species, (3) reduce the extinction risk of a number of species, (4) provide advice on CITES species, and (5) increase and diversify our membership.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) Red List assessments for Sampled Red List Index (SRLI): assess 200 species; (2) Red List Nephilidae: assess 35 species; (3) Red List Archaeidae: assess 80 species; (4) Red List Macaronesian endemics: assess 170 species; (5) Red List of spiders: assess 20 species; (6) develop R package to assist Red Listing; (7) conduct two assessment workshops (for SRLI and CITES); (8) conduct one Red List assessment workshop.

Research activities: develop an IUCN Data Paper in *Biodiversity Data Journal*.

Plan

Planning: develop a Species Conservation Plan for Desertas Wolf Spider (*Hogna ingens*).

Policy: Red List CITES species: assess 25 species.

Act

Conservation actions: establish ex situ breeding of Desertas Wolf Spider.

Network

Capacity building: conduct four Red List teaching workshops.

Membership: increase the number and range of group membership.

Communicate

Communication: (1) conduct interviews with media outlets; (2) produce a group website.

Spitting spider
Photo: Sérgio Henriques



Daddy long legs
Photo: Sérgio Henriques



Whip spider
Photo: Sérgio Henriques

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no training workshops took place, but we are looking forward to making online training available. (KSR #1)

ii. Several assessments of spiders from Madagascar have been completed and are ready for revision, as are several from Australia. We are on track to achieve this target by 2024. (KSR #1)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Several populations of Desertas Wolf Spider have been successfully established ex situ, currently with 1,600 individuals across Europe, where six populations with captive stocks can feasibly be released in the wild. (KSR #25)

Network

Membership

i. The number and range of group membership has increased.

Acknowledgements

The group is sincerely grateful for an SSC Internal Grant award and we hope to be able to use those funds in the near future. We are also grateful to the Mohamed bin Zayed grant for supporting one of our members.

Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess **2** ||

Act **1** |

Network **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 25

KSR: Key Species Result