Mission statement
The IUCN Skink Specialist Group (SSG) aims to complete Red List assessments for all skink species to identify species with high extinction risk, determine the factors underlying high extinction risk, develop strategies to manage risk and improve the status of threatened skink species, and coordinate conservation management for threatened skink species.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium
By the end of 2020, we anticipate making substantial progress towards assessing all remaining non-assessed species, coordinating re-assessment of species as their assessments expire, and coordinating the assessment of newly described species. We aim to promote and foster collaboration among the world’s skink experts, and provide an avenue for regular interaction and collaboration (annual newsletter, website, email list, assessment workshops, skink conferences). We aim to: (i) conduct analyses to determine the factors underlying extinction risk in skinks; (ii) identify regions, and taxonomic groups within skinks, that have elevated extinction risk; and (iii) determine the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that are associated with extinction risk in skinks. This will be communicated via scientific publications, regional assessment reports, our website, and through the popular media.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium
Assess
Red List: (1) complete assessment of all described skink species; (2) complete re-assessment of all skink species with expired assessments; (3) complete assessments for all newly described skink species.
Research activities: (1) assess the current conservation status of skinks globally; (2) determine the biogeography of skinks globally.
Communicate
Communication: launch a website for the Specialist Group (Internal Grants 2019).

Activities and results 2019
Assess
i. Red List assessments are now complete for 1,194 of 1,685 skink species; 491 species are Not Evaluated. The SSG developed an agreed list of described skink species. The appropriate approvals were obtained in the IUCN SIS database for the SSG to complete its own species assessments. Volunteers have been recruited to assist with the development of draft species assessments. (KSR #1)
ii. A list of assessments that have expired or are due to expire has been prepared, and re-assessments for these species will be completed. (KSR #1)
iii. The appropriate approvals were obtained in the IUCN SIS database for the SSG to complete its own species assessments. Volunteers have been recruited to assist with the development of draft species assessments. We have developed a schematic diagram to show...
skink biologists what information needs to be included in species descriptions to assist with the Red Listing process, and this has been advertised via the website and a presentation at the World Congress for Herpetology. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. Information and analyses have been prepared regarding the current conservation status of skinks, and this was used as the basis of a presentation on this topic at the World Congress of Herpetology in Dunedin, New Zealand. A manuscript is currently in preparation and will be submitted to an international scientific journal in 2020. (KSR #4)

ii. A manuscript on the global biogeography of skinks is currently in preparation and will be submitted to an international scientific journal in 2020. (KSR #4)

Communicate

Communication

i. The website of the SSG was developed and launched in 2019. The website has now been completed: https://www.skinks.org/. (KSR #28)

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Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

| Assess | 5
| Communicate | 1

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 4, 28