

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
31

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: @xenarthrans
Instagram: @asasg_2021
Websites: xenarthrans.org;
pygmysloth.org;
perezosopigmeo.org

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group is to promote the long-term conservation of the extant species of xenarthrans (anteaters, sloths and armadillos) and their habitats.

Projected impact 2021-2025

By the end of 2025, we envision we will have achieved increased protection for our priority species. We aim to reach this goal by reviewing and endorsing existing national or regional action plans as well as supporting the development and implementation of comprehensive action plans for xenarthrans. Capacity building through training courses will allow us to increase the number of researchers dedicated to conservation-relevant research on armadillos, sloths and anteaters. We predict that our awareness campaigns will increase the knowledge about our species and their conservation problems among the general public, especially the impact of illegal trade and the use of xenarthrans as exotic pets.

Targets 2021-2025

ASSESS

T-001 Complete global Red List assessments of recently described Xenarthra species by 2022.

T-002 Complete global Red List reassessments of all Xenarthra species by 2022.

T-004 Facilitate assessments of other taxa for the IUCN Red List.

PLAN

T-006 Develop an Action Plan for Pygmy Sloths (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) by 2022.

ACT

T-011 Review and endorse existing national or regional action plans for Xenarthra.

NETWORK

T-003 Establish one new formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group by 2025.

T-005 Recruit new members from underrepresented range countries by 2023.

T-010 Build capacity through courses on the biology and conservation of Xenarthra in range countries.

COMMUNICATE

T-007 Publish four annual issues of our newsletter and journal, *Edentata*.

T-008 Raise awareness about illegal trade of Xenarthra.

T-009 Strengthen our Specialist Group's outreach and education strategies.

T-013 Issue a position paper about the use of xenarthrans as pets.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: we will initiate this target once our Taxonomy Subcommittee has defined the criteria for acceptance of taxonomic changes and evaluated those that have been proposed in the past few years.

T-002 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 6

Result description: prior to initiating the reassessment process, we set up a taxonomy subcommittee to define the criteria to accept or reject proposed taxonomic changes. We then initiated the reassessment process of the sloths, as this group



Least Concern Southern Tamandua, *Tamandua tetradactyla*, Parnaíba, Piauí, Brazil
Photo: Karina Theodoro Molina, Instituto Tamandua



Least Concern Screaming Hairy Armadillo, *Chaetophractus vellerosus*, Chile
Photo: Armadillos de Chile

currently does not have pending taxonomic changes. We will continue with the other groups (anteaters and armadillos) in 2022.

T-004 (KSR 6)

Number of workshops facilitated: 7

Result description: our Specialist Group Chair and Red List Authority have facilitated seven online workshops to assess the conservation status of the mammals of Colombia.

PLAN

Planning

T-006 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: the Pygmy Sloth Conservation Project held a workshop called 'Key Contributions for the Pygmy Sloth Conservation Plan'. It was attended by authorities from the Ministry of Environment, members of the communities near Escudo de Veraguas Island, authorities from the Ngäbe-Buglé region, representatives of non-profit organisations, and governmental institutions. The overall objective of the workshop was to highlight the importance of Pygmy Sloth conservation and develop alternatives for the integrated management of Escudo de Veraguas Island through a participatory dynamic and based on information provided by key stakeholders in previous workshops. The threats faced by the Pygmy Sloth were identified and prioritised, alternatives to mitigate these threats were discussed, and key actors were identified to carry out short- and long-term actions. The information generated in this workshop is the first step in the consensual validation process of the Pygmy Sloth Conservation Plan, which consists of including the perception and contributions of the Ngäbe community, the main users of Escudo de Veraguas Island and guarantors of its conservation.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-003 (KSR 3)

Number of courses taught: 1

Result description: the courses had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We did, however, teach a short virtual course for researchers, members of the local communities, and government representatives from Guyana.

Membership

T-005 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 7

Result description: we have recruited seven new members from Xenarthra range countries that were not yet represented in our Specialist Group. Our Specialist Group now has 31 members from 19 countries and a wide variety of backgrounds.

Synergy

T-003 (KSR 1)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: we have entered a partnership with Foundation for International Aid to Animals (FIAA). We will work together in educational and awareness programmes, as well as other actions that support the conservation of the Xenarthra in the Americas, including their rescue and rehabilitation.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: in December, we published issue 22 of our newsletter and journal *Edentata*.

T-009 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 3

Result description: we initiated an Education Subcommittee that is focusing on enhancing our outreach and education strategies. Among other activities, we set up an Instagram account (@asag_2021) and have been regularly posting news about Xenarthra and their conservation both on Instagram and Facebook. We currently have around 5,200 followers on Facebook and 255 on Instagram. To increase visibility of our most threatened species, the Critically Endangered Pygmy Sloth, we have set up a website about the Pygmy Sloth Conservation Project. It is available in English and Spanish (<https://pygmysloth.org>; <https://perezosopigmeo.org>). We are grateful for the financial support of our partner institution Nurtured by Nature, which made it possible to design and set up such a beautiful website.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the sustained support by our partner institutions Nurtured by Nature and Foundation for International Aid to Animals.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021-2025: 12

Geographic regions: 1 Global, 11 America

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 3 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021-2025:

