

IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group

2020 Report



Mariella Superina

Chair

Mariella Superina (1)

Red List Authority Coordinator

Agustín M. Abba (2)

Location/Affiliation

(1) IMBECU - CCT CONICET Mendoza, Mendoza, Argentina

(2) CEPAVE - CCT CONICET La Plata, La Plata, Argentina

Number of members

29

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN/SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group

Website: www.xenarthrans.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 for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision the Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group (ASASG) will have achieved increased protection for our priority species, the Critically Endangered Pygmy Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) and the Vulnerable Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*). We aim to reach this goal by increasing scientific knowledge, raising awareness, developing and implementing comprehensive action plans and securing protection of their habitat. 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 knowledge about our species and their conservation problems among the general public.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete assessment of seven silky anteater species; (2) complete re-assessment of all Xenarthra species; (3) facilitate assessments of other taxa for the IUCN Red List; (4) support assessment of mammals of Argentina.

Research activities: collection of scientific data about Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*) and Pygmy Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*).

Plan

Planning: plan for protection of Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo and Pygmy Three-toed Sloth.

Act

Conservation actions: effective protection of Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo and Pygmy Three-toed Sloth.

Network

Capacity building: (1) teach five training courses; (2) train Argentinean mammalogists in Red List assessments.

Proposal development and funding: secure funding to replenish the Xenarthra Conservation Fund.

Synergy: enter into partnership with zoological institutions.

Communicate

Communication: (1) publish four issues of the ASASG Newsletter and Journal *Edentata*; (2) increase awareness through campaigns at zoos and other institutions; (3) increase awareness for Xenarthra.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. We have postponed the assessments of silky anteater species. We plan to organise a virtual assessment workshop with our Specialist Group members in 2021. (KSR #1)

ii. We have postponed the re-assessments of Xenarthra species. We plan to organise a virtual assessment workshop with our Specialist Group members in 2021. (KSR #1)

iii. Our Specialist Group Chair helped teach two Red List assessment courses; both were held online. (KSR #1)



Least Concern Six-banded Armadillo,
Euphractus sexcinctus
Photo: Fernando Faciole



Vulnerable Giant Anteater,
Myrmecophaga tridactyla
Photo: Fernando Faciole

Research activities

i. Fieldwork related to collection of scientific data on the Pygmy Three-toed Sloth priority species was interrupted due to the pandemic. (KSR #12)

Act

Conservation actions

i. We sent letters, signed by the IUCN Director General and the SSC Chair, to the Ministers of Tourism and Environment of Panama to express our concern about the impact of tourism on Isla Escudo de Veraguas, where Pygmy Three-toed Sloths are endemic. This high-level intervention was necessary because the island was being opened for tourism due to a proposed tourism development on the Caribbean coast of Panama, which is promoting Isla Escudo de Veraguas as a major attraction and “undiscovered jewel”. Through these letters, we requested the government of Panama to consider the potential negative and irreversible impacts of tourism on the fragile ecosystem of this small island, which is also home to other endemic, Critically Endangered species. (KSR #27)

Network

Capacity building

i. The planned courses were postponed due to the pandemic.

Synergy

i. We have entered a partnership with Nurtured by Nature. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

i. In December 2020, we published volume 21 of the Newsletter and Journal *Edentata*, which included six articles related to the conservation of Xenarthra. (KSR #28)

ii. We have been increasing awareness through different strategies: (1) by providing information on Xenarthra through our website (www.xenarthrans.org) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/xenarthrans); (2) by providing advice to researchers, students and schoolchildren; (3) by giving talks and interviews to different media and participating in documentaries. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Assess	4	
Act	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	2	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 12, 27, 28, 29

KSR: Key Species Result