

## 2021 Report

# IUCN SSC Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group



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#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

41

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

Facebook: IUCN SSC Butterfly & Moth Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCNButterflySG

### Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group is to increase knowledge on the taxonomy, ecology and conservation status of butterflies and moths around the world and promote their long-term conservation.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased awareness of butterfly and moth status through assessment and outreach; increased action in butterfly conservation through establishment of action plans (e.g. swallowtails); increased capacity for species assessment and conservation planning within the Specialist Group.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-003** Create a global inventory of butterfly monitoring schemes and available time series data (with collaborators) to help us assess data gaps, capacity needs and build a Living Planet Index for butterflies.

**T-007** Support the development of national or regional Red List assessments for butterflies and moths and improve linkages between national Red Lists and the global IUCN Red List (facilitate upload of assessments from national Red Lists to the global IUCN Red List).

**T-009** Complete a first global assessment of 1,500 species for a sampled Red List Index of butterflies.

**T-010** Publish on status and trends of the world's butterflies and moths (e.g. World Swallowtail assessment, Sampled Red List Index, key moth group).

**T-011** Engage with Key Biodiversity Area processes, feeding butterfly and moth data into the process.

**T-016** Complete assessments of at least 100 key moth species (e.g. emperor moths).

**T-017** Identify additional priority groups for assessment and conservation planning (e.g. Green Status, Red List, Climate Change assessment).

**T-019** Complete the Global Swallowtail Assessment.

#### PLAN

**T-004** Conduct a conservation planning workshop for swallowtails and produce a conservation plan for the group.

**T-012** Engage in at least two cross-taxon initiatives to increase group capacity in conservation planning.

#### ACT

**T-015** Develop guidance on the use of Lepidoptera farming for sustainable community development.

#### NETWORK

**T-002** Increase the global reach of the group to include a diversity of members covering at least 40 countries.

**T-005** Develop regional subgroups to focus on regional Assess-Plan-Act.

**T-006** Carry out capacity building for Red Listing within the group via training workshops/online Red List training course.

**T-018** Develop partnerships with relevant organisations (e.g. Butterfly Conservation, eButterfly) to improve access to conservation-relevant data, and coverage and capacity of monitoring for Lepidoptera.

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-013** Improve communications with the membership and a wider audience through newsletters, blogs, Facebook and Twitter presence, podcasts, etc., with two major outputs per year around which engagement can be focused (e.g. around World Swallowtail Day, publication of scientific outputs, etc.).

**T-014** Develop a group website to showcase work and as a hub for distributing information and sharing resources.



Malachite Butterfly (*Siproeta stelenes*), Costa Rica  
Photo: Monika Bohm



*Graphium nomius* (Papilionidae)  
Photo: Shawan Chowdhury

## Activities and results 2021

### ASSESS

#### Red List

T-016 (KSR 6)

**Number of new global Red List assessments completed:** 29

**Result description:** Assessments for 29 species of Hawaiian moths were published on the IUCN Red List 2021.3.

T-019 (KSR 6)

**Number of new global Red List assessments completed:** 36

**Result description:** In 2021, 36 assessments were published on the IUCN Red List. Another 210 have been drafted already and are going through final sign off. Overall, nearly 200 species have now been published.

#### Research activities

T-003 (KSR 5)

**Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation:** 0

**Result description:** We held an initial two-hour butterfly monitoring meeting in October, with speakers from Vlinderstichting and ZSL, to introduce the project and link in new, important partners such as eButterfly. We are now in the process of establishing regular meetings on the subject via a monitoring subgroup within the Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group.

### NETWORK

#### Capacity building

T-018 (KSR 3)

**Increased number of collaborations:** 5

**Result description:** We continued building links with relevant organisations throughout the year, including Butterfly Conservation, Butterfly Conservation Europe, Vlinderstichting (Netherlands), the Living Planet Index team at ZSL, and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK) through development of a proposal to expand the Living Planet Index method to include butterflies. We also held an initial two-hour butterfly monitoring meeting in October, with speakers from Vlinderstichting and ZSL, to introduce the project and link in new, important partners such as eButterfly. We are now in the process of establishing regular meetings on the subject via a monitoring subgroup within the Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group.

#### Membership

T-002 (KSR 2)

**Number of SSC members recruited:** 16

**Result description:** In 2021, the group welcomed 16 new members from 13 countries. The group now has a membership across 24 countries.

T-005 (KSR 2)

**Number of regional subgroups established:** 0

**Result description:** We are in the process of establishing a regional subgroup focusing on the Himalayan region, but this has not yet been formalised.

### COMMUNICATE

#### Communication

T-013 (KSR 12)

**Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced:** 4

**Result description:** This year, we initiated a newsletter for the group and produced four issues throughout the year. These are linked via the group's SSC Directory page.

#### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) for their continued support of the Global Swallowtail Assessment. We are grateful to Albuquerque BioPark for driving various assessment processes for North American butterflies and moths. We continue to work closely with ZSL, Butterfly Conservation, Butterfly Conservation Europe, De Vlinderstichting, and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to develop a global butterfly indicator and collate butterfly and moth monitoring data.

#### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 17

**Geographic regions:** 15 Global, 2 America, 2 Asia, 1 Europe

#### Actions during 2021:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 3 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

