

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group



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**RED LIST AUTHORITY
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
130

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Facebook: IUCN SSC Grasshopper
Specialist Group
Website: [iucn.org/ssc-groups/
invertebrates/grasshopper](http://iucn.org/ssc-groups/invertebrates/grasshopper)

Mission statement

The mission of our group is to foster the conservation of orthopteroid insects (grasshoppers, katydids, crickets, mantids, stick insects) and their habitats around the world. We assess their conservation status, raise awareness and engage in practical conservation of this amazing and highly diverse group of insects.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Improving the status of threatened Orthoptera by implementing conservation action based upon sound knowledge, Red List assessments and conservation planning.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

- T-002 Complete Red List assessments of 200 Tanzanian Orthoptera species.
- T-003 Complete Red List assessments of 80 Mediterranean mantises.
- T-004 Complete Red List assessments of Razor-backed Bush-hoppers (Xyronotidae).
- T-005 Complete Red List assessments of Tanoceridae grasshoppers.
- T-006 Complete Red List assessments of 100 Malagasy grasshoppers.

T-007 Complete Sampled Red List Index for Orthoptera.

T-008 Develop monitoring standards for Orthoptera in Europe.

T-009 Complete Red List assessments of Socotran endemic Orthoptera.

T-010 Complete Red List assessments of Dichoroplina grasshoppers from South America.

T-011 Complete Red List assessments of grasshoppers from the Western Ghats (India).

T-016 Complete Red List assessments of Orthoptera species from Pakistan.

T-017 Complete Red List assessments of North American mantises.

T-019 Complete Red List assessments of Anatolian Saga species.

T-020 Examine the effects of land use changes in dry karst regions on threatened Orthoptera.

T-021 Examine the effects of wildfires on the Madeiran Green Bush-cricket (*Psalmatophanes barretoii*).

T-022 Examine the effects of wildfires on Australian Orthoptera.

T-023 Complete Red List assessments of Cameroon endemic Orthoptera species.

T-030 Complete Red List assessments of Vietnamese Mantodea.

PLAN

T-018 Develop a conservation strategy for Bei-Bienko's Plump Bush-cricket (*Isophya beybienkoi*) in Slovakia.

T-025 Update the conservation strategy for Crau Plain Grasshopper (*Prionotropis rhodanica*).

ACT

T-012 Implement the conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) in Italy.

T-013 Implement the conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) in Slovenia.

T-014 Conduct population monitoring for the Atlantic Beach-cricket (*Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*) in the British Isles.

T-024 Implement guidelines for the protection of the Giant-cricket (*Brachytrupes megacephalus*)

T-026 Implement the conservation strategy for Crau Plain Grasshopper (*Prionotropis rhodanica*).

T-027 Translocate the Common Field-cricket (*Gryllus campestris*) in Cologne.

T-028 Develop and implement habitat management for the Common Saw Bush-cricket (*Barbitistes serricauda*).

T-032 Implement the conservation strategy for the Cika Mountain Grasshopper (*Peripodisma ceraunii*).



The Speckled Buzzing Grasshopper (*Bryodemella tuberculata*) is listed as Vulnerable on the European Red List
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

NETWORK

T-001 Organise the Third European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation.

T-033 Hold virtual meetings of the Grasshopper Specialist Group.

T-034 Expand the membership of the group by adding more phasmid experts.

T-036 Organise a symposium on *Prionotropis* conservation.

COMMUNICATE

T-015 Organise a performance of the Locust Opera at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

T-029 Publish the next volume of the *Newshopper*.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-003 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: As it was difficult to obtain data on mantises from North Africa, the mantis experts in the Grasshopper Specialist Group decided to move their activities to North American and Vietnamese mantises.

T-004 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Ricardo Mariño-Pérez has successfully raised funds to assess all Xyronotidae species.

T-005 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Ricardo Mariño-Pérez has successfully raised funds to assess all Tanoceridae species.

T-007 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 20

Result description: Twenty new global Red List assessments have been completed.

T-010 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 26

Result description: A total of 26 Red List assessments of South American Dichoroplinae have been completed. The remaining species will be assessed in the coming years.

T-011 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: Field work has been carried out by Dhaneesh Bhaskar to obtain the necessary data for Red List assessments.

T-016 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: A list of 28 species for inclusion in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) has been compiled by Ahmed Ali Samejo and sent to the Red List Unit in October 2021.

Research activities

T-021 (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 0

Result description: Howon Rhee has conducted some intensive field surveys to assess the impact of wildfires on the Madeiran Green Bush-cricket (*P. barretoii*). The first data are currently being analysed and will hopefully be published in 2022.

T-022 (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region: 1

Result description: Kate Umbers has helped to assess the Red List status of several endemic Orthoptera species from Australia to assess the effects of the large wildfires in 2019–2020.



Cika Mountain Grasshopper
(*Peripodisma ceraunii*), male
Photo: Michèle Lemonnier-Darcemont

T-023 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 1

Result description: A Red List assessment for *Gemeneta opilionides* has been drafted and will be completed in 2022.

PLAN

Planning

T-018 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Our European Regional Vice-Chair, Soňa Nuhlíčková, has successfully raised funding from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund to develop the conservation strategy.

T-025 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 0

Result description: The revision of the strategy has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our member Lisbeth Zechner was able to secure LIFE funding for the project, so that an updated strategy will be completed during the next 1–2 years (depending on COVID-19).

ACT

Conservation actions

T-012 (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 1

Result description: A translocation of Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) to an unoccupied habitat was conducted in 2021.

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 1

Result description: As a result of the implementation of the conservation action plan, Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) benefits from in situ conservation action.

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 1

Result description: Conservation management in the Isonzo delta has been adapted to benefit the species.

T-013 (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 1

Result description: A translocation of Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) to a suitable habitat was carried out in 2021.

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 1

Result description: The implementation of the conservation action plan for Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) has led to improved habitat management in the Ljubljana marshes.

T-014 (KSR 10)

Number of monitoring years: 1

Result description: Monitoring of the Atlantic Beach-cricket (*P. vicentae*) has started on the British Isles. This revealed that while the population is still present at Marloes Sands (and a small population at Dale), loss of suitable habitat has continued at Marloes Sands, contracting the population to a very small area of the beach. The site in Branscombe, Devon was surveyed by Karim Vahed in August 2021 using baited pitfall traps. The numbers trapped were lower than previous years, but individuals were still present across the site. The site at Chesil Beach requires another survey. A new population between the Branscombe (Devon) site and the Chesil Beach (Dorset) site was discovered by Clive Huggins in summer 2021.

T-026 (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 0

Result description: A translocation strategy for Crau Plain Grasshopper (*Prionotropis rhodanica*) will be compiled during the coming years. LIFE funding has been secured for the implementation.

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 1

Result description: The conservation management, particularly fencing the Peau de Meau population of the Crau Plain Grasshopper, has led to a population increase on the site.

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 1

Result description: The Crau Plain Grasshopper benefits from conservation action in the Crau, including a captive breeding project and adaptive conservation management.

T-027 (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 1

Result description: The Common Field-cricket was translocated to Cologne in summer 2021. During the coming years we will monitor the success of the translocation.

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 1

Result description: The translocation of the Common Field-cricket to Cologne has led to an increase in range size by crossing the Rhine River.

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 1

Result description: The conservation management of the release site has been adapted to benefit the translocated Common Field-cricket population in Cologne.

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 1

Result description: The release area in Cologne is now under enhanced conservation management, securing the survival of the translocated population.

T-028 (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 1

Result description: In 2021, a project for the protection of the Common Saw Bush-cricket (*Barbitistes serricauda*) was started in Germany. Data on its distribution was collected, showing a decrease of ca. 20% of occupied sites since the 1990s. A Zoom meeting with stakeholders was conducted in October 2021 to plan the next steps of this project. More information (in German) is found here: <https://www.uni-trier.de/uni-versitaet/fachbereiche-faecher/fachbereich-vi/faecher/biogeographie/elsa>

T-032 (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 1

Result description: During a stakeholder workshop in May 2021, a conservation strategy for Cika Mountain Grasshopper (*Peripodisma ceraunii*) was compiled. Data on abundance of populations has been collected and contacts with herders and protected area managers will help to improve conservation management in the area.

Number of areas under management for the species or group of species: 1

Result description: More information about the Cika Mountain Grasshopper project can be found here: <https://www.speciesconservation.org/case-studies-projects/cika-mountain-grasshopper/23517>.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-033 (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in other fields: 2

Result description: The Grasshopper Specialist Group had two virtual meetings in 2021 (25 February and 19 April).

Membership

T-001 (KSR 2)

Congress completed: qualitative result

Result description: The congress was initially planned for 2020 but was postponed twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now scheduled for April 2022.

T-034 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 16

Result description: In 2021, 16 Phasmid experts became members of the IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group.

T-036 (KSR 3)

Number of symposium attendees: 50

Result description: An international symposium on the conservation of stone grasshoppers (genus *Prionotropis*) was held by Zoom on 3 December 2021. An important outcome of the meeting was the conclusion that all species of the genus face very similar threats that are largely affected by changes in land use (particularly abandonment, but also overgrazing). We plan to instigate an international conservation project for *Prionotropis* species.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-029 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: Publication of our next newsletter is planned for 2022.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 34

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 3 Africa, 5 Asia, 4 America, 15 Europe, 1 Oceania

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 10 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 16 (KSR 10)

Network: 4 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

