

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Mid-Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
55

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Website: <https://www.maiisg.com>

Mission statement

To increase the evidence and action for invertebrate conservation on the islands of: Gough, Tristan, St Helena, Ascension, Cabo Verde, Canaries, Madeira, Azores, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased awareness of the Mid-Atlantic Islands endemic invertebrate importance and threat status, plus progress on species recovery, through increased research and recording, new and updated Red List assessments, evidence-based planning exercises, and targeted and coordinated conservation action.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-004 Assess 20 endemics for Ascension Island.

T-008 In Tristan and Gough, compile historic records of invertebrates and conduct conservation needs assessment.

T-011 Carry out ongoing monitoring of *Pieris cheiranthi* and other endemic butterflies in the Canary Islands.

T-013 Assess existing knowledge of invertebrates on Cabo Verde.

T-014 Reassess *Archachatina bicarinata*.

T-015 Reassess six Canary Islands land snails.

T-025 Reassess 111 endemic land mollusc species from Madeira archipelago.

T-028 Search for ghost endemic land mollusc species from Madeira Island.

T-032 Conduct citizen science project directed toward Endangered Madeiran land mollusc species.

T-037 On São Tomé and Príncipe, list the land snails *Aporachis dohrnii*, *Rhysotina hepatizon*, *Pseudoveronicella forcarti* and *Columna columna*.

PLAN

T-002 Update the St Helena Spiky Yellow Woodlouse (*Pseudolaureola atlantica*) Plan.

T-016 Complete conservation planning for seven threatened Canary land snails: *Xerotracha garachicoensis*, *Plutonia reticulata*, *Napaeus teobaldoi*, *Hemicycla mascaensis*, *Hemicycla plicaria*, *Atlantica engonata* and *Hemicycla modesta*.

T-019 Elaborate a species management and conservation plan directed toward Critically Endangered Desertas land mollusc species.

T-020 Update the St Helena Invertebrate Strategy.

T-022 Complete the St Helena invertebrate guide.

T-026 Carry out conservation planning for the Endangered land mollusc *Geomitra moniziana*.

T-031 Complete the Desertas land snails guide.

ACT

T-001 Initiate the Ascension project on endemic invertebrate conservation.

T-009 Establish a conservation project for the Madeiran threatened butterflies Madeiran Brimstone (*Gonepteryx maderensis*), Madeiran Speckled Wood (*Pararge xiphia*) and Madeiran Large White (*Pieris wollastoni*).

T-010 Establish a conservation project for *Pieris cheiranthi* on the Canary Islands.

T-012 Implement the plan for *Archachatina bicarinata* on São Tomé and Príncipe; increase understanding of ecology, population, genetics and threats; support legal



Pisaura acoreensis
Photo: Paulo A. V. Borges

mechanisms to address threats and ensure protection; and implement environmental awareness and public involvement strategies.

T-017 Rescue two Critically Endangered land mollusc species from Desertas from the wild to prevent their extinction.

T-018 Implement a captive breeding programme to prevent the extinction of the Desertas Critically Endangered land mollusc species.

T-021 Reduce the impact of invasive invertebrates on endemic invertebrates on St Helena.

T-024 Implement a captive breeding programme targeting the Endangered Madeiran land snail *Geomitra moniziana*.

T-027 Translocate two Critically Endangered land mollusc species to prevent their extinction.

T-034 Implement monitoring, a management plan and action for the Ironclad Beetle (*Tarphius floresensis*) on Flores Island (Azores) within project LIFE-Beetles.

T-035 Implement monitoring and a management plan for the Laurocho (*Pseudanchomenus aptinoides*) from Pico Island (Azores) within project LIFE-Beetles.

T-036 Implement monitoring and a management plan for *Trechus terrabravensis* from Terceira Island (Azores) within project LIFE-Beetles.

T-038 On São Tomé and Príncipe, carry out endemic invertebrate species conservation projects focused on beetles, butterflies, aquatic invertebrates and snails.

T-039 On the Canary Islands, implement conservation actions and raise awareness for *Pieris cheiranthi*.

T-040 On Santa Maria in the Azores, initiate an endemic land snail project (LIFE-Snails).

T-041 On the Canary Island, initiate planning and project actions on top priority endemic pollinator species.

network

T-023 Increase partnerships with potential funders.

T-029 Organise yearly Red List Training webinars.

communicate

T-030 Disseminate the group newsletter.

T-033 Organise a public awareness campaign addressing the Endangered Madeiran land mollusc species.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-004 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: A project has been initiated to start collecting some data to facilitate this work in future years; no listing has started yet. We also aim to secure funding for the endemic genus of scaly cricket to facilitate their listing.

T-014 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The reassessment of *Archachatina bicarinata* is drafted and just needs reviewing.

T-015 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: Field work to support the reassessment of and planning for six Canary Islands land snails is due in early 2022.

T-025 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Trigoniophthalmus borgesii
Photo: Javier Torrent- Azorean Biodiversity Group



Result description: Reassessment of endemic land molluscs species from Madeira archipelago started with EU funding and is being led by Dinarte with a number of other Mid-Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group (MAISG) members.

Research activities

T-011 (KSR 5)

Number of publications produced in internal journals of SSC groups: 2

Result description: Monitoring of *Pieris cheiranthi* and other endemic butterflies in the Canary Islands continues to be carried out by the ZERYNTHIA association; Yeray Monasterio León, its director, is a member of MAISG. This is also supported by a new Canarian Pollinator Plan. Two publications: (1) Costa, R. & Borges, P.A.V. 2021. SLAM Project - Long term ecological study of the impacts of climate change in the natural forest of Azores: I - the spiders from native forests of Terceira and Pico Islands (2012-2019). *Biodiversity Data Journal* 9: e69924. DOI:10.3897/BDJ.9.e69924; (2) Borges, P.A.V., et al. 2022. SLAM Project - Long Term Ecological Study of the Impacts of Climate Change in the Natural Forest of Azores: II - A survey of exotic arthropods in disturbed forest habitats. *Biodiversity Data Journal* 10: e81410. HYPERLINK "<https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.10.e81410>" DOI:10.3897/BDJ.10.e81410

Synergy

T-028 (KSR 6)

Number of new range states engaged in determining species distribution range coverage: 0

Result description: Searching for ghost endemic land molluscs species from Madeira Island started on 1 October 2021. Since then, eight molluscs experts have conducted more than 20 direct surveys within coastal and forest habitats, having



Invasive invertebrate control fieldwork on St Helena to reduce impacts on endemic invertebrates
Photo: St Helena National Trust

identified more than 100 species so far. However, no record has been made so far regarding the nine target species. The public awareness programme is already in place, with regular visits to schools. The species illustrations to be used in the giveaway products are completed. The project website is under construction, as well as the citizen science side project.

PLAN

Planning

T-002 (KSR 8)

Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 1

Result description: The St Helena Spiky Yellow (*Pseudolaureola atlantica*) Plan has been updated; it needs to be made available online and a link will be added when ready.

T-016 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The field work to enable conservation planning for seven threatened Canary Island snails is due to take place and funds for it are being secured.

T-019 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Field work to support species management and a conservation plan for Critically Endangered Desertas land mollusc species has taken place, along with meetings to start a discussion on the process.

T-020 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies updated: 0

Result description: A workshop to update the St Helena Invertebrate Strategy took place and the draft plan is now being prepared for comments.

T-022 (KSR 8)

Number of technical documents to support the development of conservation plans/strategies: 1

Result description: The St Helena invertebrate guide is completed and available to purchase here: <https://www.nhbs.com/terrestrial-freshwater-invertebrates-of-st-helena-book>. Most importantly, free copies are on the island and being used to support research and conservation work.

ACT

Conservation actions

T-001 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 0

Result description: Funding is secured and an officer recruited for the Ascension project on endemic invertebrate conservation; surveys are currently being planned.

T-009 (KSR 10)

Number of species with increased or prevented decrease in population or range size, as a result of conservation actions: 0

Result description: European BEST Initiative funding is secured, and the project is being implemented by Martin Wiemers and Sérgio Teixeira.

T-010 (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 0

Result description: *Pieris cheiranthi* is now covered in the Canarian Pollinator Plan, which will help to drive and steer its conservation.

T-012 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: Implementation of the plan for *Archachatina bicarinata* on São Tomé and Príncipe is underway, with funding from Mossy Earth.

T-017 (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 2

Result description: *Discula lyelliana* and *Geomitra grabhami* have both been successfully bred in UK zoos.

T-018 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 2

Result description: *Discula lyelliana* and *Geomitra grabhami* have both been successfully bred in UK zoos.

T-021 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: Trials of control of *Pheidola megacephala* are currently underway and trials of *Vespula vulgare* are planned.

T-027 (KSR 10)

Number of conservation translocations conducted: 2

Result description: Translocation was achieved for two species, *Discula lyelliana* and *Geomitra grabhami*, now with two ex situ populations in Chester and Bristol Zoo.

T-034 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: Monitoring, a management plan and action for the Ironclad Beetle (*Tarphius florensensis*) on Flores Island is being covered by the EU LIFE Beetles project.

T-035 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: Monitoring and a management plan for Laurocho (*Pseudanchomenus aptinoides*) from Pico Island is being covered by the EU LIFE Beetles project.

T-036 (KSR 10)

Number of actions addressing major drivers/emerging threats of species or population loss: 1

Result description: Field work has taken place to monitor *Trechus terrabravensis* and its habitat.

T-039 (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 0

Result description: The Canarian Pollinator Plan has made a start on conservation actions and awareness for *Pieris cheiranthi*.

T-040 (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 0

Result description: EU LIFE funding was secured to initiate an endemic land snail project on Santa Maria in the Azores; the project is getting started.

T-041 (KSR 10)

Number of threatened species benefiting from in situ conservation action: 0

Result description: The Canarian Pollinator Plan has started actions on top priority endemic pollinator species, but it is limited to pollinators.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-023 (KSR 12)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 1

Result description: The relationship built with Mossy Earth has resulted in funding for Obo snail conservation on São Tomé and Príncipe.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-030 (KSR 12)

Number of newsletters produced: 3

Result description: Three newsletters were circulated to the membership in April, September and December 2021.

Acknowledgements

The Mid-Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group would like to thank all its members and partners for their hard work and endless enthusiasm in 2021 and look forward to future work in 2022.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 37

Geographic regions: 12 Africa, 26 Europe

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 6 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 5 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 14 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 1)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

