

IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
99

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE
Twitter: @SSC_Mollusc_sg

Mission statement

To provide information to IUCN on mollusc biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Not stated.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

- T-001 Conduct Red List assessment of assorted groups of land snails.
- T-002 Conduct regional reassessments of Red List of European land snails.
- T-003 Conduct regional reassessments of Red List of European freshwater molluscs.

- T-005 Complete reassessment of the freshwater mollusc Sampled Red List Index (SRLI).
- T-006 Complete global Cephalopod and Abalone assessments.
- T-007 Reassess *Conus* for the Red List.
- T-008 Produce summary reports of global assessment processes (e.g. abalone, cephalopods, hydrothermal vents).
- T-009 Improve Red Listing for marine molluscs: publish hydrothermal vent assessment method.
- T-012 Support the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) identification process in Canada.
- T-015 Engage in the development of novel methods for mollusc monitoring.
- T-016 Study and conduct long-term monitoring of freshwater bivalves in Morocco.
- T-017 Carry out surveys for threatened species to support species conservation planning.

T-020 Assess Range Restricted Spring Snail species in Morocco.

ACT

- T-013 Reintroduce *Partula* in French Polynesia.
- T-014 Reintroduce Bermuda landsnails.

NETWORK

T-019 Continue active engagement in relevant SSC Conservation Committees (Invertebrate, Marine and Freshwater).

COMMUNICATE

- T-010 Publish the annual Mollusc Specialist Group newsletter, *Tentacle*.
- T-011 Present regularly on Specialist Group work at relevant conferences on mollusc conservation.
- T-018 Support Freshwater Conservation Committee communications highlighting freshwater species at risk and threats to freshwater systems.

Hanleyella henrici, assessed in 2020 for the Vent Red List published in 2021
Photo: Julia Sigwart & CHong Chen



Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-002 (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: The main work to date involves adding newly described species of European land snails from 2009 to 2021 in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) ready for the planned start to reassessments in 2022 and updating the higher taxonomy and current taxonomy to reflect changes since 2009.

T-003 (KSR 6)

Number of national Red List reassessments published: 0

Result description: The main work to date involves adding newly described species of European freshwater molluscs from 2009 to 2021 in SIS ready for the planned start to reassessments in 2022 and updating the higher taxonomy and current taxonomy to reflect changes since 2009.

Research activities

T-008 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: The results of the Vent Red List project were published in December: Thomas, E.A., et al. (2021). 'A Global Red List for Hydrothermal Vent Molluscs'. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 8:713022. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.713022>. This showed that of the 184 species assessed, 62% are listed as threatened (39 as Critically Endangered, 32 Endangered, 43 Vulnerable). In contrast, the 25 species that are fully protected from deep-sea mining by local conservation measures are assessed as Least Concern, and a further 45 species are listed as Near Threatened.

T-009 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: We published the method for assessing hydrothermal vent molluscs (how to assess threat, define location, etc.), led by researchers at Queen's University Belfast and Senckenberg, in *Conservation Biology* in October: Thomas, E.A., et al. (2022). 'Assessing the extinction risk of insular, understudied marine species'. *Conservation Biology* 36:e13854. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13854>.

NETWORK

Synergy

T-019 (KSR 3)

Number of people trained in conservation planning: ongoing

Result description: The Mollusc Specialist Group has representation on both the Invertebrate Conservation Committee and Freshwater Conservation Committee. In 2021, the group particularly engaged with the Freshwater Conservation Committee on their report to highlight fifty threatened freshwater species (to be released in 2022), by contributing species nominations for inclusion as well as engaging imagery and species information.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-010 (KSR 12)

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

Result description: The 2021 edition of *Tentacle* (issue 29) was published in March 2021, leading with a tribute to the late Dr Trevor Coote.

T-018 (KSR 12)

Contribute to and disseminate communications from Freshwater Conservation Committee's Species at risk report (in partnership with Shoal) within and outside SSC: ongoing

Result description: In October/November 2021, the Mollusc Specialist Group membership contributed more than 20 species nominations to the mix of species considered for the report. The group is now working with the Freshwater Conservation Committee and Shoal on species profiles for the five selected species that will be featured in the report.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 19

Geographic regions: 13 Global, 2 Africa, 2 America, 2 Europe

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 4 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 3)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

