

IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group

2016-2017 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, La Plata, Argentina

Number of members

25

Social networks

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/xenarthrans



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.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Bolster work at national scales

■ Red List

i. Our Red List Authority (RLA) facilitated an assessment workshop for the Red List of Mammals of Paraguay. (KSR #2)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. Red List training to members of the new IUCN SSC Colombian Plant Specialist Group. (KSR #5)

■ Red List

i. We facilitated a regional workshop to assess the extinction risk of wild relatives of crop species. We hope to continue supporting the Red List Unit and other Specialist Groups in their assessments for the IUCN Red List. (KSR #2)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Publication of two yearly issues of *Edentata*, the newsletter and journal of our SG. (KSR #28)

ii. Public awareness raising for xenarthrans and the challenges presented to their conservation through our Facebook page and our website. (KSR #28)

iii. Scientific and technical advice to researchers, students, governments, journalists and other interested groups. (KSR #43)

■ Scientific meetings

i. Presentation of work conducted by our group (especially *ex situ* conservation strategies) at the joint TAG Chairs meeting and the AZA mid-year meeting. (KSR #28)

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. We supported the process of establishing the State Park Canyon do Poti, Brazil, that will provide effective protection to the Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*). (KSR #27)

ii. Ecological assessments of the sloth population on Escudo have shown that Pygmy Sloths (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) have a very restricted home range that includes both mangrove and forest habitats. Field research has been complemented with outreach and engagement events. (KSR #27)

Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

i. We have increased the number of members by including experts from range countries that had previously not been represented; however, there is no research or conservation work on Xenarthra being carried out in several range countries.

Policy

■ Technical advice

i. We provided training courses about armadillos to the environmental authorities of Chile. (KSR #27)



Bradypus pygmaeus, Critically Endangered
Photo: Bryson Voirin

Acknowledgements

We thank Austin Zoo for their generous financial support.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

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 IUCN Red List; (4) support assessment of mammals of Argentina.

Research activities: collection of scientific data about Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo and Pygmy Sloth.

Capacity building

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

Communications

Communication: (1) four issues of SG newsletter published; (2) increase awareness.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) effective protection of priority species (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*); (2) participatory management plan and increased protection for priority species (*Bradypus pygmaeus*).

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

Synergy: partnership with zoological institutions.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we envision that we will have reached increased protection for our priority species, the Critically Endangered Pygmy Sloth and the Vulnerable Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo. We aim at reaching this goal by increasing the 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 the knowledge about our species and their conservation problems among the general public.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 6/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Capacity building (2 activities)
- Communications (4 activities)
- Conservation action (2 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)
- Policy (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 5, 27, 28, 43

KSR: Key Species Result