

IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group

2018 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:

IUCN/SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group

Website:

www.xenarthrans.org



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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision the Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group (ASASG) will have achieved increased protection for our priority species, the Critically Endangered Pygmy Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) and the Vulnerable Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*). We aim to reach this goal by increasing 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 knowledge about our species and their conservation problems among the general public.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

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

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

Plan

Planning: effective protection for the Brazilian

Three-banded Armadillo and the Pygmy Three-toed Sloth.

Act

Conservation actions: effective protection for the Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo and the Pygmy Three-toed Sloth.

Network

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

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

Synergy: enter into partnership with zoological institutions.

Communicate

Communication: (1) four issues of the ASASG Newsletter published; (2) increase awareness.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

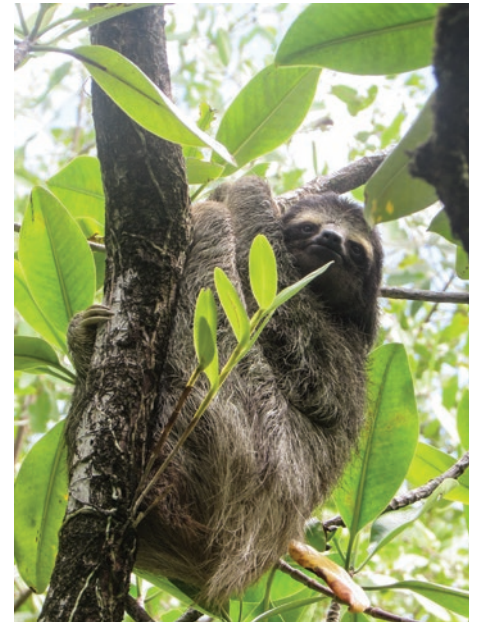
Red List

i. We have started compiling the information and will conclude the assessment in 2019. (KSR #1)

ii. Specialist Group members (especially the Chair and RLA) have trained researchers in the use of IUCN methodology for Red List assessments and participated in several assessment workshops for other taxa: (1) We provided Red List training to Argentinean botanists for the Argentinean Red List of native plants (2 workshops); to Peruvian researchers for the national Red List of the vertebrate and invertebrate fauna of Peru (2 workshops); and to Honduran botanists for the global assessment of wild crop relatives. (2) We facilitated the assessment workshop on the extinction risk of plants of the tropical Andes. We will continue providing training and facilitating assessments in 2019 and 2020. (KSR #1)



Silky anteater (*Cyclopes didactylus*)
Photo: Karina Theodoro Molina, Instituto Tamandua



Pygmy sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*)
Photo: Diorene Smith

iii. We have collaborated with the Argentinean Mammalogy Society and the national wildlife authorities in the re-assessment process of all mammals of Argentina using the regional Red List guidelines. All 408 mammals of Argentina have been assessed, and we are now in the process of reviewing the assessments. (KSR #2)

Research activities

i. The conservation programme for Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*), which is supported by our Specialist Group and whose scientific coordinator is our member Flávia Miranda, has identified the area of distribution and the main threats to the species. (KSR #12)

ii. Our member Diorene Smith, in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London, has equipped 10 Pygmy Three-toed Sloths (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) with radio transmitters to collect information about their home range, habitat preference, activity, and behaviour in different habitat types. (KSR #12)

Plan

Planning

i. A workshop was held with 40 members of the Kusapin community in Panama, to promote the development of sustainable activities. Field studies have revealed that human impacts on Pygmy Three-toed Sloth habitat, such as deforestation, still persist in spite of education and awareness activities. A new and significant cause of concern is the promotion of Escudo de Veraguas, the only island inhabited by the species, as a new tourist destination. In combination with the scarce presence of the environmental authorities, the massive tourism activities on this tiny island severely threaten the Pygmy Three-toed Sloth's habitat. The local authorities have been informed about this problem, and solutions are being sought. (KSR #18)

Act

Conservation actions

i. The Action Plan for *T. tricinctus* has been implemented very successfully. The conservation programme for *T. tricinctus* initiated an *ex situ* conservation project in collaboration with Brasilia Zoo. In addition, an expedition allowed definition of the area of a future national park that will provide effective protection to the species. (KSR #27)

Network

Capacity building

i. We participated in a special course on medicine and conservation of Xenarthra, organised in Brazil by Grupo de Estudos em Animais Selvagens do Brasil and the Tamandua Institute. This event had over 100 registered participants and 20 collaborators.

ii. In 2018, we held two workshops to train Argentinean mammalogists in Red List assessments and to clarify doubts as well as discuss problems that arose during the assessment process. Overall, 50 mammalogists participated in these workshops. (KSR #5)

Synergy

i. We have contacted several institutions, but haven't been able to find any that would be interested in a partnership with our Specialist Group. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

i. In December 2018, we published volume 19 of *Edentata*, which included nine articles related to the conservation of Xenarthra. (KSR #28)

ii. The "Year of the Anteater" campaign, initiated in April 2018 by the Association of Zoos and Aquaria of Brazil and the Instituto Tamandua and supported by the ASASG, aims to raise awareness for anteater conservation. To date, more than 40 institutions (zoos, aquaria, and educational insti-

tutions) from Brazil and other parts of the world have carried out environmental education activities to disseminate knowledge about anteaters, raise awareness, and promote their conservation. More than 50,000 people from all age groups and a variety of social, cultural, and economic levels have been reached. The initiative ends in May 2019, after which a final report will be issued that will include a description of activities and the number of individuals reached. (KSR #28)

iii. We are increasing awareness through different strategies: (1) by providing information on Xenarthra through our website, www.xenarthrans.org, and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/xenarthrans; (2) by providing advice to researchers, students, and schoolchildren; (3) by giving talks and interviews to different media, and participating in documentaries; (4) by contributing chapters on Xenarthra to the Handbook of the Mammals of the World. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Animal Educators Inc. and Nurtured by Nature for supporting the Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo conservation programme both financially and by contributing their vast knowledge. We also thank Ryan Felton for his financial support, which allowed us to publish this year's issue of *Edentata*.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	5	
Plan	1	
Act	1	
Network	3	
Communicate	3	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 5, 12, 18, 27, 28, 29

KSR: Key Species Result