

IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group

2019 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

26

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 about Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*) and Pygmy Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*).

Plan

Planning: plan for protection of Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo and Pygmy Three-toed Sloth.

Act

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

Network

Capacity building: (1) teach five training courses; (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) publish four issues of the ASASG Newsletter; (2) increase awareness through campaigns at zoos and other institutions; (3) increase awareness for Xenarthra.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. We have postponed the assessments of seven silky anteater species and all Xenarthra species until we can organise assessment workshops with our Specialist Group members. We are currently looking for funding to hold the workshops. (KSR #1)

ii. ASASG members (specifically, the Chair and RLA) have trained researchers in the use of IUCN methodology for Red List Assessments and participated in assessment workshops for other taxa: (1) we have provided Red

Northern tamandua (*Tamandua mexicana*)
Photo: Fernando Faciole



Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo (*Tolypeutes tricinctus*)
Photo: Mariella Superina



List training to researchers in Peru, Honduras, and Argentina; (2) we have facilitated national assessment workshops on the extinction risk of Brazilian snakes and Argentinean plants; (3) we have provided advice to the environmental authorities of Peru and Argentina regarding their national Red List assessments. We will continue providing training and facilitating assessments in 2020. (KSR #1)

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. The national Red List of Mammals is available at <http://cma.sarem.org.ar/>. (KSR #2)

Research activities

i. The first stage of the Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo Conservation Program, which is supported by our Specialist Group and whose scientific coordinator is our member Flávia Miranda, concluded in 2019. Over 30 expeditions were made to document the area of occurrence of the species and to interview local communities about the species; two scientific expeditions allowed the collection of biological data on this rare species. (KSR #12)

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

Plan

Planning

i. Diorene and her team have been working towards an effective management plan through strengthening of local networks and actively involving the communities that use the island Escudo de Veraguas. They also delivered a training course on biodiversity conservation to members of the local Ngäbe community, local NGOs, government agencies and university students to continue building key capacity. (KSR #18)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Six of the 38 actions included in the Action Plan were addressed over the past four years within the framework of the Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo Conservation Program. The declaration of the Poti River Canyon State Park in Piauí State provides effective protection to this threatened species. (KSR #27)

Network

Capacity building

i. The planned courses were cancelled or postponed due to a lack of funding.

Synergy

i. We have started discussing the possibilities of a partnership between an institution and our Specialist Group. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

i. In December 2019 we published volume 20 of *Edentata*, which included seven articles related to the conservation of Xenarthra. (KSR #28)

ii. The ‘Year of the Anteater’ campaign, a joint initiative of Association of Zoos and Aquaria of Brazil and Instituto Tamandúa, and supported

by the ASASG, aimed at raising awareness for anteater conservation. It was initiated in April 2018 and ended in May 2019. More than 40 institutions (zoos, aquaria, and educational institutions) 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. (KSR #28)

iii. We have been increasing awareness for Xenarthra through different strategies: (1) by providing information on Xenarthra through our newly designed 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. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Animal Educators Inc. and Nurtured by Nature for their support. We also thank the IUCN SSC for the financial support that allowed us to redesign our website and publish this year’s issue of *Edentata*.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	5	
Plan	1	
Act	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	3	

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