IUCN SSC Butterfly Specialist Group



2019 Report



Monika Bohm

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

Monika Bohm

Location/Affiliation

Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, London, UK

Number of members

29

Social networks

Twitter: @IUCNButterflySG



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Butterfly Specialist Group is to increase knowledge on the taxonomy, ecology and conservation status of butterflies and moths around the world and promote their long-term conservation.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, the group will be re-established with an active membership driving forward the assessment of species' conservation status. By the end of 2020, the group will have completed its first major assessment project by publishing the findings of a status assessment of the world's swallowtails. The group will have also re-established its presence on social communication platforms, built a membership throughout the world's regions and pinpointed additional projects for the next quadrennium.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Green List: complete assessment of 1–2 species of butterfly for the IUCN Green List testing process.

Proposal development and funding: establish a collaboration with Butterfly Conservation to inventory butterfly monitoring schemes and available data worldwide (time series of abundance data and presence/absence data, to help us assess data gaps, capacity needs and build a Living Planet Index for butterflies). The first target is to secure funding for this.

Red List: (1) complete assessment of ~550 species of swallowtail butterfly (comprehensive assessment); (2) assessment of 29 species of North American prairie butterfly, led by Minnesota Zoo; (3) implement assessment of 400 South Asian endemic butterflies, in conjunction with the South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group.

Network

Capacity building: carry out capacity building for Red Listing within the group via targeted Skype or online sessions/have members sign up for the online Red List training course.

Membership: build a global network of members, covering at least 20% of Lepidoptera range countries.



Graphium eurypylus and G. sarpedon (Papilionidae), Least Concern Photo: Shawan Chowdhury



Parides gundlachianus (Papilionidae), Near Threatened Photo: Rayner Núñez



Apollo butterfly, *Parnassius apollo*, Vulnerable Photo: Philip Lo

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Proposal development and funding

i. Funding proposal completed for inventory of butterfly monitoring schemes and available data worldwide.

Red List

- i. By 2019, we have published 117 species of swallowtail on the IUCN Red List, with another 37 due to be published on the IUCN Red List in 2020. Another 171 species have been drafted and are in final review stages. (KSR #1)
- **ii.** By 2019, two species assessments of South Asian endemic butterflies were published and another 11 drafted. However, the activity got delayed due to staff changes at Minnesota Zoo. (KSR #1, 2)

Network

Membership

i. So far, we have expanded to 28 members, representing 19 countries.

Acknowledgements

We want to thank The IUCN-Toyota Red List Partnership for supporting the assessment of swallowtails.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess 3

Network **1** Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2

KSR: Key Species Result