

IUCN SSC Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group

2020 Report



Diana Fisher



John Woinarski

Co-Chairs

Diana Fisher (1)
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Location/Affiliation

(1) School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
(2) Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia
(3) School of Zoology, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Number of members

54

Social networks

Twitter:
@OzMMSSG

Mission statement

To enhance the long-term conservation outlook for the marsupials and monotremes of Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Major focal areas in the 2017–20 period will be on increasing conservation efforts for marsupials and monotremes in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia; increasing the representation of stakeholders in those countries; completing conservation status assessments in all areas for the minority of species not covered by recent assessments; and seeking to catalyse research on Data Deficient species. Following the devastating wildfires in eastern and southern Australia in 2019–20, the group will also help progress recovery of fire-affected species and contribute to any consequent re-assessment of conservation status.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete conservation status assessment for all taxa not assessed within last 10 years; (2) undertake new assessments for the species most affected by the catastrophic 2019–20 Australian wildfires.

Network

Membership: enhance or expand group membership, including establishing annual or biennial meetings of SSC members.

Synergy: (1) hold face-to-face and remote meetings with members and other interested individuals; (2) review and re-establish internal structure, (3) establish an inclusive mailing list for members.

Communicate

Communication: enhance the communication within and beyond the SSC.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

- i. There are some ongoing assessments still to complete with new data, including *Sminthopsis fuliginosus*. (KSR #1)
- ii. Many post-fire assessments and field assessments of PNG and Indonesian species are still being completed by practitioners in the field. (KSR #1)

Network

Membership

- i. There are 54 members, including 10 from Melanesia and Indonesia.

Synergy

- i. The internal structure of the Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme Specialist Group (AMMSG) has been re-established. We have held two meetings and established a mailing list.

Communicate

Communication

- i. Social media accounts (Twitter) have been developed, others are in development (Facebook). (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We thank the Australian Mammal Society, the Wild Pig Specialist Group, Wildlife Conservation Society Indonesia, AMMSG members who have provided photos, members who have provided information on bushfire effects on marsupials and monotremes, members who have facilitated communication with researchers and communities in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, the IUCN Red List Unit, the Australian Committee for IUCN, Jon Paul Rodríguez and the SSC, and Angela Yang.

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess **2** ||

Network **2** ||

Communicate **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 28

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-016

KSR: Key Species Result



Some threatened Australian mammal species are now benefiting from reintroductions to havens that exclude the introduced fox and cat. In this case, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy is working with traditional Indigenous owners to return the mala to Newhaven reserve in central Australia
Photo: Brad Leue, courtesy of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy