



Monika Bohm

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

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

Number of members

31

Social networks

Facebook: IUCN SSC Butterfly Specialist Group
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) complete 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; (4) support the Red List Unit with upload of at least 400 butterfly species assessments compiled through the Southern African assessment processes: Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment (SABCA) and Southern African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment (SALCA); (5) support and work with Albuquerque BioPark invertebrate coordinator Anna Walker on at least 20 Red List assessments of North American species or subspecies of butterflies and moths.

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.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Proposal development and funding

i. A funding proposal was completed to inventory butterfly monitoring schemes, but further efforts to push this forward were put on hold in 2020 due to limited capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the start of 2021, we will reconvene a meeting with the partners involved to plan a route ahead for this ambitious project. (KSR #12)



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail,
Papilio canadensis, Actinolite, Ontario
Photo: Peter Hall



Least Concern Viceroy, *Limenitis archippus*
Photo: Joe Schelling



Least Concern Two-tailed Tiger Swallowtail, *Papilio multicaudata*
Photo: Joe Schelling



Peacock Butterfly, *Agalio io*
Photo: Monika Bohm

Red List

i. By 2020, we have published assessments for a total of 158 species of swallowtail on the IUCN Red List, with another 15 accepted for publication in 2021. Another 210 species have been drafted and are in the final review stages. Sign off on these species slowed during 2020 due to limited capacity but are priorities to be achieved in the first half of 2021. At the start of 2021, the day-to-day running of the project will remain at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, following the move of Monni Bohm to the Global Center for Species Survival at Indianapolis Zoo. (KSR #1)

ii. By 2019, two species assessments of North American prairie butterflies were published and another 11 drafted. This project has not progressed further due to staff changes at Minnesota Zoo. However, the publication of the 11 drafted species will become a priority in 2021. (KSR #1, 2)

iii. As of the end of 2020, 129 South African endemic species (Red List update 2020.1), 42 near-endemic species (Red List update 2020.1), 37 Southern African species (Red List update 2020.3) and 113 widespread African species (Red List update 2020.3) have been published.

Another set of 30 widespread African species will be published on Red List update 2021.1. Other species are still undergoing final review. The Red List Unit has also worked hard at reviewing and publishing subspecies assessments from the Southern African assessment processes. (KSR #1)

iv. Seventeen species assessments of North American species or subspecies of butterflies and moths were published on Red List update 2020.3. Another five, including four swallowtails, are accepted for publication on Red List update 2021.1. (KSR #1)

Network

Capacity building

i. Our plans for online training in early 2020 were not initiated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which put considerable time constraints on the Red List Authority coordinator. However, regular Specialist Group virtual meetings are planned to commence in 2021 to improve the communication within the group and as part of this we will also scope the needs for Red List training and other SSC-relevant workshops (e.g. conservation planning, etc.). (KSR #5)

Membership

i. So far, the network comprises 31 members representing 20 countries. We are now in the process of expanding the network into Africa on the back of the global swallowtail assessment.

Acknowledgements

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

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

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|---------|---|--|
| Assess | 5 | |
| Network | 2 | |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 5, 12

KSR: Key Species Result