

IUCN SSC Chameleon Specialist Group

2020 Report



Christopher V. Anderson

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

22

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Chameleon Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCNchameleons



Mission statement

The mission of the Chameleon Specialist Group is to improve the conservation status and sustainable use of wild chameleons.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision having developed a comprehensive picture of the conservation status of the world's chameleons, so that conservation efforts can be targeted effectively. Specifically, we have focused on assessing all described chameleon species on the IUCN Red List, most for the first time, and on ensuring that these assessments are current, so that we can identify conservation focal points. Further, by supporting the implementation of CITES and assisting in national management efforts, we aim to improve the conservation status and sustainable use of wild chameleons.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) ensure all newly described chameleons are assessed on the IUCN Red List; (2) ensure all chameleon assessments are re-assessed before 10 years old.

Research activities: Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites for chameleons identified and approved.

Plan

Policy: support implementation of CITES.

Network

Membership: expand membership to improve geographic coverage and representation of taxonomic experts.

Communicate

Communication: establish and develop a new website for the group.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Of the 202 chameleon assessments currently on the IUCN Red List, 193 were completed within the last 10 years. Seventeen chameleon re-assessments were performed in 2020 and are currently in draft. Nine chameleon assessments from 2009 are in the process of being re-assessed. (KSR #1)

Plan

Policy

i. Regular contributions are made to national CITES management authorities on chameleon-related issues in support of the implementation of CITES. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

i. We added 11 new members from six countries, doubling our membership from 2019 and expanding our geographic coverage and expertise.

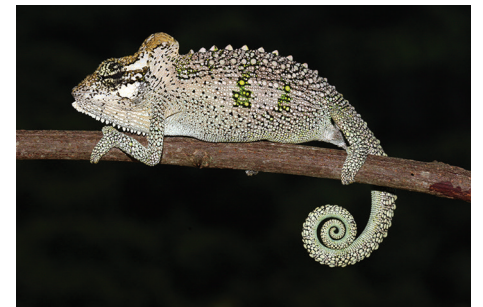


Least Concern Namaqua Chameleon,
Chamaeleo namaquensis
Photo: Krystal A. Tolley



Critically Endangered Chapman's Pygmy Chameleon,
Rhampholeon chapmanorum
Photo: Krystal A. Tolley

Endangered Pondo Dwarf
Chameleon, *Bradypodion caffer*
Photo: Krystal A. Tolley



Communicate

Communication

i. A domain name for the new website was acquired, a new website design was created, and completion of page content is in progress. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

The Chameleon Specialist Group would like to thank Nikki Roach, Orlando Salamanca and Jafet Nassar for administrative assistance.

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	1	
Plan	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 27, 28

KSR: Key Species Result