

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Chameleon Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
24

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

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 2021–2025

Provide an evidence-based approach and scientific knowledge directed at the implementation of conservation actions and public policies that lead to the reduction of the extinction risk for members of this enigmatic lizard family.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess newly described chameleon species for the IUCN Red List within two years of description, with publication of assessments within three years of description.

T-002 Undertake the reassessment of species with IUCN Red List assessments that are a minimum of 10 years old.

T-007 Publish results of fieldwork undertaken by the group in response to assessment findings.

PLAN

T-003 Support implementation of CITES.

NETWORK

T-004 Expand membership to improve geographic coverage and representation of taxonomic experts.

T-006 Locate and establish a relationship with a host financial institution.

COMMUNICATE

T-005 Establish and develop a new website for the group.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: We obtained IUCN funding toward a reassessment and preliminary assessment project for chameleons and have assessments for 18 new species in draft that should be completed in 2022.

T-002 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

Result description: We obtained IUCN funding toward a reassessment and preliminary assessment project for chameleons and

have reassessments for 82 species in draft that should be completed in 2022.

Research activities

T-007 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: We published a paper on the status of the Critically Endangered Chapman's Pygmy Chameleon (*Rhampholeon chapmanorum*) in the journal *Oryx*: Tolley, K.A., et al. (2021). 'Clinging to survival: Critically Endangered Chapman's pygmy chameleon *Rhampholeon chapmanorum* persists in shrinking forest patches'. *Oryx* 56:451–456. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605320000952>.

PLAN

Policy

T-003 (KSR 9)

Number of policies and implementation decisions where SSC members provided technical input: 3

Result description: We worked with national management authorities to provide technical input on trade issues relating to chameleons.



Least Concern Kenyan High-casqued Chameleon, *Trioceros hoehnelii*
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: We increased our membership to 24 members, expanding our geographic expertise and strengthening regional coverage with high degrees of endemism.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Re:wild for funding our IUCN Red List reassessment efforts in 2021 and 2022 through the SSC Internal Grant programme.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 7

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 1 Africa

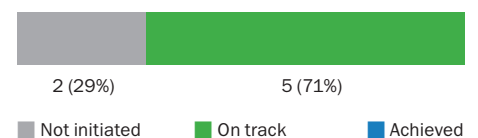
Actions during 2021:

Assess: 3 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated ■ On track ■ Achieved