

IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



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Number of members

26



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group (FCSG) is to work towards all aspects of the long-term conservation of freshwater decapods (freshwater crabs, crayfish, freshwater shrimps, and aeglids) worldwide. Specific goals are: (1) to act as the Red List Authority and to update IUCN Red List species assessments; (2) to promote their long-term conservation worldwide by management of habitats and by the development of conservation strategies and, where necessary, the recovery of populations; (3) to promote integrated research on biodiversity and conservation; (4) to educate non-specialists about all aspects of the group; and (5) to create and maintain the FCSG website of the IUCN SSC that will provide up-to-date world species lists, keep track of the discovery of new species, and list the Red List status for each species.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

- i. We have completed Red List reassessments of freshwater decapods in the Lake Victoria Basin in Africa, in the Lake Malawi Basin in Malawi, and in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands as part of projects led by the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit. This involved training of three Madagascan scientists involved in freshwater decapod research (crabs, shrimps and crayfish). We have participated in a red listing assessment and reassessment of freshwater decapods in Madagascar which is aimed at the development of Key Biodiversity Areas on that island. (KSR #1)
- ii. We began the Red List reassessment project for China in two phases - the mainland and Taiwan. (KSR #1)

■ Research activities

- i. We have supported the funding for new survey work in a biodiversity hotspot in Southwest Cameroon and rediscovered two 'lost species' that are EN and CR. (KSR #12)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

- i. We have completed a Red List freshwater crab training workshop in China and in Costa Rica. (KSR #5)

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

- i. Developed an action plan for the conservation of *Johora singaporensis*, a CR species from Singapore. (KSR #15)
- ii. We have implemented a conservation action plan for a CR species of freshwater crab in Singapore that is still ongoing. (KSR #27)

Acknowledgements

We thank the Wildlife Reserves Singapore Conservation Fund (WRSCF) and the National Parks Board, Singapore (NParks), for supporting the costs of the Freshwater Crab Conservation Round Table (FCCRT) in Singapore, which included a public seminar and discussion forum and a closed-door workshop to bring together all of the stakeholders necessary for the development of conservation strategy and implementation of the conservation strategy targets. We thank Dr. & Prof. Hongying Sun, Jiangsu Key Laboratory for Biodiversity and Biotechnology, College of Life Sciences, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, P. R. China, and Dr. & Prof. Haigen Xu, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China for support for the freshwater crab conservation meeting in Nanjing, China, in 2018. We would also like to acknowledge the leadership and skills of Will

Rediscovered 'lost species' of threatened freshwater crab *Louisea balssi* (EN) from Cameroon
Photo: Pierre A. Mvogo Ngondo



Afriithelphusa monodosa (EN), a threatened species of freshwater crab from Guinea
Photo: Neil Cumberlidge



Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group member Pierre A. Mvogo Ndongo during field survey of freshwater decapods in southwestern Cameroon
Photo: Archives of the FCSG

Darwall, Catherine Sayer, and Laura Maiz-Tome of the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, Global Species Programme for the opportunity to contribute data from our specialist group into conservation projects aimed at establishing Key Biodiversity Areas in Africa, Madagascar, and the Indian Ocean Islands.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) begin the assessment of 1,500 species of primary freshwater crabs, plus about 200 species of newly described crayfish, and 86 species of aeglids; (2) complete the Red List assessment of 27 species of land crabs.

Capacity building

Capacity building: (1) organize two Red List training workshops; (2) organize one conservation planning training workshop.

Communications

Communication: develop a website for the FCSG.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) follow up on the progress of the project initiated in 2015 to save a Critically Endangered species of freshwater crab from Singapore from extinction; (2) develop conservation action plans for two threatened species recently re-discovered in Cameroon; (3) begin implementation of conservation action plans for two threatened species recently re-discovered in Cameroon.

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: increase membership from China, Taiwan and Singapore on FCSG.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we envisage that we will have made progress towards a second global reassessment of the freshwater crabs, including up to 300 newly described species assessed for the first time. This will guide the prioritization of species for future conservation actions for CR species of freshwater crabs. We will also have added the entire global fauna of the Aeglidae (South American anomuran freshwater crabs) to the IUCN Red List. Again, this will guide the prioritization of species for future conservation actions especially for CR species. We are on track for the stabilization of the populations of the CR species *J. singaporensis* in Singapore and the reduction of threats and specific management of habitat for this species, at least in part of its range. We will have implemented additional conservation strategies for CR species of highest priority, and our focus will be on developing conservation action plans for the two rediscovered threatened species of freshwater crabs in Cameroon. We will also have expanded our scope to include all of the world's land crabs and mangrove crabs. We will have participated in the assessment and reassessment of the freshwater crabs of China which are undergoing a period of discovery in a climate of increasing threats to their habitats.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (3 activities)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Conservation action (2 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 5, 12, 15, 27

KSR: Key Species Result