

IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Chuck Knapp



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois, US
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Number of members

85

Social networks

Website:
<http://www.iucn-isg.org/>



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group (ISG) is to prioritize and facilitate conservation, science, and awareness programs that help ensure the survival of wild iguanas and their habitats. To achieve this, we implement, advise and fundraise for programs that include population surveys, protected areas management, invasive species control, field research, genetic studies, education and captive breeding/headstarting initiatives. Headstarting, in which hatchling iguanas are raised in a safe, captive environment until they reach a larger, less vulnerable size, is proving invaluable in rescuing several Critically Endangered iguanid taxa from the brink of extinction.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. Red List assessments for 25% of recognized iguana taxa. In addition to those published, we are in final review stages for 15 assessments, 22 are in draft. (KSR #1)

Communications

■ Communication

- i. We published our annual ISG newsletter (years 2016 and 2017) to share and record information about group activities, research, and conservation needs of iguana species. (KSR #28)
- ii. We created and circulated a position statement concerning invasive iguanas. (KSR #28)

iii. We updated and circulated our invasive iguana position statement. (KSR #28)

iv. We used our listserv to share news, publications and opportunities with our members.

v. We added 175 publications to the virtual library and our site was viewed by 6,500 people in 2017.

■ Research activities

i. We organized, edited and published a third monograph focusing on iguana research and conservation. (KSR #43)

■ Scientific meetings

- i. We successfully organized our annual meeting in Fiji, that included a species recovery planning workshop. (KSR #28)
- ii. We successfully organized our annual meeting in Cuba. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We thank the International Iguana Foundation, and their donors, for the financial support of nine projects conducted in 2016, totalling \$83,053, and eight projects in 2017, totalling \$65,471, focused on iguana conservation in Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean and Fiji. We also acknowledge the efforts of Ty Park for organizing the first IguanaFest - a fundraiser to support iguana conservation in 2017. We also thank those members who made donations to our annual meeting travel fund in 2016 and 2017, contributed to Red List assessments, contributed to our Herpetological Conservation and Biology monograph "Iguanas: Biology, Systematics, and Conservation", developed the Invasive Iguana Position Statement and participated in other ISG activities.



Fiji Crested Iguana (*Brachylophus vitiensis*),
Critically Endangered
Photo: Peter Harlow

Galapagos Marine Iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus venustissimus*), Vulnerable
Photo: Floerana Paquita Hoeck



Central Bahamian Rock Iguana
(*Cyclura rileyi rileyi*), Endangered
Photo: Charles Knapp



Motagua Spiny-tailed Iguana
(*Ctenosaura palearis*), Endangered
Photo: Daniel Ariano

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: complete Red List assessments for 40 species of iguanas.

Communications

Communication: (1) publish four annual ISG newsletters; (2) increase publications in virtual library by 50 articles.

Membership: maintain and increase the use of the membership listserv by 50%.

Scientific meetings: convene four annual meetings.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) complete or update action plans for 22 species of iguana; (2) compile and curate public outreach assets that can be modified and used by group members; (3) develop a rapid response protocol for assisting partners impacted by hurricanes.

Policy

Communication: update Invasive Iguana Position Statement.

Projected impact for the quadrennium

2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we envision greater collective and collaborative efforts among ISG members to advance a holistic approach to iguana conservation. Our annual meetings will continue to drive collaborative research endeavours and we envision welcoming 4-6 new members. We will maximize the use of a new curated, outreach-asset library to facilitate, at least, 5 new public outreach and stakeholder training opportunities. We expect 90% of all iguana species will have been evaluated using Red List criteria. As a group, we expect high scholarly outputs from member research totalling at least 30 publications. As global climate continues on an unpredictable and violent path, we expect to develop rapid response protocols to help bring assistance to partners in countries impacted by hurricanes, given that many of our species live on islands in the Caribbean that are often impacted by these severe events. We will help draft, or update, succinct and effective conservation action plans for 22 iguana species that will provide an outline for action and means to evaluate success. By adopting new transition protocols, we expect an increase in the number of members outside of North America that will serve in positions of leadership for the group.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 2/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Communication (8 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 28, 43

KSR: Key Species Result