

IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee

2016-2017 Report



Axel Hochkirch

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

Trier University, Germany

Number of members

11

Social networks

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/IUCN.SSC.ICSC>



Mission statement

The mission of the Invertebrate Conservation Sub-Committee (ICSC) is to foster the conservation of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates and their habitats around the world. We assess their conservation status, raise awareness and engage in practical conservation of this most species rich taxonomic groups on Earth.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. A total of 150 Malagasy Millipedes, 37 Nephilidae spiders, 28 Vietnamese Cave invertebrates and 97 stick insects have been completed and submitted to the IUCN Red List. Thirty-five birdwing butterflies are currently being assessed and 74 South African Millipedes are under review. (KSR #1)

Bolster work at national scales

■ Scientific meetings

i. Presentations on invertebrate conservation have been given during the Seminar Day of the SSC Steering Committee meeting at the Universidad Libadores, Cartagena, and during a colloquium of the University of Landau (Germany).

Communications

■ Research activities

- i. A manuscript on data deficiency issues in invertebrate conservation has been submitted to *Science*, but rejected. It will now be sent to *Conservation Biology*. (KSR #43)
- ii. A draft structure for "Guidelines for Invertebrate Conservation in Protected Areas" has been prepared and will be sent to ICSC members in 2018. (KSR #43)
- iii. A paper on the insect crisis has been published in *Nature* (Hochkirch 2016). (KSR #43)
- iv. A paper on data deficiency in insects has been published in *Science* (Hochkirch & Pina 2017). (KSR #43)
- v. A paper on the value of earthworms has been published in *Nature* (Blakemore & Hochkirch 2017). (KSR #43)
- vi. A paper on the neglect of insects by palaeo-conservation studies has been published in *Science* (Hochkirch 2017) (KSR #43)

Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

i. Three SGs have been established: Firefly SG, Ladybird SG, Hoverfly SG and one proposal is currently under review: Mayfly and Stonefly SG.



Crau Plain Grasshopper (*Prionotropis rhodanica*), Critically Endangered
Photo: A. Hochkirch

Acknowledgements

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: adding 500 charismatic invertebrate species to the IUCN Red List.

Research activities: developing monitoring standards for selected groups of invertebrates.

Communications

Communication: publication on closing knowledge gaps in invertebrates.

Research activities: guidelines for Invertebrate Conservation in Protected Areas.

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: increasing the number of invertebrate Specialist Groups (N= 15).

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Our work will help to increase the taxonomic diversity represented in the IUCN SSC. The higher number of Red List assessments and new Specialist Groups will help to instigate new conservation actions for invertebrate species.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Communications (6 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 43

KSR: Key Species Result