

# IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group



## 2018 Report



Neil Cumberlidge



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### Co-Chairs

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### Location/Affiliation

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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.

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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 prioritisation of species for future conservation actions for Critically Endangered 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 prioritisation of species for future conservation actions, especially for Critically Endangered species. We are on track for the stabilisation of the populations of the Critically Endangered species *Johora 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 Critically Endangered 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.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: begin the assessment of 1,500 species of primary freshwater crabs, plus about 90 species of newly described crayfish, and 86 species of aeglids. Also targeted are 27 species of land crabs, and more than 100 species of mangrove crabs.

#### Plan

Planning: develop conservation action plans for two threatened species recently re-discovered in Cameroon.

#### Act

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

#### Network

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

Membership: increase membership from China, Taiwan, Singapore, Costa Rica, US, Colombia and Australia.



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



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

**Communicate**

Communication: develop a website for the FCSG.

**Activities and results 2018**

**Assess**

Red List

i. We have completed assessments for 278 species of pseudothelphusid freshwater crabs (every species in the Neotropical region), more than 200 species of freshwater crabs from China, 42 species of freshwater decapods from Madagascar, 12 species from Lake Victoria, and 10 species from Lake Malawi. We have also completed draft assessments of 86 species of aeglids from South America. All of these assessments are awaiting submission to the Red List Unit; however, we have abandoned ideas to assess the more than 100 species of mangrove crabs because this is not realistic. (KSR #1)

**Plan**

Planning

i. We are continuing field work to study two threatened species recently re-discovered in Cameroon, and are ready to implement conservation actions, but this will need support for a meeting of all of the stakeholders. (KSR #15)

**Act**

Conservation actions

i. We established a captive breeding programme for a Critically Endangered species of freshwater crab from Singapore at the Singapore Zoo, and worked with the National Park Service to preserve the habitat at the type locality. Genetic studies of this species began at the National University of Singapore. (KSR #27)

**Network**

Capacity building

i. No Red List training workshops were held during 2018; however, two Malagasy scientists who had not previously had any Red List training were involved in the Red List workshop in Madagascar, where we evaluated the extinction risk of all of the freshwater decapods on that island. (KSR #5)

Membership

i. Three new members were recruited from Costa Rica, the US, and Cameroon. Two more are planned (from Colombia and Australia).

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We thank the following donors that helped us to cover the costs of the workshops for developing the conservation action plan for the Critically Endangered Singapore Freshwater Crab (*Johora singaporensis*): National Parks Board, Singapore, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, and the National University of Singapore. Moreover, we want to thank the following IUCN Red List experts that assisted with the development of the conservation action plan: Sonja Luz, Roopali Raghavan, Geoffrey Davison, Cai Yixiong, Daniel J.J. Ng, and Philip J.K. McGowan.

**Summary of activities 2018**

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	1	█
Plan	1	█
Act	1	█
Network	2	██

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 5, 15, 27

KSR: Key Species Result