

IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group



2019 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.

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 Aegliidae (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 the world's land 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, the US, Colombia and Australia.

Afrithelphusa monodosa, Endangered, a threatened species of freshwater crab from Guinea
Photo: Neil Cumberland



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

Communicate

Communication: develop a website for the FCSG.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. Although some Red List assessment progress has been made for a few geographical areas, the global initiative has stalled following lack of success in securing funding for the necessary meetings. (KSR #1)

Plan

Planning

i. We have completed preliminary data gathering and monitoring plans for the conservation of two threatened species in Cameroon. However, the country is currently suffering political unrest and it is unsafe to go there. A third species of conservation concern is found in an accessible area and we may develop plans for this species first. (KSR #15)

Act

Conservation actions

i. The third year of the project to save *J. singaporensis* from extinction is progressing well. Its habitat is protected, wild population monitoring is in place, and captive breeding is finally working; possible reintroductions in the wild are planned for the next phase (2020/2021). (KSR #24, 27)

Network

Capacity building

i. Workshops planned for the second Global Freshwater Crab Assessment are still pending. The planned funding was not realised. (KSR #5)

ii. A conservation planning workshop for threatened species of freshwater crabs in Cameroon was postponed before the Coronavirus pandemic (due to political unrest in the study area). This may be deferred further because of the pandemic, so we are planning for 2021. We are not entirely confident that we can organise a remote meeting in this part of Cameroon given the poor internet in most areas. We may seek funding for a face-to-face training workshop in 2021, which would be preferable. (KSR #17)

Membership

i. Three colleagues from China with expertise in freshwater crab taxonomy and conservation will be invited to become members of the FCSG.
ii. Four colleagues from Costa Rica, the US, Colombia, and Australia with expertise in freshwater crab taxonomy and conservation will be invited to become members of the FCSG.

Communicate

Communication

i. Development of a website for the FCSG has not yet happened and needs a new start. This could be accomplished if there were some funding to bring in web-building expertise. Applying for an IUCN Internal Grant in June 2020 would get this process moving again. (KSR #28)

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	1	█
Plan	1	█
Act	1	█
Network	4	████
Communicate	1	█

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 5, 15, 17, 24, 27, 28