

IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group

2019 Report



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Number of members

101

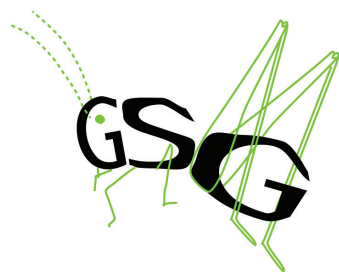
Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group

Website:

<https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/invertebrates/grasshopper>



Mission statement

The mission of our group is to foster the conservation of orthopteroid insects (grasshoppers, katydids, crickets, mantids, stick insects) and their habitats around the world. We assess their conservation status, raise awareness and engage in practical conservation of this amazing and highly diverse group of insects.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we want to increase the number of Orthoptera, Phasmida and Mantodea species on the IUCN Red List by ca. 1,000 species. This will help to raise awareness for this species group and foster research and conservation activities. We are particularly interested in engaging local park managers to consider grasshoppers, bush-crickets, crickets, stick insects and mantids in conservation planning, monitoring and management. We want to increase the number of conservation strategies for threatened Orthoptera species and help to implement these plans. This will help to avoid future extinctions and set best practice examples for other projects.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete Red List assessments of 400 Tanzanian Orthoptera species, 17 Bladder Grasshoppers (Family Pneumoridae), 84 Agile Grasshoppers (Subfamily Euryphyminae), 36 European mantises, 80 Mediterranean mantises, four Razor-backed bush-hoppers (Xyronotidae), three Tanaoceridae grasshoppers, 270 Malagasy grasshoppers, 29 Socotran endemic Orthoptera; (2) start Sampled Red List Index for Orthoptera (1,500 species).

Plan

Planning: (1) develop a conservation strategy for the Endangered *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Slovenia and Italy; (2) develop a conservation strategy for the Critically Endangered *Peripodisma ceraunii* in Albania.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) implement the conservation action plan for *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Italy; (2) implement the conservation action plan for *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Slovenia; (3) develop and implement a population monitoring programme for the Critically Endangered *Prionotropis rhodanica*.

Communicate

Communication: (1) organise a performance of the Locust Opera at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille; (2) develop monitoring standards for Orthoptera in Europe.

Two populations of the Gran Canaria Crested Grasshopper (*Dericorys minutus*) have been rediscovered after more than 60 years. The species was listed as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) on the IUCN Red List
Photo: Axel Hochkirch



The Gran Canaria Bush-Cricket (*Evergoderes cabrerai*) has been rediscovered at two sites on Gran Canaria after more than 50 years
Photo: Lisa Mahla

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

- i.** Assessments of 141 Tanzanian Orthoptera species have been completed. (KSR #1)
- ii.** Assessments of all European mantises have been completed and reviewed. They will be submitted in early 2020. (KSR #1)
- iii.** New populations of *Xyronotus aztecus* and *X. cohni* have been discovered during expeditions in 2018 and 2019. (KSR #1)
- iv.** We are exploring funding options for Red List assessments of three Tanaoceridae grasshoppers. (KSR #1)
- v.** A total of 200 assessments for the Orthoptera Sampled Red List Index have been published on the Red List website so far. (KSR #1, 3)
- vi.** The assessor of Dichoroplina grasshoppers from South America has completed the Red List assessment online course and started the first assessments. (KSR #1)
- vii.** Assessments of grasshoppers from the Western Ghats (India) are embedded in the Nilgiri Mountains Assess-Plan-Act project. (KSR #1)
- viii.** Regional assessments of all European mantises are currently being conducted by Roberto Battiston; half of them are completed. (KSR #2)
- ix.** Ahmed Samejo has completed Red List training and will soon start the assessment of 20 Orthoptera species from Pakistan. (KSR #1)



The national action plans for the Adriatic Marbled Bush-Cricket (*Zeuneriana marmorata*) are now being implemented in Slovenia and Italy
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

Plan

Planning

i. The plans for a conservation strategy for the Endangered *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Slovenia and Italy are published and are now being implemented. (KSR #21)

ii. Developing a conservation strategy for the Critically Endangered *Peripodisma ceraunii* in Albania is still on hold due to lack of funding. A proposal to National Geographic was not successful. In 2020, an application to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund will be submitted. (KSR #21)

iii. An application was submitted to National Geographic to fund the project to develop a conservation strategy for the Critically Endangered *Isophya beybienkoi* in Slovakia, but it was not successful. (KSR #21)

Act

Conservation actions

i. The populations of *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Italy have been monitored and some new populations have been discovered. Funds have been raised to initiate habitat restoration next year. (KSR #12)

ii. The populations of *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Slovenia have been monitored and some new populations have been discovered. Studies on the habitat preferences have been made allowing for adequate habitat management. (KSR #12)

iii. A monitoring programme for the Atlantic Beach Cricket (*Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*) has been established in the British Isles. (KSR #12)

iv. *Prionotropis rhodanica* is continuously monitored in two populations. Access to the third population is currently not possible (it is on private land owned by BMW). The monitoring method has been optimised and the optimisation method has been published in the journal Conservation Biology. (KSR #12)

Communicate

Communication

i. Some funds have been secured for the performance of the Locust Opera at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille and the logistic planning has begun. (KSR #31)

ii. Due to health issues of the leading member, developing monitoring standards for Orthoptera in Europe is behind schedule, but some email discussions have been held. (KSR #32)

Scientific meetings

i. The Third European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation is organised and will be held in March 2021 (delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak). (KSR #30)

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the constant support by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund as well as to National Geographic for funding the implementation of the Crau Plain Grasshopper Strategy in France. Furthermore, we would like to thank The IUCN-Toyota Red List Partnership for providing funding to continue with the Red List assessments for the Sampled Red List Index. We are also grateful to all Orthopterists who have helped us with the assessments.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	9	
Plan	3	
Act	4	
Communicate	3	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 12, 21, 30, 31, 32

KSR: Key Species Result