

IUCN SSC Hoverfly Specialist Group



2019 Report



Ante Vujić



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

25

Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Hoverfly Specialist Group
Instagram: iucnhoverflysg
Website: <https://iucn-hsg.pmf.uns.ac.rs/>



Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Hoverfly Specialist Group (HSG) is to accomplish the Red Listing of European hoverflies, and in so doing to increase current knowledge of the taxonomy, ecology and distribution of European hoverflies, promoting their long-term conservation.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we expect to have completed the Red Listing of a substantial proportion of European hoverflies, drawing together for the first time the European-wide distribution and status of the species. This will identify critical sets of species on which Europe-wide conservation efforts can be targeted, and promote the inclusion of hoverflies in conservation planning and education.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) assess a selection of 650 European hoverfly species; (2) assess globally all species currently listed on existing national or regional Red Lists.

Research activities: (1) identify new Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) according to IUCN standards; (2) stimulate research on the distribution of particular species and threats affecting them; (3) produce publications about the conservation of hoverflies.

Plan

Planning: develop conservation strategies for threatened Syrphidae.

Network

Capacity building: hold a training workshop for 17 European Hoverfly experts to do Red List assessments.

Membership: increase and balance membership in terms of gender, age and geographic location.

Synergy: develop a network of institutions and individuals dealing with hoverflies.

Communicate

Communication: (1) develop guidelines for the conservation management of Syrphidae habitats; (2) establish an HSG communication platform among members; (3) establish HSG social media accounts; (4) create an HSG logo; (5) promote awareness about hoverflies through specialised and general social media; (6) accomplish a photographic competition and exhibition on syrphids.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. Two Red List assessment workshops of European hoverfly species (ca. 200 species) were held. The first workshop was in Lesbos (Greece) in September 2019, after the 10th International Syrphidae meeting, involving two of the eight working groups; the second was in Novi Sad (Serbia) in December 2019, involving two different working groups. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. As species assessments are carried out, so requests for information and help on particular species go out to the established network of syrphid workers. We presented the HSG at the 10th International Syrphidae Meeting; there are regular requests for data and help on particular species. (KSR #4, 7, 15, 21, 22, 26, 27)

Merodon aberrans, Fruška Gora, Serbia
Photo: Sarić Bojan



Syrphus ribesii, Pasnjaci
Photo: T. Tot



Eristalis arbustorum, Vlasina
Photo: T. Tot



Dasysyrphus albostrigatus, Vlasina
Photo: T. Tot

Plan

Planning

i. Ante Vujić attended the Fourth SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi, where the Ancient Tree initiative was presented; Dr Martin Speight produced a document on over-mature trees. We hope this can be used by IUCN to feed into modifications to various objectives, e.g. Natura 2000. We are involved in the Ancient Trees initiative of IUCN to press for changes to various conservation targets.

Network

Capacity building

i. A workshop to train European hoverfly experts in Red Listing was held in Novi Sad, Serbia, in April 2019; 23 people were trained (13 women, 10 men). (KSR #5)

Membership

i. We were very pleased that nearly everyone who was asked agreed to join the HSG; we have nearly all the top experts and we have achieved magnificent support in sharing data. We have twenty-six members (eight women, 18 men); the ca. 1,000 species were divided into eight groups; experts and assessors were assigned for each group.

Synergy

i. The network of institutions and individuals dealing with hoverflies is already very strong, a consequence of the regular International Syrphidae meetings every two years; Red Listing has really been enabled because of existing cooperation, rather than the other way round. (KSR #28, 43)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** Development of a Hoverfly Specialist Group communication platform among members is via an email group; we also employ document sharing via IUCN. (KSR #28, 43)
- ii.** We have not used social media much yet; we have regular Facebook postings and notifications, and communicated information about the Lesvos meeting. (KSR #28, 43)
- iii.** An HSG logo is now available. (KSR #28, 43)
- iv.** The HSG Co-Chairs gave interviews published on the IUCN website to promote awareness about hoverflies. (KSR #28, 43)

Acknowledgements

Via IUCN calls, one person (Andrea Aracil) received funding to attend the 1st assessment workshop.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	2	
Plan	1	
Network	3	
Communicate	4	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 4, 5, 7, 15, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 43

KSR: Key Species Result