

IUCN SSC Freshwater Crustacean Specialist Group



2020 Report



Neil Cumberlidge



Keith Crandall

Co-Chairs

Neil Cumberlidge (1)
Keith Crandall (2)

Red List Authority Coordinators

Darren Yeo (3)
Keith Crandall (2)
Sammy De Grave (4)

Location/Affiliation

(1) Northern Michigan University,
Marquette, Michigan, US
(2) George Washington University,
Washington DC, US
(3) Department of Biological Sciences,
National University of Singapore, Singapore
(4) Oxford University Museum of Natural
History, Oxford, UK

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 long-term conservation of freshwater decapods 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 an FCSG website 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 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.

Louisea balssi (EN) a threatened species of freshwater crab from Cameroon
 Photo: Neil Cumberlidge and Pierre A. Mvogo Ndongo



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.

Communicate

Communication: develop a website for the FCSG.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Plans were made in early 2020 to fund and hold a series of workshops on different regions that, together, would allow us to achieve the reassessment of 1,500 species of primary freshwater crabs, plus about 90 species of newly described crayfish, and 86 species of aeglids.

The new global land crab and mangrove crab assessments were also begun, but progress was made only with the 27 species of land crabs. The assessments of the more than 100 species of mangrove crabs are currently on hold. This entire project was halted when the targeted funding did not materialise, and then the COVID-19 pandemic caused a global lock-down, and it is still in stasis. It could re-emerge as a series of Zoom meetings, but this is at present unclear. (KSR #1)

Act

Conservation actions

- i.** The status of *Johora singaporensis* is stable and unchanged in 2020. *Ex situ* breeding facilities have been established, and crabs have been producing eggs/young. But *ex situ* mating continues to elude. (KSR #24, 27)
- ii.** Implementation of conservation action plans for two threatened species recently re-discovered in Cameroon are poised to progress but the COVID-19 pandemic has put a hold on our initiatives. (KSR #31)

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess **1** |

Act **2** ||

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 24, 27, 31

KSR: Key Species Result