

IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group



2020 Report



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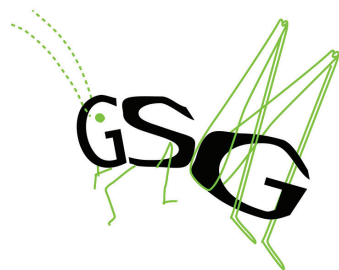
Number of members

111

Social networks

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, 68 Dichoroplina grasshoppers from South America, 30 grasshoppers from the Western Ghats (India), two Cameroon endemic Orthoptera species; (2) complete European Regional Red List assessments of 36 mantises; (3) complete Sampled Red List Index for Orthoptera (1,500 species).

Research activities: (1) develop and implement a population monitoring programme for the Critically Endangered Crau Plain Grasshopper, *Prionotropis rhodanica*; (2) develop monitoring standards for Orthoptera in Europe; (3) examine the effects of land use changes in dry karst regions on threatened Orthoptera; (4) examine the effects of wildfires on the Madeiran Green Bush-cricket, *Psalmatophanes barretoii*; (5) examine the effects of wildfires on Australian Orthoptera.

Plan

Planning: (1) develop a conservation strategy for the Endangered Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket, *Zeuneriana marmorata*, in Slovenia and Italy; (2) develop a conservation strategy for the Critically Endangered Cika Mountain Grasshopper, *Peripodisma ceraunii*, in Albania; (3) develop a conservation strategy for the Critically Endangered Bei-Bienko's Plump Bush-cricket, *Isophya beybienkoi*, in Slovakia.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) implement the conservation action plan for the Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket in Italy; (2) implement the conservation action plan for the Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket in Slovenia; (3) conduct population monitoring for the Atlantic Beach-cricket, *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*, in the British Isles; (4) conduct population monitoring for the Giant-cricket, *Brachytrupes megacephalus*.



Female individual of Vulnerable Common Cylindric Grasshopper, *Tropidopola cylindrica*, Sicily
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

Critically Endangered Gomera Stick Grasshopper, *Acrostira bellamyi*, male from La Gomera, Canary Islands
Photo: Axel Hochkirch



Communicate

Communication: organise a performance of the Locust Opera at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille.

Scientific meetings: organise the Third European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. A part of the Tanzanian grasshoppers have been previously assessed. Currently, the focus is on the Sampled Red List Index (SRLI) assessments. (KSR #1)

ii. It is difficult to obtain data for the North African mantises. Therefore, the Mediterranean assessments are no longer a priority. We will focus instead on the North American and Iranian species. (KSR #1)

iii. Ricardo Marino-Pérez wrote proposals to start some field work to obtain more data to assess Razor-backed bush-hoppers (Xyronotidae), which weren't funded. (KSR #1)

iv. Ricardo Marino-Pérez wrote proposals to start some field work to obtain more data to assess Tanaoceridae grasshoppers, which weren't funded. (KSR #1)

v. A part of the Malagasy grasshoppers have been previously assessed. Currently, the focus is on the SRLI assessments. (KSR #2)

vi. The Grasshopper Specialist Group is currently working on the third working set of 100 Orthoptera species to add them to the SRLI. (KSR #1)

vii. Celeste Scattolini is currently working on the assessments of Dichoroplina grasshoppers from South America, which will likely to be submitted in 2021. (KSR #1)

viii. Dhaneesh Bhaskar has raised a grant from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation fund to do some initial field work in the Nilgiri Mountains, to obtain data necessary to conduct Red List assessments. (KSR #1)

ix. European Regional Red List assessments of mantises have been initiated by Roberto Battiston and are nearly completed. (KSR #1)

x. Charly Oumarou Ngoute has started to assess the Red List status of *Gemeneta opilionides*. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. Howon Rhee started a project to study the effects of wildfires on the Madeiran Green Bush-cricket. (KSR #12)

Plan

Planning

i. Michèle Lemonnier-Darcemont has raised funds from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the Internal SSC Grant to conduct a conservation planning workshop in Albania for the Critically Endangered Cika Mountain Grasshopper. (KSR #21)

ii. Soňa Nuhlíčková has raised funds to develop a conservation strategy for Bei-Bienko's Plump Bush-cricket. (KSR #21)

Act

Conservation actions

i. The national conservation action plan for the Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket is being implemented in Italy. Four new populations were discovered in that country, and habitat management has been improved. (KSR #12)

ii. The national conservation action plan for the Adriatic Marbled Bush-cricket is being implemented in Slovenia. The population has been monitored and habitat management has been improved. (KSR #12)

iii. Karim Vahed has established a monitoring scheme for the Atlantic Beach-cricket. (KSR #12)

iv. Louis Cassar and Bruno Massa are planning a population monitoring scheme for the Giant-cricket. (KSR #12)

Communicate

Communication

i. Jeffrey Lockwood raised funds to perform the Locust Opera at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille. The congress has been postponed to September 2021. (KSR #31)

Scientific meetings

i. The third European Congress on Orthoptera Conservation has been postponed to 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. (KSR #30)

Acknowledgements

We are particularly grateful to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for the support of many Orthoptera conservation projects.

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	11	■■■■■■■■■■
Plan	2	■■
Act	4	■■■■
Communicate	2	■■

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