IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee

2020 Report

Axel Hochkirch

Chair

Axel Hochkirch

Location/Affiliation

Trier University, Germany

Number of members

11

Social networks

Facebook:
IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee

IUCN SSC INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Mission statement

The mission of the Invertebrate Conservation Committee (ICC) is to foster the conservation of terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates and their habitats around the world. We assess their conservation status, raise awareness and engage in practical conservation of these most species-rich taxonomic groups on Earth.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Our work will help to increase the taxonomic diversity represented in the IUCN SSC. The higher number of Red List assessments and new Specialist Groups will help to instigate new conservation actions for invertebrate species.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: add 500 charismatic invertebrate species to the IUCN Red List.

Research activities: (1) develop monitoring standards for selected groups of invertebrates; (2) write a publication on closing knowledge gaps in invertebrate conservation.

Plan

Planning: conduct an integrative multi-taxon Assess-Plan-Act Project in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (India).

Network

Capacity building: meet with invertebrate Specialist Group Chairs and Red List Authority (RLA) Coordinators.

Membership: increase the number of invertebrate Specialist Groups (N=15).

Scientific meetings: organise a first international conference on insect conservation.

Communicate

Communication: (1) produce guidelines for Invertebrate Conservation in Protected Areas; (2) publish a roadmap on insect conservation; (3) publish a 'Scientists Warning' on insect declines; (4) publish a 'Solutions' paper on insect declines; (5) publish an article on how Red List assessments have led to conservation action for invertebrates; (6) publish a comment on the murder of two butterfly conservationists in Mexico; (7) publish an article on how to calculate population reduction in insect species with strong population fluctuations; (8) organise a name and leadership change of the IUCN SSC Bumble Bee Specialist Group to become part of a wider IUCN SSC Wild Bee Specialist Group.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Research activities

i. A paper on Data Deficiency in neglected biodiversity written in collaboration with the Fungal Conservation Committee and Plant Conservation Committee was accepted for publication and published online in July 2020 (Hochkirch, A., et al. (2021). 'A strategy for the next decade to address data deficiency in neglected biodiversity'. *Conservation Biology* 35:502–509. https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13589). (KSR #43)

Plan

Planning

i. The first fieldwork in the Nilgiri Mountains has been conducted, but the organisation of a workshop has been postponed due to COVID-19. (KSR #21)

Least Concern Green-eyed Flower Bee, cf. *Anthophora bimaculata*, found outside it's clay nest, near Funcheira, Southern Portugal
Photo: Sérgio Henriques

Network

Scientific meetings

i. The organisation of the first international conference on insect conservation has been postponed due to COVID-19. (KSR #43)

Synergy

i. A new Mite Specialist Group and Ant Specialist Group have been instigated.

Communicate

Communication

i. A draft outline of the 'Guidelines for Invertebrate Conservation in Protected Areas' has been created. (KSR #14)

ii. The international roadmap for insect conservation has been published: Harvey, J.A., et al. (2020). 'International scientists formulate a roadmap for insect conservation and recovery'. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 4:174–176. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-019-1079-8. (KSR #14, 43)

iii. The 'Scientists Warning' paper has been published: Cardoso, P., et al. (2020). 'Scientists' warning to humanity on insect extinctions'. *Biological Conservation* 242:108426. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2020.108426. (KSR #43)

iv. The 'Solutions' paper has been published: Samways, M.J., et al. (2020). 'Solutions for humanity on how to conserve insects'. *Biological Conservation* 242:108427. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2020.108427. (KSR #14, 43)

v. A letter on the murder of two butterfly conservationists has been published in *Science*.

vi. A publication on how to calculate population reductions in invertebrate species with strong population fluctuations has been published: Akçakaya, H.R., et al. (2021). 'Calculating population reductions of invertebrate species for IUCN Red List assessments'. *Journal of Insect Conservation* 25:377–382. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10841-021-00303-0. (KSR #14, 43)

vii. The name and leadership of the IUCN SSC Bumble Bee Specialist Group was changed to IUCN SSC Wild Bee Specialist Group.

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Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5	
Assess	**1**
Plan	**1**
Act	**2**
Communicate	**7**
Main KSRs addressed: 14, 21, 43	

KSR: Key Species Result