

IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group

2018 Report



Pablo Garcia-Borboroglu



P. Dee Boersma

Co-Chairs

Pablo García-Borboroglu ⁽¹⁾
P. Dee Boersma ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Global Penguin Society and CONICET,
Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina
⁽²⁾ Division of Biology and Conservation Ecology,
Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Number of members

42

Social networks

Twitter:
@IUCNPenguin

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Penguin Specialist Group (PSG) is to provide scientific advice that informs policy and engages people in effective conservation action.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

The disconcerting and rapid population decreases reported for most of the world's penguin species will be reversed only through immediate and affirmative action on the part of the global community of researchers, governmental entities, conservation organisations, fisheries' managers and the general public. If we address the identified threats, undertake priority research needs using an interdisciplinary and integrated approach, and begin to implement appropriate conservation actions, management could perhaps slow or stop the observed decreases in penguin populations. We wish to call attention to the plight of this important and charismatic taxonomic group, whose dire situation is a clear reflection of the current escalating crisis facing the world's marine ecosystems and as indicators of future global warming scenarios.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete assessment of Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*); (2) reassess Red List status of penguin species.

Research activities: (1) publish a paper with the most recent update on the ecology and conservation of all penguin species; (2) identify priority areas of research needed; (3) identify the three penguin species in most critical need of help; (4) publish a paper on the priority conservation and research needs for all species and the identification of three species in need of most help.

Plan

Planning: (1) convene a meeting of the PSG Steering Committee focused on catalysing a Wild Penguins in Perpetuity Conservation Strategy; (2) convene a meeting of the PSG Steering Committee to define priorities for global penguin conservation prior to the International Penguin Congress in New Zealand; (3) define priority conservation actions needed.

Policy: (1) hold a Steering Committee meeting in May 2018 to define priorities for global penguin conservation; (2) hold a Steering Committee meeting in August 2019 to update status of PSG, suggest new members and define future goals.

Network

Membership: continue to add expert members as needed.

Activities and results 2018

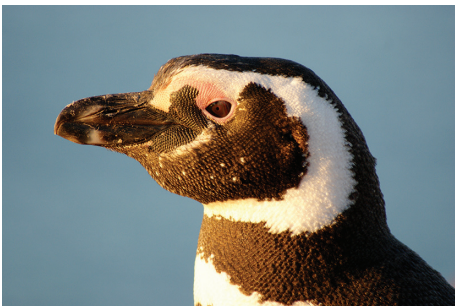
Assess

Red List

- i.** Updated information to complete the assessment of the Little Penguin has been identified. The assessment will be completed at the International Penguin Congress in New Zealand in September 2019. (KSR #1)
- ii.** Information on all penguin species to be updated and compiled at a workshop at the International Penguin Congress, New Zealand, September 2019. (KSR #1)



Gentoo Penguin
Photo: John Weller



Magellanic Penguin, San Lorenzo colony,
the largest one on the Planet
Photo: Pablo G. Borboroglu

Research activities

- i.** Paper published with the most recent update on the ecology and conservation of all penguin species. (KSR #32)
- ii.** Priority areas of research needed have been identified.
- iii.** The three penguin species in most critical need of help have been identified.
- iv.** Paper published with the priority conservation and research needs for all species and the identification of three species in need of most help. (KSR #32)

Plan

Planning

- i.** PSG Steering Committee meeting organised and penguin conservation strategy discussed. (KSR #15)
- ii.** The meeting of the PSG Steering Committee to define priorities for global penguin conservation has been organised and will take place in August 2019, prior to the International Penguin Congress in New Zealand. (KSR #18)
- iii.** Priority conservation actions defined.

Policy

- i.** Meeting of the PSG Steering Committee completed. (KSR #26)
- ii.** Steering Committee Meeting is organised and will be held in August 2019. (KSR #26)

Network

Membership

- i.** Expert members to be added identified.

Acknowledgements

We deeply thank the members of the PSG Steering Committee for their time and dedication and especially to Susie Ellis for facilitating our events and leading our planning processes. We are indebted to our partner organisation, The Global Penguin Society, for supporting our workshops, meetings and transportation of all Steering Committee members. We are very grateful to The Deep for their invaluable support to organise our workshop in May 2018.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	6	
Plan	5	
Network	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 18, 26, 32

KSR: Key Species Result