

IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

2018 Report



Craig Stanford

Chair

Craig Stanford ⁽¹⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Carla Eisemberg ⁽²⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern California, US

⁽²⁾ RELI, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

Number of members

275

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN / SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group

Listserve:

tftsg@lists.theturtleroom.com

Twitter:

@craigstanford7

Website:

www.iucn-tftsg.org



Mission statement

The Mission of the IUCN SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (TFTSG) is to identify and document threats to the survival of all species of tortoises and freshwater turtles, and to help catalyse conservation action to ensure that none become extinct and that sustainable populations of all species persist in the wild.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

The TFTSG is in the process of assessing or reassessing all species of tortoises and freshwater turtles; we expect to have completed these assessments by mid-2020. These assessments will allow us to focus our attention, grant funds and new projects on species whose status was not as clearly understood until now.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: complete regional Red List assessments (Asia, South America, Madagascar and Mexico/Central America; 50% total species assessed).

Research activities: (1) publish "The top 25 world's rarest tortoises and freshwater turtles"; (2) publication of a top tier scientific journal article analysing patterns of extinction risk for chelonians; (3) encourage publications by other TFTSG members.

Plan

Planning: planning and publication of global/regional action plans.

Act

Conservation actions: site visits to conservation projects for species of concern.

Network

Membership: increase international and gender diversity within TFTSG.

Communicate

Communication: increase visibility of TFTSG through public lectures and fundraising.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. We held a Red Listing Workshop at Singapore Zoo in February 2018; 35 participants attended and 93 species were assessed. Results are pending, and a new Action Plan for Asia is in preparation. (KSR #2)

Research activities

i. We published *Turtles in Trouble: The World's 25+ Most Endangered Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles – 2018* in February 2018. (KSR #43)

ii. Scientific article published: Lovich, J.E., et al. (2018). Where Have All the Turtles Gone, and Why Does It Matter? *BioScience* 68(10):771–781. [DOI: 10.1093/biosci/biy095]

Plan

Planning

i. Publication of global/regional action plans is in progress, expected by late-2019. (KSR #15)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Nine site visits in the US and overseas in 24 months so far. (KSR #32)

Acknowledgements

We thank the Turtle Conservation Fund for helping with some of the Chair's activities; the Turtle Conservancy which funded some of the Chair's site visits; and the Turtle Survival Alliance.



Hatchling Tent tortoise *Psammobates tentorius*
 Photo: TFTSG Archives

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	3	
Plan	1	
Act	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 15, 32, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



Red Listing Workshop, Singapore Zoo, Feb 2018
 Photo: TFTSG Archives