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Number of members

688

Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Primate Specialist Group

Website: www.primates-g.org



Mission statement

The mission of the Primate Specialist Group (PSG) is to maintain the current diversity of the order Primates by ensuring the survival of threatened species wherever they occur and providing effective protection for large numbers of primates in areas of high primate diversity and abundance. In essence, the PSG has a Zero Extinction policy for all primate species.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

During this quadrennium, we will continue to support primate conservation activities worldwide through the maintenance of networks, especially our newsletters and journals, finalise Red Listing for all primate species, and continue to fund primate conservation projects through existing sources as well as new ones to be identified. There will also be a strong emphasis on stimulating appropriate primate ecotourism as a tool for primate conservation through the production of new field guides, pocket guides, apps, and other tools to facilitate primate-watching and primate life-listing. The ultimate goal of all our activities is zero extinctions for primates, that is not allowing any named taxon to go extinct.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: complete assessment of 111 lemur species and subspecies.

Research activities: (1) maintain a taxonomic, geographic and conservation status (Red List) database for primates; (2) publish articles on the taxonomy, geographic distributions, surveys and conservation status of primates.

Plan

Planning: elaboration of action plans for the conservation of primate species and species groups.

Act

Conservation actions: stimulate primate ecotourism, that is primate-watching and primate life-listing, as a major conservation tool for primates.

Proposal development and funding: dramatically increase funding for primates by 2020.

Network

Capacity building: Promote, organise, and participate in: (1) field courses for primate field research and conservation, and (2) congresses and meetings.

Proposal development and funding: (1) manage the Primate Action Fund, a small grants scheme for primate conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education; (2) manage the Lemur Conservation Action Fund, a small grants scheme for lemur conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education.

Communicate

Communication: (1) compile and edit regional newsletters/journals for the Neotropics, Africa, Asia, and Madagascar: *Neotropical Primates*, *African Primates*, *Asian Primates Journal*, *Lemur News*; (2) edit and publish the journal *Primate Conservation*; (3) maintain a list of the 25 Most Endangered Primates; (4) produce field guides and pocket field guides for primates.



Black and white Colobus, male, *Colobus angolensis ruwenzori*, feeding on invasive *Cercostachys* vine, Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier

Uakaris, Colobus monkeys; new species and subspecies and taxa synonymised. (KSR #43)

ii. Taxonomic notes were written up for 11 genera of Asian primates, and for Red Colobus monkeys, Dryas Monkey (*Cercopithecus dryas*), Mt. Kilimanjaro Guereza (*Colobus caudatus*), and Patas monkeys, amongst others. (KSR #43)

iii. Three new species and four resurrected taxa were included. (KSR #43)

iv. Publications: (1) Boubli, J.P., et al. (2019). On a new species of Titi monkey (Primates: *Plecturocebus* Byrne et al., 2016), from Alta Floresta, southern Amazon, Brazil. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 132:117–137; (2) Gusmão, A.C., et al. (2019). A new species of Titi monkey, *Plecturocebus* Byrne et al., 2016 (Primates, Pitheciidae), from southwestern Amazonia, Brazil. *Primate Conservation* (33):21–35; (3) Shekelle, M., et al. (2019). A new tarsier species from the Togeian Islands of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, with reference to Wallacea and conservation on Sulawesi. *Primate Conservation* (33):65–73. (KSR #43)

Plan

Planning

i. Compilation and layout completed for the Red Colobus Action Plan, covering the 18 species and subspecies of Red Colobus monkeys of Sub-Saharan Africa (all of them threatened); it will be ready for printing in early 2020. (KSR #15)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Lemur Conservation Network: Increased the global platform of the Lemur Conservation Network (LCN) online presence (website and social media), for augmenting lemur conservation education and awareness in Madagascar and in the rest of the world; this became a capacity building, training, outreach

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. Results of the Lemur Red Listing Workshop, Carlton Hotel, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 6–11 May 2018: 111 lemurs were assessed. The assessments were compiled, written, entered into the IUCN Species Information Service database (SIS), and reviewed for publication in 2020. (KSR #1)

ii. Backlog from the African Primates Red Listing Workshop, Università di Roma, Roma, Italy, 18–23 April 2016: Assessments of 64 African primates were compiled, written, entered into SIS, and reviewed for publication in 2020. A remaining 39 assessments will be completed, ready for publication, in June 2020. (KSR #1)

iii. Backlog from the Asian Primates Red Listing Workshop, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, Singapore, 23–27 November 2015: Assessments of 163 species of Asian primates were compiled, written, reviewed, and entered into SIS for publication in 2020. A further 26 species and subspecies will be processed in early 2020. (KSR #1)

iv. Backlog from the Neotropical Primates Red Listing Workshop, Houston Zoo, Texas, USA, 26–30 January 2015: Assessments of 27 Neotropical primates were reviewed and published. Assessments of the remaining 191 are ongoing and should be completed by mid-2020. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. Taxonomic changes were incorporated for Patas monkeys, Savannah monkeys, Guenons,

and communication tool for Malagasy LCN members, to strengthen their capacities and communication tools to educate their audiences and improve their lemur conservation efforts at their project sites. The lemur-watching app is nearing the completion stage with anticipated launch in winter 2020. (KSR #36)

Proposal development and funding

i. We applied to the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation (MMBF) for a renewal of the Primate Action Fund (Small Grants Mechanism) in March 2020. (KSR #19)

ii. Funding was received under the IUCN SOS Small Grants Mechanism (Lemur Conservation Action Fund), along with major funding to support the Lemur Conservation Network, among other projects. (KSR #19)

iii. We also received major funding from MMBF (32 grants in all, which includes the Primate Action Fund) for targeted species, including the Niger Delta Red Colobus (*Ptilocolobus epieni*) and Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Ptilocolobus waldroni*); funding to support PSG publications and newsletters, papers, congresses, primate/lemur websites, ecotourism efforts, and red-listing activities. (KSR #19)

iv. We secured funding from the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund to support 15 primate conservation projects. (KSR #19)

v. We secured funding from the Arcus Foundation to support the ARRC Task Force for EEAI (Avoid, Reduce, and Restore negative impacts from Energy, Extractive and Associated Infrastructure) projects on apes and contribute positively to their Conservation. (KSR #19)

vi. We secured funding from Virgin Unite to support local guide associations in Madagascar. (KSR #19)



Guianan Black Spider Monkey (*Ateles paniscus*),
Voltzberg area, Central Suriname Nature Reserve, Suriname
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier



Indri (*Indri indri*), Andasibe, eastern rainforest region, Madagascar
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier



Red-shanked Douc Langur (*Pygathrix cinerea*), Critically Endangered
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier

Network

Capacity building

- i.** Participation in field courses for primate field research and conservation was supported by the Primate Action Fund: three grants for \$6,100. (KSR #18)
- ii.** Participation in field courses for lemur field research and conservation was supported by the Lemur Conservation Action Fund: one grant for \$5,000. (KSR #18)
- iii.** Participation in congresses and meetings was supported by the Primate Action Fund: 17 grants for \$36,008.30. (KSR #18)
- iv.** Participation in congresses and meetings was funded by the Lemur Conservation Action Fund: seven grants for \$21,517. (KSR #18)

Proposal development and funding

- i.** Thirty-seven small grants were awarded in 2019 through the Primate Action Fund for primate conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education. A request was submitted to the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation for renewal of the fund in March 2020. (KSR #30)
- ii.** Twenty-nine small grants were awarded in 2019 for lemur conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education through November 2017 to August 2019, via the Lemur

Conservation Action Fund, through Global Wildlife Conservation. They ranged from financing academic theses, training Malagasy biologists, providing support for participation in international meetings, rapid surveys in remote areas and protected areas under threat, boosting and professionalising tourist guide associations to, for example, an initial evaluation of hunting pressure and forest resource use in local communities. (KSR #30)

Communicate

Communication

- i.** Publication of regional newsletters and journals: *African Primates* Volume 13, 2019; *Asian Primates Journal* Volume 8(1), 2019; *Vietnamese Journal of Primatology* Volume 3(1), 2019; *Neotropical Primates* 2019, in press; and *Lemur News* 2019, in preparation. (KSR #28)
- ii.** Publication of *Primate Conservation*: ten articles published, 13 rejected. *Primate Conservation*, Issue No. 33 (2019) published. (KSR #28)
- iii.** The latest iteration of the 25 Most Endangered Primates was published: Schwitzer, C., et al. (eds.). (2019). *Primates in Peril: The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2018–2020*. Washington, DC: IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, International Primatological Society, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Bristol Zoological Society. (KSR #28)
- iv.** A pocket guide for the primates of Ecuador was published: De la Torre, S., et al. (2019). *Primates de Ecuador, Guía de Identificación de Bolsillo*. Tropical Pocket Guide Series. Austin, Texas: Global Wildlife Conservation. (KSR #28)
- v.** We also published: Supriatna, J. (2019). *Field Guide to the Primates of Indonesia*. Jakarta, Indonesia: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia. (KSR #28)

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Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	8	
Plan	1	
Act	7	
Network	6	
Communicate	5	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 18, 19, 28, 30, 36, 43

KSR: Key Species Result