



IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group



Conservation Success Stories

Recovery of the Crau Plain Grasshopper



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IMPLEMENTED BY

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THREAT ADDRESSED

Overgrazing

TARGET

Implementing the conservation strategy for
Prionotropis rhodanica. (T-026)



SUCCESS LEVEL

Successful

A large blue circle contains four black line-art illustrations of grasshoppers. They are arranged in a circular pattern, with one at the top, one on the right, one at the bottom, and one on the left. Overlaid on this circle is the text '673 individuals in 2023' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

673
individuals
in
2023

Success category: Increase in population viability



Success story:

The Crau Plain Grasshopper (*P. rhodanica*) is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. In 2014, a conservation strategy was drafted for this species, which was subsequently implemented. The species has only three remaining populations, one of which is located in the nature reserve 'Coussouls de la Crau'. A first survey of this population, using mark-recapture, revealed that only 38 mature individuals were left in this population.

As it was assumed that grazing might be a threat to this species, the area was subsequently fenced during the nymphal and adult period of the grasshopper (April to June). Consequently, the population increased and reached an estimated number of 673 individuals in 2023. In 2024, a translocation to a site where the species was formerly present was carried out.

■ RICHARD BERRIDGES



REASONS FOR SUCCESS

Rapid action of a simple measure (fencing) in close collaboration with local stakeholders (shepherd, park managers).



Vulnerable Northern River Shark,
(*Glyphis garricki*)
Photo: Grant Johnson

Interviews about human wildlife
interactions with local inhabitants
Photo: Kiran Thapa Magar

Vicuña management by Cooperativa
Agroganadera de Santa Catalina and Comunidad
Aborígen Atu Shapi de Morritos.
Santa Catalina, Jujuy Province, Argentina
Photo: Yanina Arzamendia

Story photo credits

Prionotropis rhodanica, female
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

Community songbird monitoring and
protection, Indonesia
Photo: Asian Songbird Trade SG archives

Cacti from genera *Copiapoa* and *Eriosyce*
confiscated in Italy and repatriated to Chile in 2021
Photo: Andrea Cattabriga