

IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group



2018 Report



Ariadne Angulo



Phil Bishop

Co-Chairs

Ariadne Angulo (1)
Phil Bishop (2)

Red List Authority Coordinator

Jennifer Luedtke (1)

Location/Affiliation

(1) 3701 Lake Shore Blvd W, P.O. Box 48586,
Toronto, ON, M8W 1P5, Canada
(2) University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

Number of members

337

Social networks

Facebook:
IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group
Twitter:
@ASG_IUCN
Website:
<https://www.iucn-amphibians.org/>



Mission statement

The Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) provides the scientific foundation to inform effective amphibian conservation action around the world. More specifically, the ASG stimulates, develops and conducts scientific research to inform the conservation of amphibians and their habitats around the world, supports the assessment of the conservation status of amphibian biodiversity and informs the general public of amphibian conservation-related issues and priorities. This is attained by supporting and mobilising a global network of members to develop capacity, improve coordination and integration so as to achieve shared, strategic amphibian conservation goals.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Resources permitting, by 2020 we envision conclusion of the update of global amphibian assessments on The IUCN Red List, conclusion of the 2017-2020 ASG Strategic Plan, update of the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan for the next four years and an increased uptake of this tool by the amphibian conservation community. At the ASG membership level, we envision a more proactive and engaged specialist group, with greater participation, more cross-pollination within and between regions and thematic groups and collaborations with other specialist groups with cross-cutting issues.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Policy: the ASG Red List Authority (RLA) provides advice and expertise for national Red List processes.

Proposal development and funding: ASG has a fully-funded Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA2) update project.

Red List: (1) completion of the Global Amphibian Assessment update (GAA2); (2) ASG RLA provides technical feedback and expertise to the Red List Committee and Red List Technical Working Group, as necessary.

Research activities: (1) ASG supports the update of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites; (2) ASG actively contributes to the production of scientific publications related to amphibian research and conservation.

Plan

Planning: (1) ASG Secretariat, Regional Chairs and members contribute towards single- or multi-species conservation action plans at the international or national levels; (2) update of the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP); (3) completion of Amphibian Reintroduction Guidelines; (4) a framework for single- and multi-species amphibian action planning is created through collaboration with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group's efforts to develop multi-species planning guidance; (5) the ASG has a Strategic Plan for the remainder of the 2017-2020 quadrennium.

Policy: (1) ASG provides scientific advice and information for the identification and conservation of species of concern in national and international contexts; (2) ASG coordinates input for the development of an updated amphibian motion for the next World Conservation Congress.

Act

Proposal development and funding: increasing uptake of ACAP among donors.

Technical advice: ASG provides technical advice to organisations and institutions globally.

Network

Agreements: ASG has donors that provide financial and institutional support to ASG RLA staff time.



Suweon Treefrog (*Dryophytes suweonensis*), Endangered
Photo: Amael Borzee

Capacity building: (1) development of the Grant Writing Mentorship Program; (2) ASG RLA will provide Red List training through its Red List workshops and other venues when the opportunity arises; training day(s) may be open to the public or an audience wider than amphibian experts.

Membership: (1) ASG membership and regional and thematic leadership are renewed, new members are brought on board and regional representation is improved; (2) ASG proactively recruits new members, focusing on regions with little or no representation at the start of the quadrennium.

Proposal development and funding: ASG has donors that provide financial and institutional support to ASG staff time.

Synergy: ASG is a key ally of Amphibian Ark and the Amphibian Survival Alliance with the shared vision of "Amphibians thriving in nature".

Communicate

Communication: (1) ASG reports its activities to SSC DATA; (2) ASG will participate in, and in some cases organise, public presentations to communicate the work of IUCN, SSC, ASG, and the Red List; (3) ASG will develop and launch its own website (we have shared our site with the

Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) since 2013) to continue providing information about our work and amphibian conservation globally; (4) the IUCN Red List is used to inform the project and funding priorities of NGOs and funding mechanisms with the aim of ensuring that effective amphibian conservation is taking place globally; (5) ASG develops a communications plan that will lay out the intended use of each of its communications tools (email, FrogLog, website, social media [Facebook, Twitter]); (6) together with ASA, ASG continues to produce FrogLog. Research activities: create and establish a Repository for Amphibian Conservation literature (RAC).

Scientific meetings: (1) ASG actively participates in scientific meetings; (2) ASG actively contributes to the organisation of scientific meetings; (3) ASG will participate in, and in some cases organise symposia to communicate the work of IUCN, SSC, ASG, and the Red List.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Green List

i. In 2018, the Amphibian Red List Authority (ASG RLA) participated in interviews and feedback sessions towards the development of the

Green List; the ASG RLA contributed test cases for the Red List Technical Working Group Extinction Guidelines testing with Resit Akçakaya. (KSR #11)

Proposal development and funding

i. Total budget to achieve the Global Amphibian Assessment update (GAA2) has been raised. (KSR #30)

Red List

i. Fifty percent of all amphibian species described through December 2018 have an assessment dated between 2009-2018. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. ASG RLA supports the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) in the identification of AZE sites. (KSR #22, 31)

ii. In 2018, scientific articles related to amphibian research and conservation were published (one by Ariadne Angulo and two by Jennifer Luedtke). (KSR #32, 43)

Plan

Planning

i. The ASG Programme Officer and Co-Chair facilitated a *Rhinoderma* conservation planning workshop in 2017. The ASG Regional Chair for Colombia produced a national action plan

Megophrys nasuta, Least Concern
Photo: Debbie Bishop



in 2018 with government endorsement for the amphibians of Colombia. (KSR #15, 17)

ii. The potential partnership with California Conservation Society (Oakland Zoo) to hold an ACAP workshop unfortunately did not materialise. We are now planning on updating ACAP remotely. (KSR #15, 17)

iii. Completion of the Amphibian Reintroduction Guidelines is being led by the Conservation Translocation Specialist Group (CTSG) with support from the ASG. A first draft was shared with ASG Secretariat members and returned with feedback. A revised draft is currently available for public consultation. (KSR #18)

iv. ASG Programme Officer, Sally Wren, has collaborated with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group and Amphibian Ark towards the development of a framework for single- and multi-species amphibian action planning. (KSR #15, 17, 18, 20)

Policy

i. ASG input was collated into CITES provisions relating to the trade in specimens of animals and plants not of wild source. (KSR #26)

Act

Proposal development and funding

i. Two funding entities are formally adopting ACAP to inform their granting priorities. (KSR #19, 30)

Technical advice

i. ASG provided feedback and contacts to the Amphibian Survival Alliance regarding the update of Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, and Lina Valencia at Global Wildlife Conservation toward the creation of an *Ateolopus* Survival Alliance. (KSR #29)

Network

Capacity building

i. The Grant Writing Mentorship Program was advertised to ASG membership and reviewers solicited; reviewers identified and enrolled in the programme; guideline development initiated. (KSR #30)

ii. The ASG RLA provided basic Red List training at three workshops in 2018 (Penang and Sarawak, Malaysia, and Colombia). (KSR #5)

Membership

i. Membership reinstated; leaders are in place to advance various conservation priorities.

ii. We have an increased number of ASG members with an understanding of needs and how they can contribute to amphibian conservation in the framework of ASG.

Proposal development and funding

i. ASG Co-Chair support secured for 2017-2018; discussions with a potential partner took place in 2018 for a planning programme officer, but unfortunately support did not materialise as expected. (KSR #30)

Synergy

i. ASG remained actively engaged with its allies, participating in monthly calls between the three organisations. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

i. ASG reported its activities to SSC DATA.

ii. ASG Secretariat discussed URL and other related matters through internal Skype conversations, conversations with the Amphibian Survival Alliance leadership, and through external consultation with a branding expert. ASG Secretariat appointed a Webmaster, Amael Borzee, in 2018 to develop a new site with support from the Amphibian Survival Alliance Communication Director and ASG member, Candace Hansen. (KSR #28)

iii. Amphibian RLA Coordinator, Jennifer Luedtke, continues to promote the use of the IUCN Red List in the development of monitoring and evaluation organisational indicators, and funding priorities of Global Wildlife Conservation. (KSR #8)

iv. Development of Communications Plan in 2019 included in the Strategic Plan. (KSR #28)

v. Production of one *FrogLog* issue. (KSR #28)

vi. Strategic Plan updated and disseminated in 2018; it is used to inform new members in 2019-2020 in addition to existing members. (KSR #28)

Research activities

i. The context around the originally envisioned Repository for Amphibian Conservation literature (RAC) has changed, and with it, the ability to achieve the original target. However, with a small amount of funds, it has been possible to hire someone to compile an updated and hyperlinked list of the most recent amphibian conservation literature, providing the information needed to populate a future database, should a new opportunity arise in the future. The lists are uploaded to the ASG, ASA and AmphibiaWeb websites and are available to members and the wider public. The ability to maintain this list will depend on finding resources to continue beyond the end of the year.

Scientific meetings

i. In 2018, the ASG Co-Chairs and RLA attended seven scientific meetings: Phil (5 – Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, USA, Brunei), Ariadne (1 – Brazil), Jennifer (0), Kelsey (0), Louise (1 – UK). (KSR #28)

ii. 2018-2020: Phil Bishop is leading the coordination of the 2020 World Herpetology Congress; there are also plans for a joint amphibian event at the next World Conservation Congress. (KSR #28)

Hyperolius ocellatus, Least Concern
 Photo: Jos Kielgast



Black-spotted Rock Frog (*Staurois guttatus*), Least Concern
 Photo: Debbie Bishop

Acknowledgements

We thank Synchronicity Earth and Global Wildlife Conservation who act as our fiscal sponsors; we thank Synchronicity Earth, Global Wildlife Conservation, Amphibian Survival Alliance, Kering, and Detroit Zoological Society for their generous financial support towards the positions of our Co-Chair, Ariadne Angulo, and the Amphibian RLA team, Jennifer Luedtke, Kelsey Neam, and Louise Hobin. Furthermore, we are deeply grateful for the friendship and collaboration of the Amphibian Survival Alliance, Amphibian Ark, and all the ASG members who lend their time, expertise, and goodwill to the cause of amphibian conservation.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	5	
Plan	5	
Act	2	
Network	6	
Communicate	9	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 5, 8, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 43

KSR: Key Species Result