

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

431

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @IUCNAmphibians

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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 and improve coordination and integration so as to achieve shared, strategic amphibian conservation goals.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased awareness of the amphibian decline and extinction crisis, increased support of amphibian conservation through updated Red List assessments, and evidence-based decision making, targeted and coordinated action through an updated Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP).

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-005 The Amphibian Red List Authority (ARLA) provides advice and expertise for national Red List processes.

T-006 Complete the Global Amphibian Assessment update (GAA2).

PLAN

T-001 Update the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP).

T-013 ASG develops a strategic plan for the new IUCN quadrennium.

T-018 ASG Secretariat, Regional Chairs and members contribute towards single- or multi-species conservation action plans at the international or national levels.

T-019 ASG provides scientific advice and information for the identification and conservation of species of concern in national and international contexts.

ACT

T-002 Increase uptake of ACAP among stakeholders.

T-003 ASG provides technical advice to organisations and institutions globally.

T-017 ASG acts as a key ally of Amphibian Ark and the Amphibian Survival Alliance with the shared vision of “Amphibians thriving in nature”.

NETWORK

T-004 ASG leadership and membership are renewed.

T-014 Ensure a number of ARLA staff members are supported by donors.

T-015 ASG proactively recruits new members, focusing on regions with little or no representation at the start of the quadrennium.

T-016 Create/increase financial partnerships that support ASG staff.

COMMUNICATE

T-007 ASG actively contributes to the production of scientific publications related to amphibian research and conservation.

T-008 ASG reports activities to SSC Data.

T-009 Ensure the IUCN Red List is used to inform the project and funding priorities of NGOs and funding mechanisms.

T-010 ASG develops a communications plan laying out the intended use of each of its communications tools.

T-011 Together with the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), ASG continues to produce *FrogLog*.

T-012 ASG participates in scientific or public events.



Hyalinobatrachium bergeri
Photo: Ariadne Angulo

T-020 Create and populate a Research Gate project page to collate and improve visibility of all ASG-related publications.

T-021 Maintain the Halliday-Bishop Amphibian Conservation Reference List.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-006 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 8,130

Result description: in 2021, the Amphibian RLA submitted 747 first time assessments and 1,986 reassessments to the Red List Unit for publication. This increased the completion of the second Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA2) from 68% in December 2020 with 5,532 assessments completed to 99% complete. A total of 8,130 assessments are expected to be published on the IUCN Red List in the July 2022 update.

PLAN

Planning

T-001 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: by December 2021 we had final drafts submitted for all 12 ACAP themes and are wrapping up the introductory chapters. Once these are ready, all chapters will be assembled into a single draft document that will be made available to the broader community for a public consultation process prior to being sent for peer review.

T-018 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: ASG supported the launch of the Harlequin Toad (*Atelopus*) Conservation Action Plan (available at <https://www.iucn-amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HarleCAP-2021-English.pdf>).

Policy

T-019 (KSR 9)

Number of instances where advice and information are sought and given: 1

Result description: ASG provided input into the development of the Amphibian Translocation Guidelines (available at https://www.iucn-amphibians.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Ampb-Guidelines_170521_Final.pdf).

ACT

Synergy

T-017 (KSR 10)

Number of collaborative activities: 2

Result description: This year, ASG collaborated with the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) and Amphibian Ark in the following: (1) participating in the ASA Strategic Planning Committee's process (with ASA and Amphibian Ark); (2) reconstituting the *FrogLog* editorial board and planning changes in the publication starting 2022 (with ASA).

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members maintained: 198

Result description: At the time of writing (December 2021), ASG membership renewal is underway. As of 16 December

2021, 198 of the 355 ASG members enrolled in the IUCN Commission System have renewed their membership. Of the 431 members enrolled via the ASG application form, 37 have renewed this process. Of the 43 regional groups in which the ASG has been historically organised, we have 36 confirmed leaders (many of which co-chair a region). Three, potentially four, regions will likely require a succession.

Synergy

T-014 (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 3

Result description: The ARLA was fortunate to retain all its donors in 2021.

T-016 (KSR 1)

Number of 'funding' partners established and maintained: 0

Result description: No new partnerships have been established in 2021. We have been working hard to complete the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) as a product with which we can approach donors and ask for support. The SSC Chair's Office is currently facilitating discussions with the German Society for Herpetology and Herpetoculture (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde, DGHT) to explore a potential partnership with them.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-007 (KSR 12)

Number of publications that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 4

Result description: This year we produced the following scientific publications: (1) Borzée, A., et al. (2021). 'Update on



Nymphargus ocellatus
Photo: Ariadne Angulo



Rhinella yanachaga
Photo: Ariadne Angulo

Distribution and Conservation Status of Amphibians in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Conclusions Based on Field Surveys, Environmental Modelling, Molecular Analyses and Call Properties'. *Animals* 11(7):2057. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11072057>; (2) Button, S. and Borzée, A. (2021). 'An integrative synthesis to global amphibian conservation priorities'. *Global Change Biology* 27(19): 4516–4529. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15734>; (3) Wiedenfeld, D.A., et al. (2021). 'Conservation resource allocation, small population resiliency, and the fallacy of conservation triage'. *Conservation Biology* 35(5):1388–1395. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13696>; (4) Borzée, A., et al. (2021). 'Using the 2020 global pandemic as a springboard to highlight the need for amphibian conservation in eastern Asia'. *Biological Conservation* 255:108973. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.108973>.

T-008 (KSR 12)

Report to SSC DATA: 1

Result description: The current report accounts for activities undertaken for the year 2021.

T-009 (KSR 12)

Number of organisations ASG interacts with to promote use of the IUCN Red List: 3

Result description: The Amphibian RLA provided staff time to support at least three NGOs in sourcing and interpreting IUCN Red List data to inform their priorities and actions during 2021: Re:wild, Synchronicity Earth and Wildlife Trust India.

T-011 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 2

Result description: this year the ASG, together with ASA, produced two issues of *FrogLog* (issues 122 and 123), the amphibian conservation community's publication. Due to ongoing capacity issues there has been a paucity in the production of *FrogLog* (two issues instead of four in 2021). Because of this situation, we have reconstituted the *FrogLog* Editorial Board and are revisiting how to maintain *FrogLog* in the context of the ASG membership renewal.

T-012 (KSR 12)

Number of presentations delivered in scientific events: 4

Result description: in 2021, the regional branch of ASG, ASG Brazil, organised and carried out its III ANFoCO (Amphibians in Focus) event between 30 November 2021 and 2 December 2021. This year the event was completely virtual, with 32 presentations covering a diversity of topics. Four of these presentations were given by members of the ASG Brazil Secretariat and a keynote presentation was given by former Co-Chair Débora Silvano. Details of the event can be found at https://www.canva.com/design/DAEs0eeaszwtanBZHRDczi-lg97eLMFAGw/view?utm_content=DAEs0eeaszwtanBZHRDczi-lg97eLMFAGw&utm_campaign=design-share&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton#2.

T-020 (KSR 12)

Number of publications uploaded to project page: 17

Result description: since the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group project was created, a total of 17 references have been added, inclusive of four new publications in 2021.

T-021 (KSR 12)

Regular update of the reference list (# of references): 4

Result description: This year we identified the possibility of developing a bibliography project that would allow us to transition the Halliday-Bishop Amphibian Conservation Reference List into a bibliographic reference database in Zotero. Prospective ASG member Nikhil Modak has begun to work on the project, which is shared with both AmphibiaWeb and the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA).

Acknowledgements

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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 21

Geographic regions: 21 Global

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 3 (KSR 8, 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 7 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

