IUCN SSC Mid-Atlantic Island Invertebrate Specialist Group

2018 Report

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Co-Chairs

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Number of members

41

Social networks

Website:
www.maiisg.com

Mission statement

To increase the evidence and action for invertebrate conservation on the islands of: Gough, Tristan, St Helena, Ascension, Cape Verdes, Canaries, Madeira, Azores, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision: (1) significant progress in raising awareness of invertebrates and their conservation issues across the Mid-Atlantic Islands; (2) at least one additional island that previously had no direct invertebrate conservation to have established programmes; (3) a total of 500 invertebrate Red List assessments to be achieved; and (4) another new conservation action plan to be operating. We expect also to contribute to conservation policy in Azores by informing the Azorean Conservation Agency about the arthropod species in urgent need of conservation. These combined efforts will create more secure invertebrate populations on these islands.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete assessments of 100 St Helena endemic invertebrates; (2) complete assessments of 30 Ascension Island endemic invertebrates; (3) complete assessments of 211 Azorean endemic arthropods; (4) complete assessments of 25 Azorean endemic spiders; (5) complete assessments of 120 Madeira endemic Carabidae and Staphylinidae; (6) the BIOS2020 project (2019-2022) was submitted by IFCN IP-RAM (Madeira Government) to the second call of the European Union Madeira-Açores-Canarias (EU MAC) Programme; if approved, it will contribute to the update of the conservation status of the endemic Madeiran land snail species, namely those from the Madeiran Natural Forest Laurissilva.

Plan

Planning: (1) assess invertebrate conservation needs on Tristan and Gough islands; (2) initiate conservation planning for threatened Azores invertebrates; (3) implement the European Commission LIFE Programme project 'LIFE BEETLES – Bringing Environmental and Ecological Threats Lower to Endangered Species'.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) project initiated on the conservation of Ascension Island endemic invertebrates; (2) project completed on increasing data on St Helena endemic invertebrates; (3) species recovery project for the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse (*Pseudolaureola atlantica*) on St Helena.

Network

Documents review: (1) review of the St Helena Invertebrate Strategy; (2) review of the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse Conservation Plan.

Communicate

Communication: (1) paper published on establishing conservation on St Helena; (2) invertebrate identification book finished for St Helena; (3) group newsletter circulated at least three times per year; (4) paper published on

The Azorean native forest now covering less than 5% of Azorean islands and hosting almost all the Azorean endemic beetles
Photo: Paulo A. V. Borges, Azorean Biodiversity Group

Pseudanchomenus aptinoides, one of the rarest Azorean ground-beetles
Photo: Enésima Mendonça, Azorean Biodiversity Group

the species conservation profile of Azorean endemic forest beetles; (5) paper submitted on the species conservation profile of Azorean endemic moths; (6) paper in preparation on the species conservation profile of Azorean endemic cave arthropods; (7) webpage established; (8) paper submitted on a Global Island Monitoring Scheme (GIMS) for the long-term coordinated survey and monitoring of forest biota across islands; (9) Forest Giants project targets for awareness and conservation of *Archachatina bicarinata* and review Red List assessment for the species.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. Red List assessments completed for 84 St Helena endemic invertebrates, with another 30 species in progress. (KSR #2)

ii. Difficulties exist with data and capacity to complete assessments of Ascension Island endemic invertebrates; we are still exploring whether this will be possible. In addition, the number of assessments (30) was an estimate; it appears there are fewer than 30 endemic invertebrates. (KSR #2)

iii. One hundred eighteen (118) Azorean endemic arthropod assessments published on the IUCN Red List. (KSR #2)

iv. Twenty-five Azorean endemic spider assessments on track to be published. (KSR #2)

v. Ninety-three Azorean endemic arthropod assessments are being reviewed. (KSR #2)

vi. Texts are being finalised for 120 Madeira endemic Carabidae and Staphylinidae assessments. (KSR #2)

Plan

Planning

i. The project 'LIFE BEETLES – Bringing Environmental and Ecological Threats Lower To Endangered Species' was approved and will start on January 2020. (KSR #15)

Act

Conservation actions

i. The project to increase data on St Helena endemic invertebrates has been completed, supported by MAIISG; a total of 26 sites were surveyed. (KSR #27)

Network

Documents review

i. We are still deciding the best approach to review the St Helena Invertebrate Strategy and finding capacity. Most likely, progress will be assessed and comments made in 2019.

ii. Partial review of the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse Conservation Plan complete; to be finalised in 2019. (KSR #15)

Communicate

Communication

i. Paper on establishing conservation on St Helena was published in *Biodiversity and Conservation*: https://rdcu.be/9WUr. (KSR #28)

ii. Finalising text of book on identification of St Helena invertebrates and still hoping to publish it in 2019. (KSR #28)

iii. Three group newsletters were sent out in 2018, and are available on the Mid-Atlantic Island Invertebrate Specialist Group (MAIISG) website. (KSR #28)

iv. Paper published: Borges, P.A.V. et al. (2017). Conservation status of the forest beetles (Insecta, Coleoptera) from Azores, Portugal. *Biodiversity Data Journal* 5: e14557. [DOI: 10.3897/BDJ.5.e14557] (KSR #28)

v. Paper published: Borges, P.A.V. et al. (2018). Species conservation profile of moths (Insecta, Lepidoptera) from Azores, Portugal. *Biodiversity Data Journal* 6: e23311. [DOI:10.3897/BDJ.6.e23311] (KSR #28)

vi. Paper published: Borges, P.A.V. et al. (2019). Species conservation profiles of cave-dwelling arthropods from Azores, Portugal. *Biodiversity Data Journal* 7: e32530. [DOI: 10.3897/BDJ.7.e32530] (KSR #14)

vii. Website established: www.maiisg.com. (KSR #28)

viii. Paper published: Borges, P.A.V., et al. (2018). A Global Island Monitoring Scheme (GIMS) for the long-term coordinated survey and monitoring of forest biota across islands. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 27:2567–2586. [DOI:10.1007/s10531-018-1553-7] (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the MAIISG members and all their hard work during 2018.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	6
Plan	1
Act	1
Network	2
Communicate	8

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 14, 15, 27, 28

KSR: Key Species Result