



Species

IUCN E 64

2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC and CSS. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

Title of the group

Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

Group information

Includes names of Chair/Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators, Program Officers, Species Survival Directors, and Species Survival Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

Logo of the group

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2023 Report

IUCN SSC Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group



CO-CHAIR
Monika B-hm
Global Center for
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Indianapolis Zoo,
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US

CO-CHAIR
Mike Jordan
Chester Zoo, UK

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Monika B-hm
Global Center for
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Indianapolis Zoo,
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
52

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

Facebook: [IUCN SSC Butterfly & Moth Specialist Group](#)
X: [@IUCNButter_ySG](#)

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Butterfly and Moth Specialist Group is to increase knowledge on the taxonomy, ecology and conservation status of Butterflies and Moths around the world and promote their long-term conservation.

T-007 Support the development of national or regional Red List assessments for Butterflies and Moths and improve linkages between national Red Lists and the global IUCN Red List (facilitate upload of assessments from national Red Lists to the global IUCN Red List).

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased awareness of Butterfly and Moth status through assessment and outreach; increased action in Butterfly conservation through establishment of action plans (e.g. Swallowtails); increased capacity for species assessment and conservation planning within the Specialist Group.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-003 Create a global inventory of Butterfly monitoring schemes and available time series data (with collaborators) to help us assess data gaps and capacity needs and build a Living Planet Index for Butterflies.
Status: On track

producing Red List assessments for several
Butterfly and Moth species that will subse-

Group member Holly Mynott. Specifically, Butterfly and Moth SG member Federico Riva presented the current data available for a Global Butterfly Index. The symposium was chaired by SG Co-Chair Monni Böhm and SG member Holly Mynott. We provided social media outreach throughout and after the conference about the symposium (see target T-013 for details) and featured a write-up in our annual newsletter, which will be published in early 2024.

T-017 Identify additional priorities, groups for assessment and conservation planning, e.g. Green Scales, Red Lists, Climate Change assessment. (KSR 6)

Number of species that have been assessed through the different tools: 0

Result description: The following assessment priorities were identified during 2023, especially with the view of upcoming SSC Internal and EDGE grants for the period 2023-24: (1) South Caucasus endemic Butterfly species *Metallene*: we prepared, submitted and were successful with a proposal supporting assessments of five of these species (SSC Internal Grant; see also Target 022); (2) *Metalmark*: the only member of its family, the Metalmark Butterflies (Riodinidae), found in the Caribbean. Additionally, this species is

the only member of its genus, and the genus is the only member of its tribe (Dianesiini). The species is found only in Cuba and the Bahamas. Specialist Group member Keith Willmott prepared a proposal to support the assessment of this distinctive species (Internal EDGE grant) which received funding for 2024; (3) The highly range-restricted Neotropical bamboo-feeding Euptychiina Butterflies: at least 46 species with highly restricted distributions. Specialist Group member Keith Willmott prepared a proposal to support data collection and capacity building toward an assessment of these highly restricted species (Internal EDGE grant) which was unsuccessful.

SSC Grant awarded

NETWORK

Membership

T-002 Increase the global reach of the Group including a diversity of membership covering at least 40 countries. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 9

Result description: In 2023, the Group welcomed nine new members from three countries. The group now has 52 members representing 24 countries.

SSC Grant awarded

Capacity building

T-018 Develop partnership with relevant organisations (e.g. Butterfly Conservation, eButterfly) to improve access to conservation-relevant data, and cooperation and capacity building for Lepidoptera. (KSR 3)

Increased number of collaborations: Ongoing.

Result description: We continued our collaborative work with our partner organisations, including Butterfly Conservation, Butterfly Conservation Europe, Vlinderstichting (Netherlands), the Living Planet Index

of Insects, we have further engaged with various researchers and organisations/networks in North America, especially to discuss how Butterfly monitoring data can be best used for North American species assessments — e.g. with Albuquerque BioPark, Xerces Society, RCN Status of Insects, the University of Nevada Reno, etc. We also reviewed and commented on the Species Status Assessment (SSA) for three taxa of Amazonian Swallowtails for the US Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS).

**T-023 Work closure in IUCN SSC
Invertebrate Conservation Committee and
other invertebrate SSC groups on activities
related to B. er., and M. h. conservation.
(KSR 3)**

Number of outputs created(s) 1.6 (, t)-15.8 (h)-10.35 416.62

can be focused (e.g. around World
Sally and David, publication of scientific
output, etc.). (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs
developed in relation to specific taxonomic
groups: 1

Result description: In 2023, we produced
regular digital communications on X
(formerly Twitter) on the Butterfly Monitoring
symposium at the Biology of Butterflies
Conference in Prague (July 2023). We have
unrolled the threads here for easier access:
[Threads #1](#), [Threads #2](#), [Threads #3](#). In
addition, we also engaged with social media
content for Moth Week (July 2023).

Scientific meetings

T-013 Improve communication with the
membership and audience through
newsletter, blog, Facebook and Twitter
presence, podcast, etc., with a major
output per year around high engage-
ment can be focused (e.g. around World
Sally and David, publication of scientific
output, etc.). (KSR 12)

