



# Species

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## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat









## 2023 Report

# IUCN SSC Horseshoe Crab Specialist Group

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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

97

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Facebook: [Asian Horseshoe Crab Group](#)

**Mission statement**

The four extant species of horseshoe crabs are imperilled because of over fishing for use as food, bait, the production of bio-

## COMMUNICATE

**T-010** Publish a book based on papers presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> International Workshops on the Science and Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs in 2015 and 2019.

Status: Achieved

**T-011** Publish an overview on the threats and conservation of horseshoe crabs for *Imperiled: The Encyclopedia of Conservation*.

Status: Achieved

**T-012** Organise/coordinate at least three meetings or workshops on the science and conservation of horseshoe crabs for various stakeholders.

Status: On track

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## Activities and results 2023

### ASSESS

#### Red List

**T-004** Complete the Red List assessment for the two species of Asian horseshoe crabs, the Mangrove Horseshoe Crab (*Chelonia mydas*) and the Coastal Horseshoe Crab (*T. setacea*). (KSR 6)

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

Result description: A first draft of the Red List Assessment (RLA) of the Mangrove

Horseshoe Crab was prepared and initial comments were received from the Co-Chairs. A further revision was being undertaken. A presentation based on the draft RLA of the Mangrove Horseshoe Crab was also given at the Regional Meeting on the Conservation of Asian Horseshoe Crabs in November 2023 in Malaysia, so as to solicit comments and suggestions as well as to gather additional information on the RLA of the Coastal Horseshoe Crab from participants from Asia.

#### Green Status

**T-003** Complete the Green Status of Species assessment for the Tri-spine Horseshoe Crab (*T. setacea*). (KSR 6)

Number of new Green Status of Species assessments completed: 0

Result description: A Green Status of Species Assessment team for the Tri-spine Horseshoe Crabs, comprising 11 members of the Specialist Group from nine countries/regions, has been formed to conduct the assessment following the 'Background and Guidelines for the IUCN Green Status of Species' and 'Assessment Instructions, IUCN Green Status of Species, Version 2, March 2022'.

## PLAN

### Planning

**T-005** Conduct regional conservation planning for the American Horseshoe Crab (*L. setacea*) to identify local and regional actions. (KSR 8)

Identification of local and/or regional actions for conservation of the American horseshoe crabs: Ongoing.

Result description: Apart from the completion of the [Green Status of Species Assessment of the American Horseshoe Crab in 2022](#) indicating that the current population is moderately depleted, a paper was published summarizing the assessment process and further conservation measures: Smith, DR. *et al.* (2023). '[Assessment of recovery 1 \(o\)-11.5 \(l3.71-12.1 \(a.5 e-5 3 \(e\)0e](#)



and 22 regular papers presented by participants from diverse Asian countries/regions, including Mainland China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand. A key success of the meeting is to foster collaborative efforts

