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2017

Galliformes Specialist Group Annual Report 2016-2017

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2016-2017 Report



Simon Dowell



John Carroll

Co-Chairs

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Number of members

163

Social networks

Facebook:
Galliformes Specialist Group
Twitter:
@galliformes_SG
Website:
galliformes.org



Galliformes Specialist Group

Mission statement

The Galliformes Specialist Group (GSG) is committed to the world wide conservation and sustainable management of all native populations of Galliformes species and their habitats.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. Red List reassessment of species. BirdLife International is the red listing authority for our species, but the GSG was invited to comment specifically on eight Galliformes species and the Chairs were able to use the web site, Facebook site and Twitter feed to consult the membership. (KSR #1)

■ Technical advice

i. Technical advice was provided to a consultant working for Slow Food Mexico on the origins of the wild relatives of the domestic turkey in Mexico. (KSR #27)

Capacity building

■ Proposal development and funding

i. The GSG offers two levels of recognition for projects that relate to the conservation of Galliformes species (including sustainable use): approval and endorsement. These are communicated by the Co-Chairs to the Principle investigator (PI, project leader) in writing under the GSG and IUCN-SSC logos. Project recognition by the GSG is known to affect the funding decisions (positively!) of both national and international donor agencies. GSG members are invited to share their proposals for funding to grant awarding bodies with the SG via the GSG website. Proposals are reviewed and suggestions for improvement given. In 2017, four proposals were submitted and endorsed and at least one has received funding.

Communications

■ Communication

i. Two *GSG Newsletter* issues were produced during the period (August 2016 and March 2017) and were disseminated to members via the website. These publications included articles on a range of species, information on new publications, and forthcoming events. Two editions of *Grouse News* were also produced during the same period. (KSR #28)

ii. The new website was developed and launched in 2016/17 and includes a mission statement, a full species list with Red List status and relevant links as a reference point for all members, information on the membership, forthcoming conferences and literature sources. See <http://galliformes.org/>. (KSR #28)

iii. A Facebook page was created (Galliformes Specialist Group) and curated and this has been very active with regular feeds. It has been used to share information and news about Galliformes related matters, photographs, videos, grant opportunities, calls for Red List information, events, news from relevant organisations, etc. A number of enquiries about conservation status of our species have been followed up via Facebook and it has generally raised the profile of our species amongst the wider conservation community (you don't have to be a GSG member to be a member of the Facebook group). Use is monitored with weekly insights report - the average weekly reach is now ~1000 and people engaged between 100 and 200 per week. (KSR #28)

iv. A Twitter account was set up and this now has 65 followers, mostly (but not exclusively) from within the SG membership. This is used to disseminate new publications, discoveries/sightings, conservation news relevant to our species, Red List updates and requests for information, IUCN news, etc. (KSR #28)



■ Scientific meetings

i. Presentations on the SG were given by one of the Co-Chairs at the following five conferences during the 2016/17 period: European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Meeting (as part of Galliformes Taxon Advisory Group), Belfast, UK, September 2016; Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, North America, Nebraska, March 2017; Perdix Gamebird Conference, France, Aug 2017; EAZA meeting (as part of Galliformes Taxon Advisory Group), Netherlands, Sept 2017; Conservation Planning SG Meeting, Berlin, Oct 2017. These introduced the work of the SG and enabled sharing of ideas about future strategy, especially in relation to conservation planning and developing a 'one plan' approach.

■ Synergy

i. Simon Dowell joined the Scientific Advisory Committee of the World Pheasant Association (WPA) and attended the annual meeting of the Committee at Bristol Zoo, UK, in April 2017. Discussions have begun around how the WPA might be able to support action planning activities in the future. (KSR #29)

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. A conservation planning workshop was held in Berlin Zoo on Edwards' Pheasant that brought together the *ex situ* (both zoos and private breeders) and *in situ* (Pham Tuan Anh from Viet Nam) communities and reviewed the draft conservation action plan for the species. (KSR #15)

■ Research activities

i. Habitat utilisation study at major protected area site in Thailand completed and published (Sukumal et al. 2017. *Bird Conservation International* 27: 414-430). Full assessment of SE Asia population of Green peafowl past and present completed and prepared for publication. Project to monitor population in agricultural area of central Myanmar developed with important continuous monitoring element. All outputs being used to develop long-term conservation plans for the species. (KSR #12)

Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

i. Membership was reviewed and reduced to those more active Galliformes researchers and conservationists (currently standing at 163). A new 'friends of' category for non scientists/specialists to engage with the GSG was created. These are not part of the membership but have

access to parts of the website, including newsletters, which enables them to engage with the group. We also created a partner category for suitable partner organisations and 10 partners have signed up so far.

Policy

■ Synergy

i. A letter of support was provided for BirdLife Austria's campaign to prevent the siting of wind farms in the environmentally sensitive West Styrian mountain range in Austria, which is internationally important for four grouse species, one of which (Black Grouse) is listed as Vulnerable in Europe. (KSR #29)

Acknowledgements

We thank Sean Carroll for designing and constructing our new website. We thank our respective institutions (University of Lincoln, Nebraska and Chester Zoo, UK) for supporting us in co-chairing the group. Our thanks to Berlin Zoo for hosting the Edwards' Pheasant Workshop. We thank the institutions of *GSG Newsletter* editors for supporting their work for GSG.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Technical advice: active participation in the development of the Green List by offering Galliformes species for piloting and being at the forefront of the introduction of the green listing process.

Bolster work at national scales

Conservation activities: production of one regional action plan covering Galliformes species.

Capacity building

Proposal development and funding: development and implementation of a proactive scheme for encouraging the Galliformes community to secure funding for the conservation of our species, including provision of a service to review, improve and endorse funding proposals.

Communications

Communication: improved communications via online and virtual methods.

Synergy: more formalised relationship between

GSG and related groups - especially Grouse Group.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: bring together the captive (conservation) breeding community and field conservationists by encouraging the development of more 'one plan' thinking towards the conservation of Galliformes.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

We expect to improve the protection of a suite of Galliformes species in SE Asia through a regionally focussed action planning approach. This will be designed to influence conservation policy in one of the countries of this region containing important Galliformes species, most probably Myanmar, securing better protection for species and their habitats and leading to population recovery. In addition, we aim to use the expertise of the conservation breeding community together with field conservationists and partners to develop a 'one plan' approach that will enhance the population of the Critically Endangered Edwards' Pheasant (probably our most threatened extant species). Enhanced communications and support provided by the GSG will stimulate new conservation project work on the ground for threatened Galliformes in other regions of the world, designed to raise awareness and improve protection that will ultimately lead to population recovery. We aim to use the green listing process to predict and evaluate success.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 6/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (2 activities)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Communications (6 activities)
- Conservation action (2 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)
- Policy (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 12, 15, 27, 28, 29

Resolutions 2016 WCC: 016