

# IUCN SSC Mid-Atlantic Islands Invertebrate Specialist Group

2019 Report



Vicky Wilkins



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## Co-Chairs

Vicky Wilkins (1)  
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## Red List Authority Coordinator

Dinarte Teixeira (3)

## Location/Affiliation

(1) Independent freelancer working with a range of NGOs, UK  
(2) cE3c – Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes/Azorean Biodiversity Group and University of the Azores, Açores, Portugal  
(3) Conservação da Natureza e Bio(Geo) Diversidade, Instituto das Florestas e Conservação da Natureza, IP-RAM, Madeira, Portugal

## Number of members

41

## Social networks

Website: [www.maiisg.com](http://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

We envision by the end of 2020 significant progress in raising awareness of invertebrates and their conservation issues across the Mid-Atlantic Islands; at least one other island that previously had no direct invertebrate conservation to have established programmes; a total of 500 invertebrate Red List assessments achieved; and another new conservation action plan to be operating. We also expect 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 40 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) initiate a project on the conservation of Ascension Island endemic invertebrates; (2) complete a project on increasing data on St Helena endemic invertebrates; (3) implement a species recovery project for the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse (*Pseudolaureola atlantica*) on St Helena.

### Network

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

### Communicate

Communication: (1) publish a paper on establishing conservation on St Helena; (2) finish invertebrate identification book for St Helena; (3) circulate group newsletter at least three times per year; (4) publish a paper on the species conservation profile of Azorean endemic forest beetles; (5) publish a paper on the species conservation profile of Azorean endemic moths; (6) publish a paper on the species conservation profile of Azorean endemic cave arthropods; (7) establish a webpage; (8) publish a paper on a Global Island Monitoring Scheme (GIMS) for the long-term



The native forest at Terra Brava reserve of Terceira Island  
Photo: Paulo A. V. Borges



The endemic spider from Azores  
*Embleyna acoreensis*  
Photo: Paulo A. V. Borges

## Act

### Conservation actions

i. Work on the formulation of a Darwin Plus application for financial support of a project on the conservation of Ascension Islands endemic invertebrates, to be submitted in 2020. (KSR #27)

### Communicate

#### Communication

i. The invertebrate identification book for St Helena is with the designer. It will be printed in late 2021 or early 2022. (KSR #28)

ii. Three newsletters were circulated in 2019. (KSR #28)

iii. The following paper was 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 #28)

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the MAISG members and all their hard work during 2019.

### Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	6	
Plan	2	
Act	1	
Communicate	3	

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 15, 24, 27, 28

KSR: Key Species Result

coordinated survey and monitoring of forest biota across islands; (9) realise Forest Giants project targets for awareness and conservation of *Archachatina bicarinata* and review Red List assessment for the species.

### Activities and results 2019

#### Assess

##### Red List

i. The target of 100 St Helena endemic invertebrate species was surpassed; 130 species are now listed. (KSR #2)

ii. One Red Listing assessment for the Ascensions was completed: *Garypus titanius* (Giant Pseudoscorpion), assessed as Critically Endangered. (KSR #2)

iii. A total of 118 Azorean endemic insect species were published on the IUCN Red List. (KSR #2)

iv. Seventeen Azorean endemic spider species will be published in March 2021. (KSR #2)

v. Sixty-four Azorean endemic arthropod species will be published in March 2021. (KSR #2)

vi. The BIOS2020 project was not successful and has been superseded by other projects, such as: Ecology and Conservation of the Endangered Moniz' Ground Snail (*Geomitra moniziana*); target species: *Geomitra moniziana* (endemic to Madeira; IUCN Red List category Endangered); programme: LIFE4BEST; status: passed the first stage with a preselected concept note, with the next step being submission of the full proposal by 23 March; duration of the project: 14 months (starting 1 July 2020 and ending 31 August 2021); total cost: €45,541.60. (KSR #2)

#### Plan

##### Planning

i. The LIFE Project 'LIFE BEETLES' was submitted and approved. It will initiate in January 2020. (KSR #15)

ii. The Forest Giants project is on track; a conservation plan is currently being written to identify priorities and actions, its status will be reviewed after its completion, and an *ex situ* population has also been established (KSR #15, 24)