with the IUCN Species Strategic Plan 2021–2025 to support the implementation of the Species Conservation Cycle (Assess–Plan–Act, Communicate and Network).

The initial membership of the Specialist Group comprises 87 Indonesian experts, mostly from western Indonesia and working on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants. During the workshop, we identified key activities under the Species Conservation Cycle to be implemented by 2025: (1) Assess: to support comprehensive evaluation of biodiversity status by creating guidelines of the IUCN Red List assessment process in Bahasa Indonesia and arranging expert regional training to conduct assessments. (2) Plan: to prioritize and formulate action plans for Indonesian native, threatened and endemic species. (3) Act: to support and catalyse initiatives to conserve priority species by conducting training on species conservation planning and guiding the implementation of the plan. (4) Network: for the Specialist Group to be an effective and well-coordinated platform to facilitate collaboration among Indonesian experts and establish equitable partnerships with international experts. (5) Communicate: to arrange regular webinars and outreach activities to showcase the work of the members and to increase awareness among the public about Indonesian biodiversity. The Indonesia Species Specialist Group is hosted in the Center for Transdisciplinary and Sustainability Sciences, IPB University. We hope the establishment of this new Specialist Group may inspire similar initiatives across the Global South.

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Conservation status and priorities for Sulawesi's unique small mammal fauna

The Indonesian island of Sulawesi is a hotspot of small mammal endemism. It is home to 76 native species of rodents (Muridae and Sciuridae) and shrews (Soricidae), 73 of which occur nowhere else. The majority of these are threatened, Data Deficient or newly described and thus little studied. To address these knowledge gaps, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Small Mammal Specialist Group hosted a 3-day Sulawesi Small Mammal Workshop in West Java in May 2023. It was funded by Re:wild and an IUCN SSC Internal Grant, and attended by scientists and conservation practitioners familiar with Sulawesi's taxa, regions and communities.

The workshop first focused on updating Red List assessments for submission later this year. It is anticipated that c. 35 species will undergo a category change, including 18 that were previously categorized as Data Deficient. Many of these assessments relied on distribution data available from recent museum- and university-led surveys of unstudied mountains. Yet, most of Sulawesi's small mammals remain poorly known, with location, population and threat information largely lacking.

In line with the IUCN SSC's Assess–Plan–Act framework, participants also identified conservation and research needs. An important priority is to improve knowledge of the distribution and ecology of certain species, such as the Sulawesi water rat *Waiomys mamasae*, known to science from a single specimen (Rowe et al., 2014, *Zootaxa*, 3815, 541–546). Authors FF and MRTJPN are developing a project for this rodent.

Some species are imperiled by unquantified threats. For example, the two species of *Echiothrix* are thought to inhabit areas where the impacts of forest conversion for agriculture and expanding mining activities are undocumented and which are consequently a priority for study. Other key priorities include investigating hunting pressure on rodents, increasing area protection in collaboration with local communities, and raising awareness of, and nurturing pride in, the exceptional level of endemism and richness of Sulawesi's small mammals.

Overall, considerable gaps remain in small mammal research within globally significant hotspots such as Sulawesi. The various outputs of this workshop—including efforts to build capacity and support local researchers and conservationists—will bring a greater focus to the island's endemic shrews and rodents.

The endemic heavenly hill rat *Bunomys coelestis,* categorized as Endangered. Photo: Heru Handika.

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New IUCN Species Survival Commission Colombia Fungal Specialist Group

The IUCN Species Survival Commission Colombia Fungal Specialist Group was launched on 19 April 2023. This national group aims to secure the conservation, management and, where necessary, the recovery of Colombian funga by mobilizing technical and scientific expertise, building networks and partnerships, and raising awareness of the importance of fungi, their applications, and the benefits they bring to humanity, as well as the threats they currently face. This new Specialist Group comprises a diverse group of specialists who will act collectively for the conservation of fungi in Colombia, and facilitate evidence-based decision-making for preventing the extinction of species.

Colombia is home to 75,947 known species across the various Kingdoms and has two global biodiversity hotspots. With high rates of endemism, the country is a priority region for global biodiversity conservation, and it faces diverse anthropogenic transformations, including habitat fragmentation, loss and degradation, overexploitation, invasive species, pollution and climate change.

Although there has been an increase in the efforts of the Colombian mycological community to highlight the importance of fungal conservation, there is still a long way to go to ensure that fungi are included in conservation plans and actions. So far, 7,241 species of fungi have been reported for the country, but only 27 species have been assessed for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. There is still no official national Red List assessment for fungi in Colombia, and there are no records of threatened species in the Colombian government's Conservation Action Plan.

The Colombia Fungal Specialist Group seeks to promote actions such as holding IUCN workshops to assess the extinction risk of species, training specialists in the application of the criteria and categories, and disseminating the importance of fungal conservation in Colombia. We invite researchers, students, communities, stakeholders and practitioners to contact us with questions, requests for support or ideas for new collaborations.

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Rediscovery of a tiny plant species reinforces the need to protect Serra do Padre Ângelo in south-east Brazil

Serra do Padre Ângelo, a quartzitic mountain complex in the Doce River valley, eastern Minas Gerais state in south-east Brazil, has recently attracted the attention of biologists as a result of the discovery of several new plant and animal species, many of them endemic to these mountains. These discoveries have mainly followed the description of the sundew *Drosera magnifica* (Droseraceae)—discovered through photographs posted on the social network Facebook—from these mountains. It is the largest sundew in the Americas, endemic to Serra do Padre Ângelo and categorized nationally as Critically Endangered (Gonella et al., 2015, *Phytotaxa*, 220, 257–267). These mountains nevertheless remain unprotected and are susceptible to wildfires and deforestation.

In the last 3 years, data have been collected to support the formal protection of Serra do Padre Ângelo, with > 4,000 plant specimens collected. Among these was a tiny plant of the family Eriocaulaceae, collected for the first time in June 2020. In May 2023 we identified it as *Paepalanthus minimus* after comparison with the type specimen in the herbarium of the National Museum, Rio de Janeiro. The species had previously been collected only once, over 100 years ago and nearly 250 km from the new record.

We assess the species as Critically Endangered, as it is likely to be locally extinct in the site where the type specimen was collected and, at the rediscovery site, the population is small, unprotected, and threatened by invasive grasses and