

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group



CHAIR

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

56

Mission statement

The mission of the Madagascar Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) is to increase the knowledge on Madagascar plant diversity (flora and habitats) by assessing and/or reviewing their conservation status (especially for IUCN and CITES), and promote their conservation by identifying conservation priorities, giving recommendations for their survival, and reinforcing people's efforts toward the conservation of plant diversity.

Projected impact 2021–2025

By providing basic information on species threats and human pressure, the SSC MPSG contributes to the protection of plant diversity and promotes biodiversity conservation in Madagascar. As more and more species face extinction in the wild, efforts to protect wildlife are becoming increasingly fundamental.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Assess the extinction risk of the endemic and native flora of Madagascar.

T-005 Increase the knowledge of plant status in Key Biodiversity Areas.

ACT

T-007 Promote the use of indigenous and endemic trees in ecosystem restoration.

NETWORK

T-004 Enhance the membership and the capacity of the SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group.

COMMUNICATE

T-002 Develop a national strategy for plant conservation in Madagascar.

T-006 Propose scientific basis for national legislation and policy on the conservation of the Malagasy flora.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 340

Result description: The conservation status of 340 species was assessed in 2021, bringing to 4,780 the number of vascular plants that have so far been documented in Madagascar according to the IUCN Red List criteria. The assessments of the 340

species were mostly possible thanks to projects carried out in collaboration with MPSG partners: (1) BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International) has published the latest assessments conducted as part of the 'Tree campaign' project carried out between 2017–2021; (2) Missouri Botanical Garden assessed the orchid species that are threatened by a mining project in the Moramanga area; (3) the G3D consortium (Sustainable Management of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia*) for the conservation of Madagascar's precious woods, which has assessed 43 species of ebony, *Diospyros*, native to Madagascar.

NETWORK

Membership

T-004 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 30

Result description: As part of the membership renewal for the 2021–2025 quadrennium, 56 SSC MPSG members have already renewed their registration in the IUCN portal as of mid-December 2021. During 2021, the MPSG made an effort to extend the association to many researchers residing and working outside of Madagascar but specialising in the study and conservation of the island's plants (about 15 non-Malagasy researchers currently).



Ravenea dransfieldii (Arecaceae), EN. The species is threatened by the habitat loss but also by the leaves collecting for thatching and weaving
Photo: Mijoro Rakotoarivivo

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-002 (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 2

Result description: Two reports have been published in 2021: (1) in collaboration with BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International), the MPSG released *The Red List of Trees of Madagascar*, which provided the first comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of the 3,118 trees species of Madagascar. The report, published in March 2021, highlights the enormous amount of work done over the past three years on the Red List assessments, as 94% of these trees are assessed for the first time. Furthermore, 63% of trees are threatened with extinction in Madagascar, but unfortunately only 16% of these species benefit from ex situ conservation measures, still far from the target set by the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (75%). The report can be viewed and downloaded from the BGCI website; (2) with the support of the IUCN SSC internal grant, the MPSG, represented by Faranirina,

elaborated a report highlighting the most relevant information to know for the better conservation of the native flora of Madagascar. The data of nearly 4,400 species of vascular plants, evaluated in the IUCN Red List at the beginning of 2021, were analysed to identify the main types of pressures on the flora of Madagascar, as well as the current trends of threatened plants, either in terms of geography or taxonomy. The results revealed that 60% of Madagascar's flora are threatened with extinction; most of these are tree and forest species. Logging, including timber harvesting, slash-and-burn agriculture and fires are identified as the main threats to the flora of Madagascar. This work attempts to transmit some recommendations for the conservation and preservation of the Malagasy flora. It is an opportunity to underline the importance of the legislation on threatened plants in the implementation of the fight against illicit and irrational exploitation. The document also suggests further necessary investigations for the flora, including in particular data collection on the populations of plants in their natural environment, for a more accurate assessment of the risks of extinction of the plant diversity and to better inform priority actions of conservation.

Powdery fruits of *Diospyros gracilipes* (Ebenaceae). Despite the species is currently assessed as LC (Least Concern) in the Red List categories, it is highly exploited as source of timber in Madagascar
Photo: Tiana Randriamboavonjy



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Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Africa

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

