

## 2021 Report

# IUCN SSC Palm Specialist Group



#### CHAIR

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#### RED LIST AUTHORITY

##### COORDINATOR

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#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

22

### Mission statement

To conserve palms by assessing the threats that they face and developing programmes to protect palm species for the future.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

We envision to have increased Red Listing of palm species worldwide, in particular species with Least Concern status.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

T-001 Expedite Red Listing of Least Concern palms.

T-002 Red List western Ecuadorian palm species.

T-003 Red List Indian palms for Indian palm website.

T-004 Generate population and distribution data to support Red Listing of Brazilian palms.

T-006 Rapid inventory of palms, especially rattans, in National Parks of Côte d'Ivoire using UAV (drone).

T-007 Red List New Guinea palms.

T-008 Red List Vanuatu palm species.

T-009 Red List Hispaniolan *Coccothrinax* palms.

#### ACT

T-005 Ecology and phenology of the threatened rattan species *Eremospatha dransfeldii* in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

### Activities and results 2021

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

T-001 (KSR 5)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 100

**Result description:** Together with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), we have been compiling Least Concern species of palms. This will continue in 2022.

T-002 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

**Result description:** The student has compiled the data and undertaken the preliminary assessments. We have yet to undertake the final assessments for submission to IUCN. These will be planned for 2022.

T-004 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 0

**Result description:** This project is moving forward (though because of COVID-19, it has been slow), and we expect to submit some assessments in 2022.

T-007 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 72

**Result description:** Assessments for 72 species of New Guinean palm have been published on the IUCN Red List in 2021, primarily through the work of Tiberius Jimbo (Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute) and the Global Tree Assessment led by BGCI, supported by the Palms of New Guinea Project at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Georeferenced occurrence data and preliminary assessments have been compiled for all remaining species; with our ongoing collaboration, we anticipate many more formal submissions to the Red List in due course.

T-008 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 11

**Result description:** To date, 11 species have been assessed. The remaining ones will be done soon.

*Geonoma venosa*, a palm species endemic to north western Ecuador, part of the Choco rain forest. It is Critically Endangered, only known from one locality in the Bosque Protector Los Cedros  
 Photo: Thomas Couvreur



*Attalea colenda*, a near endemic palm from western Ecuador  
 Photo: Thomas Couvreur



The scaly fruits of *Raphia gabonensis*, an endemic and Endangered species to Gabon  
 Photo: Thomas Couvreur

T-009 (KSR 5)

All Hispaniolan *Coccothrinax* assessed: 0

**Result description:** The team is searching for funding. No results yet.

**Research activities**

T-006 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

**Result description:** A manuscript entitled 'The palms flora of West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin' is in progress.

**ACT**

**Conservation actions**

T-005 (KSR 11)

Number of threatened species benefited directly or indirectly by sustainable use programmes: 1

**Result description:** We have collected rhizome of *Eremospatha dransfieldii* for nursery purposes. Awareness was raised in local communities in order to observe the phenology that will help us to get the fruits.

**Acknowledgements**

We thank the SSC Internal Grants scheme for funding on the Red Listing of West Ecuadorian palms. This research is also partly funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant (GLOBAL).

**Summary of achievements**

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 9

Geographic regions: 1 Global, 2 Africa, 3 America, 1 Asia, 2 Oceania

**Actions during 2021:**

Assess: 7 (KSR 5, 6)

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

