

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

97

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://globaltrees.org/iucn-ssc-global-tree-specialist-group/>

Mission statement

The aims of the Global Tree Specialist Group (GTSG) are to promote and implement global Red Listing for trees and to act in an advisory capacity to the Global Trees Campaign.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Publication of conservation assessments for all tree species (around 58,000) on the IUCN Red List as a basis for enhanced conservation awareness, planning and action.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Publish a Global Tree Assessment (GTA) report highlighting information on conservation status of all tree species.

T-002 Publish a high impact journal publication on the conservation status of the world's trees.

T-004 Work with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), other SSC Plant Groups and other partners to undertake 18,000 updated or new Red List assessments for trees.

T-006 Publish a Red List of global timber species.

T-010 Undertake a Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) analysis of tree data.

T-011 Publish the Red List of Dipterocarpaceae of Borneo.

T-013 Hold tree Red List assessment meetings to review species of Asia and South America.

T-016 Publish a paper on links between the Red List of Ecosystems and the Red List of Trees.

T-017 Publish a paper in a high impact journal on the impact of the international timber trade on tree species.

T-021 Publish a peer-reviewed journal article that outlines the process of tree data sharing between NatureServe and the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS), to facilitate the completion of Red List assessments for US tree species, highlighting the assessment results.

PLAN

T-018 Initiate tree species conservation planning for selected tree groups – *Acer*, *Magnolia*, *Quercus* and dipterocarps – working with BGCI's Global Consortia.

ACT

T-007 Establish a new role for GTSG in expanded Global Trees Campaign partnership facilitating tree conservation action by Group members.

NETWORK

T-005 Develop and implement a new GTSG website.

T-008 Expand GTSG with 20 new members, increasing GTSG expertise on in situ conservation and conservation policy.

T-012 Train 400 people in Red List assessment for tree species.

T-014 Hold a conference to promote the results of Red List assessments for all tree species and call for increased action.

T-015 Implement a revised structure for GTSG with appropriate leadership and taxonomic/geographical/thematic subgroups formed.

T-019 Strengthen liaison with CITES, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other appropriate groups to promote increased action for globally threatened timber species.

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Publish a Red List of Madagascar Trees.

T-020 Produce four GTSG newsletters annually.

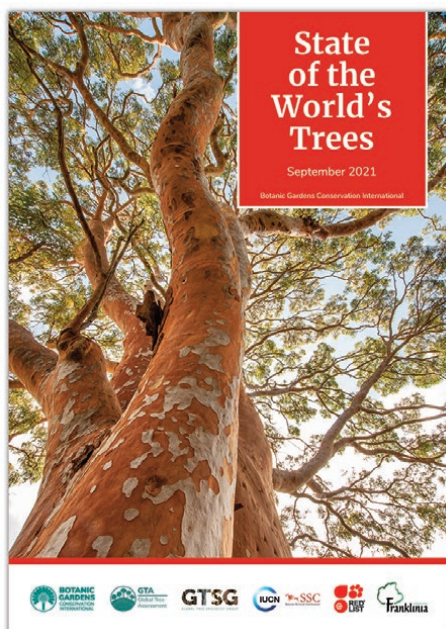
Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 1



Result description: On 1 September 2021, BGCI published the *State of the World's Trees* report, which shows that 30% of all tree species – more than 17,500 species – are threatened with extinction.

T-004 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 7,475

Result description: In 2021, we implemented or supported publication of 7,475 new Red List assessments for trees on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. In addition, 2,427 submitted assessments await processing by the IUCN Red List Unit.

T-006 (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 1

Result description: The Red List of Timber Trees is currently in preparation, encompassing over 4,000 species with published IUCN Red List assessments. Timber use is the most common recorded use among the world's tree species; in addition, logging is one of the two most common threats to trees. Therefore, this publication will be of high importance, highlighting the conservation status of the world's timber trees. The report includes both commercially traded as well as subsistence use timber trees. It will also provide recommendations for conservation action, including encouraging sustainable use and forest management. The results of this report should be used to inform policy makers and guide conservation efforts to catalyse conservation action for species that are under threat, to ensure that no species becomes extinct.

T-011 (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 1

Result description: In October 2021, BGCI published *The Red List of Bornean Endemic Dipterocarps*, which documents the conservation status of all 162 species of dipterocarp tree endemic to Borneo. This shows that 62%, or 99 species, are at risk of extinction in the wild, with the major threats being conversion of lowland forest to agro-industrial plantations and logging.

Research activities

T-002 (KSR 5)

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

Result description: Various articles are in preparation including a 'Scientists' warning to humanity on tree extinctions'.

T-017 (KSR 5)

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

Result description: This paper is in preparation.

T-021 (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: A manuscript on North American tree species has been submitted to the special issue of *Plants, People and Planet* on the GTA.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-012 (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 60

Result description: In 2021, 60 people working on the GTA, in East Africa, Indonesia, Haiti, Brazil, Puerto Rico, and botanists working on Guiana Shield assessments, were trained.

Membership

T-008 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 9

Result description: In 2021, nine new members joined.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-003 (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 1

Result description: *The Red List of Trees of Madagascar*, published by BGCI in 2021, provides the first comprehensive assessment of the conservation status of Malagasy trees. Madagascar has 3,118 tree species, 93% of which are endemic to

the island. In total, 320 native tree species are assessed as Critically Endangered, of which 59 species are tagged as 'Critically Endangered possibly extinct in the wild', 915 native tree species are assessed as Endangered and 605 are assessed as Vulnerable. Almost all threatened species are assessed using Criterion B, owing to a small and restricted geographic range, occurrence in few locations and experiencing continuing decline. Over 94% of the assessments represented the first IUCN Red List assessment for the species. The report also includes analyses of the extent of in situ and ex situ conservation measures, identifies the most threatened habitat for trees (lowland rainforest) and the distribution of threatened trees. The states of SAVA, DIANA, Analanjirifo and Anosy have the highest proportion of tree species and are sites in particular need of tree conservation effort.

T-020 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 3

Result description: Three GTSG newsletters were published in 2021.

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to BGCI for providing the Secretariat for the GTSG, and for the generous support from botanic gardens including The Morton Arboretum and Rio de Janeiro Botanic Garden. We also wholeheartedly thank Fondation Franklinia.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 20

Geographic regions: 17 Global, 1 Africa, 1 America, 1 Asia

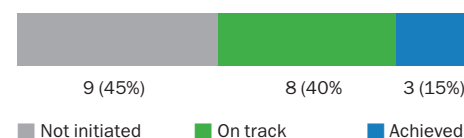
Actions during 2021:

Assess: 7 (KSR 5, 6)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 2 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ Not initiated

■ On track

■ Achieved