

## 2021 Report

# IUCN SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group



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#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

104

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Twitter: [MPSG@PlantSsc](https://twitter.com/MPSG@PlantSsc)

Website: <https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/iucn-ssc-medicinal-plant-specialist-group>

### Mission statement

The Medicinal Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) is a global network of specialists contributing within our own institutions and in our own regions, as well as worldwide, to the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. The MPSG was founded in 1994 to increase global awareness of conservation threats to medicinal plants, and to promote sustainable use and conservation action.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

A significant increase in knowledge of the conservation status of priority species of medicinal and aromatic plants, planning and actions to conserve and sustainably use these species, and broader industry and consumer awareness of and participation in the conservation of threatened species.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Complete global assessments of all North American medicinal plant species.

### PLAN

**T-004** Contribute technical expertise to policy development and implementation for medicinal plant conservation and sustainable use.

#### ACT

**T-005** Contribute to sustainable use of priority species of medicinal plants.

#### NETWORK

**T-002** Maintain six formal partnerships providing in kind support to MPSG targets 2021–2025.

**T-003** Expand capacity for applying IUCN assessment tools within MPSG membership.

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-006** Contribute to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CITES CoP19) and 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP15) side events.

### Activities and results 2021

#### ASSESS

##### Red List

**T-001** (KSR 6)

**Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 93**

**Result description:** Initial progress has been made on potentially threatened species within this group. Ninety-three assessments were completed in 2021, bringing the total number for this project up to 161. The remainder is slated for automated assessment in 2023 with a review workshop to occur at a date yet to be determined.

#### PLAN

##### Policy

**T-004** (KSR 9)

**Number of policies where SSC members provided technical input: 3**

**Result description:** (1) CITES Non-detriment Finding online training is based on documents co-authored by MPSG: <https://www.9steps-cites-ndf.org>; (2) CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: the FairWild Standard, of which MPSG was a co-creator, continues to be a significant contributor to the achievement of Target 12: All Wild Harvested Plant-based Products Harvested Sustainably (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-95-en-lr.pdf>),

Baobab (*Adansonia digitata* L.), native to drier parts of tropical and Southern Africa. The IUCN Red List status of this species has not yet been assessed. In 2021, the Medicinal Plant SG evaluated the potential for sustainable wild harvest of this species in Ghana and Burkina Faso using a risk analysis matrix, developed to support the FairWild Standard certification scheme

Photos: pxhere (tree) and T.K. Naliaka - Wikicommons (fruit with seeds)



### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 4 Global, 1 America

#### Actions during 2021:

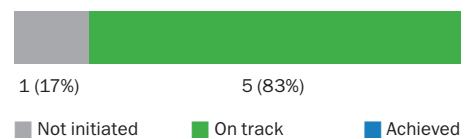
Assess: 1 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Act: 1 (KSR 11)

Network: 2 (KSR 1, 2)

#### Overall achievement 2021–2025:



as well as contribute to the delivery of the CBD's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; (3) CITES Medicinal and Aromatic Plants agenda item: issues of the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants are discussed and input provided to CITES CoP19 (November 2022), a Non-detriment findings (NDF) workshop in 2023 and the Plants Committee meetings.

### ACT

#### Technical advice

T-005 (KSR 11)

Number of sustainable use practices supported: 3

**Result description:** MPSG contributed to further development and implementation of the FairWild Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection; development of a Sustainability Toolkit for the botanical herbs industry, supporting this initiative of the Sustainable Herbs Program of the American Botanical Council; application of the FairWild Standard to a broader scope of taxa (including wild-harvested fungi), and landscapes.

### NETWORK

#### Capacity building

T-003 (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 3

**Result description:** One MPSG member was trained in Red List assessment, active in South Asia; one MPSG member was trained in Conservation Planning; one MPSG member is engaged in assessing climate change vulnerability.

#### Synergy

T-002 (KSR 1)

Number of 'in kind' partnerships established and maintained: 6

**Result description:** The ABQ BioPark partnership (via SSC) advanced Red List assessments globally; the FairWild

Foundation partnership (via MOU) advanced work on sustainable use of wild-harvested medicinal plants globally; the NatureServe partnership (informal) advanced Red List assessment of North American medicinal flora; the TRAFFIC partnership (informal) advanced work on Red List assessment and sustainable use of CITES-listed and other medicinal plant species in international trade; the United Plant Savers partnership advanced work on Red List assessment and sustainable use of North American medicinal plant species and communication of results; the Sustainable Herbs Program (American Botanical Council) advanced work on sustainable use via development of an industry toolkit.

### Acknowledgements

We thank the following individuals, donors and other organisations for support during this quadrennium: New Mexico BioPark Society/Albuquerque BioPark for employing a full-time Red List assessor (who has so many other amazing skills) and for choosing to focus on medicinal plants; NatureServe US for contributions to and partnership in conservation status assessments of medicinal plants in North America; the FairWild Foundation for engaging the expertise of the Medicinal Plant Specialist Group in evaluating the risk/vulnerability of commercially harvested medicinal plants to over-harvest, as well as employing our other technical expertise; TRAFFIC International for support in developing and implementing projects on sustainable use of threatened species of medicinal plants, CITES Non-detriment Finding guidance, and launching the Wildcheck initiative; Dr Uwe Schippmann for creating and maintaining the MAPROW database that is central to much of our work; and our far-flung members who persevere in efforts to conserve and sustainably use medicinal plants.