

# IUCN SSC Conifer Plant Specialist Group



## 2019 Report



Martin Gardner



Chad Husby

### CO-Chairs

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### Location/Affiliation

<sup>(1)</sup> Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, UK  
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Florida, US

### Number of members

42



### Mission statement

The Conifer Specialist Group helps promote the long-term survival of the world's conifers through rigorous conservation assessments, which help to guide conservation planning and conservation action.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: complete Red List assessments of 50 conifer species.

#### Act

Conservation actions: (1) continue the *ex situ* conifer conservation programme in the UK; (2) restore the forests of the threatened conifer *Glyptostrobus pensilis* in Lao PDR.

### Activities and results 2019

#### Assess

##### Red List

**i.** The reassessment of conifers is working towards the third global assessment of this group. (KSR #1)

#### Act

##### Conservation actions

- i.** The *ex situ* conifer conservation programme, using a network of over 200 sites, is ongoing and each year the network is increased to accommodate more conifer species. In some cases, a site may accommodate a single individual of a species or larger numbers; therefore, it is difficult to specify the number of breeding populations. (KSR #25)
- ii.** Restoration of conifer populations is very long-term and it takes many years to start this important process; therefore, it is much too early to ascertain any percentage of population increase. Forest restoration of the threatened conifer *Glyptostrobus pensilis* in Lao PDR is still at the nursery stage, but with some early experimental planting achieved. (KSR #12)

Taiwan Catkin Yew (*Amentotaxus formosana*),  
Vulnerable  
Photo: Martin Gardner



### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people who have helped with the restoration work of the degraded *Glyptostrobus* stands in Lao PDR: Professor Vichith Lamxay (National University of Lao PDR); Daophone Suddychanh (Nam Theun Power Company); Dr Gretchen Coffman (University of San Francisco); Dr Brendan Buckley (Columbia University, New York) and Dr. Lianming Gao (Kunming Institute of Botany, CAS).

### Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess **1** |

Act **2** ||

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 12, 25

KSR: Key Species Result



Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*), Endangered  
Photo: Martin Gardner