

2016-2017 Report



John Donaldson



M. Patrick Griffith

Co-Chairs

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Vice Chairs

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ South African National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa
⁽²⁾ Montgomery Botanical Center, US
⁽³⁾ University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

Number of members

43

Social networks

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Cycad-Specialist-Group-1652769648290696/>
website:
<https://www.cycadgroup.org>



Cycad Specialist Group

Mission statement

The Cycad Specialist Group (CSG) exists to bring together the world's cycad conservation expertise, and to disseminate this expertise to organizations and agencies which can use this guidance to advance cycad conservation.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. In 2015, we completed a red listing workshop. Details of this work are found in previous year end reports. Since then, members of the CSG have been continuously updating draft assessments. (KSR #3)

Communications

■ Communication

i. In 2016, the CSG launched *Cycads*, the official newsletter of the CSG. This periodical is listed with an International Standard Serial Number, and is published annually, with updates on cycad biology and conservation news, and available free of charge on www.cycadgroup.org. Both issues were widely publicized and distributed via social media, and received positive feedback.

ii. Members of the CSG developed and circulated posters and information on cycads in a number of countries including Colombia, India, South Africa and Uganda. (KSR #28)

iii. To promote both cycads and the Cycad CSG, several members created a short video entitled "Get to know the world's most endangered plants". The video introduces the CSG, and explains cycad history, morphology, diversity, and reproduction. It is freely available on the CSG website, VIMEO, and YouTube. (KSR #28)

Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

i. In 2016 and 2017, we worked to expand the membership of the CSG to include experts from range states, as well as younger experts, in order to assure the future success of the CSG. We now count 43 members from 14 countries.

Acknowledgements

For in-kind program support in 2016 and 2017, we thank Montgomery Botanical Center for providing the Programme Office, and hosting CSG websites. We also thank the Cycad Society of South Africa for working to organize and host the 2018 CSG meeting.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) update the Cycad Red List to include all newly described taxa and new information generated from ongoing fieldwork; (2) update the Cycad Red List Index by undertaking a third global assessment of 350 species.

Communications

Communication: (1) continue to produce the annual newsletter; (2) convene the next International Cycad Conference and meeting of the CSG together with the host organisation in South Africa (2018).

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) increase the representation of threatened cycads in *ex situ* collections with at least 90% of CR species in collections, beginning with benchmarking; (2) initiate projects to secure habitat and/or



The Critically Endangered *Encephalartos latifrons* growing in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa
Photo: John Donaldson



Zamia pyrophylla, Chocó, Colombia
Photo: Michael Calonje

restore populations for at least five Critically Endangered species; (3) develop guidelines for the restoration and reintroduction of cycad populations; (4) establish assurance colonies for CR cycad species.

Research activities: strengthen information, knowledge and capacity to support cycad conservation actions.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By 2020, we want to ensure that no cycad has become extinct because all high risk taxa are adequately represented in botanic gardens, that substantial advances are made in identifying

and securing habitat for Critically Endangered species, and that reintroduction programmes are supported to start to increase population numbers for species reduced to <250 individuals. This will be achieved through our own efforts as well as collaboration with other organisations and will be supported by traditional strengths within the Cycad Specialist Groups such as compiling the World list of Cycads, updating the Red List Index, studying the biology of cycads, understanding trade and the conditions required for sustainable use, developing conservation plans and managing *ex situ* collections.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Communications (3 activities)
- Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 3

KSR: Key Species Result