

IUCN SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



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Number of members

60

Mission statement

The mission of The Madagascar Plant Specialist Group (MPSG) is to increase the knowledge on Madagascar plant diversity (flora and habitats) by assessing and/or reviewing their conservation status (especially for IUCN and CITES) and promote their conservation by identifying conservation priorities, giving recommendations for their survival, and reinforcing people efforts toward the conservation of plant diversity.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. Four Red List workshops were held to re-assess and review the conservation status of ca. 1,700 species of Madagascar Angiosperms, which were assessed within the Marisla Project (MBG). All reviews and/or reassessments were completed in January 2018. Some tree species were not reassessed and will be treated under the CEPF funded project on Madagascar trees Red List assessment. (KSR #1)

ii. Six Red List workshops completed, which allowed us to review the status of Madagascar 120 fresh water plants, 60 *Coffea* wild species, 30 wild yams and 80 species of concern on mining sites. The assessments were submitted by the CEPF/IUCN fresh water species assessment project, the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, and the Ambatovy mining company. (KSR #1)

iii. The national team (of which some are members of MPSG) that was formed to conduct a preliminary assessment of Madagascar terrestrial and marine ecosystems, presented the results of their research, which was funded by the Agence Française pour le Développement (AFD). This activity was the second

component of the project entitled "Integration of knowledge products by IUCN for supporting land-use planning and policy in Madagascar". Fourteen marine ecosystems were identified, but only five were assessed under criteria A and B. Mangroves and coral reefs were assessed as LC, the other ones as DD. For terrestrial ecosystems, 14 vegetation units and 23 ecosystems were identified. Almost all forests were assessed as threatened (CR, EN or VU), underground waters are EN, savannas are DD and lakes and swamps are LC. During the workshop, we stressed that the assessments had to be refined. (KSR #1)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. A workshop on the use of knowledge products in national issues in Madagascar was carried out within the framework of the first component of the AFD funded project entitled "Integration of knowledge products by IUCN for supporting land-use planning and policy in Madagascar". The different types of knowledge products, as well as their situation for Madagascar, were presented together with their different implementations in Madagascar conservation issues and initiatives. Representatives from different national institutions and national NGOs took part in the workshop, which was facilitated by MPSG and IUCN GSP staff. (KSR #18)

Communications

■ Communication

i. We presented the state of art of the knowledge products in Madagascar during a knowledge café at the World Nature Congress in Hawaii. (KSR #28)

Cloiselia madagascariensis (Asteraceae Family),
endemic to Madagascar and Critically Endangered,
only found in two sites in southern Madagascar
Photo: Georges Schatz



Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. A preliminary strategy and action plan was presented for validation during a workshop, after showing the state of knowledge of threatened (15 species) and most used (9 species of which some are at the same time threatened) yams in Madagascar. The strategy has three main goals: to ensure the protection and management of threatened yams, to ensure that the utilization of yams is done in a suitable way, and to ensure the governance of the action plan. (KSR #15)

Acknowledgements

We thank the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Ambatovy mining company, for helping us cover the costs of the workshops held to review all the assessments. We also want to thank Red List experts Barbara Goettsch and Olivier Hasinger, who assisted us integrating our data into the SIS and/or helped us during the reviewing processes. Thanks also to Olivier Hasinger and Rebecca Miller, who facilitated the workshop on the integration of IUCN knowledge products in national issues.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: (1) reassess and review assessment of a total of ca. 1,700 Madagascar plant species; (2) review assessment of a total of ca. 350 endemic species belonging to different taxonomic groups or belonging to specific habitats; (3) assess and review assessments of ca. 2,000 Madagascar trees located in the country western KBAs.

Research activities: research on lost species from Madagascar.

Capacity building

Capacity building: workshop on IUCN knowledge products.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) elaborate a conservation strategy for endangered wild yams and most used yams from Madagascar; (2) traditional knowledge and conservation and restoration of patrimonial plant species in Vohibola forest (KBA); (3) elaborate a national strategy for plant conservation in Madagascar

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

At the end of the 2020, we envision that we will complete the assessment of the 3,500 Madagascar plant species, which represent one of the targets of the Barometer of life. By achieving that goal, we hope to increase our knowledge of the KBAs of our country. By the implementation of conservation programs developed by ourselves and in collaboration with our partners, we hope to bring to the local communities the capacity to restore the threatened crop wild relative species and patrimonial species through setting up of nurseries, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation activities and developing management plans for natural resources. We also plan to generate more knowledge for Data Deficient species by conducting research on lost species that have not been collected for more than 50 years. Since the MPSG is also part of the CITES scientific authority of Madagascar, the assessments that have already been done or will be done during the 2017-2020 quadrennium, especially those on orchids, succulents and timber wood (palissander, rosewood and ebony), will contribute to reinforce implementation of CITES' rules.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (3 activities)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Communications (1 activity)
- Conservation action (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 18, 28

KSR: Key Species Result