

IUCN SSC Crop Wild Relative Specialist Group

2018 Report



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Number of members

71



Mission statement

The vision of the Crop Wild Relative Specialist Group (CWRSG) is the effective conservation and use of crop wild relatives (CWR) and their increased availability for crop improvement, for the benefit of the environment and human society worldwide.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we hope to have established a global network of *in situ* conservation sites to complement current *ex situ* conservation activities. Our vision is a developing world in which the full potential of CWR diversity is used to maximise the development of healthy, resilient food systems, where rural communities/family farmers are recognised for their sustaining of vital conservation action, and where nutritional security is not limited by climate change or breeders' access to CWR diversity.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: complete threat assessment of 1,400 global priority CWR taxa (500 new Red List assessments).

Plan

Planning: (1) establishment of global networks of CWR *in situ* conservation (25 genetic reserves for the *in situ* conservation of CWR populations); (2) establishment of European regional networks of CWR *in situ* conservation (25 genetic reserves for the *in situ* conservation of CWR populations); (3) establishment of national networks of CWR *in situ* conservation (25 genetic reserves for the *in situ* conservation of CWR populations); (4) CWR conservation planning (2,000 plans published).

Policy advice: improving CWR conservation policy context (all 16,000 global CWR).

Act

Conservation actions: *ex situ* conservation of CWR diversity in genebanks (1,392 priority CWR species conserved).

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. 186 CWR assessments undertaken and 182 drafted in 2018. (KSR #1)

Plan

Planning

i. A network of genetic reserves for globally important CWR has been designed as well as a Nordic European network of genetic reserves for regionally important CWR. Both works are important steps towards the implementation of a global network of genetic reserves for *in situ* conservation of CWR. In addition, a global network targeting wild relatives of temperate cereals has also been designed. (KSR #42)

ii. One of the tasks of the 'Farmer's Pride – Conserving plant diversity for future generations' project (<http://www.farmerspride.eu/>), an EU funded project that initiated in November 2017, is to design a European network of regionally important CWR for active *in situ* conservation. The foundations of this regional analysis were undertaken by Kell in 2018 with the following resultant work published: Kell, S.P. (2018). 'Cataloguing and prioritising crop wild relatives as a baseline for their conservation and utilisation'. PhD Dissertation. Birmingham: School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham. (KSR #42)



Brassica drepanensis (Caruel) Damanti, a wild relative of broccoli, Brussels sprout, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, oilseed rape, swede and turnip, in Erice (Italy), September 2014
Photo: Lorenzo Maggioni



Manihot gracilis Pohl, a secondary genetic wild relative of cassava (*M. esculenta* subsp. *esculenta*), in Brasília (Distrito Federal, Brazil)
Photo: Marcelo Simon

iii. National networks of genetic reserves for *in situ* conservation of CWR were designed and recommended. In most cases, the design of the genetic reserves resulted from the efforts of relevant national stakeholders and governments to initiate the establishment and implementation of national networks for active conservation of CWR. (KSR #42)

iv. CWR conservation planning in development for more than 30 years, and we hope coming to fruition in 2019 underpinning systematic CWR complementary conservation. (KSR #15)

Policy

i. Improvement of CWR conservation policy context, and we hope coming to fruition in 2019 underpinning systematic CWR complementary conservation. (KSR #26)

Act

Conservation actions

i. In 2018, a total of 411,132 accessions of 2,024 CWR are conserved *ex situ* in 319 genebanks". The reference for this is: FAO (2019) *Ex Situ* (SDG 2.5.1) - Overview. WIEWS - World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/wiews/data/ex-situ-sdg-251/overview/en/> [Accessed 9-Jul 2019]. (KSR #42)

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Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess	1	
Plan	5	
Act	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 26, 42

KSR: Key Species Result