

IUCN SSC Madagascar Plant Specialist Group

2018 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's efforts toward the conservation of plant diversity.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision that we will complete the assessment of 3,500 Madagascar plant species, which represents one of the targets of the Barometer of Life. By achieving that goal, we hope to increase our knowledge of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) of our country. Through the implementation of conservation programmes 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.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

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; (4) start a national Red List for plants.

Research activities: research on lost species from Madagascar.

Plan

Planning: elaborate a conservation strategy for threatened wild yams and the most used yams from Madagascar.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) traditional knowledge and conservation and restoration of patrimonial plant species in Vohibola forest (KBA); (2) elaborate a national strategy for plant conservation in Madagascar.

Network

Capacity building: workshop on the integration of Knowledge Products mobilised by IUCN through IBAT to support decision making.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. The 730 species assessed in the framework of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)/ Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)/MPSG report, added to the 920 species that were already assessed prior to 2017, bring the total number of species assessed to ca. 1,700 species. (KSR #2)

ii. All the endemic species were reviewed by MPSG in 2017/2018. (KSR #2)



Aloe helena Decary, Asphodelaceae,
Endangered
Photo: David Rabehevitra

Adansonia rubrostipa Jum. & Perrier,
family: Malvaceae, status: Near Threatened
Photo: David Rabehevitra



Phylloxylon xylophyloides (Baker)
Dupuy, Labat & Schrire, Fabaceae, Vulnerable
Photo: David Rabehevitra



iii. During the first year of the project, 730 species, of which 157 are Least Concern, were assessed and reviewed in December 2018. Seventy-six species were submitted. Three students received training during the training workshop on the IUCN SIS database together with 20 members of MPSG in May 2018. Those students undertook field assessment of one species each and drafted a conservation action plan for each species. Student reports are to be presented in a thesis for their master's degree. (KSR #2)

iv. We are looking for training and funding to help us develop our National Plants Red List. (KSR #2, 9)

Research activities

i. The survey on lost species from Madagascar allowed us to identify 1,740 species; i.e. species that have not been collected in the last 50 years and may be presumed extinct. Out of those 1,740 species, 413 are only known from the type specimen or from one locality, there with a very high risk of extinction. By overlapping protected areas, vegetation types and deforestation history maps with the distribution of the lost species, we were able to identify the sites where some species have a greater chance of being re-collected. Those are the species that are located within protected areas or in still-intact types of vegetation. Thus, the results of our study will guide us in our future search of lost species in the field. This research allowed one student to write a master's degree thesis, which will be defended in June 2019. (KSR #12)

Plan

Planning

i. National strategy for the conservation of Madagascar wild yams drafted and to be validated by the Ministry of Environment. (KSR #15)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Besides *Ravenala madagascariensis*, five flag species which are used by the local communities of the project site of the classified forest of Vohibola were identified and described. All five species, which are endemic to Madagascar (*Faguetia falcata*, *Intsia bijuga*, *Faucherea glutinosa*, *Asteropeia multiflora* and *Humbertiodendron saboureaui*), are used by the population and are all threatened. Participative action plans were drafted for all five species and restoration for some of the species was undertaken by planting seeds, cuttings or offspring. We now aim at classifying the forest as a protected area. One master's student participated in the project and wrote a master's thesis on the five flag species and was trained in assessing conservation status in the field. Final report was submitted to CEPF who funded the project. (KSR #37)

Network

Capacity building

i. The workshop on the integration of Knowledge Products mobilised by IUCN through IBAT to support decision making aimed to discuss the use of integrated global datasets (e.g. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, ProtectedPlanet™ and the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas), as well as emerging and national datasets (e.g. Red List of Ecosystems, Rebioma and other Malagasy tools), to aid decision making, national reporting, and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Madagascar. The workshop was well-attended, with about 50 participants from five different ministries (Environ-

ment, Land-use Planning, Agriculture, Mines, and Fisheries), NGOs, national foundations, German Development and Cooperation Agency (GIZ), European Union, and one company from the private sector. Overall, we received very positive outcomes and good feedback from the participants on this workshop and the usefulness of IBAT for Research and Conservation for informing decision making in Madagascar and for reporting on national strategies, especially on the NBSAP. (KSR #18)

Acknowledgements

We thank the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) that helped us to cover different costs: the funding of the project in Vohibola forest, the assessment of the trees from western Madagascar KBAs, the training workshop and the review workshop for the trees from western KBAs. We also want to thank Sarah Oldfield from the Global Tree Specialist Group, Malin Rivers and Emily Beech from BGCI who provided Red Listing training and assistance during the western KBAs trees project.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	5	
Plan	1	
Act	1	
Network	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 9, 12, 15, 18, 37

KSR: Key Species Result