

IUCN SSC Freshwater Plant Specialist Group

2020 Report



Richard Lansdown

Chair

Richard Lansdown (1)

Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

(1) Ardeola Environmental Services, UK

(2) Berlin, Germany

Number of members

192

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Freshwater Plant Specialist Group



Mission statement

The FPSG exists to promote and further the conservation of wetland-dependent plant species and the habitats upon which they depend.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Unless the funding situation changes, we do not envisage any significant change in the conservation condition of freshwater plants as a result of action by the Freshwater Plant Specialist Group (FPSG).

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete a conservation assessment of wetland-dependent plants in the Indo-Burma region; (2) develop a baseline for a Red List Index of wetland-dependent plants in the Mediterranean; (3) complete Red List assessment of nationally endemic freshwater plants in Canada.

Research activities: (1) conduct research into reproductive strategies along water depth gradient of *Vallisneria natans* and *V. spinulosa* in shallow lakes of the Yangtze River, China; (2) conduct research into plant community patterns in Moroccan temporary ponds along latitudinal and anthropogenic disturbance gradients.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) assess conservation requirements of *Crinum malabaricum*; (2) global conservation action for the genus *Isoetes*; (3) accomplish conservation of 'ferricretes' in Satara District, Western Ghats, India, as Conservation Zones; (4) conduct global conservation assessment of the genus *Callitriche*; (5) conduct global conservation assessment of the genus *Cryptocoryne*.

Network

Capacity building: develop a decision support tool to improve restoration projects with emphasis on freshwater wetland vegetation.

Communicate

Communication: (1) raise awareness of global conservation of freshwater wetland plants; (2) examine use of charophytes for description and monitoring of inland waters in Sicily; (3) complete a wetland vegetation restoration literature review.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Progress on the conservation assessment of wetland-dependent plants in the Indo-Burma region is frustrated by a lack of support in the region; this activity is targeted to carry over into the new quadrennium 2021–2024. (KSR #1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22)

Research activities

i. The Master's degree thesis on use of charophytes for description and monitoring of inland waters in Sicily was defended in March 2020. (KSR #43)

Baldellia repens, Bellebouche,
Parc Naturel Regional de al Brenne,
France, 2010
Photo: Richard Lansdown



Act

Conservation actions

i. Partial funding to complete the work on assessment of conservation requirements of *Crinum malabaricum* was secured in 2019; other funds will be provided by the researchers using their own funds. The project has been delayed by COVID-19 and limits on international travel; this activity is targeted to carry over into the new quadrennium 2021–2024. (KSR #27)

ii. The conservation of ‘ferricretes’ in Satara District, Western Ghats, India, as Conservation Zones was accomplished. (KSR #27)

iii. Work on the global conservation action plan for water-starworts (genus *Callitriche*) has not yet been completed. The project is still ongoing; a third article has been published describing seven new species. A fourth article has been submitted, describing another two new species. Once this is published, a final article will be submitted completing the review and potentially describing another new species. Once these articles are published, the Red List assessments will be completed and published, and the action plan reviewed and updated to include the new taxonomy. It is likely that the final stages of the project will be hampered by lack of funding, as the original Mohamed Bin Zayed grant was used up some years ago. (KSR #1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22)

iv. Work on the global conservation action plan for *Cryptocoryne* is nearing completion, however, elements of the work have been delayed partly due to COVID-19 restrictions on international travel and partly due to the time taken to review and revise Red List assessments before publication. All elements of this project are in hand and are expected to be completed toward the end of 2021. (KSR #1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22)

Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

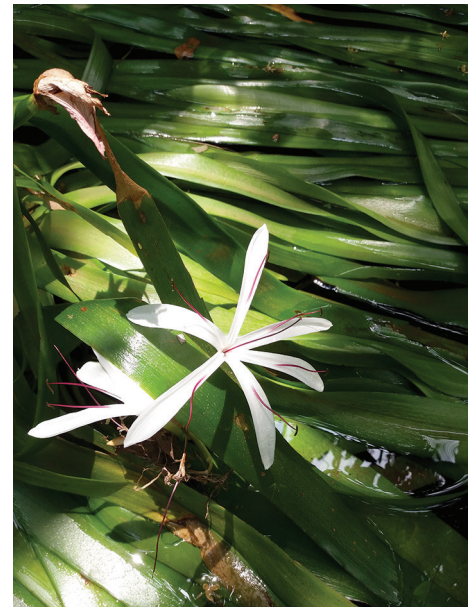
Assess **2** ||

Act **4** ||||

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 43

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-016, WCC-2016-Res-041, WCC-2016-Res-045

KSR: Key Species Result



Critically Endangered Malabar River-lily,
Crinum malabaricum, Embate, Kerala 2017
Photo: Richard Lansdown