

# IUCN SSC Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group

2020 Report



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## Chair

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## Location/Affiliation

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## Number of members

21

## Social networks

Facebook:

The Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group

Instagram: @iucn\_wgpsg



## Mission statement

The mission of the Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group (WGPSG) is to improve current knowledge on taxonomy and ecology of plants of the entire region of the Western Ghats and thereby enhance their conservation status in the long term.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we plan that a substantially higher number of experts are brought together in this forum and an assessment workshop leads to the training of assessors who will ensure that a substantial number of plants are assessed. We will identify Key Biodiversity Areas in this landscape and collaborate with stakeholders to take this beyond a declaration on paper. We will conduct a field taxonomy course to get students and amateur plant enthusiasts interested in the identification, assessment and conservation of Western Ghats plants.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Capacity building: establish a standard protocol for Red List assessment.

Red List: (1) complete 100 new IUCN Red List assessments by 2020; (2) complete two genera assessments by 2020.

### Act

Conservation actions: (1) establish at least one of the six planned nurseries by 2020; (2) identify six Key Biodiversity Areas.

## Network

Capacity building: (1) establish one network and conduct two workshops annually to train on Red Listing; (2) conduct two field courses on plant conservation.

Scientific meetings: hold an annual meeting of all members.

## Communicate

Communication: initiate a sustainable forum.

## Activities and results 2020

### Assess

#### Capacity building

**i.** Assessments are following protocols as per Red List assessment guidelines. A stepwise process and workflow have been created to encourage new assessments. (KSR #5)

#### Red List

**i.** Two assessments were submitted, 30 are partially completed offline, and about 10 are under review. We have also helped review for the Global Tree Assessment, *Cryptocoryne* assessments and suggested a few species that needed assessments, which have been completed. We also helped with regional assessments for Arunachal state. (KSR #2)

**ii.** *Erinocarpus*, a monotypic genus, is assessed. *Adelocaryum* in Western Ghats is partially complete. (KSR #2)



WGPSG team with experts in the Nilgiri Plateau  
Photo: WGPSG archives

## Act

### Conservation actions

- i.** In the Nilgiris, there are two established nurseries at Keystone Foundation and Upstream Ecology, which have more than 50,000 plants, all Western Ghats natives. (KSR #25)
- ii.** Our plan is to get a list of all the KBAs for the Western Ghats (freshwater and amphibians) and see how plant information can be incorporated before we identify new KBAs. Assessments must be completed before identification. (KSR #22)

### Network

#### Capacity building

- i.** The current membership is about 50+ members. These experts also helped us organise the two workshops that were held in September 2020 and October 2020, attended by 20 and 50 people, respectively. (KSR #5)
- ii.** The pandemic has limited our ability to meet and be physically present to learn and interact. We were not keen to hold virtual plant conservation meetings and hope to conduct field courses in plant conservation in the coming year. (KSR #17)

#### Scientific meetings

- i.** An online meeting was held for members.

## Communicate

### Communication

- i.** We have a small group that works on sustainable use, and this is not limited to plants. We will initiate a subgroup on Sustainable Use within WGPSG. (KSR #33)

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the SSC for our first grant as a Specialist Group, an SSC Internal Grant.

## Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	3	
Act	2	
Network	3	
Communicate	1	


Main KSRs addressed: 2, 5, 17, 22, 25, 33

KSR: Key Species Result

**Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group**

**Endemic Plants of the Western Ghats #33**


*Abutilon ranadei* Woodrow & Stapf (Malvaceae)  
Distribution: Moist deciduous forests of North Western Ghats  
Conservation Status: Not Evaluated



**Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group**

**Endemic Plants of the Western Ghats #31**


*Ceropegia mahabalei* Hemadri & Ansari (Apocynaceae)  
Distribution: North Western Ghats of Maharashtra & Gujarat  
Conservation Status: Not Evaluated



**Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group**

**Endemic Plants of the Western Ghats #30**

*Actinodaphne quinqueflora* (Dennst.) M.R.Almeida & S.M.Almeida (Lauraceae)  
Distribution: Sholas & evergreen forests of South Western Ghats  
Conservation Status: Not Evaluated



Endemics of Western Ghats on Social Media  
Photos: WGPSG archives