

IUCN SSC Seed Conservation Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Number of members

Currently inviting members

Mission statement

The mission of the Seed Conservation Specialist Group is to promote seed conservation by providing a network for knowledge-sharing in different ecosystems around the world, and aiding in prioritization, capacity building, and development of best practices.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

New group, no activities reported for the 2016-2017 period.

Acknowledgements

We thank Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) for providing secretariat support for the new Specialist Group, as well as 60 participants in the proposal process. We thank the United States Forest Service for providing funding towards the Seed Conservation Directory of Expertise. We thank Guangxi University for financially supporting meetings of the Co-Chairs and Deputy Chair in 2017.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Capacity building

Research activities: using the Directory of Expertise, analyse gaps in regional or taxonomic capacity, facilities and areas of expertise.

Communications

Communication: creation of a publically searchable online database of people and institutions with various types of seed conservation expertise, knowledge and facilities.

Increasing diversity of SSC

Membership: recruit at least 100 members for the new Specialist Group. Approximately 60 signed on to the proposal for the new group, and another 250 expressed interest in an online survey.

Policy

Policy advice: create an IUCN Guideline focused on using seeds in conservation and restoration of threatened and endangered plant species.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

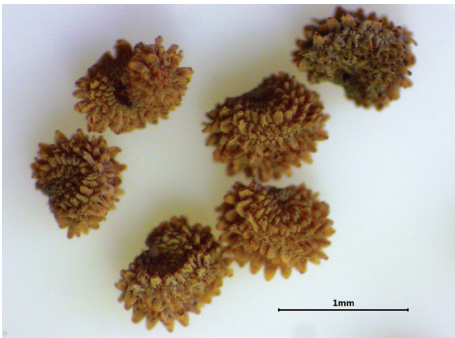
At the end of 2020, we expect that the sharing of experience and knowledge among our group members and the global conservation community will help to identify gaps in the seed conservation of vulnerable species and inform world policies for ecosystem restoration and species recovery. In particular, we hope that our collective efforts in identifying these gaps in knowledge will encourage improvements to seed banking processes in countries of Latin America, East Asia and other areas that are identified as regions with high conservation needs. Through the policy documents developed for seed conservation, we hope that our efforts will contribute towards at least a 15 per cent increase in species from each ecological region being conserved for the future through effective seed banking.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

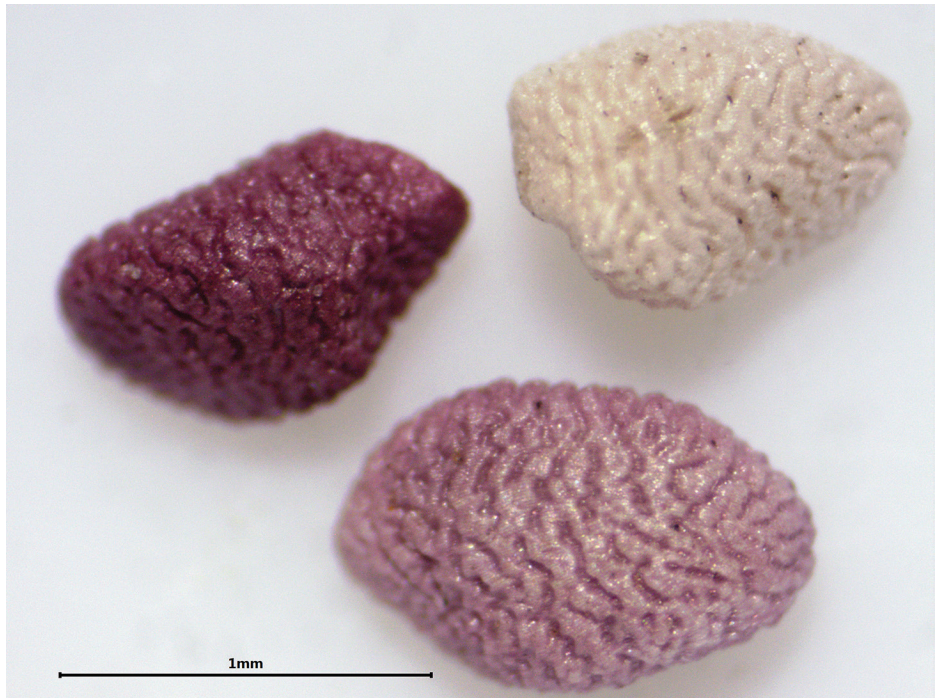
N/A



Panicum nephelophilum
Photo: Seed Conservation SG archives



Silene perlmanii, Critically Endangered
Photo: Seed Conservation SG archives



Delissea kauaiensis, Critically Endangered
Photo: Seed Conservation SG archives