

IUCN SSC Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group

2019 Report



Anita Varghese



Rengaiyan Ganesan

Co-Chairs

Anita Varghese ⁽¹⁾
Rengaiyan Ganesan ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Aparna Watve ⁽³⁾

Location/Affiliation

- ⁽¹⁾ Keystone Foundation, The Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu, India
⁽²⁾ Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
⁽³⁾ MIT World Peace University, Faculty of Social Innovation, Partnership and Co-creation, Pune, Maharashtra, India

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 2019

Assess

Capacity building

i. Preparation of standard protocols for Red List assessment are underway. (KSR #5)

Red List

i. Offline assessments are being collected and reviewed. (KSR #2)

ii. Four genera are short-listed, with opinions sought from various groups. (KSR #2)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Discussions started to establish the first of six plant nurseries. (KSR #25)

Network

Capacity building

i. A number of experts were contacted to establish a network and plan workshops. (KSR #5)

ii. One course on plant conservation is being planned. (KSR #17)



Nanothamnus sericeus (Asteraceae),
North Western Ghats of Maharashtra
and Karnataka
Photo: Navendu Page

Acknowledgements

We thank the Steering Committee and Plant Conservation Committee of the IUCN SSC for having supported our proposal and we look forward to working together.

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess **3** |||

Act **1** |

Network **2** ||

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 5, 17, 25

KSR: Key Species Result



Ceropegia jainii (Apocynaceae),
North Western Ghats of Maharashtra
Photo: Navendu Page