

IUCN SSC Seed Conservation Specialist Group

2020 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

116

Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Seed Conservation Specialist Group
Twitter: @IUCN_Seeds
Website: <https://seedconservationsg.org/>

Mission statement

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

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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 percent increase in species from each ecological region being conserved for the future through effective seed banking.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Research activities: conduct and publish a regional and topical gap analysis of seed conservation expertise.

Act

Technical advice: create IUCN Guidelines on Seed Conservation.

Network

Membership: (1) recruit at least 100 members for the new Specialist Group; (2) expand SCSG leadership team representation to include focal points from three new speciality areas and three new countries in the Global South and meet quarterly.

Communicate

Communication: (1) create an online global Seed Conservation Directory of Expertise; (2) establish key communication platforms by creating an SCSG website and social media accounts.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Research activities

i. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, development and publication of a regional and topical gap analysis of seed conservation expertise has been extended into the 2021-2025 quadrennium. However, we have made progress by creating a working group and preparing a working plan for this target. (KSR #32)

Act

Technical advice

i. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the creation of IUCN Guidelines on Seed Conservation has been extended into the 2021-2024 quadrennium. However, we have made progress by compiling existing regional and national standards and guidelines and recruiting volunteer SCSG members to join a committee focused on this target in the next quadrennium. (KSR #26)



Seeds of Arizona Eryngo,
Eryngium sparganophyllum
Photo: Steven Blackwell



Seeds of Ka'e'e, *Mucuna gigantea*,
a native Hawaiian plant
Photo: Marian Chau



Left: Seeds of Pilo, *Coprosma montana*,
a native Hawaiian plant



Right: Seeds of 'A'ali'i, *Dodonaea viscosa*,
a native Hawaiian plant
Photos: Hawai'i Island Seed Bank

Network

Membership

- i. By the end of the quadrennium, the SCSG increased its global membership to 116 members.
- ii. We recruited Anurag Dhyani as Focal Point for Ex Situ Conservation (India), Pedro León Lobos as Focal Point for Conservation Planning (Chile), and Diana Castillo-Diaz as Focal Point for Early Career Engagement (Colombia).

Communicate

Communication

- i. We launched our website at <https://seed-conservationsg.org> in May 2020 and had more than 1,500 unique visitors and over 4,000 page views through 2020. We also created a SCSG Facebook Group with more than 500 members, and a SCSG Twitter account with more than 160 followers. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Assess	1	
Act	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 26, 28

KSR: Key Species Result