



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC’s major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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### 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

**ASSESS:** Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

**PLAN:** Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

**ACT:** Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

**NETWORK:** Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

**COMMUNICATE:** Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

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### SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network each year. Each SSC Group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

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## Structure of the IUCN SSC Stand-alone Report

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

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### Title of the SSC Group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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### Group information

Includes names of Chair / Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators and Program Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the SSC Group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

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### Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC Group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

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### Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Oldfield, S, and Newton, A. 2023. 2022 Report of the Global Tree Specialist Group. In: Nassar, JM, García, L, Mendoza, L, Andrade, ND, Bezeng, S, Birkhoff, J, Bohm, M, Canteiro, C, Geschke, J, Henriques, S, Ivande, S, Mileham, K, Ramos, M, Rodríguez, A, Rodríguez, JP, Street, B, and Yerena, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 6 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

# IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group



#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Website: <https://globaltrees.org/iucn-ssc-global-tree-specialist-group/>

#### CO-CHAIR

Sara Oldfield

Freelance, 5 Marshall Road, Cambridge, UK

#### CO-CHAIR

Adrian Newton

Bournemouth University, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset, UK

#### RED LIST AUTHORITY

##### COORDINATOR

Malin Rivers

Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, UK

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

105

#### Mission statement

The aims of the Global Tree Specialist Group (GTSG) are to promote and implement global red listing for trees and to act in an advisory capacity to the Global Trees Campaign.

#### Projected impact 2021–2025

Publication of conservation assessments for all tree species (around 58,000) on the IUCN Red List as a basis for enhanced conservation awareness, planning and action.

#### Targets 2021–2025

##### ASSESS

**T-001** Publish a Global Tree Assessment (GTA) report highlighting information on the conservation status of all tree species.  
Status: Achieved

**T-002** Publish a high-impact journal publication on the conservation status of the world's trees.  
Status: Achieved

**T-004** Work with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), other SSC Plant Groups and other partners to undertake 18,000 updated or new Red List assessments for trees.  
Status: On track

**T-006** Publish a Red List of global timber species.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Undertake a Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) analysis of tree data.  
Status: On track

**T-011** Publish the Red List of Dipterocarpaceae of Borneo.  
Status: Achieved

**T-013** Hold tree Red List assessment meetings to review species of Asia and South America.  
Status: On track

**T-016** Publish a paper on links between the Red List of Ecosystems and the Red List of Trees.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-017** Publish a paper in a high-impact journal on the impact of the international timber trade on tree species.  
Status: On track

**T-021** Publish a peer-reviewed journal article that outlines the process of tree data sharing between NatureServe and the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS), to facilitate the completion of Red List assessments for US tree species, highlighting the assessment results.  
Status: On track

##### PLAN

**T-018** Initiate tree species conservation planning for selected tree groups – *Acer*, *Magnolia*, *Quercus* and dipterocarps – working with BGCI's Global Consortia.  
Status: On track

##### ACT

**T-007** Establish a new role for GTSG in expanded Global Trees Campaign partnership facilitating tree conservation action by Group members.  
Status: Not initiated

##### NETWORK

**T-005** Develop and implement a new GTSG website.  
Status: On track

**T-008** Expand GTSG with 20 new members, increasing GTSG expertise on *in situ* conservation and conservation policy.  
Status: On track

**T-012** Train 400 people in Red List assessment for tree species.  
Status: On track

**T-014** Hold a conference to promote the results of Red List assessments for all tree species and call for increased action.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-015** Implement a revised structure for GTSG with appropriate leadership and taxonomic/geographical/thematic subgroups formed.  
Status: On track



Eleuthera, Bahamas  
Photo: Malin Rivers

**T-019** Strengthen liaison with CITES, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other appropriate groups to promote increased action for globally threatened timber species.

Status: On track

**COMMUNICATE**

**T-003** Publish a Red List of Madagascar Trees.

Status: Achieved

**T-020** Produce four GTSG newsletters annually.

Status: On track

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**Activities and results 2022**

**ASSESS**

**Red List**

**T-004** Work with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), other SSC Plant Groups and other partners to undertake 18,000 updated or new Red List assessments for trees. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 3,538

Result description: Working in 2022 with BGCI and GTA partners, 3,538 tree species with new Red List assessments were published on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The total number of tree Red List assessments on the IUCN website is now 38,356 tree species. In addition, there are

*Terminalia acuminata* in Rio Botanic Gardens  
Photo: Malin Rivers



2,421 submitted assessments that are yet to be processed by the IUCN Red List Unit. The remaining species are either in draft, awaiting assessment review and processing (18,275 species) or unassessed but assigned to experts (3,823).

**T-006 Publish a Red List of global timber species.** (KSR 6)

Number of technical documents provided to support Red List assessments/reassessments: 1

Result description: The Red List of Timber Trees has been completed in 2022 and is due to be published in the first quarter of 2023. There are 4,945 timber tree species that have conservation assessments published on the IUCN Red List. A third of these species (1,664 species) are threatened with extinction.

**Research activities**

**T-002 Publish a high-impact journal publication on the conservation status of the world's trees.** (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: An overview paper, 'Scientists' warning to humanity on tree extinctions' was published in 2022 and generated significant publicity. It was the "most downloaded" article from the *Plants, People, Planet* journal, after only one month following publication. The BGCI featured the publication on its homepage with a press release picked up by *The Guardian*. This highlighted that: 1) billions of people could lose their income, jobs and livelihoods if more is not done to prevent tree species extinction; 2) seven urgent actions to avert an ecological, cultural and socio-economic catastrophe are called for ahead of Cop15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); 3) the call to action has been signed by more than 30 organisations worldwide and reveals the threats species face in regions around

the world, including North America and Europe. Members of GTSG who signed up as 'Global Tree Assessment contributors' were listed in the author string. The paper is available at: <https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ppp3.10314>. This article was one of 12 in the special issue of *Plants, People, Planet*, with guest editors Malin Rivers, Chuck Cannon (Morton Arboretum), Anurag Dhyani (GTSG member) and Chen Jin (Xishuangbanna BG), highlighting key achievements of the Global Tree Assessment, implications of results, lessons learned and evaluation of future steps. The article focus on specific geographic regions or taxonomic groups, detailing progress, and pitfalls.

**T-010 Undertake a Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) analysis of tree data.** (KSR 6)

Number of KBAs in WDKBA updated after reassessment for species: 0

Result description: In 2022, we supported work by BGCI to investigate the most effective ways to incorporate tree data into KBA designation worldwide. This involved

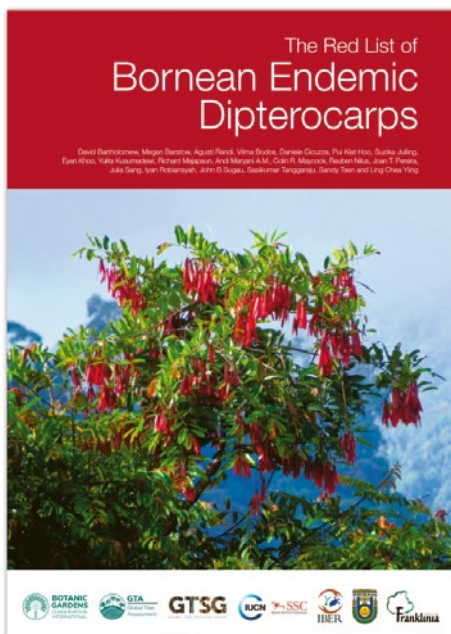
developing a methodology to incorporate tree distribution and Red List data into Alliance for Zero Extinctions (AZE) and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) sites. Going forward we will work with individual countries or territories to test and implement the methodology and work with KBA national points to ensure that trees are part of the KBA and AZE process.

**T-017 Publish a paper in a high-impact journal on the impact of the international timber trade on tree species.** (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 0

Result description: This paper is in preparation.

**T-021 Publish a peer-reviewed journal article that outlines the process of tree data sharing between NatureServe and the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS), to facilitate the completion of Red List assessments for US tree species, highlighting the assessment results.** (KSR 5)



Cover of The Red List of Bornean Endemic Dipterocarps  
Photo: BGCI

Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation: 1

Result description: A paper was published that outlines the process of tree data sharing between NatureServe and SIS, to facilitate the completion of Red List assessments for US tree species, highlighting the assessment results. Carrero, C. *et al.* (2022). 'Data sharing for conservation: A standardized checklist of US native tree species and threat assessments to prioritize and coordinate action'. *Plants, People, Planet*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ppp3.10305>.

## PLAN

### Planning

**T-018** Initiate tree species conservation planning for selected tree groups – *Acer*, *Magnolia*, *Quercus*, and dipterocarps – working with BGCI's Global Consortia. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: GTSG Focal Point for conservation planning was one of the organisers and leaders of a national tree conservation planning workshop in Ghana. Preparation of a funding proposal with the Colombia Plant Specialist Group for the development of a national tree conservation plan. Involvement with the Global Consortia.

## NETWORK

### Capacity building

**T-012** Train 400 people in Red List assessment for tree species. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 116

Result description: Through collaboration with BGCI, 116 individuals were trained and supported in the IUCN Red List assessment and review process, 45 participants trained in a European IUCN Red List training workshop (Montenegro); 19 participants in IUCN Red List training workshop for West Africa (online, in French); three participants in East African IUCN Red List training; five people given SIS training (online); 20 participants in IUCN Red List training workshop (Kyrgyzstan); four participants given SIS Connect training (Brazil, South America) and 21 participants in the review workshop (Dipterocarpaceae).

### Membership

**T-008** Expand GTSG with 20 new members, increasing GTSG expertise on *in situ* conservation and conservation policy. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 5

Result description: In 2022, five new members joined the SG.

### Synergy

**T-005** Develop and implement a new GTSG website. (KSR 2)

Number of new collaborations between GTSG members: 1

Result description: In 2022, preliminary discussions were held concerning the development of a new website.

**T-019** Strengthen liaison with CITES, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other appropriate groups to promote increased action for globally threatened timber species. (KSR 1)

Number of 'in-kind' partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: Represented in IUCN Delegation to CITES COP in November 2022. Represented in working group for Non-Detriment Findings.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

**T-020** Produce four GTSG newsletters annually. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 3

Result description: Three GTSG newsletters were published in 2022 with a new format.

### Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to BGCI for providing the Secretariat for the GTSG, and for the generous support from botanic gardens including The Morton Arboretum, Singapore Botanic Gardens and Rio de Janeiro Botanic Garden. We also wish to acknowledge all GTSG members, who are making significant contributions to tree conservation. We also wholeheartedly thank Fondation Franklinia for their continued support of the conservation of globally threatened trees.

### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 20

**Geographic regions:** 17 Global, 1 Africa, 1 America, 1 Asia

#### Actions during 2022:

Assess: 6 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 4 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

#### Overall achievement 2021–2025:

