



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 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 and Centers for Species Survival (CSS) each year. Each SSC and CSS 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 and CSS Stand-alone Reports

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

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### Title of the 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, Program Officers, Species Survival Directors, and Species Survival Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the 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 or CSS 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.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Oldfield, S. and Newton, A. 2024. 2023 Report of the Global Tree Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

# IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group



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**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
105

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Website: <https://www.bgci.org/global-tree-specialist-group/>

## Mission statement

The aims of the Global Tree Specialist Group (GTSG) are to conserve tree species globally, by sharing knowledge and catalyse action to halt declines, restore populations and prevent extinctions.

## 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: Achieved

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

**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: Achieved

**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: Achieved

### 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

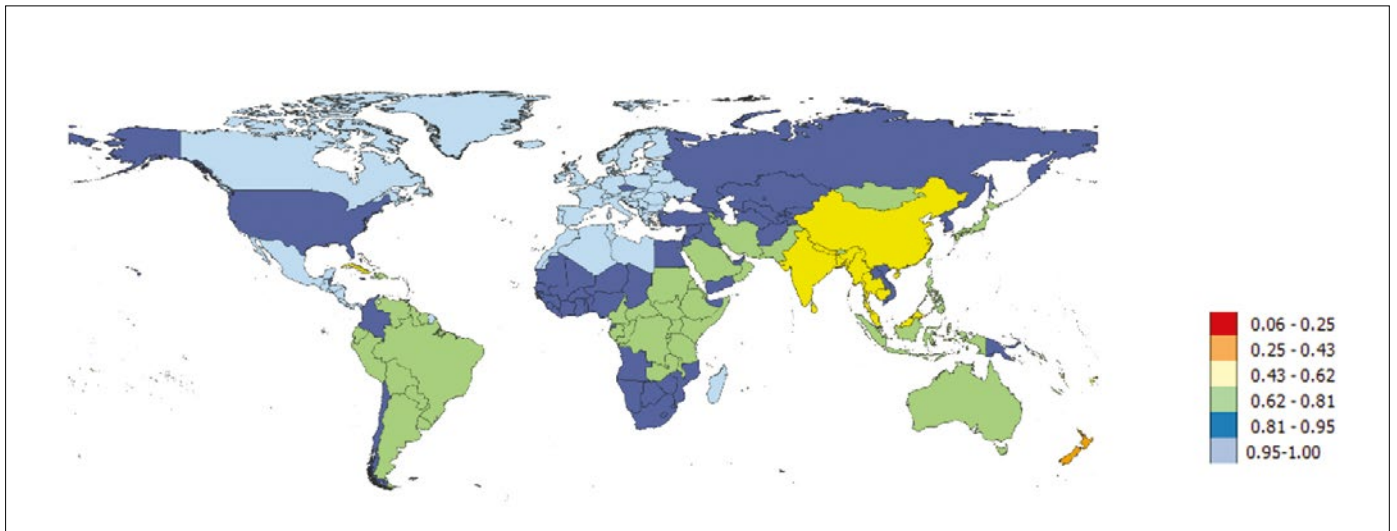
### NETWORK

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

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

**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



Proportion of tree species assessed on IUCN Red List (2023.1)  
Photo: BGCI/GTSG

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

Status: On track

**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

### Activities and results 2023

#### 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: 3,909

Result description: In 2023, working with BGCI and GTA partners, 3,909 tree species were assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The total number of tree Red List assessments on the IUCN website is now 41,444 tree species. In addition, there are >5,000 submitted assessments that are yet to be processed by the IUCN Red List Unit. The remaining tree species are either in draft, awaiting assessment review and processing or assigned to experts.

[SSC Grant awarded]

**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 was published and made available in 2023. Publication: Hills, R, Barstow, M. and Rivers, M. (2022). 'The Red List of Timber Trees' *Botanic Gardens Conservation International*, Richmond UK.

**T-013** Hold tree Red List assessment meetings to review species of Asia and South America. (KSR 6)

Number of workshops held: 5

Result description: In 2023, five workshops were held: a workshop held in Singapore in February to assess and review previous

assessments for trees of Indonesia, Malaysia and elsewhere in the region; three online workshops held for South American species, as well as an in-person workshop in Washington DC to cover the Guianas.

#### Research activities

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

Number of KBAs in WDKBA updated after reassessment for species: 1

Result description: In 2023, we continued to work with 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. As the end of 2023, over 3,000 tree species were identified as potential AZE site species. We will continue work with the KBA and AZE secretariats to incorporate results into their database (WDKBA).

[SSC Grant awarded]

**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 has now been submitted.

## 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: 0

Result description: GTSG Focal Point for conservation planning has been leading multi-species conservation planning projects for threatened trees in Uganda, Malaysia and Chile. We have also been supporting the Colombia Plant Specialist Group to develop a conservation action plan for the threatened trees of Colombia, which will be published in 2024. In collaboration with the GCC for Oaks and the GCC for Magnolias, a 'Planning for Plant Conservation' working group was held at the Conservation Planning Specialist Group Annual Meeting 2023. One of the recommendations of the group was to establish an ongoing working group led by BGCI which will meet virtually to share experiences and continue the momentum for conservation planning for plants.

[SSC Grant awarded]

## NETWORK

### Capacity building

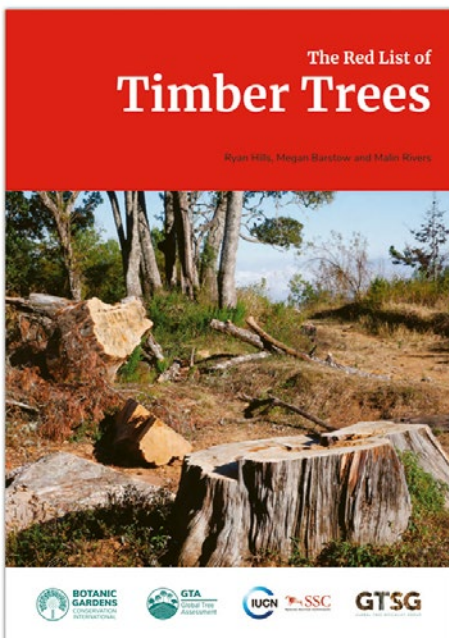
**T-012** Train 400 people in Red List assessment for tree species. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 109

Result description: Through collaboration with BGCI, 109 individuals were trained and supported in the IUCN Red List assessment and review process: 40 participants in IUCN



Values of tree species  
Photo: Malin Rivers



Front cover of *The Red List of Timber Trees*  
Photo: BGCI

Red List training (Dominican Republic, in Spanish), nine participants in IUCN Red List assessment workshop (Fiji), 28 participants in IUCN Red List training and review workshop (Singapore), 25 participants in IUCN Red List assessment and review workshop (Tanzania), four participants given SIS training (Europe, India, online), and four participants in IUCN Red List assessment workshop (Washington DC).

#### 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: 7

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

[SSC Grant awarded]

**T-015 Implement a revised structure for GTSG with appropriate leadership and taxonomic/geographical/thematic subgroups formed.** (KSR 2)

Number of subgroups formed: 2

Result description: By the end of 2023, Sara Oldfield and Adrian Newton stepped down as Co-Chairs of the GTSG. Malin Rivers has been assigned as the new Chair. She will establish a new structure (including subgroups) in 2024. There is also a new focal point for sustainable use (Megan Barstow) and conservation planning (Yvette Harvey-Brown).

#### Synergy

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

Number of new collaborations between GTSG members: 1

Result description: A new [website](#) has been created.

**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: In 2023, Megan Barstow was appointed as the sustainable use focal point and in discussion with TRAFFIC and SULi on work going forward for timber trees.

#### 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: 4

Result description: Three GTSG newsletters published in 2023 with a new format and an end-of-year infographic.

#### Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 20

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

Actions during 2023:

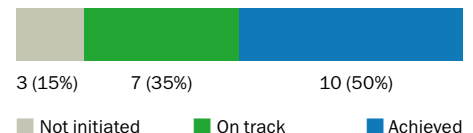
Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 5 (KSR 1, 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



#### Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to Sara Oldfield and Adrian Newton for all their work as Co-Chairs of the Global Tree Specialist Group. We are also thanking BGCI for providing the Secretariat for the Global Tree Specialist Group and the generous support from botanic gardens worldwide 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.



*Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus*  
Photo: Csenge Nagy



*Tetra Parnaiba*  
Photo: Karina Molina



*Trioceros hoehnelii*  
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson



*Sternberia lutea*  
Photo: Hayri Duman



*Egretta rufescens*  
Photo: Ernesto Gómez



*Lactifluus neotropicus*  
Photo: Aida Vasco



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)  
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber  
and Wolfram Graf