

# IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group Strategic Plan 2026-2029

The IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group Strategic Plan for the new IUCN Quadrennium (2026-2029) is structured under the five components of the IUCN SSC Species Conservation Cycle – Network, Assess, Plan, Act and Communicate.

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

**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 mobilize conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.

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



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

Target	Key Activities	Lead Person/Team	Timeline
<b>T001. Expand GTSG membership with 10 new members annually, especially from tree diversity hotspots</b> (Internal network)	T001.A1. Gap analysis (geographic, age, skills)	GTSG Intern (A1, A2),	2026-2027
	T001.A2. Find and recruit members (incl. students) from existing and new networks)	GTSG Advisory Group (A2, A3, A4)	2026-2029
	T001.A3. Encourage and facilitate the formation of subgroups/taskforces/working groups	GTSG Members (A2, A3)	2026-2029
	T001.A4. Create a GTSG succession plan		2027
<b>T002. Collaborate with other IUCN SSC Groups and other IUCN Related opportunities to advocate for trees and increase focus on tree conservation</b> (IUCN Network)	T002.A1 Continue (re)assessment collaborations with overlapping SSC groups	GTSG Members (lead by BGCI) (A1, A2)	2026-2029
	T002.A2 Ensure trees are included in a range of IUCN products and developments, i.e. STAR, Red List Index, National Red List, Green Status, EDGE	GTSG Advisory Group (A2, A3) GTSG Chair (A3)	2026-2029
	T002.A3 Encourage tree experts from other SSC Groups to join GTSG	BGCI, GCC, Centre for Species Survival Trees (A1, A2, A3)	2026
<b>T003. Engagement with botanic gardens, governments, universities and NGOs to share information and strengthen tree conservation practices</b> (Wider Network)	T003.A1 Establish a policy working group to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage with Global Strategy for Plant Conservation</li> <li>- Engage with CITES (i.e. Non-Detriment Findings)</li> <li>- Policy briefs</li> <li>- Guidance on including tree data in NBSAPs</li> </ul>	Policy Focal Point (A1)  GTSG Members (A1, A2)  GTSG Advisory Group (A2)	2026-2029
	T003.A2 Engage with botanic gardens, governments, universities and conservation NGOs (i.e. WWF, Birdlife, UNEP WCMC) to share information and strengthen tree conservation practices		



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

Target	Key Activities	Lead Person/Team	Timeline
T004. <b>Trees to remain comprehensively assessed on IUCN Red List (&gt;80% of tree species with up-to-date assessments), through assessments and reassessments of &gt;2000 trees annually and a new reassessment workflow.</b>	<p>T004.A1 Establish a reassessment (and prioritisation) workflow</p> <p>T004.A2 Assess (including reassessments) over 2,000 tree Red List assessments a year</p> <p>T004.A3 200 GTSG members and others trained in Red List assessments</p>	<p>BGCI, GCCs and Mexico Case Study, Centre for Species Survival Trees (A1)</p> <p>Red List Authority Coordinator (A1, A2, A3)</p> <p>GTSG Members (A2, A3)</p>	<p>2026</p> <p>2026 -2029</p> <p>2026-2029</p>
T005. <b>Identify priority <u>species</u> for conservation action through development and publications of priority lists (urgent, geographic, taxonomic, ex situ, Data Deficient, Possibly Extinct, Extinct in the Wild etc.).</b>	<p>T005.A1 Set up a taskforce to define, develop and publish list of 'Act Now' tree species (threatened trees not in situ or ex situ conservation)</p> <p>T005.A2 Create template for scalable conservation prioritisation</p> <p>T005.A3 Publish list of DD assessments to reassess or act upon</p>	<p>Needs owner(s) (A1)</p> <p>Needs owner(s) (A2)</p> <p>Needs owner(s) (A3)</p> <p><i>BGCI, Centre for Species Survival Trees</i></p>	<p>Soon (survey and working group)</p>
T006. <b>Identify priority <u>areas</u> for threatened trees (i.e. KBAs and STAR)</b>	<p>T006.A1 Produce Area of Habitat maps for threatened trees to contribute to STAR</p> <p>T006.A2 Identify and designate new Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for trees, and update information in existing KBAs to include tree data</p>	<p>BGCI (A1, A2)</p> <p>GTSG Members (A1, A2)</p>	<p>2026-2029</p>



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

Target	Key Activities	Lead Person/Team	Timeline
<b>T007. 25 GTSG members trained in conservation planning workshop facilitation</b>	<p>T007.A1 GTSG members successfully complete online CPSG facilitation course</p> <p>T007.A2 Conduct an in person CPSG facilitation course on planning for trees and develop associated training resources (e.g. best practice guidance)</p> <p>T007.A3 Mentorship programme for plant conservation planners – partnering, ongoing planning processes</p>	BGCI, ABG, Morton, CPSG (and the conservation planning working group for plants), Centre for Species Survival Tree Conservation Planning Focal Point (A1, A2, A3)	2026-2029
<b>T008. GTSG is leader in tree conservation planning, through publishing conservation action plans, provision of case studies &amp; guidance and establishing a tree conservation planning partnership.</b>	<p>T008.A1 Establishing partnerships for tree conservation planning (e.g. CPSG, National specialist groups, GCCs etc.)</p> <p>T008.A2 Publish 25 plans (national, multi or single species, various scope) for trees with identified agencies for implementation</p> <p>T008.A3 Guidance on conservation action plan template, methodology and tracking implementation developed and shared</p> <p>T008.A4 Provision of tree conservation planning case studies</p> <p>T008.A5 Track development and publication of tree conservation action plans, and add these to Conservation Action Tracker where appropriate</p>	BGCI, ABG, Morton, CPSG, GCCs, IUCN SSC, Centre for Species Survival Tree, Conservation Planning Focal Point (A1, A2, A3)	2026-2029



**Act:** Convene and mobilize conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.

Target	Key Activities	Lead Person/Team	Timeline
<b>T009. Supported by GTSG members and GSTG information, conservation action underway for &gt;500 globally threatened tree species, prioritising species without current conservation action and those in conservation action plans.</b>	<p>T009.A1 Catalyse action for ‘Act Now’ species (threatened trees not in situ or ex situ conservation) (see T005.A1)</p> <p>T009.A2 Increase the number of globally threatened tree species (confirmed to occur in protected areas) included in protected area management plans</p> <p>T009.A3 Enhance the number of threatened species with <i>in situ</i> conservation action, prioritising conservation action identified in conservation action plans and ‘Act Now’ species</p> <p>T009.A4 Enhance the number of threatened species with <i>ex situ</i> conservation action, prioritising conservation action identified in conservation action plans and ‘Act Now’ species</p> <p>T009.A5 GTSG members directly involved in, providing expertise to or supporting funding application for threatened trees.</p>	<p>Needs owner(s) (A1)</p> <p>GTSG Advisory Group (A1)</p> <p>GTSG Members (A2, A3, A4, A5)</p> <p><i>BGCI, GCC, Centre for Species Survival Trees, WCPA?</i></p>	2026-2029
<b>T010. Sharing best practise guidelines and case studies for tree conservation action (on GTSG website and through webinar)</b>	<p>T010.A1 Review existing training material for tree conservation action (see T013.A2)</p> <p>T010.A2 Publication of case studies on GTSG website</p> <p>T010.A3 Organise a webinar to showcase good practise in tree conservation action</p>	<p>GTSG Intern (A1, A2, A4),</p> <p>GTSG Members (A2, A3)</p> <p><i>Fondation Franklinia, BGCI, GCC, Centre for Species Survival Trees</i></p>	2026
<b>T011. Conservation action (in situ and ex situ) is tracked for threatened trees through the Conservation Action Tracker</b>	<p>T011.A1 Incorporate species action from GTSG member projects into the Conservation Action Tracker</p> <p>T011.A2 All GTSG members contributing conservation action information</p> <p>T011.A3 Explore new functionalities</p>	<p>GTSG Members (A1, A2, A3)</p> <p>BGCI (A3, with input from GTSG Members).</p>	2026-2027



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

Target	Key Activities	Lead Person/Team	Timeline
T012. <b>Make internal communications more effective – with annual virtual meetings, quarterly newsletters and development and implementation of a new communication strategy</b>	<p>T012.A1 Annual Virtual meetings and quarterly newsletters with increased input from GTSG (new mechanism on GTSG website)</p> <p>T012.A2 Facilitate ways for GTSG members to get engaged (i.e. IUCN Engage platform training, and creating “how to” guides/resources)</p> <p>T012.A3 Communicate grant opportunities for tree conservation action</p>	<p>GTSG Chair (A1, A2, A3)</p> <p>GTSG Members (A1, A2, A3)</p> <p><i>Centre for Species Survival Trees</i></p>	2026-2029
T013. <b>Share resources of guidelines, tools and best practise to the wider tree conservation community</b>	<p>T013.A1 Encourage GTSG members to contribute to case studies and best practise on the GTSG website and quarterly newsletters</p> <p>T013.A2 Consolidate existing tree conservation resources, highlight new guidance and tools and encourage GTSG members to cross post and share (see T010.A1)</p> <p>T013.A3 Highlight GTSG member publications</p>	<p>GTSG Chair (A1, A3)</p> <p>GTSG Members (A1, A2, A3)</p> <p>GTSG Intern (A2)</p> <p><i>Centre for Species Survival Tree and Reverse the Red</i></p>	2026-2029
T014. <b>Be a leading voice for tree conservation through the publication of high impact communication pieces</b>	<p>T014.A1 Publish and publicise ‘Act now’ species priority list</p> <p>T014.A2 A success story/conservation action tracker update when we hit a pivotal number</p> <p>T014.A3 Advocating for tree conservation in scientific events, presentations, publications (to improve tree diversity and conservation knowledge)</p> <p>T014.A4 Position statements of the GTSG on relevant issues (reforestation, tree planting, etc.)</p>	<p>Needs owner(s) (A1)</p> <p>Needs owner(s) (A2)</p> <p>GTSG Members (A3)</p> <p>GTSG Advisory Committee (A4)</p> <p><i>Work with journals Oryx, Reverse the Red, Conservation Optimism, Plants, People Planet etc.</i></p>	2026-2029

