

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
T001. Expand GTSG membership with 10 new members annually, especially from tree diversity hotspots (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
T002. Collaborate with other IUCN SSC Groups and other IUCN Related opportunities to advocate for trees and increase focus on tree conservation (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
T003. Engagement with botanic gardens, governments, universities and NGOs to share information and strengthen tree conservation practices (Wider Network)	T003.A1 Establish a policy working group to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with Global Strategy for Plant Conservation - Engage with CITES (i.e. Non-Detriment Findings) - Policy briefs - Guidance on including tree data in NBSAPs 	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. Trees to remain comprehensively assessed on IUCN Red List (>80% of tree species with up-to-date assessments), through assessments and reassessments of >2000 trees annually and a new reassessment workflow.	<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. 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.).	<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. Identify priority <u>areas</u> for threatened trees (i.e. KBAs and STAR)	<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
T007. 25 GTSG members trained in conservation planning workshop facilitation	<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
T008. GTSG is leader in tree conservation planning, through publishing conservation action plans, provision of case studies & guidance and establishing a tree conservation planning partnership.	<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
T009. Supported by GTSG members and GSTG information, conservation action underway for >500 globally threatened tree species, prioritising species without current conservation action and those in conservation action plans.	<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
T010. Sharing best practise guidelines and case studies for tree conservation action (on GTSG website and through webinar)	<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
T011. Conservation action (in situ and ex situ) is tracked for threatened trees through the Conservation Action Tracker	<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. Make internal communications more effective – with annual virtual meetings, quarterly newsletters and development and implementation of a new communication strategy	<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. Share resources of guidelines, tools and best practise to the wider tree conservation community	<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. Be a leading voice for tree conservation through the publication of high impact communication pieces	<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

