



GLOBAL TREE SPECIALIST GROUP

# Newsletter

August 2021

## Contents

The State of the World's Trees	2
Welcome to new GTSG members	2
Congratulations	3
GTSG Targets 2021-2024	3
The Global Tree Assessment Portal	4
BGJournal: Global Tree Assessment	4
Tree Red listing and Conservation action in the Philippines	4
Assessing Recently Described Trees	5
Fondation Franklinia Newsletter	5
Special Journal Issue - Update	5
New Red List for Peninsular Malaysia	5
Resources	6
Keep in Touch	6

The report of the Global Tree Assessment – **State of the World's Trees** - will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> September! We anticipate that this will have significant impact, drawing attention to the loss of trees and calling for coordinated conservation action. Plans are underway for publicising the report and we need your help. Please contact us if you would like to help us promote the report and we can then share a copy of the press release and other communications. This is an opportunity to promote your own involvement in the GTA at the same time!

The next phase of our work aims to ensure ALL tree species have an up-to-date global assessment published on the IUCN Red List by 2023. At the same time we need to promote and scale-up conservation planning and action.

So far in 2021 over 2,700 tree assessments have been submitted to the IUCN Red List, and more are coming. As ever, a big thank you for all red list assessments, reviews and provision of tree information. Thank you also to all who contributed to the final report. Please also continue to share news of conservation projects you are involved in.

As the pandemic continues, we sincerely hope that everyone remains well and safe and is able to enjoy their studies or work.

With very best wishes,

Sara Oldfield & Adrian Newton  
Co-Chairs GTSG



### Get in contact

Twitter: [@GTA\\_GTSG](https://twitter.com/GTA_GTSG)

Website: [www.globaltreeassessment.org](http://www.globaltreeassessment.org)

Email: [redlist@bgci.org](mailto:redlist@bgci.org)

## The State of the World's Trees

The State of the World's Trees (or the Global Tree Assessment report) will be released to the public on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. The report highlights the results of the Global Tree Assessment so far with headline figures for the number of threatened trees globally, tree diversity per country, major threats to trees, calls to action to save trees, and much, much more. It is the culmination of five years of tree assessment effort, and the contribution of over 70 institutions and 500 individuals.

The report will be released to the press and other conservation agencies, but this is also an opportunity for GTSG members and GTA partners to promote their tree conservation efforts. We can provide the press release and social media templates for use websites and social media, customisable to highlight your specific tree conservation and tree assessment stories. BGCI are currently putting together communications materials to support and promote the report to the widest audience possible. If you would like to help us promote the report and receive a communications package contact [megan.barstow@bgci.org](mailto:megan.barstow@bgci.org).

In the meantime make sure you are following [@GTA\\_GTSG](#) on twitter and sign up to be the first to receive the report on 1<sup>st</sup> September [here](#).

## Welcome to new GTSG members

We are delighted to welcome:

**Sylvie Andriambololonera** is part of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Madagascar Research and Conservation Program

**Dr Chris Baraloto** is Director, [International Center for Tropical Botany \(ICTB\)](#), The Kampong of the [National Tropical Botanical Garden](#) and Professor, [Department of Biological Sciences Florida International University](#). Chris facilitates botanical teams working in several continents and his primary expertise is in South America.

**Dr Martin van de Bult** is a forest botanist working in Thailand.

**Dr M. P. Geethakumary** works at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Kerala

**Dr Rogier de Kok** is a taxonomist who has carried out extensive fieldwork in Southeast Asia. He is undertaking assessments of Lauraceae and Lamiaceae for the GTA.

**Dr Julia anak Sang** is a forest botanist working with the Sarawak Timber Corporation

## Congratulations

We are very pleased to share news of the recent successes of our members!

Dr Murphy Westwood has been promoted to Vice President of Science & Conservation at The Morton Arboretum and is now overseeing Global Tree Conservation together with the Center for Tree Science (all The Morton's research groups) and the Chicago Region Trees Initiative (Chicago's local urban and community forestry and outreach program).

Dr Silvia Alvarez-Clare has also been promoted at The Morton Arboretum taking over Murphy's previous role as Director of Global Tree Conservation. They will now help coordinate the GTA for US trees and Fagaceae.

Dr Deepu Sivasdas recently received the [Kerala State Young Scientist Award](#) for the year 2020 for his work on assessing the status of tree species in the Western Ghats of India.

Dr Anurag Dhayani has been selected for the award of India National Science Academy (INSA) Visiting Scientist Fellowship 2021-2022

## GTSG Targets 2021-2024

IUCN SSC has initiated a new SSC Data Portal and has requested all SSC Groups to enter targets for the period 2021-2024. We have added 20 targets mainly relating to our work towards assessing all tree species for the IUCN Red List by 2023, training to enable this and associated publications. In addition we have formulated the following broader targets in response to recommendations from our membership survey last year and the further development of tree conservation action for example through the Global Trees Campaign.

- Implementation of revised structure for GTSG with appropriate leadership and taxonomic/geographical/thematic subgroups formed July 2022
- GTSG expanded with 20 new members increasing GTSG expertise on in situ conservation and conservation policy July 2022
- Development and implementation of a new GTSG website December 2022
- Liaison with CITES, ITTO and other appropriate Groups strengthened to promote increased action for globally threatened timber species July 2022
- New role established for GTSG in expanded Global Trees Campaign partnership facilitating tree conservation action by Group members December 2021
- Tree species conservation planning initiated for selected tree groups - *Acer*, *Magnolia*, *Quercus* and dipterocarps working with BGCI's Global Consortia December 2022
- Conference held to promote the results of Red List assessments for all tree species and call for increased action September 2023

Implementation of these targets will require further planning and, of course, action and we will initiate broader discussions on how this will be taken forward. We anticipate that this will be through both individual and group discussion.

## **The Global Tree Assessment Portal**

The Global Tree Assessment Portal is a new tool tracking conservation progress for threatened tree species. This will also be launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> September alongside the GTA Report. The new web-based tool provides synthesis information on tree species for on a species, country and global level, including threat status, and current conservation actions. This information will be used to identify the many gaps in tree conservation action, and to leverage funding from governments to fulfil their responsibilities to conserve trees under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **BGJournal: Global Tree Assessment**

The August edition of BGJournal, BGCI's membership journal, highlights the contribution of botanic gardens to the Global Tree Assessment. It includes a variety of articles contributed by GTA botanic garden partners, exploring how they have contributed to GTA and how they now use tree assessment data for conservation action within botanic gardens and arboretum. The edition focuses on the people behind GTA producing the assessments, and doing the on the ground work to save trees.

## **Tree Red listing and Conservation action in the Philippines**

The Energy Development Corporation (EDC) is the largest vertically integrated geothermal producer of the Philippines. In 2008 EDC launched its BINHI programme, a species conservation programme that focuses on native tree species. EDC/BINHI and GTSG member Pastor Malabrigo has been a partner in the GTA since 2018 and uses the information on updated Red List assessments to support its practical conservation work. The species assessments are led by the University of the Philippines, Los Banos.

Initially 96 threatened native tree species were prioritised for a search and rescue programme as part of the pioneer BINHI reforestation program in the country. All species were successfully located and used for propagation. EDC has continuously forested the watersheds within its geothermal reservations using appropriate tree species.

The BINHI team now has over 150 different partners from different academic and non-governmental organizations, all of which dedicate a specific area for planting of threatened tree species. EDC also works in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Biodiversity Management Bureau in support of the government's reforestation efforts.

The Philippines has over 1,000 endemic tree species. So far over 800 endemics have been assessed and 525 are published on the IUCN Red List.

## Assessing Recently Described Trees

If we aim to support the conservation of all threatened tree species, the discovery and naming of new species is vitally important. Around 2,000 new plant species are described every year (Cheek *et al.* 2020), including many tree species. Whilst some species unknown to science may be well known at a local level, without scientific naming, species cannot be assessed on the IUCN Red List. Therefore, the capacity to prioritise conservation action and pursue funding for species conservation is greatly reduced. One tree example is the Critically Endangered species *Machilus brevipaniculata* which was discovered at the foot of Mount Bokor, Cambodia and assessed by the GTA. The species is threatened by extensive forest clearing and occurs in only one small patch of remnant forest.

One component of the GTA is screening papers to compile names of newly described tree species without IUCN assessments. We then contact the author to work on an assessment using information supplied by the taxonomist or contained in the scientific paper before sending out for further review. So far, with the help of regional and taxonomic experts, nearly 50 newly described tree species have been published on the IUCN Red List through this process and a further 80 are being worked on. Please email Katie Marfleet ([kate.marfleet@bgci.org](mailto:kate.marfleet@bgci.org)) if you have recently described a new species of tree or know of any from the literature. We can then check our records and work on assessments together.

## Fondation Franklinia Newsletter

The latest newsletter from Fondation Franklinia was published earlier this month, and can be accessed here: <https://fondationfranklinia.org/newsletter-3-aout-2021/>

If you would like to sign up to receiving this directly, follow this link:

<https://fondationfranklinia.org/en/register-newsletter/>

## Special Journal Issue - Update

Six papers have been published in the Special Issue of Plants entitled **Genetic Diversity and Conservation of Woody Species** and more are planned. GTSG member Gregor Kozlowski is the *Guest Editor* of this impressive compilation which can be accessed here:

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/plants/special\\_issues/genetic\\_diversity\\_conservation\\_woody\\_species](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/plants/special_issues/genetic_diversity_conservation_woody_species)

## New Red List for Peninsular Malaysia

Earlier this year Forestry Research Institute Malaysia published a new Red List of plants of Peninsular Malaysia. It contains 1,353 taxa from 90 families, 308 genera comprising 1293 indigenous taxa and 60 non-indigenous taxa from Peninsular Malaysia.

<https://www.frim.gov.my/publication/other-publications/malaysia-red-list/>

## Resources

The GTA and GTC have a plethora of tree conservation resources available. Please visit the addresses below to find the resources to meet your needs:

- <https://globaltreeassessment.org/resources/>
- <https://globaltrees.org/resources/>
- [GlobalTreeSearch database](#)
- [ThreatSearch database](#)

Our resources are available in English, French, Spanish and Chinese. If you have additional resources you would like to share or any comments on our current resources please get in touch.

## Keep in Touch

We are still working hard to add as many tree species as possible to the pipeline for inclusion on the IUCN Red List. **If you have relevant information on ANY particular tree species, do get in touch to see if it has been assessed.** Remember all IUCN assessments have a DOI and count as a scientific publication and all reviewers and contributors to assessments are acknowledged in assessments. Please get in touch with sources of information on tree species - if you have a new paper out or fieldwork results that may be of interest please let us know.

If you have ideas for the future direction of the GTSG and would like to be involved in further planning discussions for the Group please do contact Sara Oldfield: [sara@saraoldfield.net](mailto:sara@saraoldfield.net). Thank you!

If you have had a tree conservation or tree red list success we would love to share your story or raise awareness of any tree projects, plans and publications on twitter or websites. Please let us know what you have been up to! Drop us an email ([redlist@bgci.org](mailto:redlist@bgci.org)), follow Global Tree Assessment Progress on twitter [@GTA GTSG](#) and check out the [GTA website](#) for updates and find out about our practical conservation efforts on twitter [@globaltrees](#) and the [GTC Website](#).