

GTSG

GLOBAL TREE SPECIALIST GROUP

Newsletter

Autumn 2019

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Introduction

The pace of red listing for the GTA is speeding up and recognition of our work is increasing. An information document, highlighting progress and the value of GTA, was prepared for the CITES Conference of the Parties held in Geneva in August and can be found [here](#).

The GTA was celebrated and widely recognised at the SSC Leaders Meeting held in Abu Dhabi in October. This meeting brought together Chairs of all the IUCN SSC Specialist Groups and Red List Authorities. It provided an excellent opportunity to meet

up with partners involved in the GTA and to encourage other experts to get involved. The work of the GTSG was formally acknowledged through the presentation of a certificate by Jon Paul Rodriguez the Chair of the SSC "in recognition for outstanding contributions to the SSC Key Species Results of the IUCN SSC Species Strategic Plan 2017-2020" – so congratulations to us all! And very special congratulations to Malin Rivers who received the Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership in recognition of her leadership of the GTA and work in chairing the Red List Technical Working Group.

The GTA is an extraordinary effort, possible only through international collaboration and the dedication of the core team hosted by BGCI. We are starting to think of the best ways to ensure it is impactful and leads to massively scaled up conservation for trees. At the same time, as we mentioned in the last newsletter we are thinking of next steps for the GTSG and welcome your ideas. We will be developing a short questionnaire to all GTSG members before the end of the year. In the meantime, sincere thanks for all red list assessments, review and provision of information. Our work is increasingly recognised and valued!

Sara Oldfield & Adrian Newton
Co-Chairs GTSG

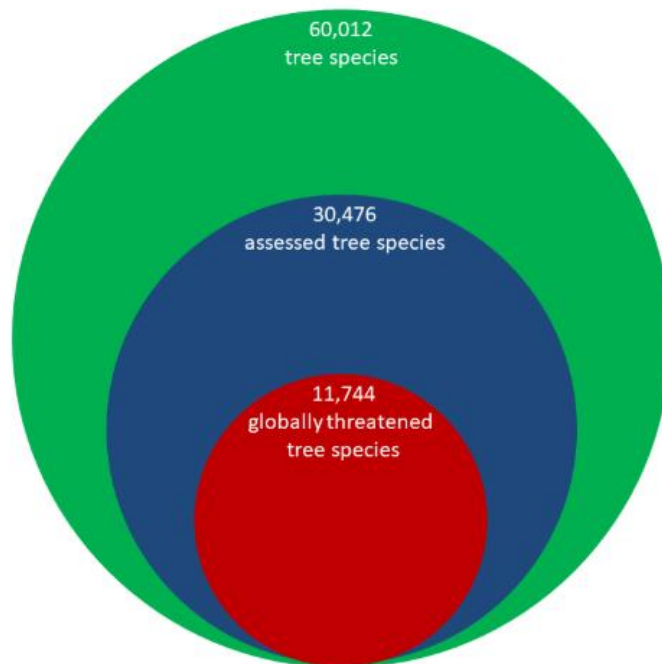
A warm welcome to our new members

Dr Nigel Pitman, Mellon Senior Conservation Ecologist;
Conservation Tools Program Director, The Field Museum
Katharine Davies, BGCI
Ryan Hills, BGCI



Global Tree Assessment - Progress

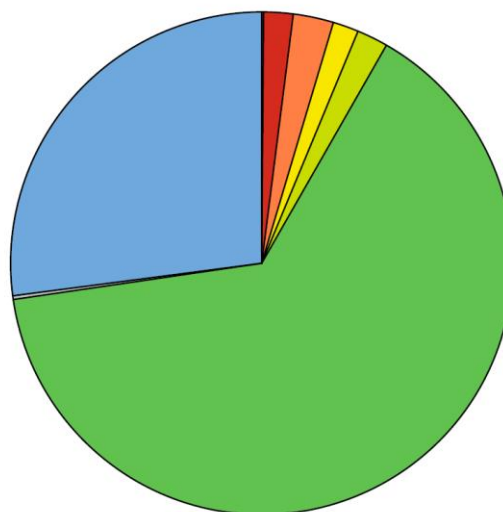
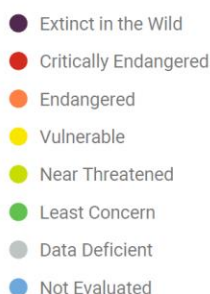
We have passed the mid-point of our 2020 goal with conservation assessments now available for over the half world's tree species. A combination of assessments available on ThreatSearch database and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species gives a total of 30,529 global tree assessments. This milestone was reached in September 2019 with publication of the IUCN Red List Version 2019.2, in which 5,000 assessments for trees were added. Now the IUCN Red List holds assessments for over 16,000 tree species.



Progress with Red Listing trees of North America

In partnership with [NatureServe](#) and [Botanic Gardens Conservation International-US](#), The Morton Arboretum is working to complete threat assessments for all the tree species of the US that have not previously been evaluated for the IUCN Red List. The work is making great progress and is on track for completion by the end of 2020.

US Trees Red List Threat Status



CEPF – Madagascar trees

We were back in Madagascar again in October for the final CEPF assessment review workshop. With over 30 participants, we reviewed a further 513 tree assessments, bringing the total for the CEPF project to over 1,500 assessments. We also heard from four students who are conducting field surveys and assessments in KBAs across Madagascar. Plans are being made to continue assessing the trees of Madagascar, completing the whole tree flora by the end of 2020.

Partnership in the Philippines

In May, GTA was hosted by the Energy Development Corporation in Manila, Philippines to give a Red List Training Workshop and welcome EDC as partners in the Global Tree Assessment. The



workshop was attended by over 30 forestry experts from different institutions in the Philippines and within EDC such as the Philippine Native Plants Conservation Society, Forest Foundation Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. We are delighted to be collaborating with EDC who have been leading conservation efforts for threatened trees in the Philippines for decades. In 2008, they launched [BINHI](#), a nationwide greening program that aims to restore denuded forest and to preserve and protect threatened Filipino trees. Find out more about the workshop [here](#).

Red Listing at Flora Malesiana



A Global Tree Assessment and Flora Malesiana Red List Workshop was held in Brunei on 28-30 June. The aim of the workshop was to red list the endemic dipterocarps of Borneo. The outcome was a very impressive list of 125 assessments based on knowledge from Brunei, Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak. The enthusiasm was infectious and work on the dipterocarps and other trees continued throughout the Flora Malesiana conference! A well-attended conservation symposium session provided an opportunity for conference participants to hear about GTA work in general together with specific activities in the Philippines, Sabah and Sarawak. Plans are now being developed for an assessment of all the wild fruit trees of Borneo. Assessments from the workshop will be published on the IUCN Red List in December 2019.

Super workshop in Samoa



In 2018, the South Pacific was identified as a gap for global tree assessments. To rectify this a workshop was hosted in Apia, Samoa in September and attended by regional botanical experts representing French Polynesia, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and Vanuatu. Our first day was spent training participants in the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and over the following three days assessments were completed for trees of the region, including a data gathering session on potentially Least Concern species for the South Pacific. The workshop was a great success and gave a fantastic opportunity to engage with new partners in the South Pacific and make plans for progressing the Global Tree Assessment in the region. We were also able to see some trees in the wild with our hosts the Samoan Conservation Society, including *Clinostigma samoense*, Samoa's threatened endemic palm.

Requests for help

We are seeking expertise in communications to help us package and disseminate the results of GTA upon its completion. Please get in touch if you are interested in helping.

We are also seeking taxonomic experts for help with particular families and genera. Please get in touch if you can help or recommend others who might be interested. And of course if you can review Least Concern assessments for widespread species in your region that will be very much appreciated.

Finally, of course we are always grateful for help with sources of information - if you have a new paper out or fieldwork results that may be of interest please let us know.

Meetings and Conferences

We are looking forward to more productive workshops and meetings in 2020. Those already scheduled are listed below:

Dates	Meeting/workshop
March	The "Association pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale" or "Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa" (AETFAT), Livingstone, Zambia
April	Madagascar Tree assessment review workshop
June	IUCN Congress, Marseilles
July	Borneo Fruit Tree review workshop, Location TBD GTSG meeting alongside the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation conference, Cartagena, Colombia
November	Red List of the Trees of Madagascar Launch

Key Resources

GlobalTreeSearch

Database can be accessed here:

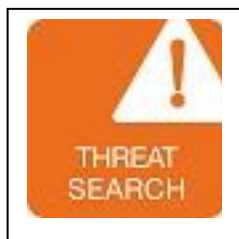
http://www.bgci.org/global_tree_search.php

Please get in touch if you spot an error or wish to make a comment (globaltreesearch@bgci.org).

Paper is found here:



Beech, E., Rivers, M., Oldfield, S. and Smith, P.P., 2017. GlobalTreeSearch—the first complete global database of tree species and country distributions. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10549811.2017.1310049>

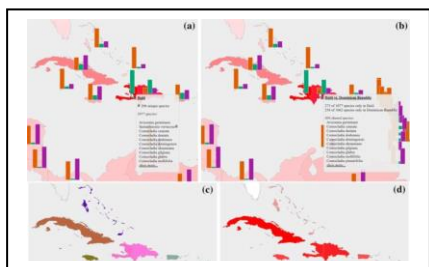


ThreatSearch

Database can be accessed here:

http://www.bgci.org/threat_search.php

Please get in touch if you have more data to add or wish to make a comment (redlist@bgci.org).



New paper published: Jänicke, S., Beech, E., & Rivers, M. (2019). Exploring the diversity and conservation status of tree species with TreeX. *Environmental Earth Sciences*, 78(21), 627.

TreeX is a visual exploration system that supports multifaceted analyses of the GlobalTreeSearch data. Investigating research questions on biodiversity and conservation on a global or national scale are visually supported by interactive choropleth maps that colour countries according to frequency, diversity or uniqueness of prevalent tree species. By combining the GlobalTreeSearch and ThreatSearch data sets, additional information on the conservation status of trees can be visualized globally and nationally through TreeX.

View the paper [here](#).

Keep in Touch

Please keep in touch at! Drop us an email (redlist@bgci.org) or follow us on twitter @GTA_GTSG. We love to share your news on projects, plans and publications. We are looking for ways to promote the Global Tree Assessment more widely - your ideas are most welcome.

We have also produced an overview presentation of the progress of GTA, why we established the initiative and the expected outcomes. If you would like a copy of this presentation to give at your institutions please send us an email.

Don't forget you can help us publicise the GTA making use of the leaflet that can be downloaded at: <http://www.bgci.org/files/GTA/GTALeaflet%20FINAL.pdf>