



GLOBAL TREE SPECIALIST GROUP

Newsletter

December 2021

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BOTANIC GARDENS
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



GTA
Global Tree Assessment

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We were thrilled with the success of the launch of the *State of the World's Trees* report on 1 September. Thank you so much to all members who responded to our call for help in publicising the results of the Global Tree Assessment as presented in this report. The global press coverage was magnificent as summarised on page 2 of this newsletter.

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 5,000 tree assessments have been contributed to the GTA. This is a huge achievement! As ever, a big thank you for all red list assessments, reviews and provision of tree information. Please also continue to share news of conservation projects you are involved in.

In 2022 we will explore further evolution of the GTSG with more detailed planning of future direction. This will involve addressing the long overdue need for improved communications and interaction between Group members. This is a commitment!

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 for the festive season,

Sara Oldfield & Adrian Newton
Co-Chairs GTSG

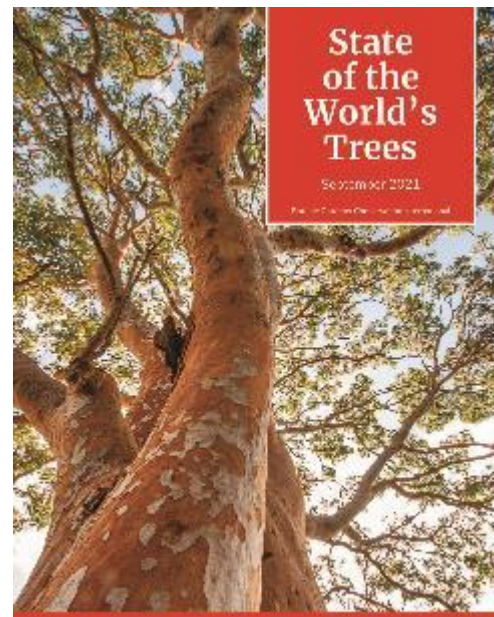
State of the World's Trees

The *State of the World's Trees* report launched on the 1st September to a global audience. The launch was a huge success and over 1,400 news articles were written about the report with coverage in 39 languages and mentions in at least 62 countries. The report garnered attention in the Guardian, the BBC, Al Jazeera, CNBC, CNN etc. and, as well as print media, BGCi-GTA staff made around 15 broadcast appearances.

The report gathered a lot of attention on Twitter with over 10,000 shares and 20,000 likes, including Greta Thunberg re-posting the Guardian article. Also, it was picked up across social media of other large conservation organizations such as at the World Economic Forum and UNFCCC. The work was shared by many of our GTA and GTSG partners including a series of tweets in Spanish by Provita. Since September we have highlighted several taxonomic groups and regional assessment activity on twitter. You can find the report [here](#).

To catch up on our twitter activity be sure to follow us [@GTA GTSG](#).

If you have any questions about the report or its media coverage please contact megan.barstow@bgci.org.



And here is a personal message from Adrian Newton on the launch of the *State of the World's Trees* report: *'I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who contributed to this initiative, which I believe represents the largest conservation assessment ever undertaken. When we first came up with the idea of a global tree assessment, it seemed like an impossibly ambitious task, given the amount of effort that would be required. Yet the global community of tree specialists has responded magnificently to the challenge, and delivered an outstanding piece of work that I am sure will make a very positive contribution to tree conservation for many years to come'*.

Global Tree Portal

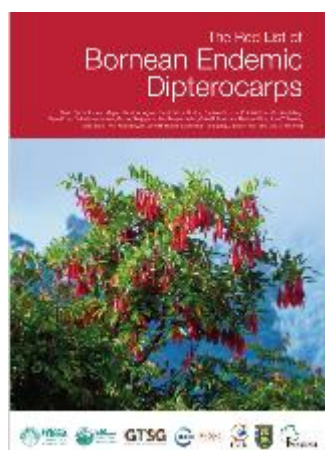


The [GlobalTree Portal](#) launched concurrently with the *State of the World's Trees* report. The Portal is a major tool for tracking conservation progress for threatened tree species. The portal gives access to information on the world's nearly 60,000 tree species and is searchable at the species, country and global level. On the species pages you can explore tree species distribution, conservation status (global and non-global) and conservation actions. On the country pages you can download a country checklist with associated information on endemism and conservation status. The Global overview allows you to see summary statistics for all trees. The data

underlying this portal is information gathered as part of the GTA and links BGCi's existing databases [GlobalTreeSearch](#), [ThreatSearch](#), [PlantSearch](#) and [GardenSearch](#).

We greatly appreciate new information on conservation action for each tree species. [There is a simple form that you can fill in and submit online](#) – as tree conservation experts your help will make all the difference!

Red List of Bornean Endemic Dipterocarps published



Borneo is the diversity hotspot for the world's dipterocarp species. At the beginning of October 2021, the [Red List of Bornean Endemic Dipterocarps](#) was published. This report builds on work completed in 2019 to assess all dipterocarps endemic to Borneo, at a workshop hosted at Flora Malesiana 11 at the University of Brunei Darussalam and pulls together assessments for endemic dipterocarps completed by Sabah Forestry Department, Forestry Department Sarawak and LIPI. As well as inclusion of assessments completed by these organisations the report also includes seven case studies about their work to conserve threatened dipterocarps and their research efforts.

The report found that 99 (63%) out of 162 species of dipterocarp endemic to Borneo are at risk of extinction in the wild. The major threats were identified as conversion of lowland forest to agro-industrial plantations and logging. The majority of species have a declining population trend, but

luckily a large percentage are found in protected areas. Outreach activities and supplementary funding for protected areas for dipterocarps were identified as important conservation activities of the group. Similarly, funding and continued research into and practise of sustainable logging techniques are also needed to protect these ecologically important trees.

Addressing Timber Trade Issues

Logging is the second greatest threat to tree species worldwide as highlighted in the *State of the World's Trees* report. Responding to this threat and ensuring sustainability of timber production and supply is a major challenge. The IUCN SSC Plants Committee is planning to organise a Task Force with a remit to carry out a "situational analysis" on timber trade issues and impacts on biodiversity. It is clearly important that GTSG is represented within this Task Force. We are therefore carrying out a short survey of GTSG members to find out your interests and expertise on timber species, trade issues and involvement with institutions working on forest management and timber production. A [brief questionnaire](#) on this is being circulated with this GTSG newsletter. We would be hugely grateful if you could respond to this by 7 January 2022.

Conservation assessments for timber species can, of course, be highly controversial given their use in policy decisions and trade restrictions. Robust information on population decline of species caused by logging is important to support Red List assessments but is rarely available at species level. Megan Barstow and Malin Rivers are looking into this process more thoroughly. This includes a survey of GTA partners who are involved in timber assessments, to explore availability of timber inventory, production and trade data to species level and the extent to which these data were/could be used in the IUCN Red List assessment process.

Following this survey of GTA partners, a paper will be produced for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, "Assessing the impact of the global timber trade on tree species" including the results of the questionnaire, in addition to the result of the assessment of over 1,500 commercial timber species completed between 2017 and 2021. Publication of this paper is GTSG Target Number 022. The results of these assessments will also be laid out in a Red List publication 'Red List of Timber Species', which will also include case studies of efforts to conserve and manage timber tree species. This report will be prepared and released in early 2022 meeting GTSG Target 006. Both publications will be a call for action to mobilise efforts and awareness of logging to the world's tree species.

Thank you to Professor Peter Schmidt

We would like to thank Peter Schmidt on his "retirement" from the GTSG following over 15 years membership and especially for his support for red listing of trees of the Caucasus. Peter worked for 35 years at Dresden University of Technology, in the Department of Forest Sciences in Tharandt where he was Curator of the arboretum and later professor for nature conservation. He remains actively involved in tree research and acts as honorary president of the German Dendrology Society. In 2016, Peter published the final part of his overview of trees and shrubs of the Caucasus. Recently,

together with Ulrich Hecker, he worked on a book on wild and cultivated trees and shrubs of Central Europe, and now the preparation of the next edition of a woody flora (Schmidt & Schulz, Fitschen - Gehölzflora) is in progress. Peter is also the author of accounts on conifers and selected genera of deciduous trees and shrubs (e. g. Crataegus, Thymus) for two Floras of Germany. We thank him sincerely for his help with tree Red Listing over the years.

Special Journal Issues



plants

Nine papers have been published in the Special Issue of Plants entitled ***Genetic Diversity and Conservation of Woody Species***. 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



There are also two special issues of Plants, People, Planet, for which there are call for papers relevant to work of GTSG Members.

Firstly, there is a forthcoming special issue which will focus on conservation assessments for tree species and other aspects of tree conservation action.

Several GTSG members and GTA partners have submitted papers for this edition, which will be available online soon and provide more publicity for our work however more contributions are still being welcomed. Find more information on this GTA special edition [here](#).

Secondly, 2021 was the UN General Assembly's International Year of Fruit and Vegetables, and to celebrate this papers are invited for another special issue of Plants, People, Planet. Research articles are requested for example on - biogeography of plants and their fruits; sustainable fruit production; fruit crop domestication and diversity; conservation of fruit crop species and their wild relatives. Find more information [here](#).

Other tree news

Global Conservation Consortia (GCC) website launched (globalconservationconsortia.org/) - The GCC is a collective effort which aims to mobilise a coordinated network of institutions and experts to collaboratively develop and implement comprehensive conservation strategies for priority threatened plant groups. The GCC website include news of forthcoming events, funding opportunities, current consortia activities and essential resources.

Securing a Future for the World's Threatened Trees — A Global Challenge - The Global Trees Campaign (GTC) has been working on in situ conservation of threatened trees over the past two decades. [In this report](#) they share success stories from across the GTC partnership, and calls for the mobilisation of new players and scaling up of global efforts to conserve threatened trees.

BGCI Webinar - State of the World's Trees - What is Next? – if you missed the webinar on State of the World's Trees then you can catch up on a recording of the event [here](#).

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](#)
- [GlobalTree Portal](#)

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

With the major target to ensure up-to-date assessments for ALL tree species are published on the IUCN Red List by 2023 we are still working hard to add many tree species to the pipeline for inclusion. **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

On-line discussions on the way ahead for GTSG led by Adrian Newton are planned for early 2022. If, at any time, 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 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. If you have a new paper out or fieldwork results that may be of interest please let us know. Please let us know what you have been up to! Drop us an email (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](#).