



GLOBAL TREE SPECIALIST GROUP

# Newsletter

## February 2021

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With 2020 behind us – did we meet our target of a complete assessment of the conservation status of the world's tree species? The answer is a qualified yes! By the end of the year we had reached the magnificent total of **28,676** tree assessments included on the IUCN Red List. All other tree species either have a provisional IUCN assessment awaiting formal review or a published national or regional red list assessment (available in ThreatSearch).

We are preparing a final report of the Global Tree Assessment and looking ahead to the next phase of our work which aims to ensure all tree species have a global assessment published on the IUCN Red List by 2023.

During 2020, over **12,000** tree assessments have been contributed to the GTA. This is a huge achievement! A big thank you for all red list assessments, reviews and provision of tree information.

There is still a lot of work to do. In 2021, as well as continuing to Red List tree species, we will implement changes to the GTSG. This will involve improving communications between members and the formation of sub-groups.

We sincerely hope that everyone remains well and safe and is able to enjoy their studies or work.

With very best wishes for 2021,

Sara Oldfield & Adrian Newton  
Co-Chairs GTSG



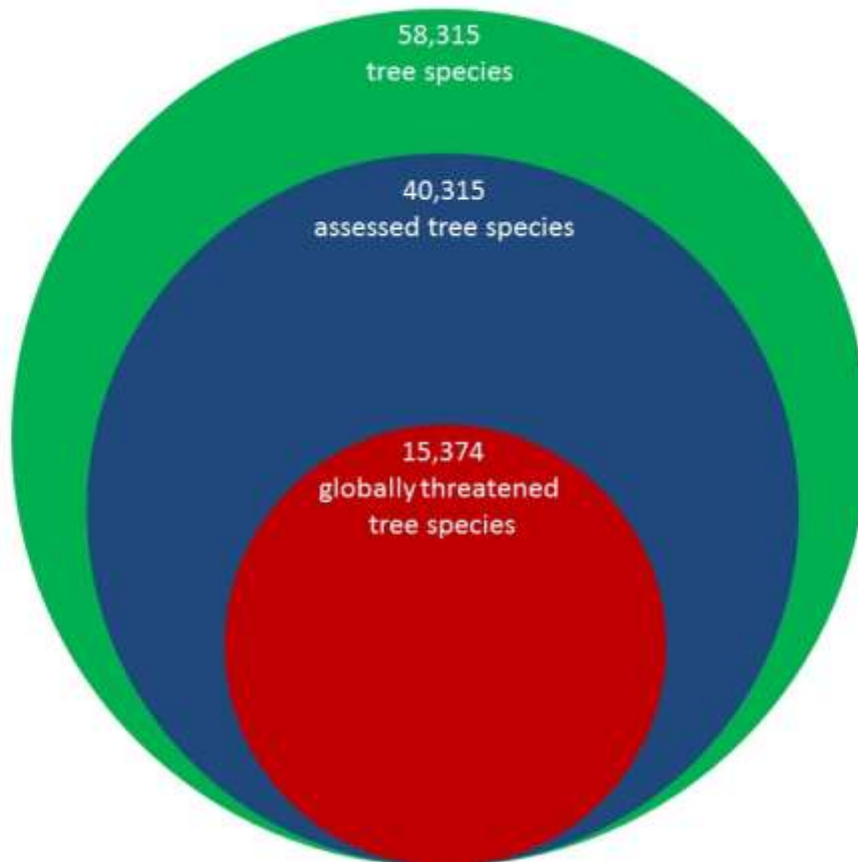
### Get in contact

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## GTA Progress



Our latest analysis (16/12/2020) shows that 69% of all trees have a conservation assessment (40,315 species). This includes all known published tree conservation assessments as listed on ThreatSearch which includes all tree assessments found on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (28,676 assessments).

Around 45% of the already assessed trees are assessed as threatened to some level and 38% of all assessed trees are threatened globally. This means that at least 26% of all tree species are threatened with extinction globally.

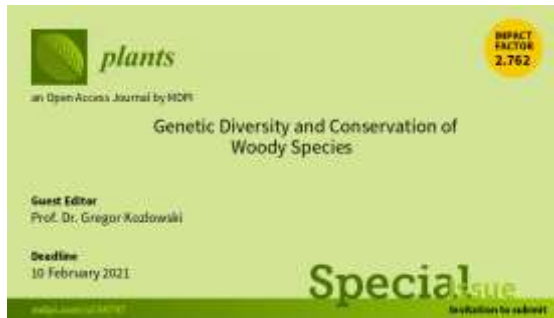
### Welcome to new GTSG member

We are delighted to welcome:

Dr Emily Coffey, Vice President of Conservation and Research, Atlanta Botanical Garden as a member of the GTSG. Emily is working with BGCI to lead the Global Conservation Consortium for Magnolia.

## The Global Tree Assessment Portal

Coming soon, this new web-based tool will provide synthesis information on tree species to country-level decision makers and conservation practitioners, including threat status, where species occur and what conservation action is being carried out. This information will be used to identify gaps in conservation action, and to leverage funding from governments to fulfil their responsibilities to conserve trees under the Convention on Biological Diversity.



## Plants: Special Journal Issue

There is still time to submit manuscripts for the Special Issue of *Plants* entitled **Genetic Diversity and Conservation of Woody Species**, for which GTSG member Gregor Kozłowski is the *Guest Editor*. *Plants* receives an increased IF of **2.762** and falls now into the highest quartile (Q1) in the category *Plant Sciences*.

More information can be found [here](#). The deadline for submission of manuscripts to this Special Issue is **10 February 2021**.

## GTA – Data Deficient trees

The category of Data Deficient (DD) indicates that there is inadequate information to determine the degree of threat faced by a taxon. In carrying out the GTA, the aim has been to use whatever data is currently available to assess the conservation status of each tree species, accepting that more taxonomic and field work is often desirable. DD has generally been applied where there is insufficient distribution data or the taxonomic status of the species remains uncertain. Last year we sent GTSG members a list of unassessed tree species compiled based on knowledge of distribution including those for which there is no data or only a few widely separated GBIF points. We were very grateful for your help in reviewing the list. We received information on 301 species. Now the conservation status of an estimated 5% of trees can be considered as DD. Based on taxonomic and geographic considerations these include, for example, species of the two large families Rubiaceae and Pandanaceae which have high numbers of DD species. Similarly some regions or countries such as Myanmar have presumed endemic species for which information is very scarce. A comprehensive analysis of DD species will be carried out as part of the forthcoming GTA Report with recommendations for further action. If you would like to suggest priority DD tree species in need of further research please do get in touch.

## Endemic Trees of Papua New Guinea

By Tiberius Jimbo

Conservation Assessment of Papua New Guinea tree species towards the Global Tree Assessment – is a collaboration between Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute (PNGFRI). The project goal is to produce and increase the numbers of conservation assessments available for PNG tree species and contribute to the Global Tree Assessments – with the aim of conservation assessments of all endemic tree species by the end of 2020. Before this project, there were only 88 PNG native tree assessments on the IUCN Red List. However; by December 2020, PNG Forest Research Institute completed and submitted 1,114 species to BGCI. Six hundred and sixty of these assessments are already published on the IUCN Red List, 373 species have been submitted to IUCN and will be published in March 2021, and remaining assessments are currently pending review. Overall, around one third of species are assessed as threatened (CR, EN, VU), roughly 40% are assessed as not threatened (NT or LC) and 25% are assessed as Data Deficient. The project has led to over 70% of PNG native tree species having a conservation assessment.



*Left: Red List Training at PNG FRI, Lae, January 2019. Right: Project planning with Tiberius Jimbo and Megan Barstow July 2019.*

The results of these assessments will be shared to relevant key government stakeholders and conservation partners in PNG to promote local conservation initiatives to indigenous communities to inform managing forests in PNG. Our plan this year, is to continue to assess endemic and near endemic tree species particularly those native to New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago. We will also continue to digitize endemic tree specimen collections in local herbaria.

Thank you to PNG Forest Research Institute staff, Penniel Lamei, June Mandawali, Peter Homot and Wingnuwec Kipiro, who helped review and collaborate on these assessments. Thank you to Megan Barstow and BGCI staff and other institutional partners for your continued support for reviewing and contributing to many of these assessments.

## The Red List of Oaks 2020



*Quercus bambusifolia* (EN) – China & Vietnam - Joeri S. Strijk, Alliance for Conservation Tree Genomics

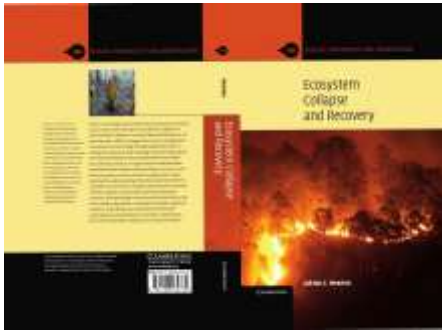
An estimated 31% of the world's oak species are threatened with extinction according to data compiled in this new Red List report. The Morton Arboretum took the lead in preparation of the publication working with BGCI and members of the GTSG. [The Red List of Oaks 2020](#) was published alongside the 2020 update of the IUCN Red List, and details for the first time the distributions, population trends and threats facing the world's estimated 430 oak species. It will serve as a roadmap for conservation action for these important flagship species.

According to the researchers, an estimated 41% of the world's 430 oak species are of conservation concern. Nearly one-third (31%) are considered threatened with extinction. This proportion of threatened species is higher than threat levels for mammals (26%) and birds (14%). The report indicates that the countries with the highest number of threatened oak species are Mexico (32 species), China (36), Vietnam (20), and the United States (16).

### Tree Conservation Expertise Directory

BGCI has set up a new tree conservation expertise directory which will be launched on our website in early 2021. We hope that the directory will encourage increased collaboration amongst botanic gardens, as well as consultancy opportunities for specialist tree skills. The directory is currently open for applications and we hope you will consider applying. To apply and for more information please visit our website [here](#).

## Forthcoming publication



Adrian Newton has a major new publication out soon. Published by Cambridge University Press in April, “Ecosystem collapse and recovery” has a section about what is happening to the world's forests, and ties in with the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, which focuses on assessing the risks of ecosystem collapse.

## Event - Reforestation for Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and Livelihoods



Reforestation for biodiversity,  
carbon capture and livelihoods  
24–26 February 2021

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, BGCI, Tooro Botanical Gardens and others, co-authored a paper entitled “[Ten golden rules for reforestation to optimize carbon sequestration, biodiversity recovery and livelihood benefits](#)” which was published in *Global Change Biology* in January 2021 (Di Sacco *et al.* 2021). The paper promotes the idea that well-planned forest restoration projects can achieve multiple benefits, not just carbon capture, and advises of the risks of large tree planting programmes that do not take this into account. A joint BGCI and Kew virtual conference entitled “[Reforestation for Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and Livelihoods](#)” will be held from 24–26 February 2021 providing a further opportunity to promote best practice, share examples of botanic garden led forest restoration and encourage the corporate sector to support good quality forest restoration and tree conservation projects. [Registration is open and free of charge.](#)

## Oryx focuses on species assessments



The January 2021 issue of *Oryx* focuses on species assessments across a wide range of taxa, including mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. It is accompanied by an editorial from Jon Paul Rodriguez's on Reverse the Red, as well as a Briefly spotlight on updates to the IUCN assessment of species of maple trees, koalas, orchids and more! *Oryx* is an excellent publication now available as an open access journal. There is also short letter regarding the conservation status of *Cassine koordersii*, written by GTA partners at Bogor Botanic Gardens, Indonesia. Please do consider *Oryx* for publishing papers on your tree conservation work.

## 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](#).