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Publication of the Global Tree Assessment (GTA) was our major achievement in 2022 and resulted in media attention worldwide. In this newsletter we highlight some of the papers that have been published as a result of the GTA.

Of course, the tree Red List work continues! As ever, a big thank you for all red list assessments, reviews and provision of tree information. In this newsletter we focus on several areas where we need to progress re-assessments for species that were assessed for the IUCN Red List over 10 years ago.

We are exploring further evolution of the GTSG with more detailed planning of future direction. An online workshop is planned for 11 May. See more below.

And a reminder – we are now using the IUCN portal, for all GTSG Group mailings. For those of you receiving this by separate email PLEASE re-register to renew your lapsed membership following the instructions in the email. You will not receive future GTSG communications unless you do this.

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



## Welcome to new GTSG Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the GTSG:

- Dr. Voradol Chamchauroon, Forest Herbarium, Bangkok, Thailand
- Alejandro Gallardo, Species Analyst, Provita, Venezuela
- Dr Uromi Manage Goodale, Associate Professor at the Plant Ecophysiology and Evolution Group, College of Forestry, Guangxi University, China
- Dr Jane Smart, Director - IUCN Centre for Science and Data

They bring an excellent range of experience and expertise to the Group and we look forward to working with them!

## Global Tree Portal



BGCI  
**GlobalTree**  
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. The portal is already being widely used to identify conservation priorities and gaps.

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

Reaching the full potential of the Portal in terms of tracking conservation progress will need wide collaboration. Input from GTSG members to the Conservation Action Tracker on the species they are working on will be greatly appreciated. We have created a simple [form](#) that can be filled in and submitted online – as tree conservation experts your help will make all the difference!

## Developing the work of the GTSG

The GTSG has been in existence for nearly 20 years and has grown to include over 130 members. Initially our goals were to:

- To promote and implement global Red Listing for trees
- To act in an advisory capacity to the Global Trees Campaign (GTC)

The first goal has been and continues to be effectively achieved. The second goal has also been successful over the years with GTSG members advising GTC – the partnership between Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and BGCI - and implementing GTC projects. The achievements of the GTC are summarised in the report "[Securing a Future for the World's Threatened Trees - A Global Challenge](#)".

which calls for the mobilisation of new players and scaling up of global efforts to conserve threatened trees. The future direction of the GTC is still being discussed whilst at the same time new related initiatives are arising for tree conservation with one example being the Global Conservation Consortia for certain tree groups ([globalconservationconsortia.org/](http://globalconservationconsortia.org/)).

Meanwhile the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), of which the GTSG forms part, has its own framework of activities against which we report. The Species Conservation Cycle Components of the SSC are: Network, Assess, Plan, Act and Communicate. Currently the GTSG has 20 Targets, one of which relates to Act and this relates to our role within the future development of the GTC.

Discussions with GTSG members initiated through the questionnaire survey in 2020, have shown a real desire for the Group to engage more broadly in tree conservation issues in terms of providing advice and taking action. Of course, many Group members are already undertaking their own tree conservation activities, as for example, can be captured through the Conservation Action Tracker of the Global Tree Portal as outlined above. Many are also addressing timber trade issues as described below.

One activity that the membership questionnaire showed as a priority for the Group was the development of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) for tree species. We are delighted to announce that BGCI has secured funding from Fondation Franklinia to initiate this work. In 2022, BGCI will work with both the KBA Secretariat and Alliance for Zero Extinctions (AZE) to consider the most effective ways to incorporate data on tree species into KBA designation worldwide. A methodology will be developed to incorporate tree distribution and Red List data into the KBA process

To improve GTSG communications, we are committed to developing a new GTSG website by the end of the year. This will allow internal GTSG communication and provide a link between the inter-related initiatives of our Group, the SSC network, the GTC, Global Tree Portal, Global Consortia, KBA and AZE, and others of global importance for trees.

We are also planning an online workshop on 11 May open to all GTSG members. This will provide an opportunity for brief presentations on the GTA and tree red listing priorities, SSC the global network, and the future of global tree conservation. The main focus will be a discussion on the goals, development and priorities of the GTSG. An email invitation about this workshop will be sent shortly. We hope you can join us at this or future online events.

## **Addressing Timber Trade and Sustainability Issues**

Many thanks to all who responded to the survey of GTSG members to find out interests and expertise on timber species, trade issues and involvement with institutions working on forest management and timber production. We received 29 responses and these showed that 86% of respondents are interested to help IUCN SSC address forest sustainability and timber trade issues. Sixteen members expressed their willingness to join a GTSG Timber sub-group with several volunteering to lead. So this will be the first sub-group we form and we will be in touch with all who expressed an interest. There was also interest from 12 members to serve on the Task Force planned by the IUCN SSC Plants Committee with a remit to carry out a "situational analysis" on timber trade issues and impacts on biodiversity.

IUCN SSC have also announced the creation of the Plant Use Group (PUG) – a new working group

created under the Sustainable Use and Livelihoods (SULi) Specialist Group with a strong link to the Plant Conservation Committee (PCC).

PUG's main focus will be on issues of sustainable use and trade in plants and plant products from the wild, indigenous knowledge related to plants, and tenure and access to wild plant resources. It will provide a platform to work more cohesively and strategically, exchange lessons and learnings and build an active community driven by a shared interest in, and commitment to, the use of wild plants in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Membership of PUG is now being addressed. If you think you might wish to be involved please direct an expression of interest to Cátia Canteiro [ccanteiro@indyzo.com](mailto:ccanteiro@indyzo.com).

The survey of GTSG members also helps inform the analysis of processes and information needs for Red Listing timber species. As we noted in the last Newsletter, robust information on population decline of tree species directly attributable to logging is important to support Red List assessments but is rarely available at species level. Complementing the GTSG survey, an additional survey of GTA partners involved in timber assessments has also been carried out. Following this, a paper is planned 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. 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. Both publications will be a call for action to increase awareness of the impact of logging on the world's tree species and mobilise appropriate conservation efforts.

## Future priorities for IUCN Red Listing

The total number of tree Red List assessments on the IUCN website is now 35,382 tree species. There are also over 2,500 submitted tree assessments that are yet to be processed by the IUCN Red List Unit, 13,735 draft assessments and 6,354 assigned to experts for assessment. That leaves just 3% of tree species (1,819) still to be assigned and assessed. Two of the global priorities for tree assessments in 2022 are:

**Tree species of India:** India has 2,605 species of which, 1,258 are included on the IUCN Red List. The GTSG currently has five members in India who are working on IUCN Red List assessments. Assessment work is also coordinated with the IUCN SSC Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group. If you are interested in taking part in the tree red list assessments for the remaining Indian tree species, please get in touch [redlist@bgci.org](mailto:redlist@bgci.org)

**Tree species shared by Indonesia and Malaysia:** Excellent progress has been made with Red Listing trees endemic to Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak and also trees endemic to Borneo. Progress on Indonesian endemic trees is also very good. The next task in this region is therefore to assess and/or update assessments shared by these two biodiversity-rich countries. Currently we have five GTSG members in Indonesia and Malaysia together with members in other countries who work on species-rich tree groups occurring there. We also work with the IUCN SSC Indonesian Plant Red List Authority (IPRLA). One way we have attempted to reach out to the broader botanical community in the region is through a technical session of the South East Asian Botanic Garden Network (SEABG). At this online event on 10 February we shared the latest results from the GTA –

with a focus on South East Asia. We also highlighted the remaining gaps (taxonomically and geographically) and discussed ways to fill these. If you are interested in taking part in the tree red list assessments of Malaysian/Indonesian tree species, please get in touch [redlist@bgci.org](mailto:redlist@bgci.org)

Overall, building on the publication of the results of the GTA, Red Listing work coordinated by BGCI with the GTSG, continues through partnerships with national organisations across the world together with expert individuals. A new data sharing agreement has recently been signed with the DryFLOR network Latin American Seasonally Dry Tropical Forest Floristic Network). If you have suggestions for other individuals or organisations that might be able to contribute to our work please do let us know.

## Recent publications

Here are some of the papers published in 2021 relating to the GTA:

Barstow, M. (2021). The making of the Global Tree Assessment, the people behind the Red List assessments. *BGJournal* 18(2): 18-22.

Barstow, M. (2021) Taking action to change the state of the world's trees. *ArbMagazine* 195 pp36-39.

Dhyani, A. et al. (2021) *Buchanania barberi*, a Tree on the Edge of Extinction. In Reference Module in Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences Elsevier DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-12-821139-7.00125-2

Gaisberger, H., et al. (2021). Tropical and subtropical Asia's valued tree species under threat. *Conservation Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.1387>

Grace, M.K., et al. (2021). Building robust, practicable counterfactuals and scenarios to evaluate the impact of species conservation interventions using inferential approaches. *Biological Conservation* 261, p.109259. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109259>

Grace, M.K. et al. (2021). Testing a global standard for quantifying species recovery and assessing conservation impact. *Conservation Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13756>

Mair, L., et al. (2021). A metric for spatially-explicit contributions to science-based species targets. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 5: 836–844. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-021-01432-0>

Jung, M., et al. (2021). Areas of global importance for conserving terrestrial biodiversity, carbon and water. *Nature ecology & evolution* 5: 1499–1509. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-021-01528-7>

Moorhouse-Gann, R.J., et al. (2021) Impacts of herbivory by ecological replacements on an island ecosystem. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.14096>

Rivers, M., et al. (2021). Increasing knowledge of the world's trees. *Oryx* 55(4): 492-492. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605321000284>

Rivers, M. (2021) Nearly a third of the world's tree species are threatened with extinction – we need global action to stop them being lost forever. *The House*. Available at <https://www.politicshome.com/>

Robiansyah, I., et al. (2021). Status of *Cassine koordersii*, a tree endemic to East Java and last collected in 1898. *Oryx*, 55(1), pp.9-10. DOI: 10.1017/S0030605320001015

We would love to learn of any additional papers that you have produced. Certainly many more are in progress including those in the special issue of *Plants, People, Planet*, with a focus on conservation assessments for tree species and other aspects of tree conservation action - Find more information on this GTA special edition [here](#).

## Resources

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](#).

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 beginning with the online workshop on 11 May. 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](mailto:sara@saraoldfield.net) Thank you!

Please let us know what you have been up to and share news with the Group! 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](#).