



GLOBAL TREE SPECIALIST GROUP

Newsletter

Spring 2020

Contents

New GTSG members	2
GTA - Progress	2
Red List of Dry Forest Trees of Madagascar	3
GTA - Requests for help	4
Collaboration with CITES	4
GTSG Questionnaire	5
Global Conservation Consortia	6
Meetings and Conferences	7
Key Resources	7
Keep in Touch	8

Thank you to all who replied to the recent GTSG questionnaire survey - results of which are summarised below. All your comments and suggestions are most valuable in planning ahead. We will continue the conversation and expand this to GTSG partners and potential new members. For now, we maintain our focus on the Global Tree Assessment (GTA) which is making excellent progress. There are of course major changes to the GTA schedule as a result of the corona virus pandemic with, for example, the postponement of the GTSG meeting this year which was to be hosted alongside the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation conference, Cartagena, Colombia. We sincerely hope that everyone keeps well and safe during these difficult times. Meanwhile BGCI and IUCN staff are working from home maintaining the coordination and processing efforts for tree species assessments.

We are thinking of ways to ensure that the GTA is impactful and leads to massively scaled up conservation for trees. **For this we need your help.** Please let us know if you are interested in helping by writing for a local publication or website or if you know of any opportunities to publicise our work.

Sincere thanks for all red list assessments, reviews and provision of tree information. 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

Email: redlist@bgci.org

Welcome to new GTSG members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Dr James Byng, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden
- Dr Renato Augusto Ferreira de Lima, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden
- Olivier Hasinger, Fondation Franklinia
- Agusti Randi, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia
- Dr Iyan Robiansyah, Bogor Botanic Gardens, Indonesia
- Fred Pilkington, Fauna & Flora International, UK

We look forward to keeping in touch and working with you all.

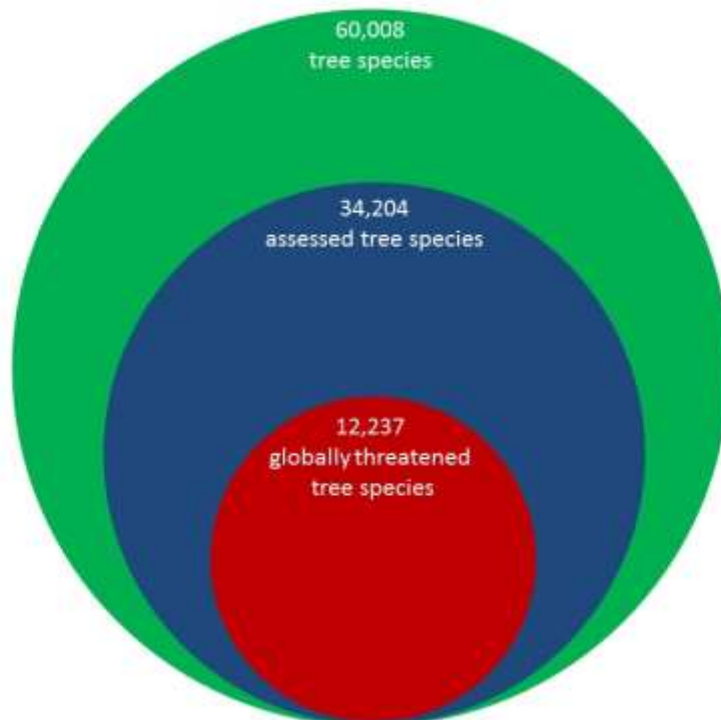
GTA - Progress

By the end of 2019, 9,286 tree assessments had been submitted to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and across GTA, 130 individuals were trained during the year.

This excellent progress continues into 2020, and since the beginning of the year, over 700 new tree assessments were submitted to the IUCN Red List. This includes trees from Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Costa Rica and trees in the Lamiaceae and Lauraceae families.

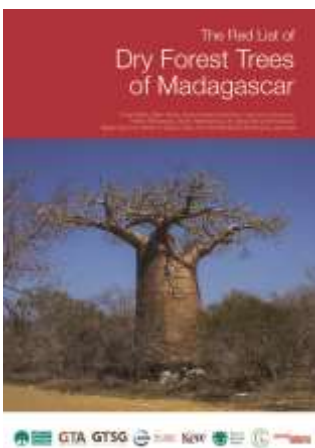
In January, was hosted at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, to discuss tree Red List assessments for the Guianas. This resulted in plans to review a list of potentially LC trees in the region and to assess 377 regionally endemic trees. In February, Emily Beech and Sara Oldfield met with taxonomic and regional experts at Naturalis Biodiversity Institute in Leiden, Netherlands. Multiple meetings were held including discussions to complete assessments for *Syzygium* (the largest tree genus), with specialist James Byng and to expand our conservation assessment effort for the South American Atlantic Coastal Forest trees with Renato de Lima. We will now also collaborate with various experts at Leiden to complete assessments for outstanding trees in the Malesian Floral region.

March saw an update to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (version 2020.1). This published an additional ~1,500 trees on the IUCN Red List. Now there are 21,724 tree species on the IUCN Red List nearly 20 percent of all species of plants, animals and fungi included on the list. Approximately one-third of all threatened species on the IUCN Red List are trees. This new total alongside tree assessment data on ThreatSearch means that 57% of all tree species are now assessed to some level. For more information on this update see our latest [success story](#).



GTA progress (Analysis 23/03/2020)

Red List of Dry Forest Trees of Madagascar



Madagascar has the highest proportion of endemic trees of any country in the world. All are being assessed for the GTA. The first stage was to assess the dry forest species of the west of the country through a collaborative project. BGCI worked with the Madagascar Plant Specialist Group (MPSG), GTSG, Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre (KMCC), Missouri Botanical Garden Madagascar Program (MBGMP) and the University of Antananarivo (Plant Biology and Ecology Department), to undertake the two-year project which was generously funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). [A new publication highlights the results.](#) Of the 982 dry forest tree species, 578 (59%) are threatened with extinction. Ninety percent of all Malagasy dry forest trees (884 species) are experiencing a decreasing population trend.

The major threats to dry forest trees in Madagascar are logging and wood harvesting (779 species), the increased occurrence of fire (701 species) and the development of agriculture (662 species). There is clearly a major need for conservation and restoration of trees in their dry forest habitats. Encouragingly the project found that 40% of the dry forest species are already found in *ex situ* collections. Now work continues to assess the remaining tree species of Madagascar by the end of the year.

GTA - Requests for help

Now is the time for us to make a concerted effort to add as many tree species as possible to the pipeline for inclusion on the IUCN Red List. **If you have 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.

We are looking for reviewers of **Least Concern** species lists. This is a simple process, where a spreadsheet with species names and distribution is shared, this can be checked for species of lowest extinction risk. Let us know if you are yet to be contacted to review Least Concern assessments.

We want to hear from you if –

You are a **taxonomic** tree expert

Have **recently described** or redescribed a tree species?

Have recently **completed a monograph**?

Know about species of *Ficus* or *Miconia*?

Are interested in completing assessments for a small tree genus
(just five assessments would be a huge help!)?

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.

GTSG and collaboration with CITES

We continue to produce updated conservation assessments for all tree species that are listed in the CITES Appendices. We are building our collaboration with CITES and will contribute to the next Plants Committee Meeting which, remains scheduled to be held in Geneva in July 2020. We have been asked by the CITES Secretariat to bring to your attention CITES [Notification 2020/032](#) and its [Annex on a questionnaire on rosewood tree species](#). If you are able to respond to the Questionnaire please do so as soon as possible as the deadline suggested by CITES is **11 April**.

Notifications of interest include:

- [2020/032](#) on Rosewood trees
- [2020/010](#) on Boswellia trees
- [2020/022](#) on Aquilaria trees

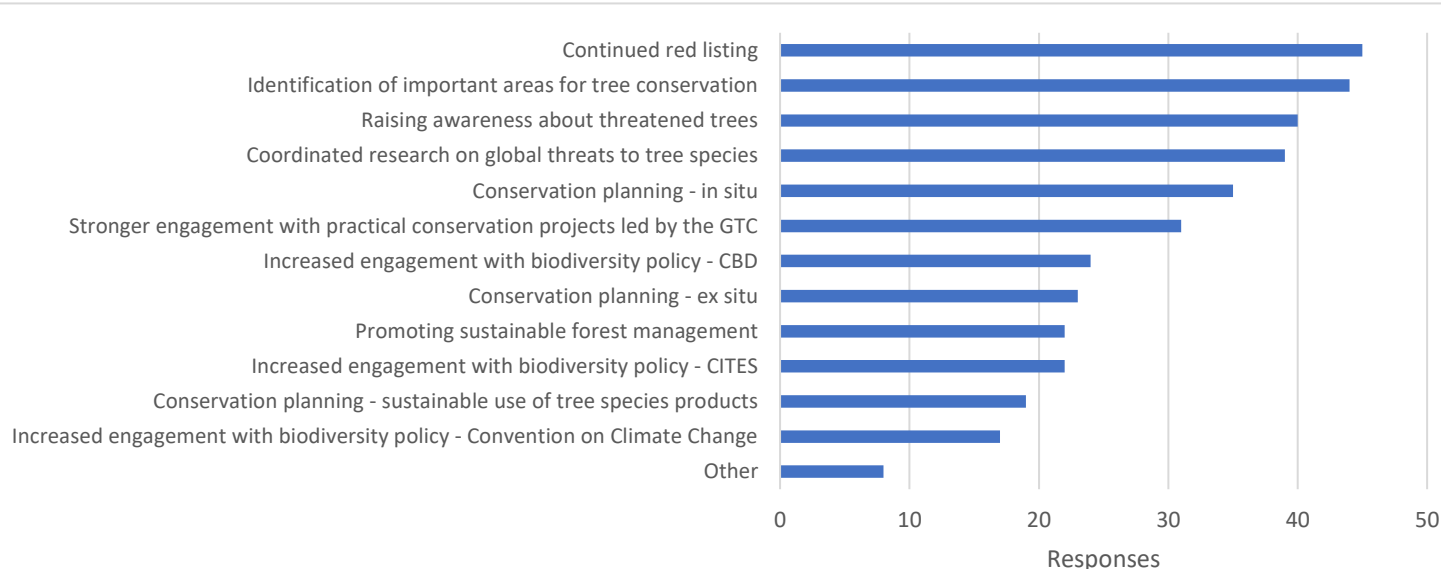
All tree-relevant CITES Notifications are available here:

<https://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2014.php>.

GTSG Questionnaire

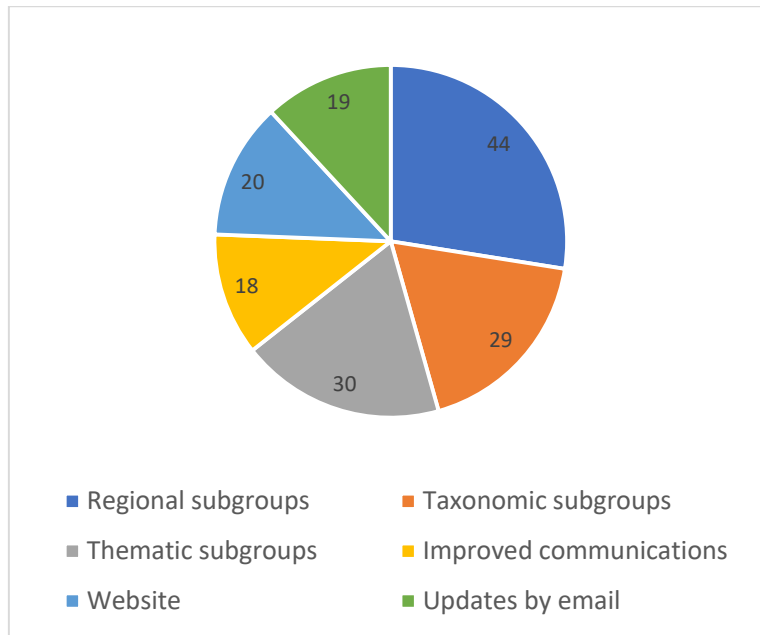
Thank you for taking the time to fill in the membership questionnaire and thank you to Yvette Harvey-Brown for compiling the results. We received 52 responses which represents nearly half of all members. One thing we learnt (or rather were reminded of) is that we are a very knowledgeable, skilled and experienced Group! We were also reminded that we need to improve communications and connectivity between members. We will certainly prioritise this for action.

In terms of other priorities for the Group these are shown in the graph below:



It is encouraging that continued red list effort is a priority for the majority of members. Identification of important areas of tree conservation, was also of high priority. We have recently begun a discussion with the Key Biodiversity Area Secretariat on potential collaboration. For an introduction to Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) please see: <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/what-are-kbas>

Coordinated research on global threats to tree species was the third highest priority for members. Analysis of the threats will be a key outcome of the GTA, which will catalyse this process and practical conservation action. Raising awareness about threatened trees also scored highly. We hope the GTA report will be a major tool in highlighting this and other tools and information we release alongside the GTA report will also help. Please get in touch if you have other ideas on raising awareness for threatened species and make sure you are following [@globaltrees](https://twitter.com/globaltrees) on twitter who highlight work of our partners and trees of concern.



The questionnaire responses highlight the potential for organising the GTSG in new ways. We are one of the largest SSC groups and are continuing to grow. As the GTA closes and new major tasks are prioritised we will be responsive in GTSG by restructuring and evolving the group. How we do this will take further consideration in terms of resourcing and coordination. The graphic above indicates responses to the questions on how the GTSG might develop. The formation of regional subgroups was the most popular response. We will review the potential for regional subgroups as part of considering new coordination and communication mechanisms for the GTSG.

Thank you again for all your input and suggestions so far. Please note that the questionnaire responses were anonymous. If you commented that you would like to be involved in further planning discussions for the GTSG please do contact Sara Oldfield: sara@saraoldfield.net Thank you!

Global Conservation Consortia



One of the ways we can strength collaborative tree conservation responding to priorities identified in the questionnaire is through linking with the work of the recently formed [Global Conservation Consortia](#) for tree genera. Four Consortia have so far been established, focusing on [Acer](#), [Magnolia](#), and [Rhododendron](#). Here we are pleased to inform you about the launch of [The Global Conservation Consortium for Oak \(GCCO\)](#). This is led by The

Morton Arboretum, in partnership with BGCI, the goal of the GCCO is to mobilize a network of institutions and experts to work collaboratively to develop and implement a comprehensive conservation strategy to prevent the extinction of the world's oak species. The aim is to deliver integrated conservation of oak species through practical *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation and disseminate species recovery knowledge. There are various roles and tiers of membership for the Consortium: Consortium Lead (held by The Morton Arboretum), Consortium Steering Committee, Species Champions, Safe Sites, and Affiliates. To learn more about the GCCO and to identify the level at which you would like to participate, please visit our [webpage](#) or watch our [webinar](#). NOTE: The kick-off meeting scheduled for May has been postponed due to COVID-19. For questions or inquiries, please email Amy Byrne (abyrne@mortonarb.org).

Meetings and Conferences

We are sorry that the programme of workshops and meetings planned for 2020 has now been disrupted. Thank you to everyone who has helped with initial preparations. Some meetings may be re-scheduled. We will, of course, keep in touch about this and also post updates on the [GTA website](#). So far we have not heard that the following meetings have been cancelled:

Dates	Meeting/workshop
July	CITES Plants Committee Meeting in Geneva
August	Borneo GTA meeting (postponed)
September	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 (rescheduled)
October	CBD COP15 in Kunming (likely postponed)
November	Red List of the Trees of Madagascar Launch

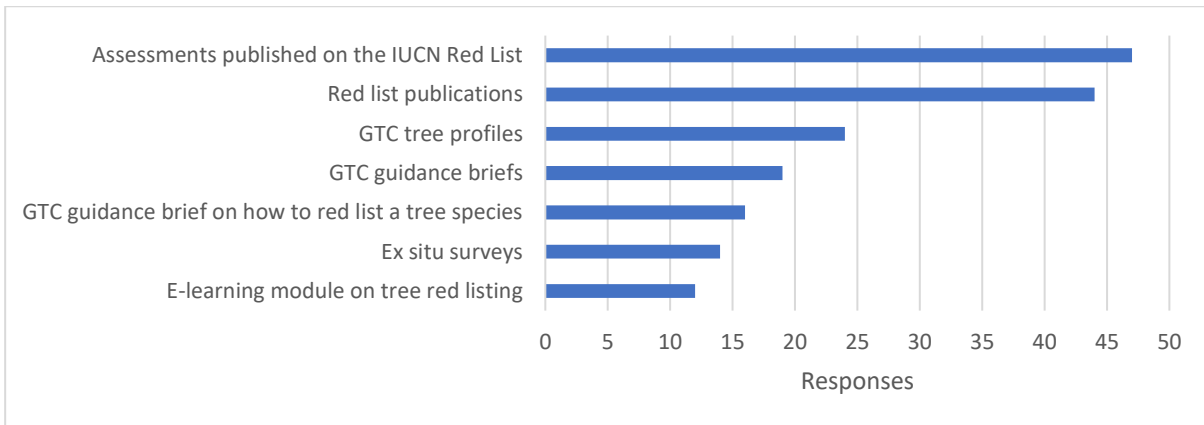
Key Resources

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.

We are delighted that the membership questionnaire showed that Red List resources for trees available on the GTA website are being widely used as shown in the graph below!



Keep in Touch

Please keep in touch! Drop us an email (redlist@bgci.org), follow Global Tree Assessment Progress on twitter [@GTA_GTSG](https://twitter.com/GTA_GTSG) and check out the [GTA website](#) for updates and find out about our practical conservation efforts on twitter [@globaltrees](https://twitter.com/globaltrees) and the [GTC Website](#).

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!