



GLOBAL TREE SPECIALIST GROUP

Newsletter

Spring 2019

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Introduction

Workshops organised to progress the Global Tree Assessment are providing excellent opportunities to meet up with GTSG members and invite more people to join the Group. We now have 120 members and it may be time to start thinking about how the Group may wish to evolve and to plan for the future. Should we think about regional, thematic or taxonomic subgroups? What should our future priorities be? Over the coming months we will be mulling over these thoughts and any suggestions and ideas from members are most welcome. Of course, completing the Global Tree Assessment remains a clear and ambitious priority and we welcome all your contributions. With a range of further meetings planned there will be time for many more conversations about the functions of the Group amongst all the Red Listing!

Sara Oldfield & Adrian Newton
Co-Chairs GTSG





Welcome to new GTSG members

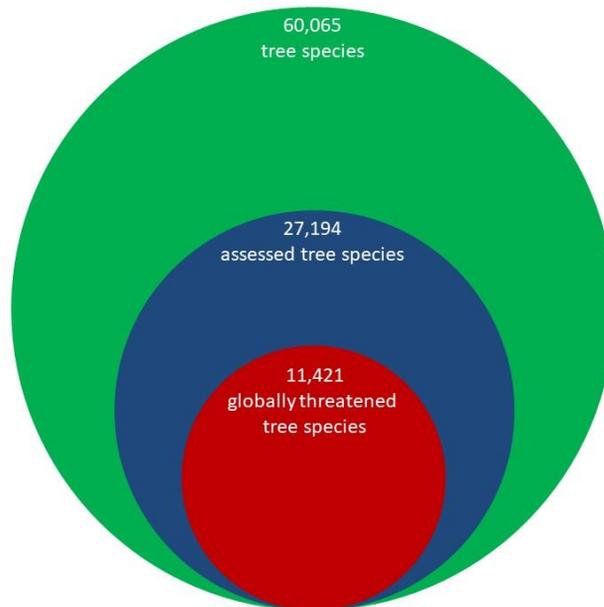
We are delighted to welcome:

- Silvia Ivarez-Clare, The Morton Arboretum
- Steven Brewer, Trees of Belize Project
- Richard Condit, The Morton Arboretum
- Dagoberto Rodríguez Delcid, Asociación Jardín Botánico de El Salvador
- Yaroslavi Espinoza Flores, Herbario Nacional de Venezuela
- Aabid Hussain Mir CERD Foundation, Jammu and Kashmir, India
- Katharina Lapin, Austrian Research Centre for Forests
- Jose Ledis Linaris, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras
- AnaLu McVean, Mount Aloysius College/Penn State Herbarium
- Ruth Pillcohuarcaya Osa Conservation Costa Rica
- Indiana Coronado, Herbario UNAN-LEON, Nicaragua



Global Tree Assessment - Progress

2019 has seen great progress already. We have Global Tree Assessment collaborators in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela and others! Analysis earlier this year show that we were close to making the half-way mark, and progress on the Least Concern trees, Madagascar and Mesoamerica (see below) will take us over this threshold in the coming months. Progress with the GTA is also enhanced by reviewing tree assessments carried out by other groups. We have for example been pleased to review a range of *Inga* spp. for researchers at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.





CEPF – Madagascar trees

Following the submission of over 650 assessments in December, Year Two of our Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) project to assess the tree species of Western Madagascar has begun, with assessments produced for 300 tree species in the early part of the year. These assessments will be reviewed at a workshop in Antananarivo in collaboration with the Madagascar Plant Specialist Group in May 2019. IUCN Red List training will also be given to 15 further Malagasy participants.

Papua New Guinea Tree Red List Workshop

In February 2019, GTA and Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute hosted a Tree Red List Workshop at Lae Botanic Garden and Herbarium. The workshop marked the start of the Global Tree Assessment in Papua New Guinea and offered the opportunity to plan one of our largest GTA projects. Over the first year of the project over 1,000 species of trees native to Papua New Guinea will be assessed with a particular focus on endemic tree species. Assessments will be produced through collaboration between Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute, Papua New Guinea University of Technology and The University of Papua New Guinea. The workshop also included red list training for over 25 participants, producing over 20 provisional assessments for native trees.



Mesoamerican Red List Workshop

Mesoamerica has a wide range of endemic tree species. A highly successful workshop on 25-29 March 2019 brought together experts from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the US to assess the conservation status of endemic tree species of the region. Participants also attended from Colombia and Venezuela to share experiences from their countries. The workshop was held at La Selva Biological Station situated in a biodiversity rich area of lowland rainforest. Surrounded by a wide variety of trees, bromeliads, birds and the cries of howler monkeys, the workshop reviewed over 250 Least Concern species, fully assessed around 50 threatened tree species and agreed ways to share more data and work together in progressing the GTA. Participants agreed to look for ways to meet again to build on the excellent collaboration and plan tree conservation outcomes.



Timber assessments update

We are into the penultimate year of our timber red listing project, conducted in partnership with IUCN and the Toyota Biodiversity Fund. So far, we have submitted over 750 assessments for timber species including over 200 assessments since the beginning of 2019. This year, large legume groups such as *Dalbergia*, *Platymiscium* and *Pterocarpus* will be tackled, as well as various other taxonomic groups (Sapotaceae, Annonaceae, Lamiaceae and Lauraceae). Work on timber species listed on CITES Appendices will also continue. This year there is a greater focus on timbers from across Africa. For Southeast Asia, we aim to complete assessments for all species of Dipterocarpaceae endemic to Borneo. Thank you to all GTSG members who have contributed information and reviewed assessments for this project.

An Information Document on GTA supporting CITES has been submitted to CITES for inclusion with the papers for the forthcoming Conference of the Parties.

If you have information on timber trees in trade or work on particular timber species please contact megan.barstow@bgci.org or ryan.hills@bgci.org.



Least Concern (LC) assessments

So far in 2019 we have been working together with the IUCN Red List Unit to publish as many of the Least Concern (LC) assessments on the IUCN Red List as possible. With the appointment of Katharine Davies (BGCI), we have managed to process the backlog of these assessments. Generated using the rapid assessment methodology, the assessments are imported into SIS through SIS Connect, and in the next IUCN Red List update there will be over three thousand of these Least Concern assessments published on the IUCN Red List. A massive thank you to all the experts who have contributed up to this point.

Requests for help

We are very keen to reach out to taxonomic experts who may have carried out preliminary assessments or be prepared to help with their particular families or genera. Please contact Malin Rivers if you can help or recommend others who might be interested amongst the taxon we have in our "hitlist" are: Aquifoliaceae, Myrtaceae, Rubiaceae.

Meetings and Conferences

We are looking forward to more productive workshops and meetings in 2019. These already scheduled are listed below and are also available on the GTA website

<http://www.globaltreeassessment.org/3583/>

Dates	Meeting/workshop
6-10 May	Red List training workshop (Madagascar)
22-24 May	Red List training workshop (Philippines)
28 June - 5 July	Flora Malesiana (Brunei) - three day workshop with training and opportunity to review assessments (28-30/6) - open to all, places still available!
9-13 September	Red List training workshop (Pacific - Samoa)
6-10 October	SSC Leaders meeting (Abu Dhabi) - providing an opportunity to liaise with other Plant Specialist Groups.
21-25 October	Red List Review workshop (Madagascar)

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).

Keep in Touch

Please keep in touch! 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. 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>