



Global Tree Specialist Group Newsletter

July 2022

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**BOTANIC
GARDENS**
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



GTA
Global Tree
Assessment



Excellent progress continues to be made on Red Listing Tree species! Next week is the release of the first update of the IUCN Red List, and so far in 2022, 1,900 new Red List assessments have been submitted.

We are also continuing to publicise the results of the Global Tree Assessment and draw attention to the plight of trees around the world.

In this newsletter we highlight some recent activities and call attention to proposed new CITES listings for tree species. IUCN Red List information is an important resource for the CITES listing process as is the broader expertise of the SSC Network.

We will be very grateful for any help from GTSG members of contacts in reviewing the current CITES proposals.

As ever, thank you all for your commitment to the GTSG and for your enthusiasm for our shared work as was so warmly expressed at our first Zoom workshop on 11 May.

With very best wishes

Sara Oldfield & Adrian Newton

Co-Chairs GTSG

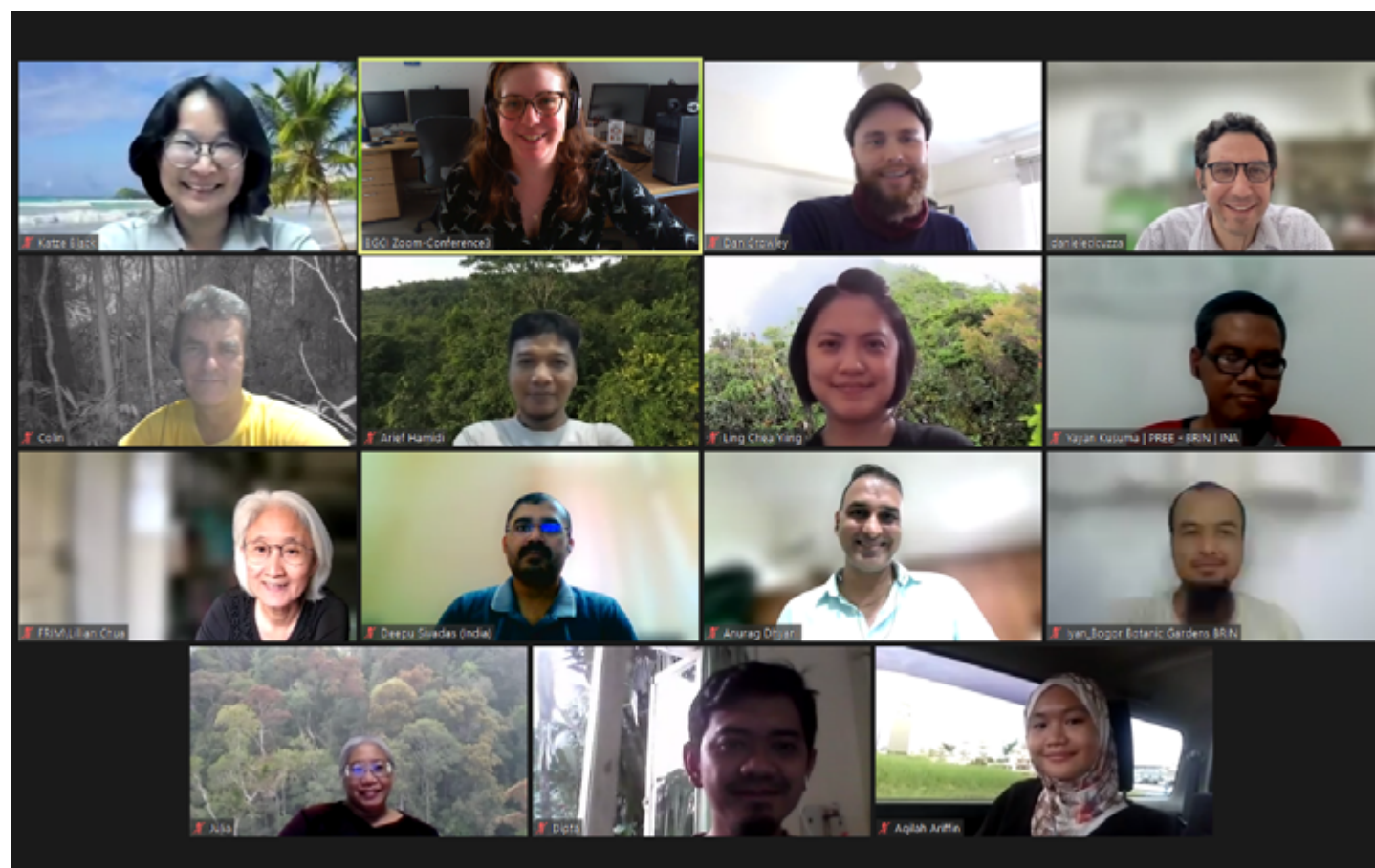
Workshop for the Red List of Dipterocarpaceae

At the end of 2021, BGCI were awarded a small grant from the IUCN SSC to produce a global Red List of Dipterocarpaceae. This builds on the success of the Red List of Bornean Endemic Dipterocarps released in October 2021.

The first step towards completing this publication was to complete the assessments for over 170 species of dipterocarp that are not yet assessed for the IUCN Red List or have an out-of-date assessment (produced before 2013). Different methods are being used to finalise these assessments including using IUCN SIS Connect and completing assessments in house at BGCI. However the majority of species to be assessed were in Southeast Asia. To complete these assessments a series of review workshops were hosted from May to July 2022 to review ~90 assessments for the region.

The workshops were hosted over zoom and attended by partners from Sabah Forestry, Forest Sarawak Department, Singapore Botanic Gardens, Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and UBD Botanical Research Centre (IBER), University of the Philippines Los Baños, National Research and Innovation Agency –Indonesia, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Arboretum Sylva Untan and Fauna & Flora International – Indonesia programme. Prior to the workshop information was gathered by the participants and then collated into SIS for use within the workshop.

The workshops were hugely successful with the reviews of all target species being completed. Now following the workshops the assessments can be finalised in SIS before a final check and submission to the IUCN Red List Unit for publication in 2023. In the meantime, work will begin on the production of the Red List of Dipterocarpaceae manuscript. This will not only include analysis of the IUCN Red List assessments for the family but will provide a plethora of information on conservation actions in place for dipterocarps through case studies and an ex situ survey. The report will be released by the end of 2022.



Red List of Dipterocarp Workshop

CITES

The 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, will be held from 14 – 25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama.

The following proposals to amend CITES Appendices I and II for timber species have been submitted to the CITES Secretariat:

- Include *Handroanthus* spp, *Roseodendron* spp. and *Tabebuia* spp. in Appendix II with annotation #17;
- Delete *Dalbergia sissoo* from Appendix II;
- Transfer *Paubrasilia echinata* from Appendix II to Appendix I with annotation;
- Include all African populations of *Afzelia* spp. in Appendix II with annotation #17;
- Include *Dipteryx* spp. in Appendix II with annotation;
- Include all African populations of *Pterocarpus* spp. in Appendix II with annotation #17;
- Include all African populations of *Khaya* spp. in Appendix II with annotation #17

CITES Annotations specify the parts, products and derivatives of a species that are subject to CITES provisions.

According to a CITES Resolution, the CITES Secretariat is seeking the views of IUCN on these proposals. In turn the GTSG has been contacted to provide information of relevance to the proposals.

In addition, for many years IUCN, TRAFFIC and their networks have collaborated to provide a review service to the CITES Parties to guide their decisions on whether or not to support the proposals.

This service produces Analyses which aim to provide assessments which are as objective and factual as possible of each amendment proposal considered against the CITES listing criteria.

If you are interested to help review any of the proposals listed above we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact sara@saraoldfield.net. We may also be in touch with you individually to request information and will be hugely grateful for any input.

Conservation Leadership Programme Team Award

Applications for the 2023 Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) Team Awards are now open!

Do you know of any early-career conservationists who need funding to support their work in conserving the natural world?

If you do, then please encourage them to apply for the CLP Team Awards. As you know, these awards are aimed at supporting projects in low- and middle-income countries and some high-income islands in the Caribbean and Pacific. Funding will support early-career conservationists to conduct scientific research, encourage and promote pro-conservation attitudes and deliver tangible results to better conserve and manage the natural world.

If you know of any volunteers, interns or employees who might be eligible or interested, they can find out more here:

<https://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/grants/grant-overview/>

The deadline for applications is 10th October 2022.

Spotlight on a GTA Resource

GlobalTree Portal



The GlobalTree Portal, hosted by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), is the first online portal bringing together information on the distribution, conservation status (global and others) and conservation actions for all the world's tree species.

The GlobalTree Portal displays tree conservation information on species, country or global levels. On a species level, the Conservation Action Tracker contains information on active conservation actions known for trees (i.e. in situ conservation, ex situ conservation, species recovery plans etc.). On a country level, summary information and checklists of tree species with information on their endemism and conservation status are available.

The GlobalTree Portal also links together BGCI's four databases for the first time, combining the list of tree species (GlobalTreeSearch), conservation assessments (ThreatSearch), ex situ collections and their locations (PlantSearch and GardenSearch).

It is clear that botanic gardens are key custodians of the world's tree species, with over 17,000 tree species found in collections.

However, many threatened species are not recorded in a single collection or under any conservation action and the GlobalTree Portal provides the data needed to save threatened trees.

Spotlight on a GTSG Member

Sisira Ediriweera is a professor attached to the Department of Science and Technology, Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka. Since 2000, He has been actively conducting research on Forest Restoration, Forest Ecology and plant conservation in different forest ecosystems of Sri Lanka.

Ediriweera is a member of the National Red listing Committee, Sri Lanka. Ediriweera is also a member of IUCN SSC Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group of

IUCN and a member of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) National Committee- National Science Foundation- Sri Lanka. He is the Principal Investigator of the 25ha Sinharaja ForestGEO forest dynamic plot (<https://forestgeo.si.edu/ediriweera-sisira>).

Ediriweera and his team recently secured funds from Franklinia Foundation. These will be used to conserve the 18 threatened species in Udakuruwa Forest, Sri Lanka and its ecosystem services through the restoration of degraded lands and enrichment of adjacent agroforests, develop conservation ethics in the Udakuruwa local villages and in the next generation in peripheral areas, and to reduce the threat to the forests and inhabiting species through enriched home gardens and by facilitating sustainable homestead level cottage-based industries.

This project seeks to restore 35ha of forests by protecting, supporting the existing natural regeneration and planting threatened species with the participation of the local community and NGOs is a key feature of the project. Furthermore, he is conducting research on the enrichment of Pinus caribaea plantation by threatened and native tree species in Sri Lanka. Additionally, since 2016 he and his team are monitoring forest dieback and generation potentials of upper montane tree species in Horton Plains National Park, Sri Lanka where the regeneration is very low.

Ediriweera is a longstanding member of the GTSG and we are grateful for the support he provides to the GTA on the conservation status of Sri Lankan trees.



Recent Publications

There are some exciting articles already published in the special issue of Plants, People, Planet with a focus on conservation assessments for tree species and other aspects of tree conservation action:

Hills, R., Mafleet, K., Rivers, M., Beech, E., Barstow, M., Davies, K., Crowley, D., de Kok, R. and Prance, G. 2022. Raising awareness through the Global Tree Assessment: Extinction risk of six fully assessed tree groups. PlantsPeoplePlanet.

<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ppp3.10289>

Linsky, J., Coffey, E.E., Beech, E., Rivers, M., Cicuzza, D., Oldfield, S. and Crowley, D., 2022. Assessing Magnoliaceae through time: Major global efforts to track extinction risk status and ex situ conservation. Plants, People, Planet.

<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ppp3.10285>

Yang, J., Tao, L., Yang, J., Wu, C. and Sun, W., 2022. Integrated conservation of Acer yangbiense: A case study for conservation methods of plant species with extremely small populations. Plants, People, Planet.

<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdfdirect/10.1002/ppp3.10276>

Another paper in review for the special issue of Plants, People, Planet is a "Scientists' warning to humanity on tree extinctions". This is an overview of current knowledge regarding the number of tree species that are threatened with extinction, and the implications of tree extinctions, in terms of the functioning of the biosphere and impacts on human well-being. It also provides important messages about the results of the Global Tree Assessment and identifies some priority actions that need to be taken to reduce the extinction risk of tree species, and to avert the ecological and socio-economic catastrophe that will result from large-scale extinction of tree species.

GTSG members who have helped with the Global Tree Assessment, are encouraged to be part of this article. If you have not already signed up and would like to be listed as a "signatory" to this "scientists' warning" then please add your name here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RkV8ZrB8ru>

If signed before 1 August 2022, you would be part of the "Global Tree Assessment contributors" as listed in the author string, and your name and affiliation will be listed in the Annex for this article.

Keep in Touch

Please let us know what you have been up to and share news with the Group!

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](#).