



Global Tree Specialist Group Newsletter

September 2024

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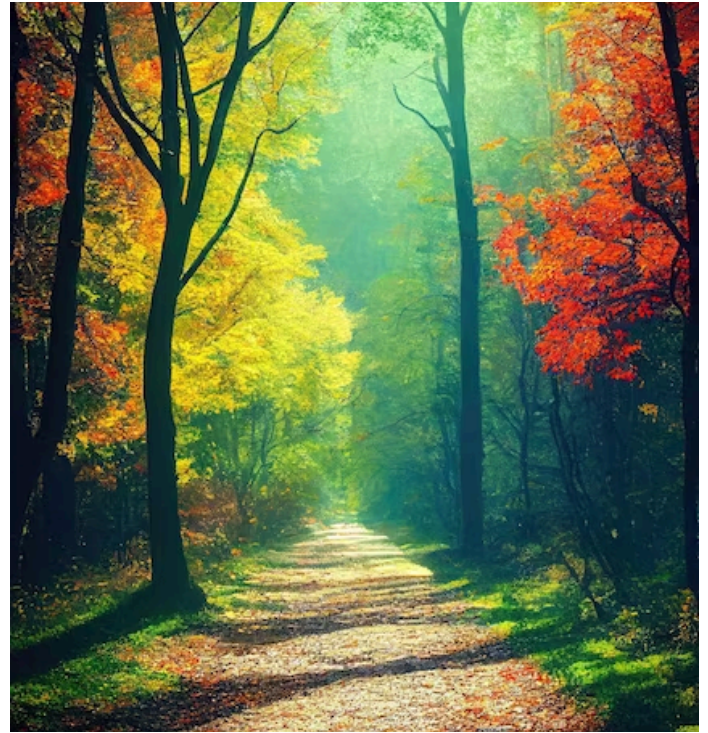
New Book Announcement: The Botanists of the Singapore Botanic Gardens



**BOTANIC
GARDENS**
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



GTA
Global Tree
Assessment



Next month I am going to the IUCN SSC Leader's meeting that takes place every five years. This is an opportunity for the Chairs of the IUCN Specialist Groups (and Stand-Alone Red List Authorities) to share experiences, learn from each other and collaborate on new projects. I am honoured to go and represent the Global Tree Specialist Group and all that we have achieved in the last five years.

This newsletter is a testament to the work that the Group is doing for the conservation of tree species globally, It includes information on the Global Tree Assessment, conservation planning work and shares some publications by members on tree conservation

I also want to invite you all to attend an online workshop on Wednesday 20 November. This is an opportunity for us all to meet virtually and share updates and discuss the future of GTSG. Please mark your diary and I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for being an important part of the Global Tree Specialist Group and the wider SSC network, working for the future of trees 🌍🌳

Best wishes,

Malin Rivers

Chair of the Global Tree Specialist Group

GTSG Online Workshop

I would like to invite you all to a GTSG workshop on Wednesday 20 November. We will host this twice to make sure that the time zone works for all the GTSG members. The first session will be held at 9am (GMT) and the second will be held at 4pm (GMT). This is an opportunity for us all to meet virtually, to update and share exciting projects of the GTSG, as well as discuss improvements, developments and the future directions of the group. We look forward to your involvement!

A meeting link and agenda will be shared closer to the time. If there is anything specific you would like to discuss, please let me know.



New Red List Authority coordinator

I would like to welcome Emily Beech to the position as Red List Authority Coordinator. In this post she will be overseeing and coordinating the Red List assessments produced by the group, and also liaising with GTSG and other Specialist Group members for reviews. Many of you know Emily already, as she has been working on the Global Tree Assessment since the start and has experience in coordinating assessments and reviews from around the world. We are pleased she has accepted this role to ensure that the assessment work of the Global Tree Assessment continues.

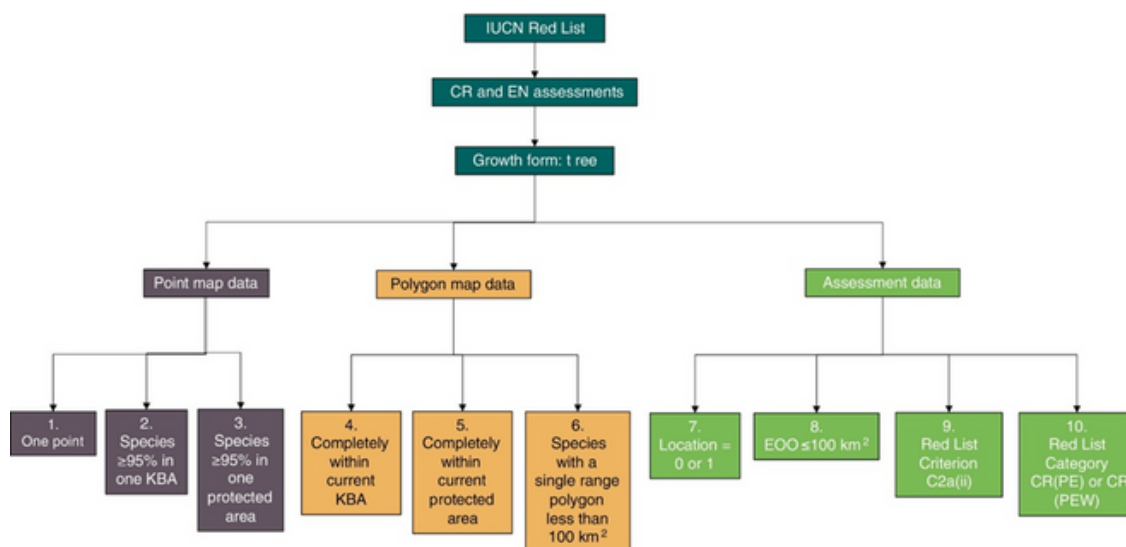
Welcome to new GTSG members

A warm welcome to the following new GTSG members. We are pleased to have you join the network.

- Heiner Acevedo, Costa Rica
- Isabel Loza, United States
- Jithu K Jose, India
- Tarin Toledo, Mexico
- Magdalena Svensson, Sweden/UK

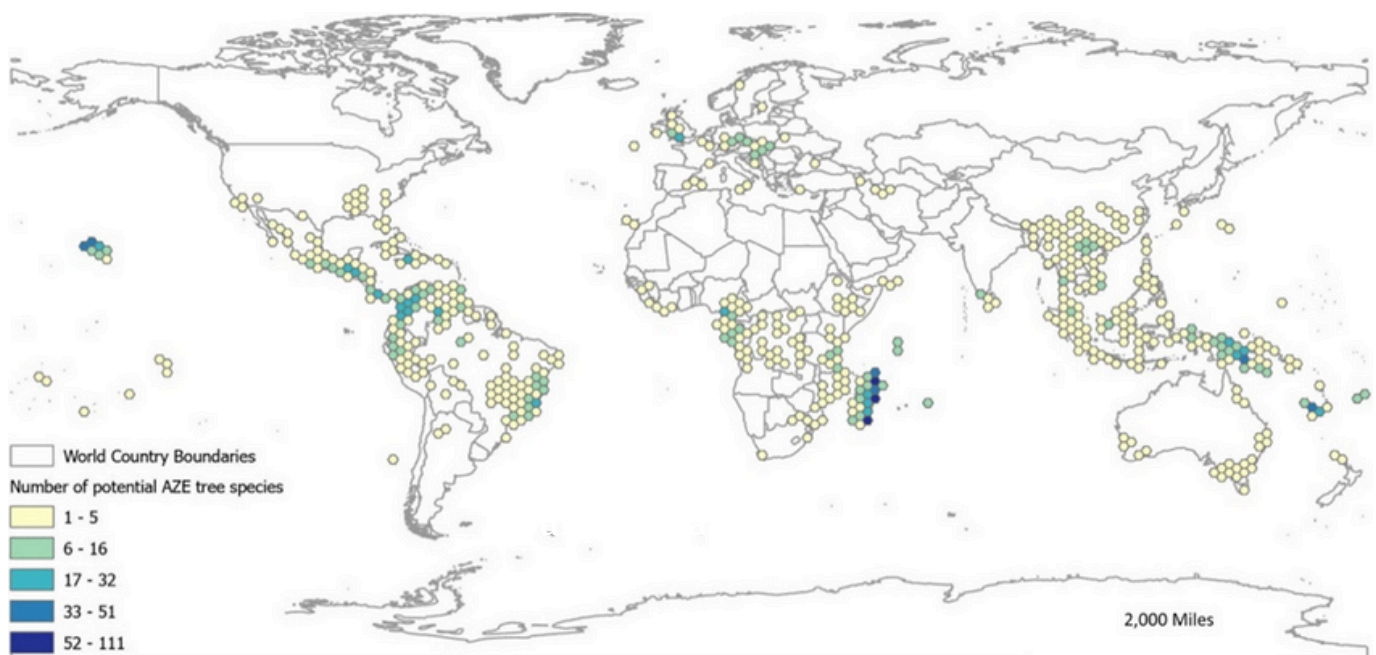
New Publications: Methodology for identifying potential Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) tree species on a global scale

Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites, a subset of KBAs, contain $\geq 95\%$ of the population of highly threatened species. Currently, only 47 tree species have been identified using the AZE criteria. The Global Tree Assessment, assessing the extinction risk of the world's tree species, has enabled trees to be incorporated into KBA and AZE sites. A small group from Botanic Gardens Conservation International and IUCN have recently published a methodology to utilise data from the IUCN Red List to identify potential AZE species of tree (Davies et al., 2024). This 10-part methodology identified 2,909 tree species as potential AZE species across the world, representing at least 5% of described tree species. As further tree species assessments are published on the IUCN Red List, this methodology will be important for identifying potential AZE species. The methodology can be applied and adapted to any taxa on the IUCN Red List. This analysis serves as a prioritisation mechanism for identifying species in urgent need of conservation action to prevent extinctions.



A flow chart diagram showing the methodology to identify potential Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) tree species

It is hoped that by making the methodology and initial results for tree species available this analysis can feed into national KBA identification efforts. The publication of the species lists identified using this methodology ensures highly restricted and threatened tree information is available for future conservation planning to prevent extinctions. A supporting table containing the list of potential AZE tree species, is available to download from the publication page.



Map showing the number of potential AZE tree species based on IUCN Red List assessments with public range maps.

ASSESS: Update from Global Tree Assessment

In June, in the first update of the IUCN Red List for 2024 (2024.1) 4,485 new tree species were added to the Red List. Highlights from this update include the publication of hundreds of species from Peru, the Guianas, Sri Lankan dipterocarps and species assessed during the Global Tree Assessment Red List workshop in Singapore in 2023.

Two species that were published, *Amherstia nobilis* (Extinct in the Wild) and *Neonauclea kranjiensis* (Extinct), are already considered lost from their native ranges. Known as 'Tree of Heaven' *Amherstia nobilis* is widely grown for its flowers but the species has not been recorded in the wild since 1865 and is now believed to exist only in cultivation. Described in 2018 from a preserved specimen, *Neonauclea kranjiensis* was known from a single site in Singapore that has undergone extensive land conversion. The species represents a 'dark extinction': the extinction of a species before it is discovered and named.

The work of the Global Tree Assessment would not be possible without the expertise of the GTSG membership, again thank you for your support.

The next IUCN Red List update is 28 October 2024, when trees will officially be recognized as a fully assessed group (>80% of species assessed). We will share more details, including a press release, when we have it.



GTA
Global Tree
Assessment

PLAN: Updates from Conservation Planning

To address the urgent need to develop and implement conservation actions for Chile's endemic tree species an Integrated Conservation Planning Workshop took place in September 2024 at the University of Concepción, Chile. The workshop, organised by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) together with the Landscape Ecology Laboratory of the University of Concepción, was facilitated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG). Fondation Franklinia generously funded the workshop.

The workshop brought together 28 specialists from different Chilean organisations, who after five days of participatory discussions, developed an integrated conservation plan to secure the future of Chile's threatened endemic tree species.



**Taller de planificación para la
CONSERVACIÓN INTEGRADA
DE LOS ÁRBOLES ENDÉMICOS
AMENAZADOS DE CHILE**

One of the most important elements of this workshop was the scope as endemic species from the Juan Fernández Archipelago, as well as from the central and southern region of the country were included. The workshop therefore provided the opportunity for experts to come together to share experiences from these different regions and for many, to meet for the first time. There will be a governance team which will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the plan, when it is published later this year.



Preparations are also underway for a conservation planning workshop for the Critically Endangered trees of Malaysia. Malaysia's native tree species have been assessed by several Malaysian partners. Building upon this considerable achievement and using the newly available information from the assessments the workshop will scale up conservation planning for Malaysia's threatened tree species.

The workshop is convened and organised by BGCI and hosted by Sabah Forestry Department with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability of Malaysia. A Technical Working Group with members from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Forest Department Sarawak and Sabah Forestry Department have provided valuable inputs during workshop preparations. The objective of the workshop is to develop an integrated action plan (in situ and ex situ) for the Critically Endangered trees of Malaysia. The workshop is generously funded by Fondation Franklinia and will take place in November.

ACT: Success Stories for the SSC Network

In preparation for the closing of the 2021-2025 quadrennium, IUCN/SSC would like to highlight and celebrate the work of the SSC Network on behalf of species, by publishing a selection of success stories in connection to the targets formulated by SSC Groups under the ACT component. They invite all SSC Groups to share with the world inspiring success stories of your work on behalf of species conservation. If you have some success stories that you would like to highlight please send them to (malin.rivers@bgci.org), and I will send you a template to fill in.

SSC Internal Grants

In the last round of SSC small grants funding, we were awarded a grant for 'Talking about Trees – developing the communication channels of the GTSG,'. We will share more with you during the GTSG workshop, but in summary this funding is to enhance the communication and outreach efforts of the GTSG through the development of the GTSG website, a new logo, and strategic outreach and communication initiatives. We aim to strengthen our connection with the GTSG and the wider SSC community, improve information dissemination, and increase participation in GTSG activities.

The next round of small grants is in December 2024. Keep an eye out for the call here (<https://iucn.org/our-union/commissions/species-survival-commission/partners-and-donors/partnership-and-grants>)



Spotlight on a Tool: Key Biodiversity Area Data

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are 'sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity'. The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA) is managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership and is updated twice per year. Summary information about KBAs can be viewed here <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-data>. This data tool provides valuable information such as how KBAs are distributed across the world, habitat and threat information, and the composition of KBAs by taxonomic group.



Individual KBA sites can be searched for via the website and there is a map feature (<https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/sites/search>) where KBAs can be explored around the world. A factsheet is provided for every KBA which provides more detailed information about the site and what species trigger the KBA criteria.

BGCI's GlobalTree Portal gives information about whether a tree species occurs in a KBA via the species search (<https://www.bgci.org/resources/bgci-databases/globaltree-portal/>).

Meetings

IUCN Regional Conservation Forum Europe, North and Central Asia (30 Sept-3 Oct)

Is any GTSG member going to the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum Europe, North and Central Asia in Bruges between 30 Sept - 3 Oct 2024? Please contact Emily Beech (emily.beech@bgci.org) if you will be there.

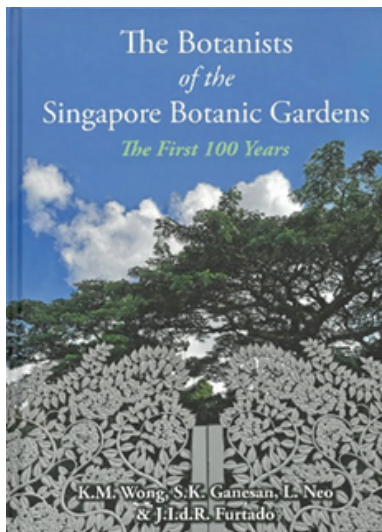
16th Conference of Parties on Biological Diversity (21 Oct - 1 Nov)

If any GTSG member is planning to attend CoP 16 in Cali, Colombia, please contact Megan Barstow (megan.barstow@bgci.org).

GTSG workshop (20 Nov 9am (GMT) and 4pm (GMT)) - SAVE THE DATE

An opportunity for us all to meet virtually, to update and share exciting projects of the GTSG, as well as discuss improvements, developments and the future directions of the group.

New Book Announcement: The Botanists of the Singapore Botanic Gardens – The First 100 Years



The Singapore Botanic Gardens, a component of the National Parks Board, Singapore, has just published *The Botanists of the Singapore Botanic Gardens – The First 100 Years* by K.M Wong, S.K. Ganesan, L. Neo and J.I.d.R. Furtado. This book is an anthology of the most illuminating writings of the early botanists from the Singapore Botanic Gardens. These writings highlight their significant contributions to botany in Southeast Asia and the growth of the Gardens as a premier botanical institution in the tropics. It is a testament to the vast amount of intellect and scholarship behind building the Singapore Botanic Gardens in its first hundred years. Chapters are dedicated to each of the eleven botanists of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, including N. Cantley, H.N. Ridley, I.H. Burkill, R.E. Holttum, K. Koriba, C. X. Furtado, E. J. H. Corner, M.R. Henderson, J.W. Purseglove, J. Sinclair and H.M Burkill. These chapters begin with an overview of the botanist's contributions, followed by selected excerpts from their writings on tropical plant science, natural history, plant classification, economic botany, horticulture and conservation.

The book also features historical and modern photographs of the Gardens, providing a comprehensive view of its evolution. This book is important for anyone who wishes to trace and understand the scientific journey and history of the Singapore Botanic Gardens—the first tropical botanic gardens to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

E-copies of this book are available at: <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/sbg/research/publications/ebooks> and physical copies are available for sale at: <https://botanicgardensshop.sg/products/the-botanists-of-the-singapore-botanic-gardens-the-first-100-years>

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 X [@GTA_GTSG](https://twitter.com/GTA_GTSG)

Check out the [GTA website](https://www.gta.org/) for updates

