### Introduction

2018 has been a busy and productive year for the Global Tree Assessment and in this newsletter we provide an overview of some of the highlights. The identification of Least Concern species is working well and the assessments are being published on the IUCN Red List. This process enables us to focus more fully on partnerships and training to assess trees that are threatened and in need of conservation attention. Great progress is being made towards the target of 6,000 full assessments for endemic trees around the world in 2018 - thank you to all involved.

Tree red list progress will be greatly enhanced in 2019 by the planned appointment of a dedicated Tree Red List Coordinator based at the IUCN Red List Unit in Cambridge, UK.

We are also pleased to announce that a GTSG meeting will be held in Costa Rica during the week of 25-29 March 2018. Please let us know if you would like further details.

We will continue to share news in newsletters and the Global Tree Assessment website [http://www.globaltreeassessment.org](http://www.globaltreeassessment.org), and we look forward to keeping in touch.

Very best wishes for the festive season,

Sara Oldfield & Adrian Newton

Co-Chairs GTSG
Welcome to new GTSG members

We are delighted to welcome:

Dr Ngoc Nguyen Van, Dalat University who is working on Fagaceae in Vietnam

Dr Joeri Sergej Strijk, Guangxi University, South East Asia Fagaceae expert

Dr Anurag Dhyani, Division of Conservation Biology, JNTBGRI, Kerala, India

Dr Jedediah F. Brodie, Craighead Endowed Chair of Conservation, University of Montana

We also welcome Christina Carrero who joins The Morton Arboretum Red Listing team. She will be supporting tree assessments for North America and oak assessments globally. Christina can be contacted at ccarrero@mortonarb.org

Least Concern (LC) assessments

In 2018, over 3,300 tree species have been assessed as Least Concern using the rapid assessment methodology. We are very grateful to all GTSG members who have reviewed or agreed to review lists of LC species, or who have suggested other experts to do so. Please do get in touch if we have not yet contacted you and you would like to help. We are particularly seeking expertise in Latin America - any genus or family.

Timber assessments update

We are halfway through our timber red listing project, conducted in partnership with IUCN and the Toyota Biodiversity Fund. So far we have submitted over 500 assessments for timber species, including over 300 assessments in 2018. Focusing on assessments for trees on The Commercial List of Timber species (Mark et al. 2014). This year, in particular we have worked on assessments for Dipterocarpaceae, Nothofagaceae and US timbers. Assessments for CITES timbers, including six Gonystylus species, Pterocarpus erinaceus, P. santilanus, Platymiscium parvitolium and Cedrela fissilis have now been published on the
IUCN Red List. In 2019, we will continue to work on assessments for CITES listed timbers and Dipterocarpaceae, alongside other groups. Thank you to all GTSG members who have contributed information and reviewed assessments for this project. If you have information on timber trees in trade or work on particular timber species please contact megan.barstow@bgci.org.

**CEPF – Madagascar trees**

The project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) focussing on tree species from Western Madagascar is making great progress. Following the excellent red list training workshop in Antananarivo in April, over 750 tree conservation assessments have been carried out by Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre (KMCC) and Missouri Botanical Garden Madagascar Program (MGBMP). The assessments will be reviewed and completed by the Madagascar Plant Specialist Group (with support from BGCI and GTSG). We are most grateful to CEPF for their generous support of this project.

**Caribbean Tree Red List Workshop**

The Bahamas National Trust kindly hosted a Caribbean Regional Tree Red List workshop in Nassau, Bahamas from 12-16 November 2019. This workshop brought together participants from across the Caribbean, including the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos. A full IUCN Red List training workshop was given, but also had time to assess selected priority tree species with distribution across the region. Further plans were also explored towards assessing all endemic trees in the Caribbean.

**Fagaceae Red Listing in Laos**

As part of a five day workshop hosted in September by Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden in Laos, we held a red list training and review session to finalise Fagaceae assessments produced by Morton Arboretum. Participants attended from across the
Indochina region and 92 assessments were finalised during the week. The week also included training on identification of Asian Fagaceae as well as project planning, implementation and monitoring. Plans have been made to complete the red listing of Asian Fagaceae species.

**Malaysia Tree Red List Workshop**

Sepilok Forest Research Centre was the destination for an excellent tree red listing workshop held from 13-16 November. The main purpose of the meeting was to review Red List assessments for endemic trees of Sabah. Over 60 assessments were undertaken and/or reviewed based on georeferenced data and expert knowledge. Gaining familiarity with SIS was another objective of the workshop and over 20 species were added to SIS as draft assessments. Over 100 species were reviewed as Least Concern, including 99 from a regional list produced by the rapid assessment methodology.

The workshop brought together participants from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. Exciting ideas were developed for taking forward the discussions and actions from the workshop, leading towards an assessment of all Borneo’s trees. A first step will be to assess tree species endemic to Sabah and Sarawak. Another proposed activity focuses on LC species of Borneo. Pioneer species that proliferate after forest disturbance will be considered. Building on GBIF data, georeferencing at the Universiti Malaysia, Sabah (UMS) will improve datasets used to generate species maps and calculate EOOs and AOOs. Workshops at UMS will produce draft assessments for the relatively widespread species which will then be reviewed by experts throughout the region. Discussions are planned for Flora Malesiana Symposium 11 to be held in Brunei next year.
GPPC Discussions in South Africa

A conference of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) took place from 28-30 August in Cape Town, South Africa, hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute. The conference was attended by over 120 participants from 35 countries. Participants included national Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focal points, plant conservation practitioners, representatives from GPPC member organisations and other interested parties. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to promote the GTA and to discuss progress with tree red listing with various national partners. Reports on national implementation of the GSPC were provided by 16 countries including several megadiverse countries. More information is found here. https://www.bgci.org/files/Plants2020/South%20Africa%202018/GPPC%20Conference%20August%202018%20Summary%20Report2.pdf

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/
February  Red List training workshop (Papua New Guinea)
25-29 March  Regional GTSG meeting (Costa Rica)
3-10 May  Red List training workshop (Central America)
30 June - 5 July  Flora Malesiana (Brunei)
September  Red List training workshop (Pacific - Samoa)
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:  
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.  And don’t forget you can help us publicise the Global Tree Assessment making use of the leaflet that can be downloaded at:  
http://www.bgci.org/files/GTA/GTALeaflet%20FINAL.pdf
GLOBAL TREE ASSESSMENT 2018

2,010
Tree species added to the IUCN Red List in 2018

12,008
Total tree species globally assessed on the IUCN Red List

56%
Proportion of trees threatened on the IUCN Red List

26,246
Number of tree species assessed across all resources

120
Global Tree Specialist Groups members

200
IUCN Red List Assessors trained