Introduction

The momentum is really building with the Global Tree Assessment and we are in the news!

GlobalTreeSearch, the baseline list of all the world’s tree species is online and has received an impressive amount of publicity. Media attention was sparked by the publication of an article on GlobalTreeSearch in the Journal of Sustainable Forestry and a press release associated with this developed by BGCI. Following a second workshop, the workflow to identify Least Concern species is reaching a successful conclusion. These major achievements are highlighted further below.

We will be reaching out to you individually in 2017 with specific requests for assistance with the Global Tree Assessment and I do hope that you will be able to help us reach our ambitious 2020 target.

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GlobalTreeSearch

GlobalTreeSearch was launched online on the BGCI website early April 2017, with 60,065 species of trees including their country distribution. The launch of GlobalTreeSearch was accompanied with a publication in the Journal of Sustainable Forestry. The database launch was featured by many news outlets including the BBC, Geographical Magazine and Science Magazine. BGCI would like to extend a huge thank you to all those members of GTSG who contributed data towards completing GlobalTreeSearch. Your contributions were invaluable. The database is not a static entity and will evolve as we receive new information. Please get in touch if you spot an error or wish to make a comment (globaltreesearch@bgci.org).

Database can be accessed here: http://bgci.org/global_tree_search.php

Paper is found here:

New Members of GTSG

A warm welcome to the following new members who have joined the GTSG recently. We greatly look forward to working with you on the GTA in the coming years.

Fabian Brambach, Germany
Gary Hartshorn, USA
Tiberius Jimbo, Papua New Guinea
Stephan Jean, Lebanon
Diana Jerome, USA
Gladwin Joseph, India/USA
Seymour Sohmer, USA
Freddy Santiago Zenteno Ruiz, Bolivia

Progress with Red Listing Timber Species

BGCI are currently red listing global, priority timber species supported by IUCN and Toyota. By 2020 BGCI will contribute 1,500 global timber
assessments to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, producing 250 assessments a year. The selection of species will be guided by A Working List of Commercial Timber Trees (Mark et al. 2014). In March 2017 the first instalment of 250 timber species was sent to IUCN and included global assessments for all European timbers and South East Asian Dipterocarpaceae. In the coming year we will focus on completing red list assessments for timbers on CITES and in Dipterocarpaceae and Meliaceae. If you have information on any of the groups mentioned above or would like to be involved please get in touch (megan.barstow@bgci.org).

European Tree Red Listing

Red List assessments of all of Europe’s trees have been produced by BGCI and partners for all (non-coniferous) tree species, and reviewed at three workshops held in Zagreb, Pavia and the Canary Islands. The work also included the assessment of endemic shrubs (>1m tall). Assessments will become available on the IUCN website in 2017 and a report is now being prepared. We are grateful to all the participants who contributed their expertise.

North American Tree Red Listing

Planning for a collaborative and comprehensive Red Listing of the trees of North America continues. An initial outcome of this is the assessment of all US oak species, with 16 species assessed as threatened and 75 as Least Concern. A report will be available shortly.

Least Concern Trees for the Global Tree Assessment

The Global Tree Assessment (GTA) aims to have conservation assessments for all the world’s tree species by 2020, to ensure that conservation efforts are directed at species at the highest risk of extinction. However, in order to best direct conservation efforts, this project aims to develop a scientific workflow to create assessments, to identify trees that are not of conservation concern (i.e. widespread, common species), using relevant global, digital data sources.
A first workshop took place in November 2016, and building on information in GlobalTreeSearch, ThreatSearch and other data sources and data services a workflow is being designed to identify the Least Concern (not threatened) trees. These will be rapidly documented for eventual inclusion in the Red List allowing us to then fully focus our resources on conservation assessments and actions for the tree species in most need of attention. A follow up workshop was held in March 2017 in Cambridge with 22 participants, with the aim to review and approve methodology to assess tree species not at risk of extinction (IUCN red list category: Least Concern). For more information contact Malin Rivers (malin.rivers@bgci.org).

Global Tree Assessment

The second day of the workshop on 30 March 2017 focused on planning next steps of the Global Tree Assessment (GTA) noting the great progress that has been made with this over the past two years. Detailed planning will be undertaken to prioritise next steps in the Assessment with clear timelines for deliverables. A comprehensive gap analysis is currently being undertaken, relating GlobalTreeSearch to ThreatSearch and other sources of data that will help with the planning process. In moving forward with the GTA, taxonomic, ecological and regional approaches will be combined in data collection and species Red Listing.

https://www.bgci.org/plant-conservation/globaltreeassessment/
https://www.bgci.org/files/GTA/GTALeaflet%20FINAL.pdf

Red Listing Fraxinus

There are approximately 50 species of ash worldwide with many species severely impacted by pests and diseases such as the emerald ash borer which has devastated ash populations in the US. We are currently working on an IUCN Red List assessment for the genus. Sixteen assessments were submitted to the IUCN Red List at the end of March and draft assessments are available for most of the remaining species. If you can provide information or help review any species please contact Sara Oldfield (sara@saraoldfield.net).
Global Trees Campaign- Threatened Tree Profiles

Are you working on a threatened tree species you would like to draw attention to? The Global Trees Campaign would appreciate your contribution to their Threatened Trees page (globaltrees.org/threatened-trees/) which includes species profiles on GTC target species as well as other threatened tree species. These contain information on the habitat, ecology, cultural significance and use of the species. It can also highlight the threats to species and any conservation action currently underway. GTC threatened tree profiles are well received and enjoyed by our followers. If you would like to produce a profile please let Megan (megan.barstow@bgci.org) know and she can provide a template and guidance.

Meetings and Conferences

The 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress will be held in Geneva on 26-30 June 2017. One day (Tuesday 27 June) will be devoted to tree conservation and we are planning to celebrate the Global Tree Assessment on this day. For more information see: http://www.6gbgc.org/. Please do let us know if you are planning to join us at the Congress.

Keep in Touch

Please keep in touch! We love to share your news.

And don’t forget you can help us publicise the Global Tree Assessment making use of the leaflet that can be downloaded at: https://www.bgci.org/files/GTA/GTALeaflet%20FINAL.pdf