

IUCN SSC Conifer Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Martin Gardner

Chair

Martin Gardner

Red List Authority Coordinator

Philip Thomas

Location/Affiliation

Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK

Number of members

41



Mission statement

The Conifer Specialist Group helps promote the long-term survival of the world's conifers through rigorous conservation assessments, which help to guide conservation planning and conservation action.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Research activities

i. The Red List Authority Coordinator has undertaken extensive literature reviews to keep pace with conifer taxonomic changes and, where appropriate, has added any new taxa to the SIS system. (KSR #43)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Worked on the development of the Conifer SG website, which has involved getting biographies from all 42 members (this was no easy task). (KSR #28)

■ Proposal development and funding

i. We have raised £7,000 towards the development of a new website for release in 2018.

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. Working with the Conservation Department of Atlanta Botanical Garden, US, we secured 'safe sites' for the CR *Torreya taxifolia*. (KSR #25)

ii. Coordination of a unique *ex situ* conifer conservation programme, mainly in the UK, whereby we work with 150 safe sites where we grow about 12,000 conifers. This is one of the main projects of the International Conifers Conservation Programme. (KSR #25)

Increasing diversity of SSC

■ Membership

i. Broadened the geographical spread of members to include those countries which have high levels of threatened conifers.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the private donors who helped with financing the website.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: complete Red List assessments of conifer species.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) continue growing conifers in 150 safe sites at UK; (2) increase forest area of conifer *Glyptostrobus pinsilis* restored.

Taiwan Catkin Yew (*Amentotaxus formosana*), Vulnerable
Photo: Martin Gardner



Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*), Endangered
Photo: Martin Gardner

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
 - Communications (2 activities)
 - Conservation action (2 activities)
 - Increasing diversity of SSC (1 activity)
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Main KSRs addressed: 25, 28, 43

KSR: Key Species Result