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Developing a national conservation action plan for threatened trees of Guinea

As part of a Fondation Franklinia project to conserve threatened trees in Guinea, a 2-day participatory workshop was held in Conakry on 21–22 March 2023 to develop a national conservation action plan for the country's threatened trees. The workshop, organized by a partnership between the National Herbarium of Guinea, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Guinée Ecologie, and Association Guineene d'Eveil au Developpement Durable, with assistance from the Centre for Environmental Education and Research and CITES, brought together c. 50 participants both in person and online. Participants from across government, academia, NGOs and the private sector who work on plant conservation and the environment discussed the status of and threats to trees in Guinea, to obtain a consensus on the actions needed for their conservation. The workshop was supported by the co-chairs of the West African Plants Red List Authority, Fatimata Niang Diop and Martin Cheek online, and Charlotte Couch in Conakry.

The workshop used the principles and steps from the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group to facilitate the workshop and enable maximum participation to generate a consensus view. The participants were highly motivated and by the end of the first day we had an outline of the vision for the action plan. By the end of the second day we had the major threats outlined and ranked, and some objectives/goals from all seven working groups. The agreed vision for the action plan is that 'By 2050, Guinea's forests and threatened and endemic tree species are better known, resilient to climate change and sustainably protected by local communities, government departments and all stakeholders, including NGOs and the private sector.'

A report of the workshop is available in French, along with the workshop presentations (herbierguinee.org/franklinia-documents.html). The 2-day workshop was successful, engaging and participatory, and a follow-up workshop to develop the actions and indicators to measure success will be held later in 2023.

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A new record of the Critically Endangered tree *Dipterocarpus littoralis* discovered from social media

Social media have become useful tools for providing new biodiversity data, with, for example, species discovered on Flickr (*Semachrysa jade,* Neuroptera, Chrysopidae; Winterton et al., 2015, *Zookeys,* 214, 1–11), Facebook (*Hoya amicabilis*, Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae; Rahayu & Rodda, 2019, *Nordic Journal of Botany*, 37, e02563), Twitter (*Ameronothrus retweet*, Acari, Oribatida; Pfingstl et al., 2021, *International Journal of Acarology*, 48, 348–358), Instagram (*Oligodon churahensis*, Reptilia, Serpentes; Mirza et al. 2021, *Evolutionary Systematics*, 5, 335–345) and Youtube (*Leichhardtia weari*, Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae; Gateble et al. 2023, *Pyhtotaxa*, 591, 91–100).

Here we report a new record discovered on Facebook and Instagram of *Dipterocarpus littoralis* (Dipterocarpaceae), a tree endemic to the 6.6 km² West Nusakambangan Nature Reserve in the westernmost part of Nusakambangan Island in Central Java Province, Indonesia. This tree is categorized as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List because of its restricted distribution, small population size, and continuing population decline caused by habitat conversion and invasive species.

Posts on Facebook (bit.ly/3MfEnc3) and Instagram (bit.ly/3LlAa67) on 29 April 2023 showed photographs of a group of fruits and leaves of a tree species of the Family Dipterocarpaceae. The images were tagged as *Dipterocarpus* sp., and were from Tasikmalaya, a regency in West Java Province c. 70 km from West Nusakambangan Nature Reserve, in a hilly forest at 100 m altitude. Based on the obturbinate shape of the fruit calyx tube and the high number of secondary nerves (> 19 pairs), the images can be firmly assigned to *Dipterocarpus littoralis*. The species is reported to be a lowland segregate of the widespread submontane *Dipterocarpus retusus*, which differs from the former by subglobose fruit calyx and 16–19 pairs of secondary nerves.

A survey in the new locality is required to assess the population size and any threats. As this finding will significantly increase the extent of occurrence, area of occupancy and number of locations of the species, its conservation status under criterion B of the IUCN Red List will need to be reassessed. In addition, living collections of the species from the new locality need to be added to the current ex situ collections at the Bogor Botanic Gardens, to represent the genetic diversity of the species fully.

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Successful ex situ conservation of *Nymphaea candida*

Nymphaea candida J. Presl & C. Presl is a perennial herbaceous plant occurring in Xinjiang, Siberia, Central Asia and Europe. This species exhibits several potentially valuable medicinal properties and has ornamental value, but it has declined as a result of habitat degradation and loss, and collection. Globally, the number of mature individuals is < 10,000 and is decreasing. In China, this species is categorized as a national second-class protected wild plant. Although it is categorized as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, it is categorized as Endangered on the China Biodiversity Red List–Higher Plant Volume.

In August 2021, we discovered a wild population of *N. candida* in Gongliu County, Yili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture in Xinjiang. We took samples and the species was introduced and cultivated in Yili Botanical Garden. The cultivated *Nymphaea candida* seedlings developed leaves during April–May 2022, and flowered during June–July. The flowers open in the afternoon and close in the evening, for 3–4 days. The plants bore fruit during August–September 2022, and we were able to collect the seeds. In November, the stems and leaves withered and died.

The successful flowering and fruiting of *N. candida* in Yili Botanical Garden demonstrates the potential for ex situ conservation of this species. This success provides a practical foundation for establishing artificial cultivation centres and for future reintroductions of the species. We are conducting a comprehensive study of its genetics, reproductive biology, physiological ecology, medicinal value and ecology.

Propagated *Nymphaea candida* flowering at Yili Botanical Garden in late June 2022. Photo: Kaiyun Guan.

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Snow Leopard Network: 20 years of collaboration among practitioners

The Snow Leopard Network (snowleopardnetwork.org), a global group dedicated to snow leopard *Panthera uncia* conservation, is commemorating 2 decades of accomplishments since its inception in 2002. Initiated at the Snow Leopard Survival Summit in Seattle, USA, with 58 experts from 17 countries, the Network continues to grow and to play a pivotal role in safeguarding the snow leopard in High Asia. Current membership stands at 621 individuals and 31 organizations. As new challenges and opportunities arise, collaborative and innovative solutions are more crucial than ever.

Several key milestones have shaped the Network's success. The journey began in 2000 with the initiation of the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy, one of the first comprehensive approaches to address the various threats facing snow leopards across all 12 range countries (McCarthy & Chapron, 2003, *Snow Leopard Survival Strategy*, International Snow Leopard Trust and Snow Leopard Network). Conservationists from across the species' range and from elsewhere took part in a participatory process that identified threats, knowledge gaps and actions to address them, leading to the convening of the Snow Leopard Survival Summit in 2002. The Snow Leopard Network was established at this event, setting up a defined structure comprising elected members of the Snow Leopard Network Steering Committee and appointing a network Executive Director from the Snow Leopard Trust.

One of the Network's initial tasks was to create a comprehensive bibliography comprising publications in the

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