

Global Tree Assessment - prioritising conservation action for trees

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The Global Tree Assessment (GTA) is an initiative to assess the conservation status of all the world's tree species, co-led by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Global Tree Specialist Group. Through this initiative, we have gathered a wealth of data about the world's tree species, their conservation status and the threats they are facing. We now know that over a third of the world's nearly 60,000 tree species are threatened with extinction. This was found to be largely as a result of over-exploitation and land use transformation. Here we present the GTA results with a focus on South East Asia, an area where there had previously been large gaps in tree assessments. This project has worked with local partners and experts to accelerate IUCN Red List assessments for trees. Looking forward, we note the remaining gaps in the knowledge, such as *ex situ* collection data for the region, and the next steps needed to prioritise conservation action, such as compiling information for BGCI's Conservation Action Tracker. As we now have an overview of the threat status of species around the world, this can be used to catalyse and prioritise conservation action to protect the world's trees from extinction.