

The Red List of Timber Trees – identifying conservation needs of the world’s timber trees

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Timber is the most frequently recorded use amongst the world’s nearly 60,000 tree species. Timber species support the livelihoods of people across the world and is a multi-billion dollar international industry with timber consumption predicted to continue to increase. However, despite the economic and ecological importance of timber tree species a comprehensive analysis of extinction risk to these species has only recently been undertaken. Since 2016, BGCI has been involved in the production of IUCN Red List Assessments for the world’s timber tree species; the results of which were published in *The Red List of Timber Trees* (2023). The report found that 1,664 out of 4,945 timber tree species are at risk of extinction, with timber harvest and extraction being a major threat. This presentation will explore *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation needs for timbers, including support needed and actions already being taken by the botanic garden community. Additionally, data needs to improve conservation efforts for timber trees will be discussed. This reflects an important data gap identified in the production of Red List assessments for timber trees which found a paucity of use and trade data available, a lack of access to timber trade datasets, and a general lack of species level information. This presents research and outreach opportunities for botanic gardens as well as identifying new ways to support other industries and local communities towards sustainable use and management of plants, for example, through knowledge sharing, database experiences, and plant identification.