

IUCN SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



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Chair

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Location/Affiliation

University of British Columbia, Vancouver,
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Number of members

30

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Mission statement

The mission of the Cuban Plant Specialist Group (CPSG) is to contribute to increase current knowledge on the taxonomy and ecology of the species across the geographic range of distribution and promote their long-term conservation.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. The 2017 Annual Meeting of the IUCN/SSC Cuban Plant Specialist Group was held at the National Botanic Garden, Cuba, on March 23rd, 2017. In the meeting, we introduced the new edition of the Red List of the Cuban Flora. We also identified as a priority for the SG to conduct the Red List assessments of all orchids, bryophytes, grasses, ebonies, legumes, bromeliads and ferns for 2020. The CPSG discussed the progress of the project Red Book of the Plants of Holguin and reviewed 56 data sheets of some of the species to be included in this publication. (KSR #2)

Communications

■ Communication

i. On May 22, 2017, the CPSG and the Cuban Botanical Society officially launched the Red List of the Cuban Flora. The event gathered more than 150 authorities and policymakers, in addition to natural managers and researchers. (KSR #2)

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. The CPSG is implementing conservation actions to recover 43 threatened species. These actions include species population assessments, threat assessment, habitat restoration, control of invasive species, and population reinforcement. (KSR #27)

■ Documents review

i. From December 26 to 30, 2017, a committee of the CPSG met to discuss the 11 species recovery plans that we are developing, and the methodology we will use for producing these plans.

Acknowledgements

We thank the following institutions and donors that helped us to cover the cost of the workshops and annual meeting: Planta! the Plantlife Conservation Society, the National Botanic Garden of Cuba, University of Havana, Cuban Botanic Society, Institute of Ecology and Systematic, National Center of Protected Areas, Environmental Agency of Cuba, National Network of Botanic Garden, Mohamed bin Zayed, Whitley Fund for Nature, and Conectando Paisajes, a GEF/PNUD project.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: complete assessment of all species of palms, cacti, orchids, endemic trees and bryophytes.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: recovery plan for 27 species of Cuban plants.



Pereskia zinniiflora (Cactaceae),
Critically Endangered
Photo: Luis González Torres



Magnolia cubensis population reinforcement
Photo: Ernesto Teste

**Projected impact for the quadrennium
2017-2020**

By the end of 2020, we envision a rise of knowledge about the conservation status of the Cuban flora. As for December 2017, we have assessed the conservation situation of 65% of Cuban plants. By 2020, we expect to have completed the Red List assessments of at least 80% of Cuban plants. In addition to this, the Cuban Plant SG is working in the design of the species recovery plans for several Critically Endangered (CR) species. These recovery plans aim to provide guidelines to protected areas and other institutions for managing the populations of these species. The Cuban Plant SG is also involved in conducting surveys of the populations of more than 30 CR species and creating partnerships with local communities to implement local conservation initiatives to secure the long-term conservation of these plants. Our conservation projects aim to reduce habitat degradation, illegal tree felling, and overharvesting of CR species. The programs include providing conservation education and necessary training to local communities to foster their contribution to the conservation of the target species.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Communications (1 activity)
- Conservation action (2 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 27

KSR: Key Species Result

Population reinforcement of *Pereskia zinniiflora*,
Critically Endangered
Photo: Duniel Barrios



Reinforcing *Magnolia cubensis* population
Photo: Planta