

of the local ecosystem. Following these sessions, some of the peri-forest community members offered to record the dark sitana whenever they observe it, to improve knowledge of the speices' distribution. We have since received invitations from several other schools for similar education sessions, and requests for the poster. We look forward to conducting further education sessions during World Lizard Day on 14 August and to collaborating with other organizations to improve the conservation of the dark sitana in Nepal.

SANTOSH BHATTARAI (ORCID orcid.org/0000-0001-7615-1954, santosh.bhattacharai@hotmail.com) Nepal Conservation and Research Center, Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal. BISHAL PRASAD NEUPANE Tri-Chandra Multiple Campus, Kathmandu, Nepal

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Dipterocarpaceae, the vanishing giants of the tropics

The Dipterocarpaceae—a family of tree giants that provide valuable timber for regional and international markets—are dominant members of the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. For the first time, through the Global Tree Assessment, more than 50 researchers across 15 organizations have collaborated to prepare IUCN Red List assessments for the 535 dipterocarp species. The findings were published on 3 March 2023 in *The Red List of Dipterocarpaceae*, which builds on national and regional assessments.

Occurring in 46 countries across four continents, 67% (357 species) of dipterocarps have been categorized as threatened, with 70 species categorized as Critically Endangered. One species, *Hopea shingkeng*, has been categorized as Extinct, and 22 species as Data Deficient because of their rarity or lack of recent records.

Southeast Asia is the centre of dipterocarp diversity, with Indonesia (278 species) and Malaysia (340 species) having the greatest number of species and also the highest number of threatened species, with 168 and 211 species at risk, respectively. Sri Lanka and India have far fewer species but > 90% of their native dipterocarp species are threatened. In total, 84% of the 201 dipterocarps endemic to a single country are at risk of extinction.

The primary reported threat is land conversion, affecting > 400 species, with the major conversion being for agroindustry. The second most significant threat is timber harvesting. These findings follow the global threats identified in the 2021 *State of the World's Trees* by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. In addition, threats posed by fire and climate change continue to increase. Threats are often synergistic, with instances of infrastructure development promoting logging and land-use change.

Conserving dipterocarp species is a global effort, with research and conservation actions being undertaken in

various countries by research institutes, universities, government agencies, NGOs, botanic gardens and other organizations. Each country has its own story to tell and actions taken include sustainable forest management, site protection, species rescue and recovery planning, changes in law and policies, ex situ collections and many more.

The Red List of Dipterocarpaceae is a call for greater support of conservation activities from the wider plant and conservation community. There is a need for the mobilization of sustainable funding and collaborations to bring these forest giants and their habitats back from the brink.

EYEN KHOO Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah, Malaysia.
MEGAN BARSTOW* (ORCID orcid.org/0000-0001-9835-2933)
Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, UK.
ANURAG DHYANI* (ORCID orcid.org/0000-0003-0852-6237,
anuragdhyani@gmail.com) Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical
Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram,
India

*Also at: IUCN Species Survival Commission Global Tree Specialist Group

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Supporting the recovery of the pampas deer in Uruguay

The pampas deer *Ozotoceros bezoarticus* is categorized as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List. However, it now occurs in < 2% of the original extent of its southern range, in Argentina and Uruguay. Populations are small and isolated as a result of habitat loss to agriculture, and poaching. In 2020, we obtained support from the Uruguayan Ministry of Environment (National Board of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) to census the population and to improve the genetic variability of pampas deer in the captive breeding centre Estación de cria de Fauna Autóctona de Piriápolis. This centre was founded in 1980 with 10 pampas deer from the Arerunguá population in Salto and currently numbers 156. Population fluctuations and genetic data suggest this captive population is suffering inbreeding depression, and therefore in March 2022 we captured five wild males to collect semen, to introduce genetic variability into the captive population.

We captured five males on two livestock ranches in Arerunguá. Each male was weighed, faeces, blood, ectoparasites and semen were collected, and we tagged them with an ear tag and GPS radio collar. Simultaneously, in the captive breeding centre, nine females were submitted to an oestrous cycle synchronization protocol. In the second week, we carried out transcervical artificial insemination, and the females were in good condition.

Seven months later we found the inseminations had been unsuccessful, with none of the females pregnant. However,