NEWSLETTER

8 – January 2025

Dear readers,

We hope that the New Year has got off to a tremendous start for you, and that, together, we shall celebrate many successes for tree conservation.

Successes will be needed, given the stagnation of international negotiations, the disappointments generated by the CoPs of the various international conventions, and the general decline in political and public awareness of the vital need to protect the environment in a large number of countries. Success will be needed above all because, after the assessment of almost 85% of the planet's tree species, we now know that, with over 16,000 species, the number of tree species threatened with extinction is more than twice the number of threatened birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians combined.

But, fortunately, thanks to the work of many organizations in the field, including our beneficiaries, we have many successes to celebrate, and I'm convinced there will be many more in 2025. This newsletter is an opportunity to highlight a few of them. Of course, in our field, success is never taken for granted, especially with trees, for which conservation is a long-term process. Fires are on the increase, conflicts and environmental damage in general are on the rise, and can wipe out all efforts in a very short space of time. We are all aware of this, but we have no choice but to continue our efforts in the firm belief that this work will bear fruit in the long term.

As usual, in this issue, you will also find a review of the scientific literature on trees and forests, which always generate great interest and whose secrets are gradually unlocked. Also included are opportunities for training and the discovery of tools to guide field work.

Once again this year, the Foundation will continue and even increase its support for these organizations without which the situation would be far more worrying.

Enjoy your reading,

Jean-Christophe Vié
Directeur Général

ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

New projects: A total of 26 new projects have been selected for funding since the publication of our last newsletter in July 2024. The Foundation keeps identifying every year new projects and organisations that are implementing impactful *in situ* threatened tree conservation but also renewed its support to some existing projects to consolidate their activities and increase their impact on the ground. The new projects are listed here. A detailed description of the new projects and an updated interactive map showing their location are available on our website.

Calls for proposals: Our last call for proposals focused on Eastern Africa generated a lot of interest from many conservation organisations active in that part of the world. The project submitted in the framework of that call have been reviewed during the summer and given the large number of high quality applications received, the selection process, was highly competitive. The Foundation will open a new call for proposals in 2025, so please keep an eye on that page.

Overview of projects: The Foundation currently supports around 100 projects directly and 50 projects indirectly through Fauna & Flora, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). The projects are mainly taking place in Asia (52), Africa (51) and Latin America / Caribbean (47). The countries with the most projects are Indonesia and Madagascar (14), Colombia (12), Kenya and Vietnam (9), Ghana (6) and Ecuador (5). You can see the geographical distribution of the projects on our website, on the map at the bottom of this page.

NEWS FROM THE PROJECTS

The Elephant Trees Project

Wild Earth Allies is conserving threatened tree species, such as the Siamese rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*), Burmese rosewood *(Dalbergia bariensis*), and an Endangered species in the Dipterocarpaceae family (*Anisoptera costata*). They work in Cambodia's Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary so that healthy forest ecosystems support thriving wildlife populations and sustainable livelihoods of Indigenous Kuy communities. Through this project, natural habitats will be restored using a mix of seeds collected from threatened trees, but also from elephant dung, and from trees that are part of the pileated gibbon's diet. Click here for more information about their work.

Strong foundations for threatened tree conservation

Fauna & Flora has been conserving plants and, in particular the world's threatened trees, for many years. Through their global programme on threatened trees, they are currently delivering concrete actions on the ground to improve the conservation status of more than 100 threatened tree species in 14 countries. Their conservation efforts implemented jointly with local partners and communities in four countries (Guinea/Liberia, Principe and Honduras) is featured in the latest issue of their online magazine (p.39-41). Click here to learn more about their work.

The story of the Ebony Project

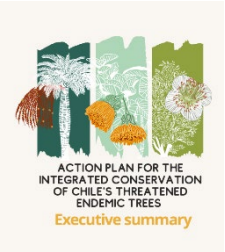
Over the past seven years, the Ebony Project, a collaboration between Congo Basin Institute and Taylor Guitars, has successfully grown ebony and native fruit trees and improved livelihoods in Cameroon. The project's target species (at first *Diospyros crassiflora* (ebony), then also expanded to *Autranella congolensis* (mukulungu) and *Baillonella toxisperma* (moabi) are commercially valuable hardwoods used for musical instruments, furniture and/or decorative wood products. Some of the species have been in demand for hundreds of years. The project works with the community to collect seeds, propagate them and plant the seedlings. This new Storymap tells the story of the project.

Magnolia propagation & reforestation on Hispaniola

The Tropical Montane Cloud Forests of Hispaniola are home to several threatened *Magnolia* tree species (*M. domingensis, M. hamorii and M. pallescens*). Since 2018, our Fondation has been supporting their *in situ* conservation. Fundación Progressio manages a nursery that has the capacity to propagate 5,000 seedlings each year, mostly magnolias, but they propagate also other key tree species that grow alongside them. Click here to learn more about this project and the efforts led by Kew to conserve these amazing forests.

Tree conservation planning in Chile

A planning workshop gathering 21 key institutions with strong expertise in threatened tree species conservation took place in September 2024 at the University of Concepción in Chile. Representatives of government bodies, NGOs, park rangers, protected area managers, educators, academics, researchers, and botanical gardens worked together to develop an integrated action plan (*in situ* and *ex situ*) for the 40 endemic and threatened tree species from the Juan Fernández Archipelago and the mainland Chile's biodiversity hotspot. Click here to access the executive summary of the plan.



Conservation gap analysis of native Mesoamerican oaks

New research by The Morton Arboretum and its partners highlights the urgent need to conserve threatened Mesoamerican oak tree species. The report focuses on 59 species from the region assessed as either threatened or Data Deficient on the IUCN Red List. The analysis showed that 16, or approximately one quarter of the target species, have less than 10% of their native range in protected areas. Climate change was identified as a threat for all 59 species. Additionally, agriculture and residential or commercial development represented threats to 72% and 69% of the species, respectively. With over a third not held in managed collections anywhere, and little protection of their native habitats, it's crucial to preserve these keystone species for future generations. To learn more about the report and download it, click here.

Nordesta featured in two documentaries

Nordesta, a Swiss organisation active in Brazil since the eighties, works to protect the Pedra Talhada Biological Reserve and has planted more than 100,000 threatened and non-threatened native tree species in order to restore one of the last patches of primary Atlantic Forest in the states of Alagoas and Pernambuco in north-eastern Brazil. During this project, Nordesta was featured in one short documentary in Portuguese and one longer film in French.

Vanuatu checklist of species

Despite its status as a biodiversity hotspot, Vanuatu had no floristic checklist and no list of rare and endemic plant species, nor had any comprehensive taxonomic assessment of its plant species ever been attempted. This is history now, as an interactive version of the Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Vanuatu provides scientific names, synonymy, vernacular names (in Bislama), growth forms, geographic status, and Red List status for each species was developed by The New York Botanical Garden and is available here. In addition, two other websites were developed to provide greater access to project related results, the Flora of Vanuatu website and the Vanuatu Herbarium Database.

Saving a species from the brink of extinction in Ghana

With so many tree species at risk of extinction, there is a desperate need to scale up conservation actions, whilst also ensuring that actions are still tailored as much as possible to the requirements of individual species. In this video, you will learn more about the current integrated conservation efforts from CSIR-FORIG in collaboration with BGCI to avoid the extinction of the Critically Endangered *Aubregrinia taiensis* in Ghana. The video provides also an interesting overview of the challenges that threatened tree species are facing in Ghana.

Centinelan extinction in Ecuador

For many years, Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco has been implementing impactful plant and animal conservation work through its large network of reserves in Ecuador. In the heavily deforested tropical cloud forest (TCF) at Centinela they work alongside a group of scientists to protect 15 threatened tree species. This article recently published in the journal Nature sends a “positive” message about plant extinction at Centinela, highlighting the urgency of surveying and conserving such plant diversity “darkspots”. Click here to learn more about Centinelan extinction.

Award for conservation merit

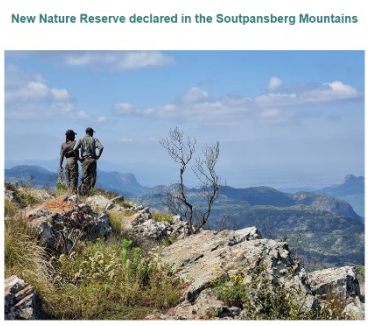
In October 2024, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) announced the names of the recipients of the Sir Peter Scott Award for conservation Merit, its "senior" award, presented to individuals in recognition of significant and long term service to conservation through their work with the SSC or associated institutions. Sara Oldfield was one of the 6 recipients and was recognized for her impact on tree and plant conservation, in particular as Chair of the IUCN SSC Global Tree Specialist Group, driving key conservation initiatives such as the Global Tree Assessment and the Global Trees Campaign, two initiatives supported by our Foundation.

Tree conservation in southern Tolima, Colombia

This well illustrated guide describes a number of emblematic trees found in the Saldaña River watershed in southern Tolima, a region of Colombia that hides a rich biodiversity, including seven threatened trees that the Wildlife Conservation Society tries to conserve.
In addition, this illustrated booklet provides the stories of eight characters who live in the region and tell us about some of their most important experiences in the use and conservation of natural resources. The booklet also highlights the seven threatened tree species targeted by specific conservation actions.

New Nature Reserve declared in South Africa

The Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve spanning over 11,607 hectares of critical biodiversity, was officially declared on 17 January 2025 in South Africa. This brand-new reserve encompasses a Centre of Endemism, a recognized Key Biodiversity Area, a Strategic Groundwater Source Area, and an expansive Critical Biodiversity Area in the Limpopo Conservation Plan. The Soutpansberg mountains are home to 593 species of trees including the Endangered Pepper Bark Tree *(Warburgia salutaris)*. They also house multiple sacred sites, rock art and other archaeological sites, and are also important for cultural heritage.



Identify Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites for trees

There is a biodiversity crisis, and to prevent extinctions the most important sites to be effectively conserved must be identified. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) include sites of importance for species survival. Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites, a subset of KBAs, contain ≥95% of the population of highly threatened species. The Global Tree Assessment, assessing the extinction risk of the world's tree species, has enabled trees to be incorporated into KBA and AZE sites. 2,909 tree species were identified as potential AZE species across the world, representing at least 5% of described tree species, that could benefit from immediate conservation action. Click here to access the paper presenting the methodology.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

- **Avoiding harms from climate mitigation**

Nature-based solutions are increasingly part of the strategy for achieving net zero carbon emissions to curb climate change. However, promoting tree growth in previously forested areas (reforestation) or unforested areas (afforestation) and planting bioenergy crops may help or harm biodiversity in the process. This study found that reforestation tends to provide species more habitat, whereas habitat loss from afforestation and bioenergy cropping typically outweighs the climate mitigation benefits.

- **Replacing existing forests**

A good summary (in French) of why we shouldn't rush to plant any tree species anywhere under the guise of climate change adaptation. Climate change is widely used to pursue forestry practices that have already greatly weakened forest ecosystems but the adaptive and resilience capacities of trees are still largely unknown.

- **Diverse forests do better at capturing carbon dioxide**

The maximum size, growth rate, and life span of trees determine the rate of forest carbon accumulation. These life history traits are thought to be correlated, but studies have been limited to local scales in tropical systems. This study analysed data on tree size and status from over 1,000 species across North, Central, and South America. It found weak positive correlations between measures of size, life span, and growth rate. Species are found to be clustered into four types: one group of fast-growing species and three groups of slow-growing species that varied from small and long-lived to large and short-lived.
Click here to access the scientific paper and here for a discussion about the results indicating that diverse forests are crucial for ecosystem health and climate change mitigation.

- **Biodiversity can enhance climate change mitigation**

A recent article emphasizes the urgent need to integrate biodiversity into global climate change strategies. While the focus on reducing carbon emissions is crucial, neglecting biodiversity can undermine these efforts, as environmental issues are deeply interconnected. The article outlines six key areas where protecting, conserving, and restoring biodiversity can significantly enhance climate-change mitigation efforts, ultimately reducing vulnerability to extreme weather events and safeguarding socioenvironmental services. Click here to access the article.

- **Biodiversity credits**

Two documents proposing roadmaps that could guide future voluntary markets in biodiversity credits or certificates have been published. They highlight two approaches for the development of such instruments. On one hand, biodiversity credits should focus on impact compensation that must be local-to-local and like-for-like, and on the other hand, biodiversity certificates should prioritize the implementation of practices (agricultural, silvicultural, pastoral, etc.) which are most likely to have positive impacts on biodiversity in a given context. More here.

- **Five surprising ways that trees help prevent flooding**

Trees offer much more than beauty and oxygen. This article details five ways how trees help to protect us from floods, namely by intercepting rainfall; keeping rivers clean; absorbing and storing water like sponges; reducing surface runoff and by stopping floodwaters.

- **Decline of seed-dispersing animals threatens Europe's plants**

Seed dispersal is crucial for ecosystem persistence, especially in fragmented landscapes, such as those common in Europe, and ongoing defaunation might compromise effective seed dispersal. This article reports that at least one-third of European plant species could be in trouble because most of the animals that disperse their seeds are threatened or declining. This decline could jeopardize the ability of plants to expand their range to cope with climate change or recover after wildfires.

- **Burying wood**

Wood vaults—burying biomass on land—represent yet another idea for carbon sequestration, and the concept has gained traction in recent years. The discovery of an eastern red cedar log, buried in eastern Canada for millennia and nearly perfectly preserved, illustrates the potential of a new kind of carbon storage scheme in the fight against climate change. In this article, advocates of this methodology say that the log shows how burying wood rather than letting it decay on the surface could keep billions of tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. But this practice raises serious concerns given the risk to accelerate deforestation that could lead to further biodiversity loss.

- **Forest detectives are tackling the illegal wood trade**

The trade in black market timber is now the third most profitable cross-border crime after counterfeiting and drug trafficking, according to Interpol. The global fraud is destroying critical forests, undermining international sanctions and decimating indigenous lands and livelihoods. But authorities are hitting back. This video follows high-tech forest detectives fighting the multibillion-dollar trade in tarnished timber.

- **Five books about trees**

From true crime tales of tree poaching to a wildlife cameraman's adventures, this collection of five best books about trees proposed by the Guardian enters the endlessly fascinating world of our woodlands.

- **Are new European rules to curb deforestation flawed?**

Under new rules, firms that export palm oil and other commodities to the European Union would have to show they were not produced on recently deforested land. The United States and many other nations, as well as numerous industry groups and some political parties within Europe, have called on the EU to delay implementation of the rules. Critics argue key industries have not had time to prepare. Find out more.

- **More than 1 trillion microbes live inside the average tree trunk**

The wood inside the average tree might seem barren, but it's home to an incredibly diverse array of life. More than 1 trillion fungi, bacteria, and other microbes live inside the average trunk, according to the most comprehensive survey yet conducted, comprising unique communities specialized to various tree species. The full article is available here.

- **Tree bark can absorb methane**

Researchers from the Environmental Change Institute have found that tree bark surfaces play an important role in removing methane gas from the atmosphere. Their research has shown for the first time that microbes living in bark or in the wood itself are removing atmospheric methane on a scale equal to or above that of soil.

- **How local heroes reforested Rio's green heart**

The Refloresta Rio project may be the biggest project in the world run by a municipal government. In this article, discover how this restoration project to revitalise the Atlantic forest is making Rio de Janeiro a much more livable place in the face of increasingly frequent heatwaves.

- **Island diversity**

This study published in Nature highlights the importance of plants for islands. 31% of all documented plants are native to islands, which only constitute 5.3% of the global landmass, and 21% of global plant diversity is composed of island endemic. Their small populations and unique adaptations make them particularly vulnerable and explains why more than half are threatened and why 55% of all documented global extinctions have occurred on islands. This reinforces just how special islands are and why it is so important to restore them.

- **Tropical forest clearance impacts biodiversity and function, whereas logging changes structure**

This article presents an extensive ecosystem analysis of the impacts of logging and conversion of tropical forest to oil palm from a large-scale study in Borneo, synthesizing responses from variables categorized into four ecological levels spanning a broad suite of ecosystem properties: (i) structure and environment, (ii) species traits, (iii) biodiversity, and (iv) ecosystem functions. Variables that are directly impacted by the physical process of timber extraction, such as soil structure, were sensitive to even moderate amounts of logging, whereas measures of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are generally resilient to logging but more affected by conversion to oil palm plantation.

- **In the Arctic, planting more trees actually makes the world warmer**

Across much of the world, trees are planted to store carbon and reduce global warming. That's the thinking behind many projects, in particular recent proposals to plant more trees in Alaska, Greenland and Iceland.
This article explains why tree planting is no climate solution at northern high latitudes. In fact, it does more harm than good notably by lowering Earth's surface albedo. There is also more carbon in Arctic soils than in all the trees on Earth combined and growing trees in the Arctic could cause some of that carbon to be released.
Nevertheless, greening is accelerating across diverse Arctic regions. This second article describes how cultivation of new plants is happening in Greenland, driven by an international mining company, gardening enthusiasts, farmers, and a few dedicated individuals in a near total absence of laws regulating plants.

- **Wax palms**

In this excellent and beautifully illustrated article, you can learn more about wax palms (genus *Ceroxylon*) which have long intrigued explorers and botanists for their remarkable height. They live on the chilly slopes of the Andes and, until the giant sequoias were discovered, wax palms were believed to be the tallest trees on earth. One of them, the Quindío wax palm (*Ceroxylon quindiuense)* was named Colombia's national tree in 1985. Unfortunately, this distinction came with little protection and, today, the species is threatened. Several of our beneficiaries in Colombia are working to improve its status.

- **Oaks and herbivores**

California's endemic oak species face limited recruitment and shrinking ranges due to anthropogenic climate change and land use. This article suggests that in certain circumstances, browsing animals may help California oak

seedlings conserve water during drought, boosting their chances of surviving. The finding, based on seedlings grown in a greenhouse, hasn't been verified in the wild. However, one recent field study concluded that, in moderate densities, herbivores in arid environments led to fewer oak seedling deaths.

- **Discovery of new populations of threatened tree species in Tanzania**

Two highly threatened tree species, *Cola porphyrantha* and *Gigasiphon macrosiphon* are narrowly distributed in Kenya and Tanzania. In Tanzania, both species were first located in an isolated, unprotected forest fragment in the East Usambara Mountains in the early 2000s when only a few mature trees were located. This article reports the discovery of 18 and five mature trees of these species.
In addition, this article reports that two specimens of *Millettia sacleuxii,* a rare tree feared to be extinct, were found in eastern Tanzania. It was only known from six individuals in forest reserves that have almost disappeared. Thousands of seeds have been collected and seedlings raised; they will be planted out as part of a reforestation project in the Nguru Mountains.

- **Strangler fig trees**

Strangler figs are often spectacular trees found in tropical forests. Like 25,000 other epiphytic species, they grow in the hollow of a tree or on a branch. This article (in French) explains their way of life and in particular why, while there is a lot of talk about cooperation among trees, they behave so uncooperatively, ending up killing the tree which allowed them to rise into the canopy.

- **The tree that lays eggs**

Ginkgo biloba is the last living representative of an ancient family of plants that dates back 270 million years. It can be recognised by its small, two-lobed leaves that turn yellow in autumn and have a structure that is unique in the world of trees. This tree is out of the ordinary and has long fascinated people because of its many quirks, not least its unparalleled sex life, which is revealed in this article (in French). Unlike deciduous or coniferous trees, and like birds, the ginkgo is a tree that lays 'eggs'.

- **Evolution of Amazonian trees**

This paper explores the evolution of the world's most diverse tree assemblage. It found that, among Amazonian tree species, wood and leaf features tend to be 'phylogenetically conserved', meaning such traits don't vary much over evolutionary time because they're so vital for tree survival and reproduction. Tree height, however, is much more flexible evolutionarily. Amazon tree species (and probably other tropical species as well) can change their growth rate and size relatively easily as they evolve into new species.

- **Biogeography of Amazonian trees**

This article describes the geographical variation in tree species composition across Amazonian forests and show how environmental conditions are associated with species turnover. Two main dimensions of spatial change in tree species composition were identified. The first was a gradient between western Amazonia at the Andean forelands (with young geology and relatively nutrient-rich soils) and central–eastern Amazonia associated with the Guiana and Brazilian Shields (with more ancient geology and poor soils). The second gradient was between the wet forests of the northwest and the drier forests in southern Amazonia. The article suggests that tree species distributions are not limited by rivers.

- **The return of tall forests in Mediterranean mountains**

Human disturbance has altered the integrity and functionality of forests throughout the globe, with the greatest impact on regions characterized by historical human cultural development and long-term natural resource exploitation. The challenge today is to restore primeval habitats and ecosystems through the implementation of effective recovery strategies based on actual dynamics of compositional, structural and functional recovery. This study performed in southern Italy reveals the patterns and processes of forest regrowth and ecological recovery in a mixed beech-fir forest that was extensively harvested.

- **Deforestation goes on**

This publication aims at tracking progress towards global forest goals in particular the New York Declaration on Forests. Unfortunately, it shows that, despite international commitments, the world is far from being on track to

eliminate deforestation by 2030. In 2023, deforestation was on the rise again with 6.37 million hectares of forest permanently lost, including 1.4 million hectares within forested Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). In addition, 62.6 million hectares of forest fell to a lower ecological integrity class in 2022 – 10 times the area that was deforested.

- **New *Magnolia* species**

This article describes and illustrates a new species of *Magnolia* from Antioquia Province in Colombia. Named *Magnolia amalfiensis*, the species is known only from two small populations at elevations of 1,700–2,400 m in the Central Cordillera. This new species increases the total number of *Magnolia* species from Colombia to 42.
Three new small-flowered *Magnolia* species from Guatemala are also described and illustrated in this article: *Magnolia emilceana* from Baja Verapaz Department, *M. harnpariphana* from Baja and Alta Verapaz Departments and *M. juliana* from Alta Verapaz Department.

- **Call for more research on the Congo rainforest**

Spanning six Central African countries, the Congo rainforest is extraordinarily biodiverse, containing hundreds of species of mammals and more than 10,000 species of tropical plants, about one-third of which are unique to the region. It is also a critically important carbon sink which has the ability to absorb carbon dioxide better than the Amazon, which is being degraded at a faster rate. But despite its importance, it remains poorly understood.
This article explains why a severe shortfall of environmental researchers is a threat to the long-term survival for the world's second largest rainforest and why boosting local scientific capacity is of vital importance.

- **Effect of forest fragmentation on frugivorous birds and fruiting trees**

This study summarizes 40 years of research on fruit-eating birds, and the fruiting trees they rely on, in isolated rainforest fragments in central Amazonia. It found that smaller fragments have fewer old-growth trees and many more disturbance-loving successional trees, than do larger fragments. It also found that fruit-eating birds did not respond strongly to fragmentation, although specialist fruit-eaters are more vulnerable. Most fruit-eaters are less vulnerable to fragmentation than are insect-eating birds, which are notoriously sensitive to forest disturbance.

- **Remarkable new tree species for Brazil**

Currently comprising 414 species, the genus *Eugenia* is remarkable for its species richness; it is the most species-rich *Myrtaceae genus* occurring in Brazil. This study describes a new species found in Atlantic Forest remnants in the state of Rio de Janeiro. The new taxon, *Eugenia guapiassuana*, is proposed based on literature survey, examination of herbarium material and field work. The article proposes to categorize it as Critically Endangered.

- **Global Conservation Consortia**

Several networks have been established over the years to tackle the plant extinction crisis, but given the urgent need to scale up conservation efforts for the world's plants, a new approach was experimented a few years ago with the establishment of Global Conservation Consortia (GCC). GCC foster collaborations between institutions and experts to develop and implement comprehensive strategies to prevent extinction of threatened plant groups. Eleven Consortia have already been established, most of them covering trees. This article describes this new approach focusing on cycads, magnolias, and oaks.

- **Is your plant list updated in PlantSearch?**

PlantSearch is a unique tool developed by BGCI for accessing and sharing information about living collections located around the world. It connects living botanical collections to people working to understand and save plant diversity. Every living collection can make important contributions to plant conservation via PlantSearch and curators of collections of living/viable plants, seeds, pollen, and tissues are encouraged to upload their collection information. You can learn more here.

- **The silent conversation of plants**

Recent science is showing that plant communication systems may be more complex than we imagined. Scientists discovered just how well-connected plants are and how efficiently they can send messages to their peers via their roots, electrical signals, a network of underground fungi and soil microbes. This article covers recent advances in this field and potential new discoveries.

- **Climbing trees**

Climbing tree is a common practice for tree conservationists, to collect samples, seeds or fruit. But many also climb for fun or to experience a different view, light and wind from on the ground. This forest ecologist explains how hard climbing very tall trees is but also how good it makes you feel.

TRAINING, *RESOURCES*, EVENTS AND AWARDS

- **The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS)**

The Global Biodiversity Standard addresses the challenge of tree planting programmes, some of which are inadvertently causing harm to our world's ecosystems. It provides assurance that tree planting, habitat restoration and agroforestry practices are protecting, restoring, and enhancing biodiversity. The Standard applies the tried and tested expertise of the global biodiversity community, with the knowledge of local communities, to tree planting and restoration sites across the world. Click here to learn more about the standard and download the manual.

- **Propagation Protocol Manual**

This manual provides the essential steps for developing and publishing your own propagation protocols. It also includes forms designed for writing up propagation protocols and for designing experimental trials for seed propagation, cuttings propagation, air layering and grafting. This makes it a comprehensive tool for plant conservationists and researchers alike. Click here to access it.

- **Training modules**

BGCI has launched an online training platform to provide online training courses, some of which are freely available and could be of interest and useful to our beneficiaries: protecting the worlds trees with the training program for Oak Stewards as an example; ecological restoration; seed conservation; propagation protocols and vegetative propagation of threatened trees; plant health with the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN) as a useful example to reduce the impact of plant diseases… Click here to access these trainings.

- **Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT):**

IBAT is a biodiversity data provider licensing access to global biodiversity datasets and derived data layers. It is free for NGOs and other non-profit organisations. Data layers include the Red List of Threatened Species, the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA) which are key tools for our foundation. It allows to gain site-specific insights on biodiversity risk and opportunities. Click here to learn more about this useful tool. Good tutorials can be found here.

- **Reverse the Red Day**

This year, Reverse the Red Day will be on February 7th. It is an opportunity to celebrate all the work that the nature conservation community is doing to reverse trends of biodiversity loss. It will allow to discuss accelerating action, improving strategy regarding species recovery efforts, and aligning with national species recovery targets. To learn more about Reverse the Red and participate click here.

- **Indigenous Tree Day**

This annual celebration is taking place on April 15th. It was initiated in 2024 under the umbrella of the African Tree Seeds Group with the objective to "honor and safeguard indigenous tree species, wherever we are in the world". It plans to re-educate people everywhere about the values of indigenous trees, promote indigenous species as a priority in any planting program and create demand for indigenous species, monetizing them and thus supporting sustainable planting efforts.

- **IUCN World Conservation Congress (Abu Dhabi, UAE Oct 2025)**

Held once every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together several thousands leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business, and academia, with the goal of

conserving the environment and harnessing the solutions nature offers to global challenges. The next Congress will take place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 9 to 15 October 2025. Visit the new Congress website to find out more.

- **World Conference on Ecological Restoration (Denver, USA Sept-Oct 2025)**

The Society for Ecological Restoration's (SER) World Conference is a biennial gathering of global experts in ecological restoration, making the 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER2025) the premier venue for those interested in being active members of the global restoration community. The event will take place from September 30th to October 4th 2025 in Denver, USA.

- **Award nominations**

BGCI is seeking nominations for awards which recognise the contribution of dedicated individuals working in International Plant Conservation and Education in Botanic Gardens. If you know of somebody who you think merits one of the awards above, please nominate that person by filling out the nomination form at this link.

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