

Conservation collaborations: working with the IUCN Species Survival Commission

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It has never been more important for species conservation efforts to be collaborative, strategic, and connected. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the world's oldest and largest nature conservation organisation and serves to unite government, NGO and indigenous peoples' organisational members from around the world. The IUCN also convenes individual expert volunteers across its seven Commission networks to provide scientific data, best practice guidance and on the ground conservation action. One of these networks, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) brings together almost 10,000 species conservation experts from 188 countries and territories all working to assess, plan and take action for species survival. Over 1,400 of these experts are specifically focused on plant conservation and are organised into Specialist Groups of taxonomic, geographic or disciplinary expertise. The IUCN SSC has a long and rich history of working in partnership with BGCi and leading botanical institutions around the world, for example through the recent Global Tree Assessment. This presentation will give an overview of the IUCN SSC, share the current priorities of the SSC Plant Conservation Committee, highlight examples of botanic gardens working in partnership with SSC Specialist Groups on assessment, planning and action, and most importantly, explore ways in which your garden or plant conservation initiatives could further connect with and partner with the IUCN SSC plant conservation network.