

# IUCN SSC Caucasus Plant Red List Authority



2020 Report



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## Red List Authority Coordinators

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## Location/Affiliation

Institute of Botany, Ilia State University,  
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## Number of members

40

## Mission statement

The mission of the Caucasus Plant RLA is to contribute to increasing current knowledge on the taxonomy and ecology of the species in the Caucasus and promote their long-term conservation.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By collection of ethnobotanical data, the Caucasus Plant Red List Authority (RLA) members contribute substantially to the accomplishment of a requirement of the Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy for 2012-2020 (<https://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/Research/pdf/RedBook69mobot.pdf>). The team is continuing activities in this direction to collect and publish data on diverse uses of plants in a broader geographic scale within the Caucasus region, which – by preserving traditional knowledge of human-nature interaction – helps in the creation of a basis for sustainable use schemes of wild plant resources. In addition, publication of assessments on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species will help in conservation/sustainable use of these species as well as associated habitats.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: (1) finalise editing of 200 assessments in the IUCN SIS database for publication on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; (2) assess and re-assess plant species based on field studies of rare plant populations; (3) identify threatened ecosystems and assess risk severity in the Caucasus/one or more countries of the Caucasus.

Research activities: (1) create a comprehensive scheme of the ecosystems of the Caucasus/one or more countries of the Caucasus as a basis for informed in situ conservation of species and their habitats; (2) study climate change effects on species and ecosystems; (3) conduct plant taxonomic research; (4) conduct alien plant research; (5) undertake assessments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); (6) publish data on distribution and ecology of plant species in the Caucasus.

### Act

Conservation actions: create and maintain ex situ collections of wild plants with special focus on threatened species.

### Network

Capacity building: conduct IUCN Red List Assessor Training.

### Communicate

Communication: publish e-floras of the Caucasus/one or more countries of the Caucasus.



## Activities and results 2020

### Assess

#### Red List

**i.** About 500 species of vascular plants are being assessed or reassessed based on published data and expert knowledge for the update of the Red List of Georgia, supported by GIZ-Georgia. The work started in 2020 and will conclude in 2021. (KSR #1, 2)

**ii.** Assessments and reassessments were made mainly for species new for Armenia (or to science) and some species for which new populations were found. (KSR #1, 2, 4, 12)

**iii.** Assessments and reassessments were made for 10 rare species based on field study of subpopulations in Georgia, supported by the Charles Darwin Foundation; assessments were submitted for publication via the IUCN SIS database system. (KSR #1, 2, 4, 12)

**iv.** Seventy (70) threatened ecosystems were identified and assessed for risk severity in Armenia. (KSR #1, 2)

#### Research activities

**i.** A comprehensive scheme of the ecosystems of the Caucasus was created as a basis for informed in situ conservation of species and their habitats. (KSR #26)

**ii.** Analyses for two rare ecosystems (including about 20 rare plant species) were completed for Armenia. (KSR #34, 38)

**iii.** The new Manual of the Flora of Armenia (including 3,800 taxonomic evaluations) is in the preparation stage for publication. (KSR #1, 2, 4)

**iv.** One monograph and about 15 scientific articles were published: the distribution of about 30 alien species in Armenia was checked and data were published. A manuscript, 'Poaceae fraction of the alien flora of the Caucasus', with species distribution was prepared for the North Caucasus, the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan. (KSR #13)

**v.** Several manuscripts were prepared and papers published on the areas and centres of endemism in the Irano-Anatolian and Caucasian part of Iran. (KSR #43)

**vi.** The taxonomic and biogeographic flora of the Western Caucasus and Western Ciscaucasia contains information on higher flowering plants (Class Liliopsida, Family Poaceae) recorded in the Western Ciscaucasia, the Western Caucasus, North-Western Transcaucasia and the north-western part of Western Transcaucasia. The volume contains descriptions of 408 taxa of vascular plants belonging to the family Poaceae from 115 genera of the regional natural flora and adventitious species. For each species, diagnostic data are given, information on phenology is given according to regional herbarium sources, ecology and geographical distribution of taxa are given from field studies and literature data. The book is illustrated with images of plants, both original and reproduced from various publications, along with 246 maps of regional areas and colour photographs. (KSR #43)

**vii.** The distributions of 96 montane steppe rare species of the western North Caucasus and north-western South Caucasus were mapped. (KSR #43)

**viii.** A scientific article on the ecology of *Trigonocaryum involucreatum*, an endemic species of the Greater Caucasus, was published in *Botanica Serbica*. (KSR #43)



Searching for *Rosa rapinii*,  
Gori Municipality, Village Ateni  
Photo: Elene Japaridze, National Botanic  
Gardens of Georgia

### Act

#### Conservation actions

**i.** Ex situ conservation actions for five target species were undertaken. (KSR #25)

### Communicate

#### Communication

**i.** The website of the Caucasian Flora Conspectus is in place: <https://www.binran.ru/resursy/informatsionnyye-resursy/tekuchie-proekty/caucasian-flora/>. (KSR #28)

### Acknowledgements

The Regional Centre (Tbilisi, Georgia) of the Caucasus Plant RLA thanks all our members for their work in the field of plant conservation and for their contribution to the present report.

### Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess	12	
Act	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 25, 26, 28, 34, 38, 43

KSR: Key Species Result