

IUCN SSC Southern African Plant Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Hermenegildo Matimele

Chair

Hermenegildo Matimele ⁽¹⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Lize von Staden ⁽²⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Curator of National Herbarium (LMA),
Instituto de Investigação Agrária
de Moçambique (IIAM), Mozambique

⁽²⁾ South African National Biodiversity Institute,
South Africa

Number of members:

27

Mission statement

The mission of the Southern African Plant Specialist Group (SAPSG) is to assess the conservation status of plants endemic to Southern Africa and to ensure their sustainable use and adequate protection through mainstreaming of information pertaining to threatened plants into government policies and development planning.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. A Red List workshop was held in February 2017 during which assessments for plants endemic to the Namuli and Mabu Mountains were conducted. Eleven endemic species to Namuli and Mabu were published on the IUCN Red List. Eighty three Chimanimani plant endemic assessments were also published during 2017, this as result of the three-year Darwin and CEPF funded project to survey the flora and assess the conservation status of Chimanimani plants. Twenty three Maputaland CoE endemic species were assessed and published in 2016. (KSR #2)

Bolster work at national scales

■ Policy advice

i. During 2017, the SAPSG was successful raising funds from the Biodiversity Information for Development grant under GBIF for a project to conduct red listing and mainstream information on threatened species into Mozambican decision making processes. A national Red List working group was organised by the chair of the SAPSG, Hermenegildo Matimele. This group

consists not only of botanists but also of other biologists working on faunal species. Through the BID proposal that will be implemented during 2018, a first Mozambican Red List will be produced. (KSR #27)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. The SAPSG conducts annual Red List assessment workshops. In 2017, we focused for the first time on expanding the group of assessors and we ran a special training workshop for Mozambican biologists and officials. The training was conducted in February at the National University of Eduardo Mondlane and was organised by the Mozambican Institute of Agricultural Research. A two-day Red List training course was given, followed by a one-day workshop to assess endemic species from the Namuli Mountain Centre of Endemism, allowing participants to put into practise the assessment techniques they had learnt. (KSR #5)

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. A group of Mozambican botanists and ecologists were introduced to the new Important Plant Area Criteria during a workshop held in February 2017. As part of this workshop, botanical experts identified a number of possible Important Plant Areas based on their knowledge of the country's flora. Fieldwork has been conducted in a number of candidate Important Plant Areas of the country, including Chimanimani highlands, Chimanimani lowland forests, the Inago, Mabu, Namuli and Ribaue Massif, Matibane Forest and several key sites in the Maputaland Centre of Endemism. Following further fieldwork planned for 2018 and 2019, a data driven systematic identification of important plant areas will be conducted. Funding to support for this work as part of a PhD has been

Hypoestes triflora, Southern Loop, Nyika National Park
Photo: Bart Wursten



Cyperus nduru, main road from Thazima Gate before connection with Zambia border, Nyika National Park
Photo: Bart Wursten



Helichrysum brassii, Malawi and possibly Mozambique
Photo: Bart Wursten

secured. There are currently negotiations taking place with WCS to determine how this information can be included in the identification of a Key Biodiversity Area Network for Mozambique. (KSR #22)

Acknowledgements

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: assess the conservation status of 400 plants endemic and near endemic to Mozambique and submit to IUCN Red List.

Bolster work at national scales

Policy advice: production of first National Red List for Mozambique.

Capacity building

Capacity building: build capacity for Red Listing in Mozambique.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) identify Important Plant Areas (IPAs) for Mozambique that will feed into KBA assessments for the country; (2) develop a new area of work on sustainable use focusing on selected medicinal plants that are traded across borders.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

During this quadrennium, the Southern African Plant Specialist Group aims to focus on the eastern part of its domain, ensuring that assessments for all endemic species to Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa are conducted and that Mozambican botanists are trained to conduct Red List assessments, identify Important Plant Areas as a contribution to KBAs, and mainstream this information into government policies and development planning work.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Bolster work at national scales (1 activity)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Conservation action (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 5, 22, 27

KSR: Key Species Result