

# IUCN SSC Orchid Specialist Group

2018 Report



Michael F. Fay

## Chair

Michael F. Fay

## Red List Authority Coordinator

Hassan Rankou

## Location/Affiliation

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK

## Number of members

150

## Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Orchid Specialist Group

Instagram:

#IUCNOrchidSpecialistGroup

Twitter:

@IUCN\_Orchids

Website:

[www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/orchids-sg/](http://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/orchids-sg/)

[plants-fungi/orchid-specialist-group](http://plants-fungi/orchid-specialist-group)

[globalorchidtrade.wixsite.com/home/or-](http://globalorchidtrade.wixsite.com/home/orchids-trade)

[chids-trade](http://chids-trade)



## Mission statement

Orchidaceae are the largest family of flowering plants and they occur in a wide range of ecosystems and habitats. A charismatic group, many species are important in horticulture. Habitats of orchids are, however, threatened throughout the world, and the Orchid Specialist Group (OSG) is dedicated to their conservation and sustainable use.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we envision a substantial advance in our understanding of threats to orchids. This will be achieved in the following ways: (1) global assessments will be published for a range of taxonomic and geographical subsets of orchids; (2) meetings will be organised to facilitate the exchange of information between orchid conservation practitioners (members of the OSG and others) to ensure that best practice is followed in orchid conservation; (3) we will strive to involve young orchid conservationists from a diversity of countries, especially those with high orchid diversity and perceived threat; (4) we will work with the CITES authorities and others to improve awareness and monitoring of orchid trade, much of which is currently undocumented, illegal and unsustainable.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: process ca. 300 Red List assessments for inclusion in the global IUCN Red List.

Research activities: complete publication of papers from the 6th International Orchid Conservation Congress.

### Plan

Policy advice: write review of orchid conservation for *Botanical Studies*.

### Network

Proposal development and funding: raise funds for up to 20 bursaries for students from developing countries to attend the 7th International Orchid Conservation Congress (IOCC VII).

Synergy: consolidate the two new working groups within OSG, one looking at trade issues and one looking at molecular identification tools.

### Communicate

Scientific meetings: complete planning for the 7th International Orchid Conservation Congress (IOCC VII).

## Activities and results 2018

### Assess

#### Red List

i. Three hundred and fifty-two orchid species were added to the global IUCN Red List in 2018. (KSR #1)

#### Research activities

i. Special issue of the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society* (Vol 186, part 1) published in April 2018. (KSR #43)

*Orchis militaris*, type species of the family, at one of only three sites in England  
Photo: Maarten Christenhusz



Reintroduced *Cypripedium calceolus* in northern England  
Photo: Leif Bersweden



**Plan**

Policy advice

i. The final version of the review of orchid conservation was submitted on schedule and has appeared in *Botanical Studies*. It has also been translated for a French orchid magazine. (KSR #26)

**Network**

Proposal development and funding

i. Funds raised for 15 full and partial bursaries for students from developing countries to attend IOCC VII.

Synergy

i. Consolidation of two new working groups within OSG is underway: Trade Group functioning well and Molecular Identification Group now taking shape. A PhD student who will work on the development of molecular tools has started with the Chair of the Molecular Identification Group and the Chair of the OSG.

**Communicate**

Scientific meetings

i. Planning for IOCC VII on schedule and webpage launched. (KSR #28)

**Acknowledgements**

We thank the Lennox Boyd Trust, Orchid Conservation International and the Linnean Society for contributions towards the bursary fund for the 7th International Orchid Conservation Congress. We are most grateful to friends and family of the late Amy Morris who also funded a bursary.

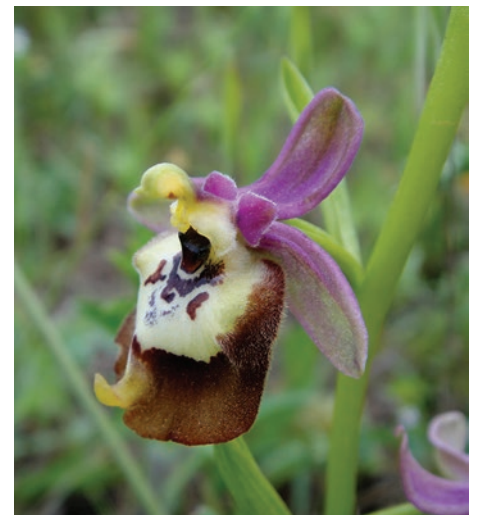
**Summary of activities 2018**

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	2	
Plan	1	
Network	2	
Communicate	1	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 26, 28, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



*Ophrys tenthedinifera*, a species likely to migrate northwards due to climate change  
Photo: Maarten Christenhusz