



Michael F. Fay

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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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)

plants-fungi/orchid-specialist-group

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

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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 Red List.

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

Plan

Policy: 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 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 2019

Assess

Red List

i. More than 1,500 species are now published on the global Red List, including 352 in 2018 and 258 in 2019. (KSR #1)

Research activities

i. Special issue published in April 2018 on papers from the 6th International Orchid Conservation Congress. (KSR #43)

Network

Proposal development and funding

i. Funds raised for students from developing countries to attend IOCC VII; 14 bursaries offered, with 12 taken up.

Synergy

i. The new Working Groups, one looking at trade issues and one looking at molecular identification tools, are progressing well. (KSR #5)

Communicate

Scientific meetings

i. The 7th International Orchid Conservation Congress (IOCC VII) was held successfully, from 28 May–1 June 2019, with 180 delegates in attendance. (KSR #28)



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Angraecum coutrixii (Madagascar) grows on granite outcrops in a protected area, but is endangered due to a range of threats including fire, invasive species and illegal collection
 Photo: Landy Rajaovelona

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess 2 ||

Network 2 ||

Communicate 1 |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 5, 28, 43

KSR: Key Species Result

Orchis purpurea (Lady Orchid; France) is widespread European species, that is currently the subject of a project investigating the impact of hybridization of this species with some of its close relatives
 Photo: Leif Bersweden



Ophrys helenae (Helen's Bee Orchid; Greece). Sometimes treated as a subspecies of *O. sphegodes*, it is listed as rare in the Greek Red List book, although it can still be found in relatively large numbers in the NW of the country
 Photo: Martha Charitonidou