Co-Chairs
Marian M. Chau (1)
Uromi Manage Goodale (2)

Deputy Chair
Dustin Wolkis (3)

Location/Affiliation
(1) Lyon Arboretum, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii, US
(2) Guangxi University, Nanning, China
(3) National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kalaheo, Hawaii, US

Number of members
Currently inviting members

Mission statement
The mission of the Seed Conservation Specialist Group is to promote seed conservation by providing a network for knowledge-sharing in different ecosystems around the world, and aiding in prioritization, capacity building, and development of best practices.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)
New group, no activities reported for the 2016-2017 period.

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020
Capacity building
Research activities: using the Directory of Expertise, analyse gaps in regional or taxonomic capacity, facilities and areas of expertise.

Communications
Communication: creation of a publically searchable online database of people and institutions with various types of seed conservation expertise, knowledge and facilities.

Increasing diversity of SSC
Membership: recruit at least 100 members for the new Specialist Group. Approximately 60 signed on to the proposal for the new group, and another 250 expressed interest in an online survey.

Policy
Policy advice: create an IUCN Guideline focused on using seeds in conservation and restoration of threatened and endangered plant species.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020
At the end of 2020, we expect that the sharing of experience and knowledge among our group members and the global conservation community will help to identify gaps in the seed conservation of vulnerable species and inform world policies for ecosystem restoration and species recovery. In particular, we hope that our collective efforts in identifying these gaps in knowledge will encourage improvements to seed banking processes in countries of Latin America, East Asia and other areas that are identified as regions with high conservation needs. Through the policy documents developed for seed conservation, we hope that our efforts will contribute towards at least a 15 percent increase in species from each ecological region being conserved for the future through effective seed banking.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)
N/A
Panicum nephelophilum
Photo: Seed Conservation SG archives

Silene perlmanii, Critically Endangered
Photo: Seed Conservation SG archives

Delißsea kauaiensis, Critically Endangered
Photo: Seed Conservation SG archives