Mission statement
To generate baseline information to support decision-making for plant conservation by different stakeholders in Colombia.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium
By the end of 2020, we will have advanced in Red List evaluation for ca. 50% of our endemic plant species (3,000 species evaluated) and other strategic groups of conservation concern. This information on threat evaluation will be used to inform conservation planning, in terms of feedback for conservation action plans for species groups and for supporting the implementation of KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas) in Colombia.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium
Assess
Red List: advance in the National Red List of plants (3,000 assessments), particularly for endemics, other species of conservation interest and potential Least Concern species within taxonomic groups or ecosystems.

Plan
Planning: implementation and evaluation of short-term targets of existing conservation action plans for plants (some timber trees, palms, cycads, orchids) and development of new plans for other strategic groups (such as cacti, medicinal plants, crop wild relatives, and other species of socio-economic importance).
Policy advice: incorporate plant Red List information into conservation planning, including national landscape management tools.

Act
Conservation actions: incorporate plant Red List information into conservation planning, including identification of Important Plant Areas (IPAs).

Activities and results 2018
Assess
Red List
1. The Specialist Group met in Bogota in February 2018, with the participation of 14 members. In this meeting, the Specialist Group established rules of operation and discussed lessons learnt from previous Red List projects and potential new avenues of work. In 2018, we completed Red List assessments for 465 species, within the framework of two projects: (1) assessing the risk of extinction of plants and updating Key Biodiversity Areas in the Tropical Andes (funded by CEPF), where 150 species of Bromeliaceae and Ericaceae were assessed (116 of these endemics); (2) tree assessments for the Global Tree Assessment initiative (lead by Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the IUCN/SSC Global Tree Specialist Group), for which we assessed 315 species of trees endemic to Colombia. These 465 assessments were uploaded to the IUCN SIS database (315 species in Spanish), together with previous global assessments of 250 species of high Andean ecosystems (mostly endemics). These Red List projects have helped increase expertise within the group in the application of the
Red List criteria and the use of tools available to conduct the assessments and upload them in SIS (e.g. SIS-Connect and R packages). These capacities have been transferred to young researchers participating in the projects, and to some of the group members during events, such as an assessment workshop that took place in November 2018 for the CEPF project. As a result, we are expanding our network of experts trained for assessments, including several students at universities where members of the group implement Red List projects. Based on the previous experiences, the group is preparing to address larger Red List projects for the next two years. We have secured funds to continue with Red List assessments for endemic trees and other groups, and we are negotiating funds to have a full-time staff member to carry out assessments and interact with botanical experts. (KSR #2)

**Plan**

Planning

i. We are following the implementation of published conservation action plans and discussing with their leaders and the Ministry of Environment about opportunities for funding projects that can contribute to their targets. For example, the Ministry of Environment and some stakeholders are interested in promoting sustainable use targets, and there is a pilot project to promote cycads (genus *Zamia*) as ornamental plants in the country. We are also participating in the formulation of conservation action plans for tropical dry forests and high Andean ecosystems, where we expect to include specific targets related to the conservation of plant species. (KSR #16)

**Act**

Conservation actions

i. We are participating in a project to identify KBAs for the conservation of plants and reptiles in the Tropical Andes (in collaboration with the IUCN-CI Biodiversity Assessment Unit). (KSR #22)

**Acknowledgements**

We thank the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for providing logistical support for meetings and all our activities during 2018, and Conservation Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Global Tree Assessment (GTA) for collaborating with us and providing funding for Red List assessment projects.

**Summary of activities 2018**

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

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Main KSRs addressed: 2, 16, 22

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*Libidibia ebano*, Colombia
Photo: Carolina Castellanos

*Zamia obliqua*, Near Threatened, Choco Colombia
Photo: Cristina López-Gallego