

Saving Fiji's Threatened Trees - a collaborative project to conserve tropical dry forests

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- ANCHORAGE BEACH RESORT
- FIJI



Threatened Tree Species Project Fiji: Red listing Workshop report 25th – 29th July, 2016.



- A week long workshop
- Train personnel on the red listing process and importance (distribution, role, population, threats, conservation action)
- Discussions on the prioritization of threatened tree species for IUCN Red listing re-assessment.

Key terms used in the IUCN Red List criteria

Population and Population Size
Subpopulations
Mature Individuals
Generation Length
Reduction
Continuing Decline

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)



Objectives:



- Gather and compile existing information on threat status of Fijian trees (including palms)
- Organize a Red Listing Workshop (July 25-29, 2016).
- The **two activities** carried out during the workshop included:
 - 1. Identifying and discussing the selection of at least 10 threatened tree species to prioritise during the workshop
 - 2. Assessing and updating the Red List status of at least 10 priority plant species using the latest field data.



Resources and Challenge



- Lack/availability of data
- Many records (only been seen when described – Any update?)

How we addressed it?

- Digging up EIA Reports
- Biodiversity Rapid assessments
- Forest Inventories
- Flora Vitiensis
- Undocumented observations from Experts



Participants and assessors



1. The University of the South Pacific (curator of the herbarium and some member of their team)
2. Forestry personnel who have been working on Fiji's forest inventories all over the country for the past decade, including representatives that are responsible for plant seed collections and propagation in nurseries.
3. Dr. Gunnar Keppel – Professor and experienced botanist who has carried out many assessments in Fiji and the Pacific
4. Pacific community SPC – seed collection and research section
5. BGCI representatives (Red list and seed conservation coordinators) – Trainers and facilitators
6. NatureFiji-MareqetiViti (Biodiversity and conservation programs in Fiji – Fiji Palm assessors) – Project partner and facilitators



Activity (Prioritization and Assessment)



- Only the endemic tree species (123 out of 145 tree species) were prioritized for initial assessment.
- All relevant information on the 123 threatened tree species were compiled from available literature including reports from biodiversity rapid assessments carried out since 1998.
- Screened - Fiji's CITES and/or Endangered and protected species (EPS) list.
- This further narrowed down the focus of the workshop for reassessments and in the process maps as well as conservation actions were drawn for each of the species examined.



Results:



- 32 priority tree species were assessed/reassessed (Not including Palms)
- These assessments were confirmed by Marika Tuiwawa (botanist and curator of SPRH)
- Verified by relevant and independent experts for publication. The list included:
 - 20 species which were reassessment
 - 12 **new** priority species to enter into the IUCN red list of threatened species database (new information/IUNC Red List entries)
 - Identification of 2 priority species (endangered ecosystem – 2% remaining) – focus for further conservation actions
- Production of 2 species profiles
(*Pterocymbium oceanicum* & *Guettarda wayaensis*)



Moving Conservation Forward:



- Production of 2 species profiles
(*Pterocymbium oceanicum* & *Guettarda wayaensis*)
- **Identification of Conservation needs/gaps for the 2 species**
- Lead to additional funding – Focus(Dry Forest – Bat sanctuary)
- Propagation methods, Restoration program, and Training)
- **Working across projects to achieve more conservation actions at the same time.**



Vinaka vakalevu!

Questions??

