

Standardized red listing methods of plants endemic to Western Ghats incorporating population data for effective predictions and assessments

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The IUCN red list of the endemic Angiosperm taxon of the Western Ghats indicates data deficiency and need of updation. The process of reassessment is on its way incorporating updated distribution records. The red listing process are chiefly based on distribution records and assessment based on Extent of Occurrence (EOO) and Area of Occupancy (AOO), two important parameters under criteria B1 and B2. A critical analysis of the red listing process necessitates simple but standardized means for data validation. The present process include calculation of EOO, AOO from the distribution records using the GeoCAT facility and assessment using SIS of IUCN. A critical analysis of data on 20 endemic species indicate the requisite of proper scrutinization and curing of distribution records based on voucher specimens. The major threat factors of habitat destruction in the Western Ghats need to be prioritized and standardized for proper validation of red listing. The population data if available can be used for redlisting using criteria other than B1 and B2, and a simple procedure is demonstrated here. This can help in setting up base line information of population records and it can be used for prediction of future decline or success supporting future redlist assessments.