

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF MAPPING ASIA PLANTS

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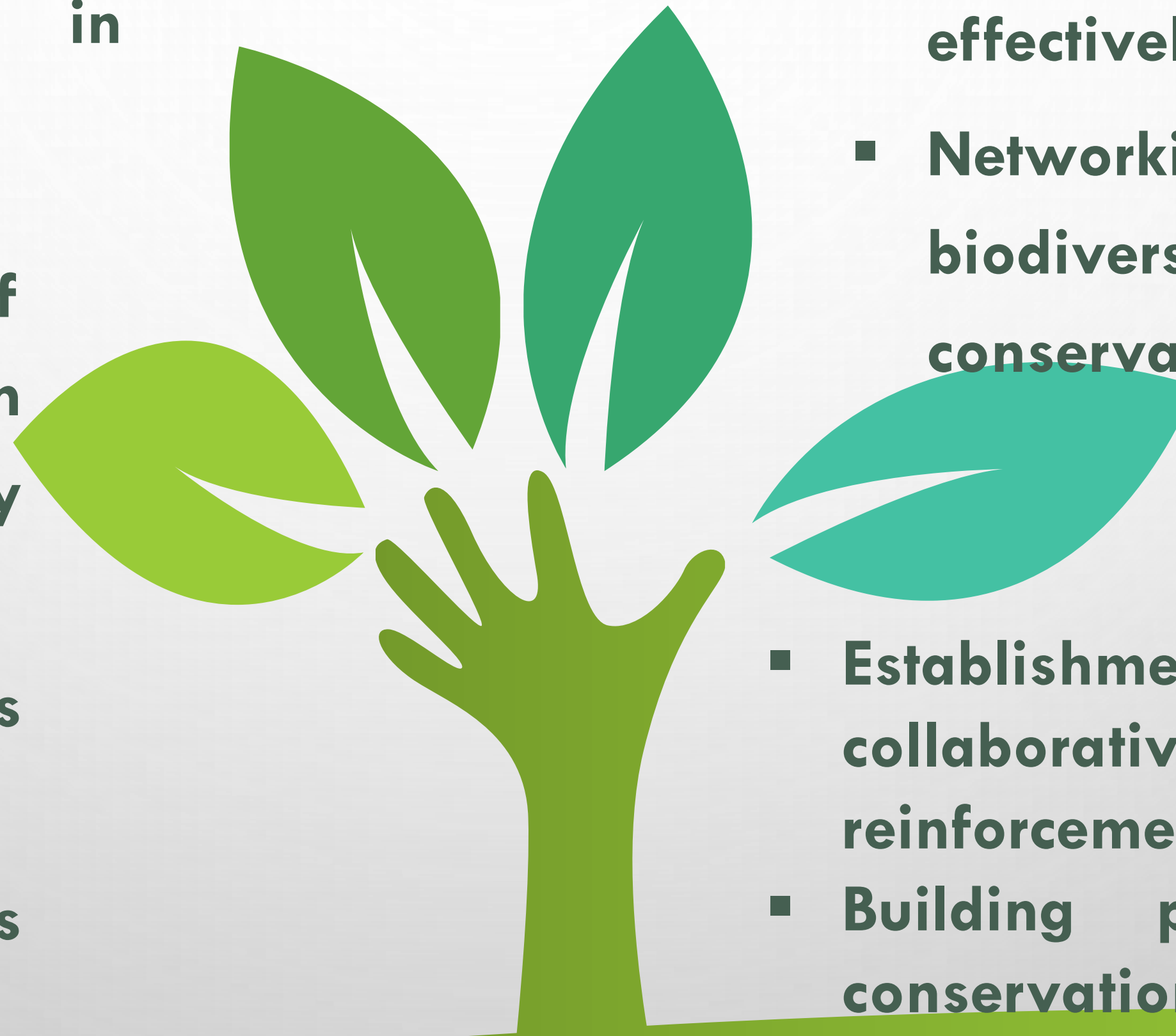
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Who We Are?

The WAAPSG is one of the specialist groups under the SSC- IUCN
was founded in 1996 and revived in 2020.

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- Imperative for the region, recognizing and addressing crucial gaps in conservation efforts.
- Prioritizing the enhancement of monitoring pragmas for vegetation and floral composition, particularly within protected areas.
- Safeguarding crop wild relatives critical to food security.
- Promoting red listing processes globally and regionally.



- Fostering essential coordination to effectively safeguard plant diversity.
- Networking with institutions for biodiversity understanding and conservation
- Establishment of a centralized database for collaborative contribution and the reinforcement of regional collaboration.
- Building partnership for research and conservations

Our Vision & Mission

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Vision:

The group aims to bring interested parties together to address the targets for plants and habitat conservation of the **Global Strategy for Plant Conservation** and the **post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**.

Mission:

This Group will help, through the involvement of experts, to investigate, develop and provide solutions for issues facing the conservation of plant species in West Asian Arabian Region. It will agree standards, and protocols and share best practices for individual countries to achieve targets for the conservation and preservation of their plant diversity. Building Developing the capacity of botanists and conservationists in our region.

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021- 2025 quadrennium.

ASSESS: Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

PLAN: Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

ACT: Convene and mobilize conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity. Their implementation requires two transversal components.

NETWORK: Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

COMMUNICATE: Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.



Projected impact 2021–2025

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- **This Group will help, through the involvement of experts, to investigate, develop and provide solutions for issues facing the conservation of plant species in the West Asian Arabian Region.**



- **agree standards, protocols and share best practices for individual countries to achieve targets for the conservation and preservation of their plant diversity,**



- **Build capacity of botanists and conservationists in our region.**

Our Projects 2022

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ASSESS

Ensure global assessments for Arabian endemic plants and trees are made available in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) database.

PLAN

Apply IUCN conservation planning on a targeted set of the most threatened and flagship plant species in the West Asia and Arabian region.

Develop a report on the conservation status and strategy for conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) in the region.

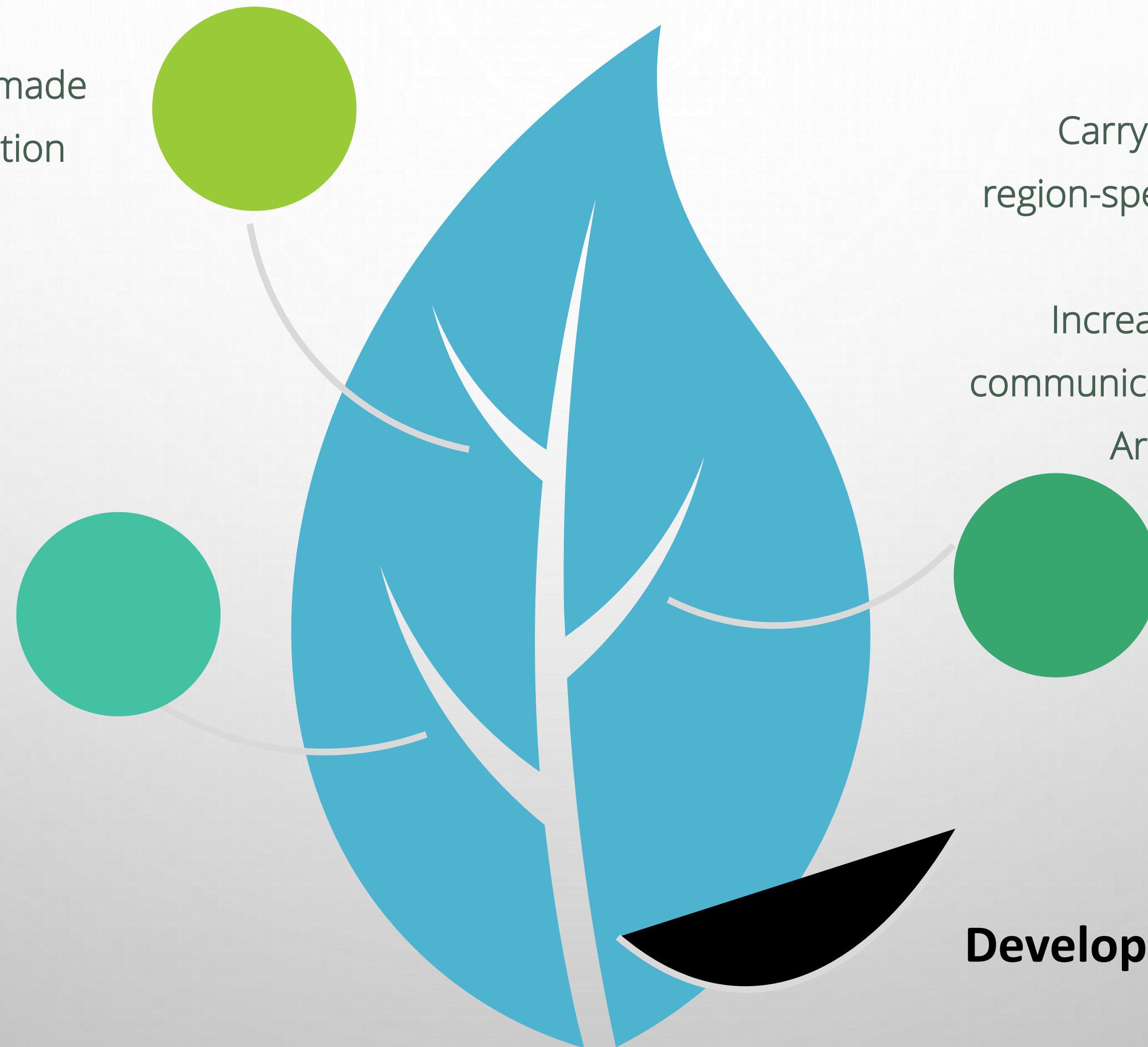
NETWORK

Carry out West Asia and Arabian region-specific online plant IUCN Red List training courses.

Increase the network capacity on communication through the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub.

COMMUNICATE

Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub.



Ensure global assessments for Arabian endemic plants and trees are made available in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) database.

Result description: Endemic species are one of the most important components of ecosystems in the Arabian region.

The number of endemic plant species varies depending on the sensitivity of the environment.

These species appear only in distinct ecosystems with unique geological structures or microhabitats of a special nature. This makes endemic species more sensitive due to the uniqueness of the species as well as that of the associated ecosystem.

There is a real gap in the Arabian region in assessing the conservation status of endemic plant species according to the rules and conditions of the IUCN Red List.

Most conservationists of new researchers are not familiar with Red Lists and species assessment methods. Information and data about endemic species are also insufficient because of the lack of experts able to access those sensitive microhabitats or the difficulty of procedures that enable researchers to reassess the species.

In this regard, the West Asian Arabian Plants Specialists Group (WAAPSG) evaluates endemic species as follows: Upgrading the capabilities of the new conservationists by conducting workshops in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Committee (IUCN SSC) on Red Lists and coordinating with the regional protected areas and institutions to study the endemic plant species.

However, this effort is being carried out individually by the researchers. A proposal is currently underway to study and review the conservation status of endemic species in the royal nature reserves of Saudi Arabia to assess the current situation.

The West Asian Arabian Plants Specialist Group (WAAPSG) is coordinating with the Qur'anic Botanic Garden (QBG) in Qatar to start a project that aims to produce a vegetation map of wild plants of the flora of Qatar by conducting a comprehensive botanical survey of the various habitats in the region.

This collaboration aims to monitor and assess wild plants in terms of rarity and conservation status according to the IUCN Red List Criteria, as well as document the status of wild plants by making comprehensive vegetation map for all wild plant species in Qatar and solve taxonomic issues among wild plant species by making the taxonomic key. Some members of the WAAPSG who are part of the QBG team have started the evaluation of the habitats in Qatar. An initial database on the flora has been produced for the lase season.

Now, the teams are working on data analysis to evaluate the rarity status of the flora and produce the plant's list of Rawdat Ecosystem.

NETWORK

Capacity building

Carry out West Asia and Arabian region-specific online plant IUCN Red List training courses. Number of people trained in assessment tools: 40

Result description: The Group held a workshop on Red List in West Asia in collaboration with SSC on 26th November 2022 through Zoom where around 40 participants attended from the region.

Increase the network capacity on communication through the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub.

Result description: Workshop on the Red List at the Gulf of Aqaba in Jordan was organized by the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan in 2022. A presentation was made on the Red List, and the West Arabian Plants Specialist Group.

A workshop on biodiversity in Palestine was held by EcoYouth Palestine. A presentation was provided on the West Asian Arabian Plant Specialist Group and SSC in West Asia.

A workshop organized by IUCN ROWA regarding the national projected areas network was also held in Palestine. The Chair led this workshop and provided information on the SSC and the establishment of the West Asian Arabian Plant Specialist Group.

COMMUNICATE

Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub. (KSR 12) Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic

Result description: In 2022, a group logo was printed, and a WhatsApp group was established for easier communications.

Develop the West Asia and Arabian Online Plant Hub. Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 3

Result description: The Group developed a logo for the group and some additional printed posters.

Group Activates in 2023

ASSESS

Red List

Ensure global assessments for Arabian endemic plants and trees are made available in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) database.

Result description: We are currently discussing with Imam Turk ibn Abd Alaziz Royal Reserve in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) the inclusion of the West Asian Arabian Plants Specialist Group (WAAPSG) in the Red List assessment of KSA plan.

PLAN

Planning

Develop a report on the conservation status and strategy for conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) in the region.

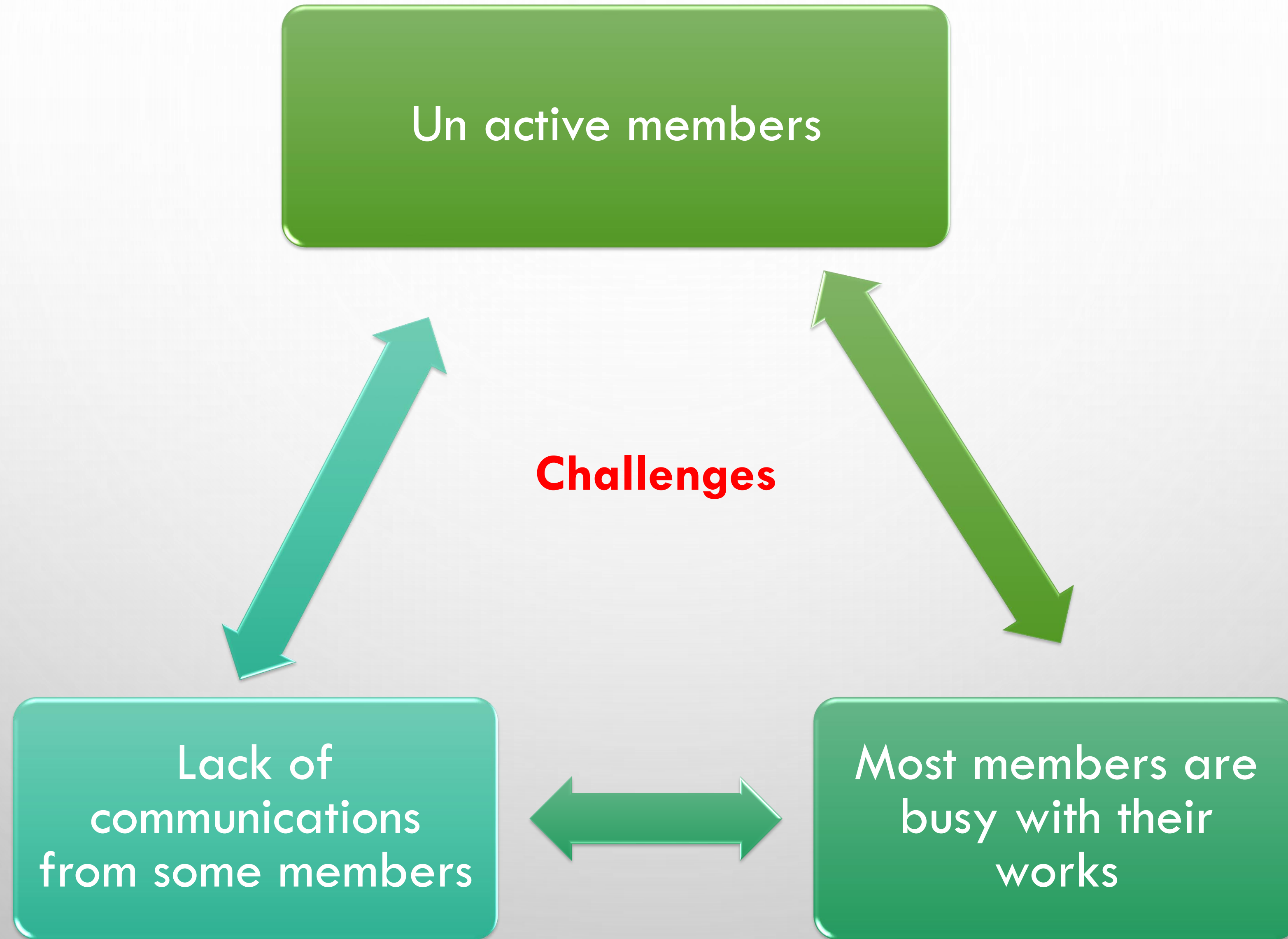
Result description: The team from WAAPSG is in the process of formulating the report on wild relative crops. The group wants to start a report on medicinal plants in West Asia. A discussion on developing an action plan for the West Asia Arabian Plant Specialist group is underway.

NETWORK

Capacity building

Carry out West Asia and Arabian region-specific online plant IUCN Red List training courses.

Result description: During 2023 a discussion was held within the Group to agree on a priority list of training requirements and therefore training on the Red List shall be commenced in 2024; discussions are underway to organise the training program.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all group members for their time and effort in enhancing the group work. Special thanks to Mr. Ehab Eid for his great support and help to keep the group working to achieve their goals, and to Catia Canteiro for updating the group with the latest information on plants globally.