

First world survey finds 9,600 tree species risk extinction

April 5 2017



Brazil is the country with the most diverse tree population, with 8,715 species, according to the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) group

The first ever global database of trees on Wednesday revealed that 9,600 tree species are threatened with extinction and identified a total of 60,065 in existence.

Brazil is the country with the most diverse tree population, with 8,715

species, according to the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) group.

It also has the largest number of [tree species](#)—4,333—that only exist there.

In total 58 percent of trees are so-called single country endemics, with 2,991 species only found in Madagascar and 2,584 only found in Australia.

After Brazil, Colombia is the second most diverse country, with 5,776 different tree species, followed by Indonesia, with 5,142.

The London-based BGCI, which represents an estimated 2,500 [botanic gardens](#) around the world, used data from more than 500 published sources to create the list.

Of the 60,065 tree species, only around 20,000 have been assessed for their conservation status—of which 9,600 are threatened with extinction.

"BGCI's main reason for publishing the list is to provide a tool for people trying to conserve rare and threatened tree species," the organisation said in a statement.

"Currently, around 10,000 tree species are known to be threatened with extinction, largely by deforestation and over-exploitation.

"This number includes over 300 species that are critically endangered with fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the wild."

Aside from the Arctic and the Antarctic where there are no [trees](#), the Nearctic region—comprising most of North America—has the lowest diversity, with less than 1,400 tree [species](#).

The database will be continually updated, as around 2,000 new plants are discovered and described each year.

© 2017 AFP

Citation: First world survey finds 9,600 tree species risk extinction (2017, April 5) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-04-world-survey-tree-species-extinction.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.