



Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail, Colorado, is proposing the establishment of an International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) Specialist Group focused on alpine plants. We invite anyone interested to join the group.

Researchers worldwide are making observations and collecting data on the alpine and high-latitude tundra plants in the highest and coldest places, which exist from pole to pole. Your observations and knowledge of alpine and tundra plant species' abundance, richness, distribution, and impacts resulting in altered alpine and tundra vegetation patterns are vital.

An IUCN specialist group focusing on alpine and high-elevation tundra plants using IUCN guidelines would be active in the following:

- **Assessing** research projects, publications, biodiversity, and creating an IUCN Red List species list associated with plants in these habitats
- **Establishing** an Alpine Plant Red List Authority, adding a new IUCN Red List Habitat, and evaluating existing Red List plant species for inclusion in this new category
- **Planning** new applicable conservation methods and strategies both locally and globally suitable for alpine plants
- **Acting** by gathering experts that can support existing and identified conservation plans
- **Networking** with other individuals with similar goals of alpine plant habitat conservation

An IUCN Red List habitat category for alpine plants would be a primary goal of the specialist group. Presently, each alpine plant must be individually searched for by species on the IUCN Red List - an extremely tedious task.

The IUCN, with over 180 other specialist groups, will provide a worldwide organization for alpine plant researchers. This group will be a forum to discuss, debate, and present research that can be amplified.

Betty Ford Alpine Gardens is an international leader among high-altitude botanical gardens at 2500 meters and is in a perfect position to establish an alpine plant specialist group. We are authors and coordinators of the 2020 North American Botanic Garden Strategy for Alpine Plant Conservation in partnership with Denver Botanic Gardens. The IUCN Alpine Plants Specialist Group would expand efforts from North America to worldwide and from a botanic garden focus to all who work in this harsh and threatened biome.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Alpine Plants Specialist Group and know of others who may also share our involvement.

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