



Global
Conservation
Consortium

Nothofagus



About the Global Conservation Consortium for *Nothofagus*

The Global Conservation Consortium for *Nothofagus* works to bring together the world's *Nothofagus* experts, conservationists, and the botanic garden community to ensure that no wild *Nothofagus* species becomes extinct.

Led by Wakehurst, in collaboration with BGCI and other partners from across the genus's range, The Global Conservation Consortium for *Nothofagus* has been initiated to address the conservation needs of *Nothofagus* species.

Nothofagus, also known as 'southern or false beech' are a relatively small genus comprising of 37 species of evergreen, deciduous trees or shrubs.

The Global Conservation Consortia are coordinated by BGCI. Contact us ggc@bgci.org.



**BOTANIC
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Wakehurst

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For questions or more information, or if you are interested in learning more about current GCC for *Nothofagus* activities please contact [Jo Wenham](#) and [Olivia Steed-Mundin](#) at Wakehurst.

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Distribution

The sole genus within the Nothofagaceae, the family is unusual in that it has a disjunct distribution across the southern hemisphere due to the breakup of the ancient landmass, Gondwana.

Despite their fractured distribution, they remain a major component of forests in parts of Chile, Argentina, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Australia including Tasmania.

Nothofagus forests range in type from pure stands dominated by a single tree species to species-rich temperate and tropical rainforests, ranging from sea-level to alpine at 4000 m.



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Ecology and Use

Although a small family, the group is ecologically significant which over time has become the core component of a variety of forest types on which much flora and fauna solely rely upon.

In Papua New Guinea where *Nothofagus* is at its centre of its diversity, it is common that these tropical trees can reach 45 m in height and live for over 500 years.

Trees at this size and age have proven to be economically valuable as many countries use *Nothofagus* as a source of timber, both on a commercial scale as well as being used by local communities.



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Threats

Over most of the distribution of the genus, *Nothofagus* forests have been significantly influenced by humans through extensive logging, the use of fire, and the introduction of livestock and other exotic herbivores.

This has resulted in many species becoming fragmented across their range leaving many species vulnerable to secondary threats, such as inbreeding, loss of genetic exchange and climate change.

Published by BGCI in 2018, the Red List of *Nothofagus* reported that out of 37 species, 11 are listed as threatened with extinction. Three species are assessed as Critically Endangered, three as Endangered and five are assessed as Vulnerable.



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Operational Regions

South America

Ten species of *Nothofagus* are found across both Chile and Argentina. The Chilean endemics *N. alessandrii* and *N. macrocarpa* are listed as Endangered and *N. glauca* is listed as Vulnerable. *N. rutila* from Chile is not a widely accepted taxon, but needs more research to determine its taxonomic and conservation status.

Southeast Asia

The island of New Guinea is the centre of diversity for *Nothofagus*. It is home to 14 species of across Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, of which three are Critically Endangered; *N. nuda*, *N. stylosa* and *N. womersleyi* and *N. crenata* is listed as Vulnerable. All Critically Endangered species are known from only one locality and urgent conservation action is needed.

Oceania

Thirteen species of *Nothofagus* are found across Oceania; five from New Zealand, three from Australia and five from New Caledonia. The IUCN Red List, assessed both *N. baumanniae* and *N. discoidea* from New Caledonia as Endangered and *N. cunninghamii* and *N. moorei*, from Australia as Vulnerable.

