

Amendments to Ablard, K. (2021). *Santalum: conservation and custodians*  
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While this publication was *in press* the number of accepted species in the genus *Santalum* and the conservation status of Western Australian sandalwood (*S. spicatum*) were revised by Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the IUCN, respectively. The number of accepted species has increased from 18 to 19 (RBGK, 2022), and the global conservation status of *S. spicatum* is Vulnerable and decreasing (Gowland, 2021).

Threats *S. spicatum* face include illegal harvesting of wild trees, overgrazing, extended periods of drought brought on by climate change and fire (D. Farmer<sup>1</sup>, personal communication, 27.04.21; Gowland, 2021).

*Santalum spicatum*, is referred to as 'dutjahn' by Traditional Gibson Desert 2nd contact Aboriginal desert nomads of Wongi and Martu heritage. These nomads have been sustainably harvesting dutjahn since 1977; and in 2017, they made the choice to partner with the founders of Australia's largest Western Australian sandalwood plantation growers.

This partnership is rooted in the combined ancestral knowledge of, and respect for, wild dutjahn, and modern knowledge of Western Australian sandalwood oil production. The five Airmid Institute sustainability standards outlined in the 2021 publication demonstrate that their current work ensures a sustainable and quality source of essential and carrier oil for future generations.

Unfortunately, in addition to the Vulnerable *S. spicatum*, all additional *Santalum* species sourced for their essential oil are facing extinction. *Santalum austrocaledonicum* is Near Threatened (Barstow, 2020), *S. lanceoletum* is Endangered (Victoria State of Government, 2014), *S. paniculatum* is Vulnerable (Grave and Kroessig, 2020), and *S. album* is Vulnerable (Arunkumar et al., 2019).

It is imperative that all sandalwood essential and carrier oils be ethically and sustainably sourced. Please contact Airmid Institute for needed support: [info@airmidinstitute.org](mailto:info@airmidinstitute.org)

## **References**

Arunkumar, A.N., Dhyani, A. & Joshi, G. 2019. *Santalum album*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*: e.T31852A2807668. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-1.RLTS.T31852A2807668.en>. Accessed July 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> Darren Farmer, a Dutjahn Custodian of Wongi and Martu heritage and Dutjahn Sandalwood Oils (DSO) Director as instrumental in winning a landmark Native Title settlement over their homelands in 2014. They carried out the vision of their ancestors to establish the DSO company so that it could be a successful example of socio-economic independence for other Aboriginal communities in their homeland.

Barstow, M. 2020. *Santalum austrocaledonicum*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*: e.T177878A1499004. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-2.RLTS.T177878A1499004.en>. Accessed July 2022.

Gowland, K. 2021. *Santalum spicatum*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*: e.T172724199A172724334. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2021-3.RLTS.T172724199A172724334.en>. Accessed July 2022.

Grave, E. & Kroessig, T. 2020. *Santalum paniculatum*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*: e.T116996583A120702770. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.20201.RLTS.T116996583A120702770.en>. Accessed July 2022.

RBGK (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew) (2022). Plants of the world online. <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/> Accessed July 2022.

Victoria State of Government (2014). *Santalum lanceoletum*. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning list of rare and threatened plants. <https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/>