

## **Can we save the dying *Juniperus* woodlands of Eurasia?**

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### ***Abstract***

Across Eurasia, from the Atlas Mountains of Morocco through to Turkey, Lebanon, Baluchistan in Pakistan, the northern mountains of Oman and the western mountains of Saudi Arabia, and perhaps even further afield in Ethiopia and western China, stands of *Juniperus* are exhibiting poor or little regeneration. Despite densities that differ from a few to 4000 trees per hectare, altitudinal ranges that extend up to 4500 m, occurrences of different *Juniperus* species, and varying degrees of human impact, juniper woodlands throughout Eurasia have one thing in common: they are nearly all exhibiting extensive dieback, with few or no signs of regeneration. Are anthropogenic influences the sole cause of this dieback? Is climate change exacerbating the problem? Could the dieback be reversed? Can such slow-growing species ever be restored? If there is to be any chance of saving the dying *Juniperus* woodlands of Eurasia, we need to take a broad geographical view of this widespread problem, and we need to pool our expertise and resources. I invite all those who are working with Eurasian juniper woodlands, or who have an interest in their conservation, to join me in seeking a way forward.