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The conifers, which are a relatively small group of plants, numbering about 650 species, play an important role in life on earth and constitute one of the world's most important resources. However, like much of biodiversity on the planet, many species have become overexploited with some teetering on the edge of extinction. The International Conifer Conservation Programme is working with other like-minded initiatives from around the world to help secure the long-term future of threatened conifers. Much of this work is being achieved through integrating ex-situ conservation with in-situ conservation and developing educational programmes.