

IUCN SSC Bryophyte Specialist Group

2018 Report



Irene Bisang



Jacques van Rooy

Co-Chairs

Irene Bisang ⁽¹⁾
Jacques van Rooy ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Ariel Bergamini ⁽³⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden
⁽²⁾ South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria, South Africa
⁽³⁾ Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland

Number of members

28

Social networks

Website:
https://eccbbryo.nhmus.hu/BSG_initial

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Bryophyte Specialist Group is to promote the exploration of bryological diversity across all geographic scales and its long-term conservation.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we expect that substantially more bryophyte species are properly assessed or reassessed at the global scale, following the latest IUCN guidelines. We expect the *European Red List of Threatened Bryophyte Species*, to be published in autumn of 2019, will support priority making for conservation actions and inform policy decisions on biodiversity conservation in Europe. It will serve as a critical instrument to measure some aspects of the progress towards achieving the EU 2020 Biodiversity strategy. Many members of the Bryophyte Specialist Group (BSG) and other bryologists will, after having attended the IUCN Red List training workshop (<https://www.bryology2019.com/iucn-red-listing-workshop/>), be familiar with the IUCN methodology for Red List assessment and its application. This will have catalysing effects at national and regional levels.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete assessment of 1,800 European bryophytes and publication of a European bryophyte Red List; (2) Top10-Initiative; (3) Red List assessment of all Swiss bryophytes; (4) Red List assessment of South African Pottiaceae.

Research activities: (1) analysis of the endemic bryophyte elements of southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho); (2) publish paper on the most strongly threatened African bryophytes.

Network

Capacity building: capacity building among BSG members through a training workshop on IUCN Red List methodology.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

- i.** The EU Life Red List project was extended to September 2019. The taxonomic backbone and species to be included were finalised by December 2018, and the majority of species assessments submitted to IUCN Red List Unit. (KSR #1, 2)
- ii.** Species for the Top10-Initiative were selected for Africa and are ready to be assessed. (KSR #1, 2)
- iii.** Two-thirds of the field work was completed for Red List assessment of all Swiss Bryophytes. Two internal workshops on evaluating the Red List status of the species were held. (KSR #1, 2)

Dicranum leioneuron. A species of poor mires, preferably in regions with a humid climate
Photo: Lars Hedenäs



Orthothecium lapponicum. Until recently considered endemic to NW Europe
Photo: Lars Hedenäs



Tortella pseudofragilis. Its status as a distinct species was recently clarified.
Photo: Lars Hedenäs

iv. Mr. Tsepo Hlasoa registered the project of Red List assessment of South African Pottiaceae for a Master of Technology degree at the Tshwane University of Technology. He compiled a list of Pottiaceae species present in southern Africa and started gathering distribution and other data for the species. (KSR #1, 2)

Research activities

- i.** Ms. Nonkululo Phephu re-registered for her PhD at Wits for 2018. She worked on moss and liverwort checklists for the region and started to gather data on the distribution and ecology of the endemic species. (KSR #43)
- ii.** Scientific article on the most strongly threatened African bryophytes in press. (KSR #43)

Network

Capacity building

- i.** Successfully fundraised to conduct a training workshop on IUCN Red List methodology; funding secured from Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, International Association for Bryologists, and Royal Botanic Garden Madrid. The workshop is supported by certified Red List facilitators from the IUCN Global Species Programme (Cambridge, UK) and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (Malaga, Spain). (KSR #5)

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

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|---------|---|--|
| Assess | 6 | |
| Network | 1 | |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 5, 43

KSR: Key Species Result