

IUCN SSC Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



David Minter

Chair

David Minter

Red List Authority Coordinator

David Minter

Location/Affiliation

CAB International, Egham, Surrey, UK

Number of members

11

Mission statement

To promote conservation of ascomycete fungi by raising awareness that they have vital roles as nutrient recyclers, mutualistic symbionts of animals and plants, and as checks and balances in freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and that like animals, plants and other fungi, they are endangered by climate change, habitat destruction, persecution and pollution.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. A list of 50 target ascomycete species has been prepared and, for each, information about geographical distribution, associated organisms, substrata, economic significance, populations and threats has been gathered from the standard sources using the list of essential sources to consult for evaluating species. Work has begun to transfer that information to the IUCN SIS. This work is taking more time than anticipated due to severe lack of resources (only one person with the necessary expertise). (KSR #1)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. Version 1.00 of a list of essential sources to consult for evaluating species has been prepared and is undergoing extensive testing. (KSR #5)

Communications

■ Communication

i. Internet domain name "www.ascoconservation.org" registered. (KSR #28)

ii. A first draft of the website has been prepared, but is not yet visible on-line. (KSR #28)

■ Scientific meeting

i. A meeting organized jointly with the European Mycological Association, the International Association for Fungal Conservation and the Macedonian Mycological Society was held in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in October 2017 with participants from 24 countries. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

The European Mycological Association, International Association for Fungal Conservation and the Macedonian Mycological Society are thanked for collaboration and support of the October 2017 meeting in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Toyota is thanked for financial support of red-listing work.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: evaluation of 150 non-lichen-forming ascomycetes for IUCN Red List, particularly those with human food value (Toyota Project).

Capacity building

Capacity building: development of list of essential sources to consult for evaluating species.

Synergy: appointments of Specialist Group Co-chair, Red List Authority Coordinator and Program Officer.

Ascomata (i.e. fruitbodies) of the Desert Truffle (*Terfezia alsheikhii*), Kovács, M.P. Martín & Calonge, 2011 (accepted name)
 Photo: David Minter



Geoglossum cookeanum growing from soil in unmodified grassland. Species of *Geoglossum* prefer unmodified grassland - their populations decline if grassland is "improved" (not improved for conservation!) by addition of fertilizers
 Photo: David Minter



Lachnellula subtilissima on twigs of *Pinus sylvestris*. Some species of *Lachnellula* are known to prefer colder climates and may be affected by climate change
 Photo: David Minter

Communications

Communication: (1) registration of Internet domain name for Specialist Group; (2) establishment of Specialist Group website; (3) establishment of e-mail dedicated addresses for Specialist Group Chair, Specialist Group Co-chair, Red List Authority Coordinator and Program Officer; (4) establishment of Facebook account; (5) establishment of Twitter account.

Scientific meetings: collaboration with European Mycological Association and International Society for Fungal Conservation in organizing European-level meeting on fungal conservation in Macedonia in October 2017.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we plan to have the basic infrastructure within IUCN to enable conservation of ascomycete fungi to be promoted, with global Red List evaluations for at least 150 species. This will in turn mean more Specialist Group members, their training in communication skills and in red-listing procedures, and greater activity by those members, so that the group is nowhere dependent on a single person. We intend to achieve an increase in awareness of the vital role of fungi first among IUCN personnel, and thereafter in an expanding range of other conservation NGOs, in the public, and among national focus points for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Communications (3 activities)

Main KSRS addressed: 1, 5, 28

KSRS: Key Species Result