



Alan Tye

**Chair**

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**Red List Authority Coordinator**

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**Location/Affiliation**

IUCN, Mauritius

**Number of members**

15



**Mission statement**

The Galapagos Plant Specialist Group promotes the conservation of all Galapagos native plants and plant-like organisms (including algae, fungi, lichens and similar taxa), with the intention to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

**Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)**

**Barometer of life**

■ Research activities

i. In Nov 2017, during the Grupo Latinoamericano de Liquenólogos (GLAL) 13th meeting in Iquique, the new biodiversity data portal for Latin America (Consorcio de Herbarios de Líquenes en América Latina Home, <http://lichenportal.org/chlal/index.php#>) was presented. Once people start adopting this platform to manage and share their data, we anticipate that this resource will facilitate the assessment of species distribution, rarity and threats for these organisms.

**Bolster work at national scales**

■ Red List

- i. One group member has begun Red List training course in preparation for re-evaluation of endemic vascular plants. (KSR #1)
- ii. During 2016-2017, all 200 endemic Galapagos lichen species were entered into the IUCN SSI database. As a test case for the assessment procedure, one species, *Acantholichen galapagoensis*, was completely evaluated as Vulnerable (VU), as part of the Global Fungal Red List Project. For the remaining species, we are now working on a publication outlining the challenges faced in evaluating poorly known species groups like lichens (in prep.). One major obstacle in assessing all of the c. 200 endemic lichen species that occur in the archipelago is that

many of these species remain formally undescribed and further taxonomic revision of some species groups is ongoing. Thus, for Oct 2018, another collecting trip, focusing on lichenicolous fungi and the still extremely poorly known group Arthoniales, is planned in collaboration with Ecuador's National Biodiversity Institute and the Meise Botanical Garden in Belgium. (KSR #1)

**Capacity building**

■ Capacity building

i. In Nov 2016, Dr F. Bungartz taught a workshop in Quito as part of the 12th meeting of the GLAL. Forty participants from several Latin American countries (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, etc.) attended. The workshop outlined the importance of reliable specimen distribution data for objective assessments of poorly known species groups, using the Charles Darwin Foundation's databases (<http://www.darwin-foundation.org/datazone/>) as a good example of how to manage such data. The participants expressed strong interest in starting their own lichen Red List initiatives, recognizing the need to build up a similar biodiversity data infrastructure for lichens throughout Latin America. (KSR #18)

**Conservation action**

■ Conservation activities

i. A plant conservation planning workshop was held in 2017 under the auspices of the Galapagos Verde 2050 project, to consider ideas for plant conservation and research for the coming years. (KSR #18)

**Acknowledgements**

The Red List assessment of Galapagos endemic lichens continues to be supported by the Galapagos National Park and CDF. The 2016 Quito workshop was hosted by the GLAL and the Grupo Ecuatoriano de Liquenología,

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The recently discovered Galapagos endemic lichen *Acantholichen galapagoensis* (part of the current effort to red-list Galapagos lichens)  
Photo: Frank Bungartz

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The endemic treefern *Cyathea weatherbyana* (provisionally assessed as EN), which is a major substrate for the lichen *Acantholichen galapagoensis*  
Photo: Frank Bungartz

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Wet highlands of the highest Galapagos islands, habitat of the endemic treefern *Cyathea weatherbyana* and the endemic lichen *Acantholichen galapagoensis*  
Photo: Frank Bungartz



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and financially supported by the Mohamed bin Zaid Species Conservation Fund (project 152510692). The Galapagos Verde project and the two plant conservation workshops held in Galapagos were financed by the ComOn Foundation and CDF.

**Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020**

**Bolster work at national scales**

Red List: (1) begin re-evaluation of endemic vascular plants; (2) red listing of all ca. 200 endemic species of lichenized fungi.

**Conservation action**

Conservation activities: contribute to the implementation of new plant research and conservation priorities and projects in Galapagos.

**Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020**

By the end of 2020, we expect to have draft re-assessments for at least 10 vascular plants and assessments of at least 50 lichens submitted to the RLU, and to have increased the effort directed to threatened plant conservation by the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park Directorate.

**Summary of activities (2016-2017)**

Key Priority Area ratio: 4/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (1 activity)
- Bolster work at national scales (2 activities)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Conservation action (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 18

KSR: Key Species Result



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