

IUCN SSC Cup Fungi, Truffles and Allies Specialist Group

2019 Report



David Minter



Aida Vasco

Chair

David Minter ⁽¹⁾

Deputy Chair

Aida Vasco ⁽²⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

David Minter

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ CAB International, Egham, Surrey, UK

⁽²⁾ Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia

Number of members

16

Social networks

Website:

www.cybertruffle.org.uk/ascos/index.htm

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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

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.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

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

Network

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

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

Synergy: appoint a Specialist Group Co-Chair, Red List Authority Coordinator and Programme Officer.

Communicate

Communication: (1) register an Internet domain name for Specialist Group; (2) establish a Specialist Group website; (3) establish dedicated email addresses for the Specialist Group Chair, Specialist Group Co-Chair, Red List Authority Coordinator and Programme Officer; (4) establish a Facebook account; (5) establish a Twitter account.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. Red List assessment of non-lichen-forming ascomycetes: Of the first tranche, 15 species covered by this group are now published on the IUCN Red List, 26 are currently under review by the Red List Authority, and nine are at proposal stage. Of the second tranche, 21 species are at proposal stage, while data are gathered and draft proposals prepared for 29 species. Of the third tranche, data are gathered and draft proposals prepared for 50 species. (KSR #1, 2)

Network

Capacity building

i. Version 1.00 of the list of essential sources to consult for evaluating species is available on the website; a revised version is expected to be uploaded in June 2020. (KSR #5)

Synergy

i. Deputy Chair appointed, Programme Officer appointed, two new members of the Red List Authority Group appointed and undergoing training. (KSR #5)

Communicate

Communication

i. To date, our website has been basic. A full version is now being populated with text and is expected to be uploaded in June 2020. (KSR #28)

ii. A member of the group agreed to establish a Facebook account, which is not yet achieved. (KSR #28)

iii. A member of the group agreed to establish a Twitter account, which is not yet achieved. (KSR #28)

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess 1 |

Network 2 ||

Communicate 3 |||

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 5, 28

KSR: Key Species Result



Earth Tongue, *Geoglossum cookeanum*
Photo: Paul F. Cannon