

# IUCN SSC Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group

2019 Report



Gregory M. Mueller

## Chair

Gregory M. Mueller

## Red List Authority Coordinator

Gregory M. Mueller

## Location/Affiliation

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL 60022, US

## Number of members

24



## Mission statement

The mission of the Mushroom, Bracket, and Puffball Specialist Group is to advance fungal conservation by raising awareness of the importance of fungi and the need to conserve them, building capacity among the mycological community, and greatly increasing the number of fungi on national and the global Red Lists.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of this quadrennium, fungal conservation efforts will have developed substantially. There will be a broader interest in and understanding of the need for including fungi in conservation discussions and actions. The number and diversity of mycologists trained and engaged in generating conservation assessments will be greatly increased and processes for generating Red Lists will be enhanced. The number of mushrooms and relatives on national and global Red Lists will be significantly higher than in 2015, providing insight into the conservation status of mushrooms and related fungi. The Mushroom, Bracket, and Puffball Specialist Group will have begun to add conservation planning into their activities.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: (1) complete commitment of 1,000 Red List assessments for The IUCN-Toyota Red List Partnership; (2) increase quantity and quality of fungal national Red Lists by providing advice and encouragement for national Red List committees that are either creating fungal Red Lists for the first time or in the process of revising their fungal Red List.

### Network

Capacity building: build capacity among the mycological community (2–3 courses/workshops per year).

Synergy: Establish a Fungal Conservation Committee to better coordinate efforts among the fungal Specialist Groups and other parts of IUCN, create a higher profile for fungal conservation, and diversify participants in fungal conservation.

## Activities and results 2019

### Assess

#### Red List

- i.** Red List workshops were held in Australasia (Melbourne), Europe (Cambridge), and South-east Asia (Malaysia, Sarawak, Borneo). Over 200 species were assessed and published in 2019. (KSR #1)
- ii.** National and regional Red Lists were a focal point of the Red List workshops, short courses at congresses, and the Latin American and Caribbean Fungal Strategy workshop. (KSR #2)



Participants in 1st Austral Asian Fungal Red List Workshop  
Photo: MBPSG archives



Participants in 1st European Fungal Red List Workshop  
Photo: Gregory M Mueller

**Network**

Capacity building

i. We were invited to participate in a workshop held in Panama to develop a Latin American and Caribbean Fungal Conservation Strategy; we presented a short course plus a symposium at the Congress of European Mycologists; we also led a fungus session at the Fourth SSC Leaders' Meeting in Abu Dhabi. (KSR #5)

Synergy

i. A draft proposal was developed and submitted for review. (KSR #2, 5, 28)

**Acknowledgements**

The progress made in 2019 would not have been possible without the support of the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, and The IUCN-Toyota Red List Partnership.

**Summary of activities 2019**

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess	2	
Network	2	
Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 5, 28		

KSR: Key Species Result



Participants in 1st S.E. Asian Fungal Red List Workshop  
Photo: MBPSG archives