

# IUCN SSC Lichen Specialist Group

2020 Report



Jessica L. Allen



Rebecca Yahr

## Co-Chairs

Jessica L. Allen <sup>(1)</sup>  
Rebecca Yahr <sup>(2)</sup>

## Red List Authority Coordinator

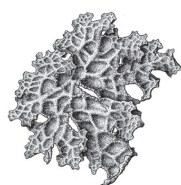
Christoph Scheidegger <sup>(3)</sup>

## Location/Affiliation

- <sup>(1)</sup> Biology Department, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Washington, US
- <sup>(2)</sup> Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
- <sup>(3)</sup> Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Switzerland

## Number of members

34



IUCN SSC  
**Lichen  
Specialist  
Group**

## Mission statement

Promote studies assessing lichen diversity, population dynamics and conservation genetics in order to evaluate the conservation status of lichen species according to IUCN criteria.

## Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By 2020, we will strengthen the visibility of lichens in biodiversity conservation strategies by (1) publishing Red List assessments of lichens from all continents, and (2) further developing research and outreach in lichen conservation in Asia.

## Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

### Assess

Red List: carry out Red List assessments of 200 species with a focus on edible and otherwise economically important taxa and very rare and well-documented species.

Research activities: conduct detailed studies on rare and endangered species.

### Act

Conservation actions: develop conservation actions in the respective regions for *Erioderma pedicellatum*.

## Activities and results 2020

### Assess

#### Red List

**i.** Thirty-three lichen species assessments were published in 2020. Many of them were the result of a workshop held virtually in May 2020. (KSR #1)

## Acknowledgements

The group leaders would like to thank their respective institutions, Eastern Washington University, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, and Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research. Generous support from the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund was instrumental for the Red Listing Workshop and the subsequent publication of many assessments.

## Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 1/5

Assess **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 1

KSR: Key Species Result





*Niebla ramosissima* is a calcareous soil dwelling species that is narrowly endemic to San Nicolas Island, California. It is adapted to absorb water through fog as the amount of precipitation on the island is very low. Shifting and degradation of its habitat due to invasive species and climate change are major threats to *N. ramosissima*. Assessed by Rikke Reese Naesborg as Vulnerable  
Photo: Rikke Reese Naesborg



Arctic Orange-Bush Lichen, *Seiropora aurantiaca*, occurs along the coast of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the Canadian Western Arctic, where it grows on the tundra. As an Arctic and coastal species, climate change impacts pose serious threats, including coastal erosion, saline wash from storm surges, and permafrost melting. Assessed by Paul Sokoloff and Troy McMullin as Endangered  
Photo: Troy McMullin