

# IUCN SSC Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball Specialist Group

2020 Report



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## Location/Affiliation

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## Number of members

46



IUCN SSC  
Mushrooms, Brackets, and  
Puffballs Specialist Group

## 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 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 2020

### Assess

#### Red List

**i.** COVID-19 negatively impacted Red List assessment progress. In-person workshops were either cancelled or postponed and done virtually. Even so, significant progress was made, with approximately 120 new published assessments. (KSR #1)

**ii.** National fungal Red List assessment initiatives on Brazil and Colombia have begun, as well as efforts to significantly increase the number of US species on the Red List. (KSR #2)

*Amylocystis lapponica*, Jokkmokk, Sweden  
Photo: Michael Krikorev



*Fomitopsis officinalis* Khanty-Mansiysk AO 2010  
Photo: E. Zvyagina



*Hericium alpestre*, Olbina Nature Reserve,  
Wielkopolska Province, Poland  
Photo: Małgorzata Stasińska



*Polyporus umbellatus*, Slovakia  
Photo: Vladimír Kunca

## Network

### Capacity building

i. COVID-19 negatively impacted plans to build capacity among the mycological community. In-person workshops were either cancelled or postponed and done virtually. Even so, significant progress was made with a total of four virtual workshops. (KSR #5)

### Synergy

i. The Fungal Conservation Committee (FunCC) was established in late 2020. (KSR #2, 5, 28)

## Acknowledgements

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## Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess **2** **||**

Network **2** **||**

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 5, 28

KSR: Key Species Result