

Launch of the

International Network on Soil Biodiversity

in the framework of the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory

3rd December 2021 | © 14:00 CET Online meeting



Gregory M. Mueller

Chicago Botanic Garden

IUCN SSC Fungal Conservation Committee





FUNGAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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IUCN-SSC FUNGAL

IUCN-SSC FUNGAL SPECIALIST GROUPS

- 1. Chytrid, Zygomycete, Downy Mildew, Slime Mould
- 2. Cup-Fungus, Truffle and Ally
- 3. Lichen
- 4. Mushroom, Bracket and Puffball
- 5. Rust and Smut

Get in Touch



















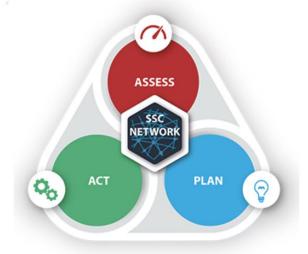




Initiative Goal

Work to have the importance of fungi recognized by the public, conservation community, land managers, and policy makers to ensure that fungi are included in conservation actions and funding so that they are **conserved**.

IUCN SSC Conservation Cycle: Assess, Plan, Act







Rational For Assessing

Determining which species are thriving and which are rare or declining is crucial for targeting conservation action towards species in greatest need.

Many funding and conservation organizations use the IUCN Red List to prioritize action.

The conservation status of the vast majority of fungal species has not been assessed.

This hinders inclusion of fungi in conservation discussions, access to funding programs, policy decisions, and conservation action.



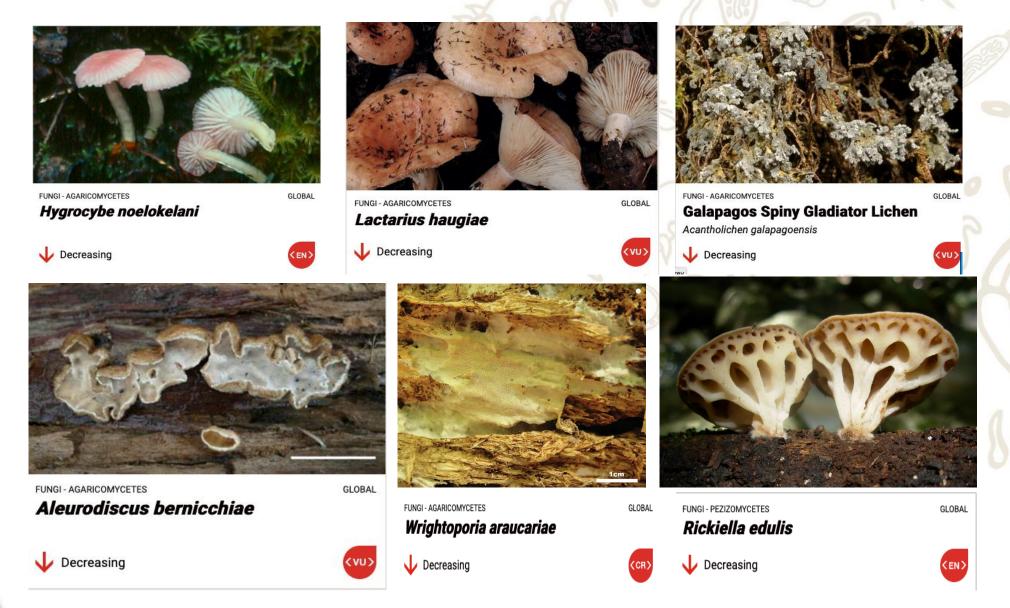


Progress Is Being Made

- 2013 IUCN Red List included 3 fungi 2 lichenized ascomycetes and one mushroom
- There are now 545 species on the Red List
- Efforts will continue to add to this number











Advances that have led to this increase in assessments

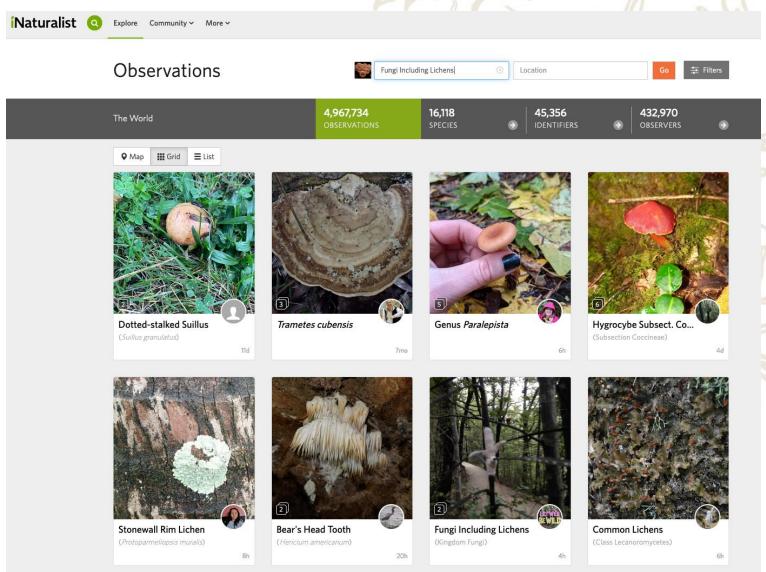
 Global diversity surveys, advances in knowledge of fungal population biology, and new survey tools including environmental sampling

- Conservation community increasingly focusing on fungal conservation issues.
- New computer-based tools and initiatives are generating new information and engaging more people in the effort.





Citizen Science Initiatives







Citizen Science Inititives (cont.)







Upland to montane

Wet heath to wetlands

Plan and ACT – A Case Study











Butyriboletus loyo "Loyo" Fungi Foundation Giuliana Furci Daniella Torres

INFOR (Chilean National Forestry Institution)

Universidad Austral

Members of the Mapuche communities in La Región de Los Rios, in Panguipulli













Communication and Advocacy

Conservation Biology



Diversity

Recognition of the discipline of conservation mycology

First published: 28 September 2018 | https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13228 | Cited by: 1

Article impact statement: : Conservation mycology is a newly introduced discipline relevant to conservation biologists, mycologists, ecologists, and conservation policy.

Conservation Mycology

- Facilitates framing research questions
- Focuses on associations of fungi with other biota in addition to 'single species' approach to conservation
- Recognizes that practices developed for other organisms in ecosystem management may not be optimal for fungi
- Fosters two-way communication between Conservation Mycology researchers and practitioners



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Communicate and Advocate



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Re:wild and IUCN SSC become first global organizations to call for the recognition of fungi as one of three kingdoms of life critical to protecting and restoring Earth

■Tue, 03 Aug 2021

Environmental groups and the Chilean Ministry of Environment join the Fungi Foundation in committing to promote inclusive " fauna, flora and funga" language and ensure that fungi— which are critical to all life on Earth—are integrated into conservation strategies





- Post2020 Biodiversity Framework (CBD)
- Documents agreed at COP 26
 Climate Change Summit (UN)
- Global Species Action Plan (IUCN)





Fungal Red List Initiative and NETSOB

- Focus on species in need of conservation
- IUCN Species Survival Commission
- Community of systematists
- Capacity building and engagement of global conservation network
- Emphasis macrofungi fosters communication & engagement with public
- Interest by public facilitates citizen science initiatives





