

Dear ECCF members,

It is very exciting to see the enthusiastic engagement and overwhelming number of responses for the global fungal conservation initiative focused on European species during 2019. As you probably know, our efforts were successful and since December 280 fungi and lichens are globally red-listed, an increase by 214 species last year. Many thanks to all of you contributing. We are initiating a second European Initiative this year now starting, culminating with a workshop to finalize assessments at the end of April 2020. *The success of this initiative largely depends on contributions made by you and other motivated mycologists* (in fact by anyone with relevant data). *We need your help again in* gathering information and undertaking red-list assessment of species during the coming months. Small individual contributions will together result in success as we are a large European mycological community.

Please, spread this information through your networks and to all that you think can and may be interested in contributing.

We have a unique 3-month opportunity to strongly advance fungal conservation in Europe by getting many fungi red-listed at global and European level. IUCN is supporting the initiative with a dedicated staff member, and Anders Dahlberg is voluntary coordinating the process. The goal is to have 200 species assessed at the web-page of Global Fungal Red List Initiative (<http://iucn.ekoo.se/> by the end of April and published on the IUCN Red List (www.iucnredlist.org) during 2020.

You and others can contribute in two ways,

1. *Taking the lead* for the compilation of information and the assessment of *one, preferably two or more, species* that you are familiar with and interested in. This is done through our web site (the Global Fungal Red List Initiative, <http://iucn.ekoo.se/en>). The ECCF network and others will contribute additional information and comments on the distribution, status and trends of these species through the webpage. You can ask colleagues for information, and Anders will support the assessment as needed.

2. *Contributing with data and comments to the species being assessed* for which you have knowledge.

This is a community-based project. Your contributions along with those of others are critical. We hope many of you will be able to be in charge of 1-2 species. See below for information on the process.

In addition, eighteen invited persons will make (5-)10 assessments at the workshop in Cambridge (at IUCN Red List headquarters) where IUCN staff will support the finalization of the documentation and assessments of all species.

More details on the process and plan:

For those choosing to be in charge of one-two (or more) species.

You may select any fungal species of your interest. Appropriate species may be selected from the attached Excel file. It contains a list of 200 species nationally red-listed in many European countries, and based on your comments in December on the previous list. As many of you pointed out, you can also consider species with narrow European distributions; not red-listed or only in single to few countries as they may also be threatened at the European and global level.

Then register yourself and the species' at the Global Red List Initiative (<http://iucn.ekoo.se/>). When you are registered and logged in, you can add your species. The procedure to add data is rather self-explanatory. The information needed for making an assessment can be seen in the published assessments of these species already globally red-listed. Ensure that you have collected all critical information needed, but keep the documentation short and do not include information not needed.;

Species	Link to the IUCN Red List assessment	Life-form	Assessment
<i>Bridgeoporus nobilissimus</i>	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/76195622/97167627	wood-inhabiting	CR
<i>Boletopsis nothofagi</i>	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/80188388/95382635	ecto-mycorrhizal	EN
<i>Buglossoporus magnus</i>	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/75608683/75608686	wood-inhabiting	VU
<i>Hygrocybe citrinovirens</i>	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/70406652/70406717	unclear life-form	VU
<i>Haploporus odorus</i>	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/95384485/95385464	wood-inhabiting	NT
<i>Stereopsis humphreyi</i>	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/125433334/125435435	saprotroph	NT
<i>Cordyceps kirkii</i>	https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/58517597/58517712	parasite	DD

There is a minimum set of essential data needed for an assessment. These include (1) listing countries of occurrence and to generate a map – see link at KLM-files under Geographic range) (2) its population size and trends at the global scale. Is its potential habitat and/or substrate changing over time (declining, stable, expanding?). Red-list assessment has mainly to be an indirect one, based on knowledge on present-day distribution and ecology of the species, - and their association with declining and fragmented habitats/nature types/substrates. Provide statistics with citation if possible. (3) Describe its ecology and habitat (4) What are the threats to its persistence. (5) What actions are needed to mitigate these threats. The extent and reliability of the documentation used is crucial for the evaluation, so provide key references. Try to arrange a photo for each species to be uploaded.

A guide for how to fill in the information can be downloaded from the welcome page at the Global Fungal Red List Initiative web site.

Those of you proposing species will be contacted by Anders asking if you want to be the assessor i.e. lead the assessment of that species including coordinating the gathering and summarization of information and making the preliminary assessment. You will then be in charge of incorporating information and editing the assessment. Assessors will have full support from Anders Dahlberg and will be the lead author of the final assessment. Note that each species' assessment in the IUCN Red List is an official, peer reviewed publication.

For those contributing with information and comments to the species being assessed.

Go to "Events" under "View all Proposals" on the website, click on "European Initiative 2nd workshop in Cambridge, 20-24 April 2020"

You are encouraged to comment and provide additional information to any of the species being assessed. This is a critical, important and iterative step in the process. Additional information and comments will be important in strengthening the proposal and the red list assessment. We hope (expect) to receive many contributions as this needs to be a community project if it is to be successful. Both the original proposal information and all subsequent comments are displayed on the website for further comment.

What will happen until the end of April

We will keep the activity on the web-side ongoing, responding to inputs and comments as they come in to maintain and further develop the interest in contributing to this project by mycologists throughout Europe. The data and information needed for the assessments should largely be in place, and the species preliminarily assessed by the middle of April.

Finally, IUCN is hosting a workshop during 20-24 April, at IUCN headquarter in Cambridge where their staff will support the 18 workshop participants to finalize the documentation and assessments.

Thanks for your efforts

Anders Dahlberg and Greg Mueller on behalf of the Global Fungal Red List initiative
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