

Cup-fungus, Truffle and Ally Specialist Group



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I am based in the UK and work in Whitby, North Yorkshire. I am affiliated with CAB International (formerly the International Mycological Institute), Egham, Surrey, UK.

The group has 10 members

2011 Update

- Participation in fungal conservation workshops at the *Latin American Mycological Congress* (Costa Rica) and the *Congress of European Mycologists* (Greece).
- Fungal conservation promoted at the SUBSSTA meeting in Montreal, with a recommendation about health and protection of fungi made to the CBD.
- Fungal conservation promoted at the International Conservation Biology Congress (New Zealand), with “Fungi – the orphans of Rio” T-shirts being distributed.
- *Fungal Conservation*, the publication of the International Society for Fungal Conservation, launched.

Success Stories

- Conservation status evaluations of 1500 ascomycetes prepared for IUCN’s Sampled Red List Index project.
- Wording of Global Strategy for Plant Conservation altered to make clear that fungi are distinct and also require consideration.
- Project on conservation of desert truffles supported by Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

Challenges

- Lack of awareness of the importance of fungi, not only among the general public, but also, too often, among scientists and policy makers.
- Too little new information about when and where species occur, and poor accessibility of existing information.
- Far too few resources available for fungal conservation.

Future Goals

- To develop capacity for the conservation of fungi
- To promote understanding that fungi are different from animals and plants, and need equal protection.
- To raise the profile of fungi, and integrate them in all CBD reporting.
- To develop the Species Information System to permit assessment of all fungi.
- To understand better what threats exist for fungi.
- To explore how to conserve endangered parasitic fungi, and establish policy on that issue.

